

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP  
53rd MEETING**

**8-9 July 2003**

**UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva  
Room MBT04A (Basement)**

**IDPs: Update to the IASC**

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**IDP Response Matrix**

At the request of key partners, the Internal Displacement Unit in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs agreed to take the lead in mapping out the activities of Inter Agency Standing Committee members on behalf of the internally displaced and undertake analysis of the results.

The project emerged following an exchange of letters in August 2002 between the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Emergency Relief Coordinator where UNHCR's present and future involvement in situations of internal displacement was outlined. In follow-up discussions by the Unit with several partners, there was a general consensus that the involvement of all IASC members should be mapped in order to identify 'who is doing what' with regards to IDPs and where possible identify institutional gaps in the response to internal displacement at the country level.

A second objective of the project was, along with the Protection Survey, was to examine the effectiveness of the collaborative approach in the response to internal displacement. In its simplest form, the collaborative approach relies on an operational framework that builds upon the complementary capacity of IASC members at the field level. This mapping exercise will be an opportunity to determine how effective policy instruments and guidelines have been in leading the international response to internal displacement.

In November 2002, the IDP Response Matrix, based on a questionnaire format to be filled out by HC/RCS as well as organizations active with IDPs in the field, was presented and endorsed by the IASC-WG. In order to assess the global response, it was decided that respondents should be invited from all 52 countries where conflict-induced displacement is believed to be an issue.

After refining the content of the questionnaire and consultations with partners, the IDP Unit in May 2003 selected a consulting firm to assist in the distribution of the questionnaire using a web-based consumer research platform. During the week of June 7 the questionnaire was tested by various respondents and officially launched on June 16 at a special website: [www.reliefweb.int/idpmatrix](http://www.reliefweb.int/idpmatrix).

Crucial to the success of the process will be the response rate by field-based personnel. In order to encourage a high response rate the length of time to fill out the questionnaire has been limited to 30 minutes. To further encourage a high level of response from the field, the IASC-WG recommended in March 2003 that a joint letter from the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Administrator of UNDP be sent to Humanitarian Coordinators and Resident Coordinators encouraging their participation.

On June 18 the ERC sent a letter to Humanitarian Coordinators encouraging their active participation. Letters were also sent by AERC to OCHA Heads of Offices and other letters were to be sent by

Headquarters of participating agencies to their respective field offices. A letter from UNDP Administrator to Resident Coordinators was also to be sent.

Respondents will have approximately one month to fill in the questionnaire. Results will be tabulated and a report prepared.

### The Protection Survey

The Protection Survey is a complementary project to the IDP Response Matrix and was approved by the IASC-WG in November 2002. Undertaken jointly by the IDP Unit and the Brookings Institution-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement, the conceptual framework for the Survey is the IASC Protection Policy paper as well as the Supplementary Guidance to Humanitarian/Resident Coordinators adopted by the IASC in April 2000.

Through a series of field visits and interviews in a select number of countries (see below), the Survey aims to examine the way in which UN country teams and other relevant actors seek to encourage and support States in discharging their primary responsibility for the protection of internally displaced persons. Specifically it seeks to identify those factors which encourage effective protection for IDPs and which might be usefully emulated elsewhere. It also seeks to gain a greater understanding of the problems that impede protection efforts and the ways in which these might be overcome.

Between December 2002 and May 2003 a team of researchers visited nine countries including: Angola, Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Nepal, Russian Federation, Somalia and Sri Lanka.

A draft report based on thematic analysis is currently being prepared. Conclusions and recommendations will be discussed with IASC members and presented to the IASC- WG.

#### **Proposed Decisions/Action Points by the IASC-WG**

- Those agencies participating in the IDP Response Matrix ensure that letters, with the questionnaire website address and accompanying briefing material have been sent to field offices.
- Encourage field representatives to complete the questionnaire before July 18

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