

The Gender Dimensions of Internal Displacement:

Concept Paper and Annotated Bibliography

Office of Emergency Programmes
Working Paper Series



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Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
I. INTRODUCTION	7
II. GENDER ANALYSIS. SIMPLIFYING AN UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER	10
III. DISPLACED WOMEN: THE KEY ISSUES	12
A. Significant Differences between IDPs and Refugees	
B. Effects of Displacement on Women	
1. Changes in gender roles	
2. Gender violence	
3. Breakup of families	
4. Loss of social and cultural ties	
C. Protection for Internally Displaced Women	
D. The Fundamental Right to Basic Human Needs	
1. Right to Shelter	
2. Right to Food	
3. Right to Health Care	
4. Education, Skills Training, and Economic Opportunity	
E. Participation of Internally Displaced Women	
IV. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO THE NEEDS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN	25
V. NEXT STEPS--RECOMMENDATIONS AND PLAN OF ACTION	30
ANNEXES:	
Annex A: Annotated Bibliography on Gender and Internally Displaced Persons	33
Annex B: The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement	64

The Gender Dimensions of Internal Displacement

“Internally displaced persons have been forced from their homes by armed conflict or internal strife.. they remain within the borders and under the domestic jurisdiction of their countries... they are nearly always destitute and acutely in need of international protection...without legal or institutional bases for receiving protection and assistance from the international community ”¹

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) present the most compelling crises confronting the international humanitarian assistance community today. Each year the number of countries reporting internal displacement increases; the past few years have witnessed a change from large-scale refugee movements to increasing internal displacement.² The enormity of the ever-growing problem of IDPs surpasses human and financial resources available to mitigate suffering, which—as is the case with refugees—women and children bear the brunt

This brief concept paper identifies the main issues concerning the rights of displaced women and girls. It aims to sharpen awareness of the gender dimensions to internal displacement and to provide initial guidance to UNICEF and other agencies on the appropriate gender response to the urgent and growing needs of internally displaced women. The subject clearly deserves in-depth analysis and further research, which this concept paper seeks to stimulate.

This analysis employs a gender perspective to examine several key questions: What are the major issues of concern to internally displaced women? What steps should agencies take to address and ensure the rights of displaced women? A gender perspective—the appreciation of fundamental differences between men and women’s roles in societies—is not difficult to apply if one approaches the issue from the basic principles of human rights determined by a person’s gender. The consequences of not applying a gender perspective resonate in overlooked human rights abuses against women and girls.

¹ Armacost, Michael, from the Introduction of *The Forsaken People*, edited by Roberta Cohen and Francis M Deng, Washington, DC Brookings Institute Press, 1998

² Schmeidl, Susanne Comparative trends in forced displacement. IDPs and refugees, 1964-96 In *Internally Displaced People A Global Survey* Norwegian Refugee Council London Earthscan Publications Ltd

This paper reviews and critiques the current roles of UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations and suggests ways to promote an action plan for international agencies to more effectively respond to the rights of internally displaced women and girls by using a gender-informed approach.

Gender concerns for internally displaced women primarily relate to two core issues. protection—safeguarding women and girls from rape, abduction, forced sexual slavery, genital mutilation,³ torture and murder, and upholding their rights to equal access and full participation in assistance programs. Gender violence is a common feature of displacement. Chronic physical and mental trauma persist because responsible parties fail to concern themselves with or to publicize the lasting effects of physical abuse. Agencies rarely examine protection issues in depth, much less initiate or support investigative research on gender violence in IDP populations.

In refugee work, the dedication and hard work of concerned international assistance organizations over the past decade are beginning to yield positive results on gender issues. Awareness of the plight of refugee women and their right to protection began to surface in the 1980s as a result of the work of numerous individuals and advocacy organizations. Since then, policies and guidelines have been developed, gender positions established at all UN agencies, and training programs adopted to address gender and protection concerns.⁴ The issue of protecting refugee women has by no means been resolved; it remains a continuing struggle, but at least the mechanisms for improving the situation are in place.

