

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
14 JUNE 1994**

**BRIEFING NOTE ON THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

The Task Force has held two meetings after the IASC-WG included coordination and humanitarian assistance issues related to situations of internal displacement in its Work Plan for 1994.

The first meeting was held on 15 April. This meeting established the general parameters for the Task Force's work based *inter alia* on a substantial intervention by the Secretary-General's Representative for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Dr. Francis Deng. The relationship between protection of IDPs and humanitarian assistance was recognized as was the feasibility in most cases of addressing human rights issues and humanitarian assistance issues through different organizational mechanisms. The Task Force adopted in this meeting an ambitious Work Plan, which should allow it to meet the dateline set by the IASC-WG.

The second meeting was a full day meeting which took place on 2 June. The discussion took its lead from a review of substantive papers. The task force had agreed in its first meeting that these papers should be viewed as draft working papers and that agencies would be free to develop the papers further after the meeting and decide whether they could be annexed to the report of the task force or not. prepared for or made available to the meeting by ICRC, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHO and papers covering one or more themes from DHA, FAO and the Secretary General's Representative.

The meeting also discussed at length the particular case of Somalia based on a request by the Acting Representative of the Secretary General to the High Commissioner for Refugees to get involved with the resettlement of some 350,000 - 450,000 IDPs. Whereas it was clear that the IDPs currently receive humanitarian assistance on par with the rest of the population, the Task Force nevertheless acknowledged the possible need to help UNOSOM's Humanitarian Division develop programmes of resettlement for this population. DHA was asked to seek further clarification in the matter and share the result with the members.

Based on the reviews and the case the Task Force identified clusters of concerns and issues that possibly should be addressed by the Task Force in its report, with recommendations to the IASC-WG. Among these were the need to define one entry point into the UN System

(including the Human Rights mechanisms) for IDPs and develop procedures that will ensure an effective response to new IDP situations that require an international response.

The Task Force expects to be able to make an interim report to IASC-WG for its meeting scheduled for the end of September in which questions that the Task Force might wish the WG to give its first opinion about will be formulated.