

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP  
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**Internally Displaced Persons: Background note on the  
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)'s Global IDP Project**

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***Background***

The Norwegian Refugee Council's Global IDP Project was tasked by the IASC-WG in late 1998 to develop an integrated information system compiling facts, figures and analysis on internal displacement. Based on this mandate, the Global IDP Project established an online **IDP database** ([www.idpproject.org](http://www.idpproject.org)), which includes comprehensive country profiles on all situations of conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide.

The Global IDP Project has also developed a **training programme** on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and, since 1999, has conducted training workshops for field-based actors – including national authorities, international organisations and NGOs – upon request by Country Teams in more than 20 countries. In addition, the Global IDP Project actively contributes to international **advocacy** efforts on behalf of IDPs.

The information role of the Global IDP Project has been recognised in several resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. In early 2004, the Global IDP Project was requested by the Emergency Relief Coordinator to take over responsibility for providing Guiding Principles training to the humanitarian community at the field level, complementing the work of the IDP Unit (Division) and the Representative on Internally Displaced Persons.

***Key issues***

***Global IDP Project support provided to IASC member organisations***

The Global IDP Project actively supports the members of the IASC in carrying out their IDP-related activities. User feedback and web statistics confirm that IASC members consider the IDP database an important information tool crucial to their work both at headquarters and the field level. Often, the Global IDP Project country profile is the only document available providing a comprehensive, multi-sectoral assessment of an IDP situation. Country profiles are used for a variety of purposes, including policy-making, programming, advocacy and as a general information source. In addition, staff of IASC members have benefited from the Guiding Principles training the Project organises for field personnel.

***Possible IASC member support to the Global IDP Project***

The IASC-WG could explicitly acknowledge the support and services provided by the Global IDP Project. It should consider supporting the work of Project more actively through sharing information and providing financial contributions, in line with General Assembly resolution 58/177 of 22 December 2003, which encourages the members of the IASC “to continue to collaborate and support [the database], including by providing relevant data on situations of internal displacement and financial resources”.

While the Project received funding for the IDP database from various IASC members during the first years of its existence, in 2003 only one IASC member – UNHCR – supported the Project financially.

As regards information sharing, IASC members could facilitate the exchange of relevant data by designating focal points in their respective organisations. The IASC-WG could also play a role in pushing forward the process of developing system-wide guidelines on the collection, analysis and distribution of IDP information. IASC policy documents stress that effective IDP responses and strategies require system-wide and cross-sectoral needs assessments and information collection. However, the inter-agency dialogue has not yet addressed the question of how to develop global guidelines necessary to ensure that primary data is collected and analysed in a consistent way and in line with sound methodological standards, taking into account already existing initiatives, e.g. by UNICEF and OCHA, aimed at improved humanitarian information management.

### *Options for decisions*

The Global IDP Project proposes that:

- the IASC-WG acknowledge the role the Global IDP Project plays in the fields of collecting, analysing and providing access to IDP-related information; training of field-based actors on the Guiding Principles; and advocating on behalf of IDPs;
- IASC members consider the resumption of financial support to the Global IDP Project;
- IASC members consider designating focal points for information sharing within their respective organisations; and
- the IASC-WG recommend the development within the inter-agency framework of system-wide guidelines on the collection and analysis of IDP-related primary data.

Prepared by: NRC, 2 June 2004