In the case of IDPs, such mechanisms do not yet exist. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement⁵ identify the rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of the internally displaced and offer a basis for protection and assistance. Although not a binding

³ Reference is made to the case that occurred in Sierra Leone in December 1996 when over 1,000 young internally displaced girls were forcefully circumcised in a mass ceremony. It is probable that the risk of being subjected to forced FGM was greatly increased because of the girls' IDP status and the congregation of a large number of girls living together in an insecure setting.

⁴ Martin, Susan Forbes, *Refugee Women* (1992), *UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women* (1991), *UNHCR's Sexual Violence Against Refugees Guidelines on Prevention and Response* (1995), *Guidelines on Prevention of Sexual Violence* (1995), Taft, Julia, *Issues and Options for Refugee Women in Developing Countries*, (1987)

⁵ *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, Feb 11, 1998, United Nations E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2

legal instrument, the Principles provide practical guidance to governments, NGOs and other agencies working on behalf of the internally displaced. The Guiding Principles are derived from extant human rights and humanitarian law, as well as refugee law by analogy

In addition to their rights to protection and physical safety, displaced women and children have the right to basic human necessities guaranteed by international laws and conventions:

- food, water, sanitary facilities, cooking and heating fuel, shelter, blankets and clothing
- health care, including reproductive health services, mental health, and maternal child care
- education and skills training to promote women's self-determination and independence
- opportunities to provide meaningful input into programs that directly affect women
- a chance to participate in social life

In general, agencies have been more willing to direct attention and resources to providing material assistance than to involving themselves with participation, protection and gender violence issues. This shortcoming appears most often in cases dealing with rape and domestic violence—sensitive issues that require skill, expertise, and time. Agencies have not devoted adequate attention to reporting gender violence, documenting lessons learned, or establishing the effect of programs; this lack of attention may stem from the emergency mentality under which IDP interventions operate.

Because no UN agency has the overall responsibility for providing protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, the response of the international community has been *ad hoc*. IDPs, by definition, remain within national borders, meaning that their own governments are responsible for meeting their protection needs. Unfortunately, their governments are often unable to provide protection, or may even be responsible for the displacement. In Colombia, internally displaced persons suffer attacks and arrests by paramilitary forces, drug cartels and government forces. The government has does little to protect them. Worse yet, assistance agencies are often reluctant to interfere and risk the anger of the host government, so the issue of protection may be ignored altogether. Greater advocacy efforts are needed to stress that the situation of IDPs is a legitimate concern to the international community because of the universal human rights issues involved.

Effective, gender-sensitive responses to IDP crises will require a coordinated effort among all UN agencies and NGO partners to introduce and train staff about gender, human rights laws, conventions, UN policies and guidelines. The training should be formal, structured, and linked to job performance and evaluations. Given the high staff turnover in assistance agencies, special efforts to support orientation and refresher training on these issues would improve assistance programs

Human rights and displacement specialists emphasize the need for agencies to take the following steps in order to improve services for internally displaced persons:

1. Recognize the advocacy potential when women and children make up the majority of the IDP population;
2. Aggressively seek better understanding of the root causes of internal displacement, and disseminate findings, including the impact on women;
3. Agree on a gender-sensitive protocol of response, a method of designating lead agencies, and the means of coordination;
4. Hone the collective abilities of organizations to forecast impending displacement situations and make projections on how such displacement might affect women and children;
5. Advocate with governments, presumptive authorities, and international agencies for appropriate and humane responses to displacement, with a focus on the gender dimensions of displacement and human rights;
6. Appoint gender specialists at field locations to ensure that the rights of women and girls are protected, and that gender abuses and human rights violations are monitored and reported;
7. Pressure authorities to facilitate the safe and expeditious return of IDPs to their homes as soon as their safety can be assured, with special attention to ensuring the safety of children and women;
8. Disseminate the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and other relevant international human rights and gender rights instruments to all parties interacting with internally displaced persons;

- 9 Establish and implement an interagency training protocol on gender and human rights laws pertinent to IDPs for use by all agencies working with displaced persons;
10. Develop gender-sensitive “Best Practices” models for IDP assistance programs that may be replicated in a variety of settings,
- 11 Advocate for better access to IDPs in order to provide humanitarian assistance;
12. Include women in all peace, reconciliation, and reconstruction activities,
13. Make use of advanced communications technology such as computer modeling and videos to depict potential outcomes—social, economic, and gender impacts—of displacement in particular situations.

