

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
XXXIInd MEETING
3 June 1998, Geneva**

Item 4.1: Global IDP Survey: IDP Database - Feasibility and Pilot Study

Paper prepared by NRC

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Interim Briefing

1. Following agreement reached at the December 1997 IASC-WG, the NRC proceeded to recruit a consultant who began work on the IDP Database in mid-February 1998. This is to be a six-month study, including two in-depth country trials. A full progress report, including future plans and budget implications, will be presented at the meeting of the IASC-WG in June/July 1998.

2. The NRC consultant had preliminary discussions in March with the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on IDPs, UNICEF, UNDP, OCHA, UNHCR, Centre for Human Rights, WFP, WHO, ICRC, and a number of international NGOs. A note on these discussions was circulated for comment, including a preliminary draft of information indicators. As suggested in the original proposal to the IASC-WG in December, the two countries suggested for the pilot scheme were Liberia and Colombia. This remained the consensus (though not unanimous) at the end of the preliminary consultation.

3. The consultant, Christophe Beau, visited Liberia from 30th March-11th April. Operational UN agencies were all consulted in the field, plus additional NGO information sources. The objectives of the mission were:

- to identify key agencies able to provide up-to-date and regular information on IDPs, including a national overview of quantitative and qualitative data;
- in particular, to identify the most appropriate focal points within the government, UN and NGOs (i.e. 3 focal points) which will continue to provide this data on a regular basis;
- to discover the possibilities and constraints inherent in the collection of IDP information and the level of inter-agency coordination in this respect.

4. A full report on the Liberia findings is available. The second round of consultations with all of the above agencies is underway prior to the second country mission. In particular, the recent conceptual work of UNICEF and the office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative will be taken into account. During this second round of consultations, the consultant will also submit to the above agencies a draft country reporting format which will serve as a framework for the information structure in the database.

5. In June 1998 the database format, software, etc. will be finalised. A 2-year project proposal for the expansion of the database will be presented to the IASC-WG in June/July. Meanwhile, arrangements will be made for the database to go 'online' from July as and when country information is made available.

Proposed Action

- To establish a Steering Group immediately with a calendar for regular meetings. IASC agencies are invited to assign colleagues to the Steering Group which will meet at least twice in Geneva prior to the completion of the six-month study.
- To approve the choice of Colombia as the second country for the pilot scheme. This will enable the NRC Consultant to make immediate travel plans.