

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
27&28 November 1997

Item: 3. Establishment of a System for Information Related to IDPs

PROPOSAL FOR THE SETTING-UP OF AN IDP DATABASE

1. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in the context of the review of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance, as requested by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in resolution 1995/56, decided that the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), as Chairman of the IASC, will be the focal point at Headquarters level for the inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs). This responsibility will normally include: (i) global advocacy on both assistance and protection requirements; (ii) resource mobilization and the identification of gaps in resources; (iii) the management of global information on IDPs, including the issuance of periodic reports; and (iv) the support to the field on IDP-related humanitarian issues, including negotiation of access to IDPs.
2. With regard to global information on IDPs, the IASC-Working Group on 9 September 1997 agreed that the ERC should, in consultation with external institutions, promote the establishment of a database and global information on IDPs, including monitoring and issuance of periodic situation reports, and that the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ERC should be amended accordingly.
3. In pursuance of the above, DHA would like to seek the support of the IASC to proceed with the establishment of an IDP database through outsourcing this task to the Global IDP Survey (Norwegian Refugee Council).
4. To date, the Global IDP Survey has established a network of some 25 correspondents collating information on IDPs in 48 countries in preparation for its first published Survey in May 1998. In the discharge of this responsibility Global IDP Survey has established the network and demonstrated willingness to help set up a Consortium to include the US Committee on Refugees (USCR) and the Brooking Institution Project on Internal Displacement. Meanwhile, the Global IDP Survey has the support of other parties to set up a database on IDPs.
5. It is proposed that building on the initial work undertaken by DHA in early 1997, the Global IDP Survey will, as a first step, conduct a six-month feasibility study and pilot scheme with the following elements and timeframe:

- (i) January-March '98: Consultation with the OERC, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and NGOs over the scope, content, format and usage of the proposed IDP database, and on the basis of such consultations, the development of indicators and a realistically and simple format for regular inputs;
- (ii) February-April '98: The design and preparation of a database format based on the outcome of these consultations;
- (iii) April-May '98: A pilot testing of the format in two or three countries (to be decided, with Colombia, Liberia and Cambodia/Sri Lanka as possible candidates);
- (iv) June '98: A revision of the format and scope of the database based on the above.
- (v) June '98: The preparation of a fuller proposal and budget which assumes the database will be up and running from mid-July '98.

6. The ERC will consult with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and request Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators in the field to cooperate fully with the provision of data to the database in the format agreed upon. In Phase 1 this will require cooperation only from those in piloted countries; in Phase 2 (July 1998 onwards), it will require regular and sustained input from all field offices. The effective implementation of this project would also imply that:

- (i) the IASC members, NGOs and related institutions will invest time and expertise in helping the Global IDP Survey consultants to undertake their tasks in a short time-frame;
- (ii) the development of the database will build upon existing presentational schemes including, inter alia, the ReliefWeb mapping, OFDA database, WHO database, etc. To ease transference of data, a level of compatibility must be achieved;
- (iii) there is sufficient institutional commitment to devote resources not only to the initial Phase 1 of the project, but also to the full establishment of an ongoing database from July 1998;
- (iv) the development of the full database from the outset of Phase 2 will include its posting on ReliefWeb. If, following consultations, a more restrictive database is required for certain purposes, this will be in addition to - not in replacement of - the 'public domain' database;

(v) the issuance of periodic country profiles and briefings - including the ongoing work of the Global IDP Survey - will form an integral part of the activities of the project as a whole.

7. The ERC will report to the IASC-WG on the progress of the project on the basis of information received from the Global IDP Survey. The final report, including a visual presentation of the database format, will be submitted to the IASC-WG in June 1998. The full proposal and budget for the operational development of the database will be submitted in July 1998.

8. Phase 1 of the project would require for a six-month period \$98,000 with the following breakdown:

	<u>In US\$</u>
Social Scientist/Demographer (6-month consultancy)	\$40,000
Database designer/tester (2-month consultancy)	\$16,000
Travel (3 country test trials)	\$24,000
Equipment (PC & laptop, software)	\$10,000
Institutional professional & administrative support (Global IDP Survey)	\$ 8,000

9. It is recommended that members of the IASC support the proposal as well as contribute to the financing of the project. Efforts will also be made to mobilize donor support. Donor interest to date includes ECHO and OFDA. An initial \$20,000 pledge has come from UNICEF.