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Internal Displacement Unit: Mission Statement and 2002 Workplan

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Overview

Following the establishment of the Internal Displacement Unit in January 2002, a Mission Statement and an updated 2002 Workplan have been prepared. Both documents have been endorsed by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Kenzo Oshima.

The Workplan reflects the need to strike a balance between activities aimed at promoting system-wide improvements in the response to internal displacement, and activities aimed at the provision of targeted support to specific country situations.

Using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as a framework, activities of the Unit are presented according to three phases of displacement – pre displacement, during displacement and recovery from displacement. The last section of the Workplan covers activities that take place during all phases of displacement.

The majority of activities in the Workplan focus on the phase where displacement is active and ongoing. The Unit, while paying attention to all forms of displacement, will concentrate its efforts on countries where conflict-induced displacement is most acute.

In the different phases of displacement the Unit's activities will focus on a number of strategic areas. Particular emphasis is placed on the widespread concern about the insufficient protection for internally displaced persons. In response, the Unit will create a "coalition" of like-minded actors interested in working together to improve protection. Following an examination of protection arrangements and activities in selected countries, a Protection Survey Report will be issued with conclusions and recommendations to improve protection delivery at the country level as well as ensure a more predictable and efficient institutional response.

A second area of focus will be providing field support and guidance to OCHA desks, UN country teams, humanitarian and/or resident coordinators in the field and requesting governments. The Unit, in particular will work with its various partners to encourage a greater emphasis on protection issues within UN country plans and lend its support to resource mobilization efforts for IDP activities. To increase integration of the internal displacement issue in the planning and operational response at the field level, the Unit will undertake targeted field visits to provide assessment and guidance. In addition, field training based on the Guiding Principles will be undertaken in selected countries. Core aspects of the training program will also be integrated into existing training programs of other UN agencies and NGOs.

While attempting to cover as many displacement situations as possible, the Unit will necessarily prioritise some operations that require particular attention. Top priority will be given to major displacement crises such as Afghanistan, Angola and the Sudan. In addition, the Unit will provide support in a number of protracted and/or forgotten crises such as the DRC, Colombia, Indonesia,

Somalia and Sri Lanka. Finally, the Unit will provide, on an ad-hoc basis, advice and guidance to prevent/mitigate displacement, particularly in countries such as Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Concrete steps have already been initiated in a number of situations to improve the UN System's response.

Another area of emphasis will be the promotion of durable solutions for internally displaced persons. Using targeted field visits efforts will be made to assess areas of disjuncture and provide recommendations for improving transitional recovery and sustainable longer-term solutions for the displaced populations.

Awareness raising and advocacy are critical tools for improving the welfare of internally displaced persons. The Unit will work in close cooperation with the Representative of the Secretary General on Internally Displaced Persons as well as concerned actors, including the Norwegian Refugee Council's Global IDP Project. A variety of public information tools such as the establishment of a website and the publication of a thematic volume examining the State of the World's Internally Displaced People will also be developed.

The Unit will act as a catalyst for the strengthened engagement of the wider humanitarian and development community on the issue of internal displacement. In this regard it will draw strongly upon its inter agency character.

In implementing the activities set out in the Workplan, given its limited size and capacity, the Unit will rely on the involvement of the wider OCHA structure, the IASC membership, operational international organisations, NGOs and other concerned institutions. This, in turn, it is hoped will also strengthen capacity building and the mainstreaming of the issue of internal displacement within all the relevant organisations.

Mission Statement

The Unit on Internal Displacement aims to ensure a predictable and concerted response among all concerned actors to the problems of internal displacement. Its primary purpose is to promote respect for the rights of the displaced in all aspects of displacement and encourage the search for long-term solutions and the prevention or non-reoccurrence of displacement.

Created by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and approved by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and members of the Inter Agency Standing Committee, the Unit will build on its interagency character and pursue a collaborative process to address the operational challenges posed by internal displacement.

Through assessment, analysis, advocacy and practical support it will assist relevant actors meet the needs of the displaced by providing the following services:

Using the Guiding Principles as an overall framework, the Unit will identify and draw attention to gaps in the response to internal displacement, particularly protection, and upon its own initiative, or the request of involved actors will seek to provide recommendations and guidance.

The Unit will seek to bring increased attention and greater understanding to the needs of the displaced, especially women and children, by issuing reports, studies and providing field-focused training.

Recognising sovereignty as a form of responsibility, the Unit will seek to use all fora to engage governments and non-state actors to provide access and physical security to the displaced.

The Unit will call on UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations as well as the displaced themselves, to enhance their commitment and accountability to a credible institutional response to internal displacement.