1. INTRODUCTION

The global crisis of internal displacement presents an enormous challenge to the international assistance community. Although the precise number is unknown, experts estimate the number of people displaced within native borders to be around 30 million, of whom women and children comprise about 80 percent.⁶ The rights of women, including access to basic services—food, water, shelter, and health care—are often ignored. Moreover, displaced women have no voice; their circumstances compel them to accept the little assistance offered while being denied the opportunity to actively participate in program design, monitoring, or assessments on activities that directly affect their and their children's lives.

This paper focuses on the gender dimensions of internal displacement. An examination of IDP literature reveals few references pertaining to women. Given that women outnumber men in IDP populations and that the needs of women and men differ, the absence of a gender perspective in the assistance community and in the literature illustrates that gender is either being ignored or is not properly understood. Either shortcoming should motivate immediate and deliberate action to promote a focus on gender. Such a gender focus would require that the different needs of women and men would inform and shape the assistance provided them so as to be most appropriate to their situation.

What are the most effective and appropriate ways of preventing violence towards internally displaced women and girls from a rights-based perspective? What is the best way to increase the participation of women at decision making levels in assistance programs? How can international organizations protect and care for IDPs without overstepping cultural boundaries? The protection issue is the most challenging problem facing assistance agencies; it extends to all IDPs—women, children and men.

Several overarching issues directly affect the lives of all IDPs and relate to the delivery of humanitarian assistance:

- Gender issues are seldom addressed and are nearly absent from IDP literature;

⁶ Cohen, Roberta, and Francis M Deng, *Masses in Flight*, Washington, DC Brookings Institution Press, 1998

- International agencies may have limited access to IDPs due to a site's poor security or remote location;
- IDP groups are difficult to identify; they may be extremely mobile or blended into the local community,
- Assistance may increase the vulnerability of the IDPs, especially for female-headed households who may fear being targeted by militants after receiving aid;
- Agencies may not coordinate assistance satisfactorily because their roles are not clearly defined;
- Assistance agencies tend not to move beyond the stage of emergency distributions and curative measures toward more sustainable and independence-promoting activities (such as seeds and tools, or income generation);
- In some countries, sanctions (or donor mandates) may prohibit development-oriented program activities needed at some long-term IDP sites.

The number of internal conflicts based on ethnic and religious differences are on the rise since the end of the Cold War. Programs for IDPs lack a framework for assistance and protection comparable to those that exist for refugees. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has a clear mandate—supported by international refugee and humanitarian laws—to protect and assist refugees. No such framework exists, however, for assisting and protecting IDPs.

Certain UN agencies may take on, or be assigned, the role of lead agency for a particular IDP situation. Once designated, that agency deals with the emergency by assuming overall responsibility for the displaced population. To date, UN response has been more or less *ad hoc* depending on the particular interests, expertise, and agenda of the different agencies.

Humanitarian agencies normally respond to IDP emergencies by providing the basic or most urgent needs. Although it is not necessarily their objective or intent, these agencies may also become involved in protecting the physical safety of IDPs—particularly women and girls—and ensuring that their fundamental human rights are guaranteed.⁷

⁷ Cohen, Roberta. The Displaced Fall Through World's Safety Net. The Christian Science Monitor, Feb 6, 1997

The home country is responsible for the care of its displaced people. Sometimes, governments simply lack the resources to provide assistance. In many cases, however, the ruling authority is the source of suffering and will not aid IDPs. The Sudanese government has been accused of systematically persecuting certain displaced ethnic groups (mainly Christians from the south). In Afghanistan, thousands of displaced Afghan women—many of whom are widows—suffer under the restrictive regime of the Taliban, and have lost most of their basic human rights.

