

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
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**IDPs: Update on Protection Survey and IDP Response Matrix
and activities of the Senior Inter-Agency IDP Network**

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IDP Response Matrix and IDP Protection Survey

In the July IASC-Working Group meeting in Geneva, several members requested further clarification on how the results of the IDP Response Matrix and the IDP Protection Survey would be analyzed and used.

While being complementary projects, the IDP Response Matrix and Protection Survey have depended on entirely different methodologies. The Protection Survey is an independent study by a team of researchers to several IDP-affected countries (see below). The results, based on interviews and observations will be an objective account of the challenges of IDP protection at the field level. While the Survey seeks to document details and personal experiences, the IDP Response Matrix, on the other hand seeks to highlight patterns of the international response to internal displacement. The second methodology based on quantifiable analysis will allow the Unit to do cross-country analysis across a broad spectrum of IDP situations.

Evidently analysis of the two projects will take different forms but both will ultimately arrive at the same point which is to provide an objective assessment on the international response to IDPs. Based on that assessment, recommendations can be made by the IDP Unit and the Senior Network to the IASC-WG to improve the response.

It is difficult at this point to prejudge the results, however it is anticipated that the outcomes could lead to critical decisions on how to contribute to a more predictable response to internal displacement in emerging crises, will aid in the development of further guidelines for field staff, will promote policy development and identify key priorities for future training.

Please see below further details.

IDP Response Matrix

The Unit is pleased to report that agency response to the IDP Response Matrix has far exceeded expectations. At the close of the questionnaire process, the Unit had received close to 400 responses from 52 countries. Included in the results were responses from 35 HC/RCs.

It should be noted that many IASC members were able to get responses from all their offices represented within the 52 countries. In addition to demonstrating an extraordinary effort by those agencies, the results show strong overall support for the collaborative approach. It should also be noted that some of the more sustained efforts came from non UN-agencies including NGOs and the ICRC.

The strong response to the questionnaire will enable the Matrix to meet its primary objectives which were 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.
- Examine the effectiveness of the collaborative approach in the response to internal displacement.

In terms of analysis, a preliminary report based on interpretation of the results will be presented by the Unit to the IDP Senior Network in October. The raw data, in other words, the number and type of responses to each question, will also be presented to the Senior Network for analysis. In order to maintain confidentiality individual names or agency identity will be removed.

Based on the findings, the Unit will organize several meetings of the Senior Network to develop recommendations and conclusions. Both the Unit’s final report and all recommendations and conclusions will be presented to the IASC-WG for endorsement.

The Protection Survey

The Protection Survey is a complementary project to the IDP Response Matrix. Endorsed by the IASC-WG in November 2002, the Protection 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. Through a series of field visits and interviews in a select number of countries (1), the Survey 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.

Since the Survey is an independent study commissioned by the IDP Unit and the Brookings Institution-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement it will first require completion by the research team. Emulating a process, used by most research institutions, the report will be shared with a selected number of individual expert readers in October who will be asked to provide comments and suggestions. Once finalized the report, which will be published by the Brookings Institution-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement, will be presented to both the IASC-WG and the Senior Network.

Following publication, analysis of the findings and recommendations from the researchers will follow the same path as the IDP Response Matrix. Based on the results, recommendations and conclusions developed by the Senior Network to improve IDP Protection will be presented to the IASC-WG for approval and endorsement.

The Role of the Senior Network

During the July 2003 IASC-WG meeting in Geneva, questions were raised regarding the role of the Senior Inter Agency Network on IDPs, its relationship to the IASC-WG and the methodology of interagency IDP missions.

As a result, the IASC WG “requested the IDP Unit convene a Senior Inter-Agency Network meeting to discuss and clarify the role of the Senior Inter-Agency Network in general and the Protection Coalition, its role in the analysis of the data for the IDP response matrix, and the modalities of inter-agency missions.”

1 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.

It also “requested agencies to provide senior support for the Senior Inter-Agency Network; reaffirmed the role of IASC-WG as the main forum for decision-making and endorsement on key policy issues; and recommended that the IDP missions should be reviewed and discussed in the Senior Inter-Agency Network.”

In early August the Unit circulated a discussion paper on the role of the Senior Network and on August 12, 2003 convened a Senior Network meeting. Without exception representatives reiterated their agency support for the role and terms of reference of the Senior Network and welcomed the opportunity to review its activities. While the discussion among agencies on how to revitalize the Senior Network was recognized as an ongoing process which would require more ‘in-house’ consultations there were several preliminary observations that can be made based on the discussions:

- It was agreed that Senior Network’s primary focus should be on monitoring the effectiveness of the collaborative approach to internal displacement, discussing deficiencies and shortcomings and seeking ways to make improvements both at the system-wide level and at the individual country level.
- Several suggestions were also made to make the Senior Network more efficient. Ideas such as developing a mission statement and workplan and introducing more participatory procedural processes were encouraged.
- The subject of Inter-Agency missions organized by the IDP Unit or the Senior Network to assess the interagency response to IDP crises provoked an extensive discussion. It concluded with agreement that the Senior Network should examine in greater detail the role of interagency IDP missions, especially a certain number of issues such as mission methodology, purpose and process.
- The role and interest of the Senior Network in analyzing the results of the IDP Response Matrix and IDP Protection Survey was reaffirmed.

In order to follow-up, the IDP Unit agreed to consolidate elements of the circulated discussion paper and comments made at the meeting into a strategy paper on future activities of the Network. The Unit also agreed to inform the IASC-WG of the discussions.

Expected Decisions/Action Points by the IASC-WG:

The IASC-WG supports the role of the Senior Network and encourages the ongoing review process.