**Internal Displacement Unit
2002 Workplan**

<u>PRE DISPLACEMENT</u> Objective	<u>Description of project/activity</u>	<u>Quantity and Quality Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Project manager / inputs</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Time-line</u>
To enhance UN Country Teams and Governments preparedness to respond to potential internal displacement crises	Set-up early warning mechanism to target field missions	Unit systematically notified of emerging crisis (list of warnings)	Unit	Appropriate OCHA desks, OCHA/AERIMB, Country Teams, NGOs and relevant partners	Immediate
	Assist, through targeted field visits UN Country Teams, HC/RCs and Governments avoid/mitigate displacement by providing guidance as needed	Preparedness response implemented by Country Teams	Unit	Appropriate OCHA desks, OCHA/AERIMB, Country Teams	Field missions to begin as necessary
	Assess whether contingency plans of CT and Govt exist in countries of concern and whether they reflect IDP needs.	Guidance provided to, and awareness enhanced to CT and Governments on the need to integrate IDP in contingency plans Contingency plans developed and IDPs needs incorporated	JR	Appropriate OCHA desks, OCHA/AERIMB, Country Teams	On-going

<u>DURING DISPLACEMENT</u> Objective	<u>Description of project/activity</u>	<u>Quantity and Quality Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Project manager / inputs</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
To improve the quality of protection and the overall operational response	Monitor internal displacement situations to assess and/or enhance the protection and operational response to displaced populations, including through field visits	Reports of field missions published on website Measures taken by country teams to enhance response as per mission recommendations	Unit	IASC members, Country Teams, OCHA	Ongoing

	Undertake analysis of existing protection guidelines among operational actors and assess their applicability to internally displaced persons.	Report presented to IASC	CM	IASC members Protection Coalition OCHA/PDSB	To begin immediately
	Create a protection coalition amongst members of the Inter-Agency Network.	Coalition created and serviced	CM	Senior Inter-Agency Network	To begin immediately
	Undertake a Protection Survey in selected country operations, including an inventory of institutional arrangements.	Protection Survey Report issued, endorsed and disseminated by IASC	CM	Protection Coalition IASC OCHA desks OCHA/PDSB	To begin immediately
	Undertake a protection awareness campaign aimed at humanitarian/development actors	Commitment to IDP protection enhanced within the UN and non-UN partners	MV	OCHA/AERIMB OCHA/PDSB	
	Train and guide OCHA desks, HC/RCs and UN Country Teams to integrate IDP/protection analysis into development of CAPS/CHAPS and interagency plans.	Number of HQ/Field training courses Protection analysis reflected into CHAPs Increased guidance and institutional backup to HC/RC's on identifying and undertaking protection interventions	MV / DV	IASC members RSG Deng HC/RCs OCHA/CAP section	Training Strategy/ IASC approval, to begin immediately Training, to begin in May Guidance ongoing

<u>RECOVERY FROM DISPLACEMENT</u> Objective	<u>Description of project/activity</u>	<u>Quantity and Quality Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Project manager / inputs</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
To ensure sustainability of return or resettlement	Monitor IDP return operations to assess and/or enhance, operational response in country programs, including through field missions,	Reports of field missions published on website Measures taken by country teams to enhance response as per mission recommendations	Unit	IASC key development actors, NGOs and select academic think tanks	Field missions to begin immediately
	Preparation of case studies on improving transitional recovery for IDPs and strengthen linkages between humanitarian and development actors	Report on recovery strategies endorsed by IASC and disseminated	JR	OCHA/PDSB, World Bank Recovery Unit ILO Crisis recovery Unit RSP Oxford	Last quarter
	Assist OCHA desks, HC/RCS and UN Country Teams with the formulation of strategic plans for the response to internal displacement	Country teams and HC/Rocs trained on return-related issues/analysis/action	JR	OCHA, UN CTs	On-going

<u>ALL PHASES OF DISPLACEMENT</u> <u>Objective</u>	<u>Description of project/activity</u>	<u>Quantity and Quality Performance Indicators</u>	<u>Project manager / inputs</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
Promote system-wide improvements in the response to internal displacement	Create mechanisms to facilitate the Unit's monitoring of overall trends of internal displacement	Formal relationship with Global IDP database established	CVH/Unit	OCHA NRC	Begin in March 2002
	Identify major gaps in operations funding, public awareness, media-coverage and political support, thus enabling targeted interventions by the Unit	Gaps identified and targeted response developed	Unit/DV	OCHA, IASC Members DPKO, DPA	On-going
	Develop mechanisms for system-wide institutional response to crises of internal displacement and promote accountability	Outline revised and endorsed by the IASC Accountability mechanism developed Outline of responsibilities of the IASC Members for Dips revised	Unit/AB	Snr. Network, IASC Members IASC Secretariat OCHA/PDSB	Begin April 2002
	Explore creation of an IDP fund for Quips and targeted interventions	Proposal, including criteria and guidelines submitted to ERC and supported by the donor community and private sector	DV/SS	ERC, donor community	On-going
	Assess existing funding mechanisms, including HSTF and CERF, and elaborate guidelines for accessing them	Guidelines disseminated within UN system IDP activities funded from existing funding mechanisms	DV/SS	ERC OCHA/CAP section	First Quarter

	Ensure liaison/communication with IASC-WG and increase effectiveness of Inter-Agency Network	Revised TORs endorsed by IASC. IASC-WG, NGOs and other actors kept informed and engaged with activities of the Unit.	AB	IASC members IASC Secretariat Inter-Agency Network NGOs	Immediate
	Public Information activities to raise awareness and concern for IDP Issues	Unit's Website developed and maintained State of the World's IDPs published	CVH	OCHA/AERIMB, Relief web, NRC database, RSG on IDPs, MPI	First quarter for the WEB Last quarter for the publication
	General public advocacy in conjunction with RSG office	LOU with RSG's office signed Joint campaign on forgotten IDP crisis launched Joint statements issued	MV/SS	RSG OCHA/AERIMB	On-going Last Quarter for the campaign
	Undertake assessment with existing roster services the availability of protection/IDP specialists	Short list of IDP experts from existing rosters developed	JR	NRC, IRC CANADEM, Other IASC member rosters	On-going