II. GENDER ANALYSIS: SIMPLIFYING AN UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER

Applying a gender framework in humanitarian assistance is not complicated but does require a rudimentary understanding and acceptance of the basic premise upon which all gender theory rests. Gender, simply put, refers to the female and male roles within a given culture; these roles and the expected behaviors of men and women are based on cultural practices formed over time. One cannot study gender by concentrating on females or males to the exclusion of the other sex; gender involves dynamic interactions between the women and men

Feminist social theory describes the social construction of gender. How gender is constructed explains the position of women in society. Women in developing countries negotiate their lives within a construction of gender framed by their particular cultural groups. When lives drastically change, as in the case of forced displacement, women often lose their negotiated positions and revert to less equitable social statuses.⁸

Several main theoretical frameworks underpin all writing on the integration of gender issues into humanitarian and development work. The first developed was the Harvard Framework, from which the People-Oriented-Planning method emerged. The Harvard Framework underscores the importance of examining, among other things, who does what, who owns what, and who controls what within a community. The Moser Method⁹ is another useful framework that breaks gender-specific needs into practical needs and strategic interests. The Moser Method focuses on gender planning training as a means of meeting the special needs of women. Moser defines the triple role of women as reproductive, productive, and community managing.

UNICEF's system of gender analysis and training, Women's Equality & Empowerment Framework (WEEF), outlines a conceptual continuum of women's empowerment. WEEF does not discard the useful premise of the Harvard Model and the POP approach that emphasizes "access to resources." The Harvard Model addresses people's

⁸ For a cogent discussion of the biological versus the cultural roles of women refer to Sherry B. Ortner, *Making Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture*, "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?", Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.

⁹ Caroline Moser, *Gender Planning and Development: Theory, practice and training*. New York: Routledge, 1993.

economic interests. It does not focus on women's equality or empowerment. The Harvard Model does not provide an analytical framework for looking at the political and ideological dimensions of women's development. The analysis then is limited to a technical perspective with no theoretical capacity for analyzing women's development at the level of inequality, discrimination and oppression. UNICEF has focused its interest on the process of empowerment by which women can overcome discrimination in the provision of resources. WEEF differs from other frameworks in its "bottom-up" perspective to improving women's lives. WEEF provides a systematic and analytic understanding of the grassroots empowerment process. Other frameworks espouse "top-down" perspectives in which the problems of women are identified by outsiders (researchers and field workers.) WEEF does not promote the treatment of women as the passive beneficiaries of projects

The People-Oriented Planning (POP) method, a training tool developed by Mary Anderson and Catherine Overholt for the UNHCR and has become an important aid in gender planning. POP was designed to assist refugee workers in improving participation in and access to programs by providing a framework for analyzing the socio-cultural and economic factors in a refugee setting that could influence the success of planned activities. POP was first introduced in 1992. UNHCR is currently in the process of training all staff to use the POP method. Several NGOs have incorporated POP methods, and some UN agencies have borrowed certain aspects of POP for their gender training portfolios.

POP stresses that relief workers must analyze the social and economic roles of women, men, and children and understand how these roles will affect and be affected by program activities. The method emphasizes the need to understand the dynamics of change that the displaced population is undergoing. Participation of the beneficiaries is a major determinant in the success of relief operations and must include women and children along with men.

III. DISPLACED WOMEN: THE KEY ISSUES

Displacement has different effects on women than it has on men, and differs during various stages of crises. When displacement occurs, far more damage results than simply the loss and destruction of goods and property; people's lives and the social fabric are left in tatters.¹⁰ As terrible as the disruption may be, women usually suffer the effects more acutely than men do. Changes in gender roles are accelerated in situations of conflict as women are forced to assume responsibilities previously held by men.

Complex emergencies may upset the balance between men and women. Women and children often make up the majority of the IDP population. Reconstruction in post conflict periods may provide opportunities to build on the capacities of women that may have been extended by the IDP crisis.

A. Significant Differences between IDPs and Refugees

Refugees by definition have crossed international borders to seek a safe haven, most often they are fleeing conflict, and have suffered violations of their human rights. Refugees are eligible for international protection and assistance under the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Internally displaced persons may suffer systematic violations of their human rights, conflict, ethnic or religious oppression, but remain within the borders of their own country and have no institutional or legal mechanism for receiving international assistance. They remain under the jurisdiction, and responsibility, of their governments. The system responsible for upholding the rights of IDPs may also be the system responsible for their displacement and the violations against their rights.

As traumatic to women as any displacement may be, usually the circumstances are worse for the internally displaced than for refugees, even though the situation in which the two will find themselves is similar. As a case in point, the author observed Burundi women refugees living in Tanzanian camps and displaced women living in Burundi. In the camps, refugees received health care services, food rations, primary education for their children, and adult skills-training. UNHCR protection officers monitored the refugees' physical safety, and international refugee laws delineated their human rights. In the Burundi displacement camps,

also called “regroupment centers,” these services were not available. Perpetrators of sexual violence and other exploitation went unpunished. No one stood up for the rights of women, as IDPs have no designated agency from which to seek protection in cases of rape and other violent acts.¹¹ Women interviewed in the Burundi camps confided that to survive they “had to be nice to the soldiers guarding the camp.” Sadly, the exchange of sex for protection or food is a common occurrence among internally displaced women, who have no recourse to international oversight and protection.

Multiple variables act upon service delivery and access to IDPs. Clearly, specific guidance regarding gender violence, protection and participation issues for displaced women and girls would be extremely useful to all agencies working with IDPs.

B. Effects of Displacement on Women

The effects of displacement depend on its duration, but immediate manifestations include family separations, exposure to gender violence, trauma associated with the deaths of family members, impaired health, and the loss of the home and possessions. Displacement may effect women’s rights to inherit land and property. Over time, the cumulative effects of personal loss may result in depression and physical deterioration. Post-traumatic stress syndrome is a common ailment among women who have been displaced for more than a few months. The long-term impact of displacement on women may mean the permanent loss of social and cultural ties, the termination of career and regular employment, and disruption or loss of educational opportunities. Some marriages do not survive the stress of displacement; divorces are common in IDP settings. Children suffer most when displacement spans periods of several years. They miss education during their formative years, undergo immeasurable trauma and psychological stress, suffer stunted growth due to extended poor nutrition, and have difficulties in socialization.

1. Changing gender roles

Displacement also changes gender roles as families become separated, relatives are killed, and homes are destroyed. When such events occur, women may become heads of

¹⁰ Segura-Escobar, Nora and Donny Meertens “Uprootedness, Gender and Internal Displacement in Colombia,” *Beyond Law*, Vol 6, Issue 17, January 1997

families and find themselves forced into unaccustomed roles and responsibilities for which they are ill prepared. The IDP camps in which women and children seek refuge present a lifestyle alien to their cultural values and in this unfamiliar social context gender roles change radically. Women's vulnerability to sexual exploitation, domestic violence, and rape increases as gender roles shift.

Domestic violence is often the outcome of gender role reversals when men—normally the providers for their families—face the idleness and humiliation of IDP life. The stress, uncertainty, and deprivation can cause men to take out their frustrations on their families. Assistance agencies need to consider the potential of domestic violence when planning assistance programs that exclude the male members of the household.

2. Gender violence

Gender violence in conflict situations is a violation of the fundamental human right to mental and physical integrity as protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹¹, CEDAW¹³, and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment¹⁴.

Violence is the chief source of fear for displaced women and girls. Researchers have begun to focus attention on the long-term effects of living under the threat of violence¹⁵. Conflict situations greatly increase the violence inflicted upon them; at no other time are women and girls more vulnerable. During conflicts, women often not only lack the protection of their families and spouses, but also are under threat by armed soldiers, who may regard them as spoils of war. Even when abuses are not aimed at them personally, women suffer violations of their human rights disproportionately when the normal codes of social conduct are ignored because of conflict.

¹¹ In situations where a UN agency has lead agency responsibility for IDPs, procedures may exist for handling gender abuse cases, but there is no protocol across agencies

¹² Universal Declaration of Human Rights, General Assembly, A/RES/17 A (III), 10 December 1948 (UDHR)

¹³ The Convention to Eliminate all Discrimination Against Women, A/RES/34/180, 18 December 1979 (CEDAW)

¹⁴ Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, General Assembly, A/RES/39/46 10 December 1984 (Torture Convention)

¹⁵ Roe, Michael, "Displaced Women in Settings of Continuing Armed Conflict" in *Refugee Women and Their Mental Health: Shattered Societies, Shattered Lives, Women and Therapy*, Vol 13, Nos 1 and 2, 1992

Gender-based violence refers to violence targeted to a person because of their gender, or that affects them because of their special roles or responsibilities in their society. In many cases women have sole responsibility for their households. Certain responsibilities of women's gender roles put them at greater risk of injury: crossing landmine fields or walking near military encampments in the course of their gender-defined task of searching for water and firewood subjects women to maiming, crossfire injuries and sexual attacks. Gender-based violence may be manifested in several ways: domestic violence, rape, and forced prostitution and marriages. Although rape and other sexual abuses are recognized as serious crimes in early humanitarian laws, only recently has the international community addressed these forms of violence as serious infringements of fundamental women's rights. As noted earlier, internally displaced women are more vulnerable to sexual abuse than are refugees because few institutional mechanisms are in place to protect them.

Rape is a deliberate tactic used in war to dehumanize and dishonor not only the woman but also her husband and the entire community. The humiliation and degradation of rape are only compounded by the impunity of the perpetrators: Amnesty International reported a Peruvian official admitting: "...rape was to be expected when troops were based in rural areas, that it was somehow 'natural' and that prosecutions could not be expected."¹⁶ The incidence of rape against refugee and internally displaced women is even higher than reported;¹⁷ women IDPs are often reluctant to report rape for fear of retribution from the perpetrators. Other forms of sexual coercion are rife in IDP settings; young girls are often abducted, forced into marriage, sold, or forced into prostitution. Special programs are needed to reduce the likelihood of such occurrences. In general, the greater the mobility of displaced women, the greater their vulnerability. Therefore, programs for displaced women need to pay special attention to situations where displaced women are highly mobile.

3. Breakup of families

The loss of social support systems and community solidarity experienced when rural people are displaced and moved to urban centers may cause families to break up. Families that

¹⁶ Amnesty International (August 1990) *Conventions on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women*. Transcript of testimony before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Washington, DC

lose their social networks of support often lose everything. Men may be unable to find work or may become involved in the conflict leaving the woman responsible for the household—often an unaccustomed role for which she may be ill prepared

Women separated from their husbands or widowed must take on the responsibilities of providing for the household. IDPs from rural areas must adapt to living in an urban environment, and often find only menial or degrading work.

4. Loss of Social and Cultural Ties

Displaced women generally lack community support; in many instances, the community is fragmented. Key opinion holders, respected elders, and important role models are frequently absent. Displaced women in former Yugoslavia reported feeling unwelcome in the areas where they had fled, and suffered discrimination at the hands of local people.¹⁸ The disintegration of community unity increases the vulnerability of women and children and weakens their coping mechanisms. Women and adolescent girls become easy targets for abuse when they are separated from normal support systems, husbands and other male family members. Internally displaced women continue to require protection against further displacement and abuses even after they return home. Women especially need support from their communities to defend their rights and cope with their plight. When families lose their support networks they may fall victim to crime and violence.

C. Protection for internally displaced women

“It’s cultural, there is nothing we can do” is a response often heard from aid workers to excuse themselves from responding to cases of human rights abuse. Aid workers have used the “cultural practice” response to excuse their inaction in the following documented cases involving displaced persons:¹⁹

- A male school headmaster was caught after repeatedly raping his young female pupils;
- Family members of a 14-year-old girl received death threats, were assaulted, and shot at when they tried to protect the girl from a forced marriage to a militia member;

¹⁷ Segura-Escobar, Nora and Donny Meertens. “Uprootedness, Gender and Internal Displacement in Colombia,” *Beyond Law*, Vol. 6, Issue 17, 1997

¹⁸ Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children, *Refugee Women in Former Yugoslavia*, 1995

¹⁹ These examples are drawn from actual cases documented by the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children during field assessment missions to Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Pakistan

- Over one thousand young internally displaced girls in a West African camp were forcefully circumcised.

Agencies working with IDPs in various cultural settings must be prepared to address misconceptions regarding cultural practices when dealing with issues such as those in the cases mentioned above. Assistance agencies must take urgent action to educate their local and international staff about human rights, refugee laws, UN conventions and resolutions (such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and CEDAW), agency policies and operating practices in order to combat harmful practices that violate international standards. “It’s cultural” is not acceptable as an excuse to ignore requests for protection. Agencies must clearly state their policies, and staff must be held accountable for carrying out their agencies’ policies and practices. Agencies and their staff must bear in mind that one of the founding principles of human rights law is that it is not culturally relative, but that basic human rights are universally applicable as a matter of law.

Issues

It is a mistake to assume that the presence of international organizations alone will protect IDPs. We need only look to the Kibeho Camp massacre in Rwanda, where atrocities against IDPs took place under the eyes of the international community, to see the fallacy of such an assumption. “The UN was unable to contribute to the protection of thousands, mostly women and children, who were killed in the Rwandan army’s operation to close the camps. In a move, the government claimed, that was fully endorsed by the international community.” What would have made a difference at Kibeho? Would the responses by those who tried—too late—to prevent the massacres have been successful if the Guiding Principles had been available to fortify their actions? Would the outcome have been different if a lead UN agency had had a clear mandate to protect the IDPs?

Structural measures can be taken to increase protection and reduce the risk of violence against women and girls living in IDP camps. Such measures include improved lighting, changes in the camp layout, community security patrols, provisioning of firewood, locating water sources and latrines in safe areas, and employing women as guards. Moreover,

assistance agencies can support community awareness programs and incorporate gender sensitization into regular programs.

The *UNHCR Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women, and Sexual Violence Against Refugees* *Guidelines on Prevention and Response* are excellent resources. These guidelines should be more widely implemented by all agencies working with refugee and internally displaced women. Guidelines are needed that address the specific aspects of protecting internally displaced women and girls. The UNHCR's guidelines provide useful models that could be used in the design of an IDP protection manual.

Basic everyday chores become risky when women venture out in search of firewood or water—activities that greatly increase their vulnerability to physical attacks. Women may be forced to barter sex for food for their families, or even to obtain water. Recent reports from the Sudan indicate that prostitution is widespread in the IDP camps. Displacement in the Sudan has caused the economic disempowerment of young women, many of whom now resort to selling sex to survive. The incidence of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, is believed to be high (based on the high prevalence of symptoms, not tests.)

The same report from the Sudan noted an above-average pregnancy rate. Several women interviewed mentioned the desire to become pregnant so they could qualify for supplemental food rations. The response of one agency operating in the area was to stress the need for family planning programs. This example illustrates the “knee-jerk” reaction often seen in emergency relief operations. In a crisis environment with people on the verge of starvation there is pressure to act quickly. For many problems though the quick fix may be the wrong answer and may exacerbate the problem. Access to family planning is important and should be available to all IDPs. But the problem in this example is access to food, and the solution lies in addressing the ability of women to feed their families and themselves. The magnitude of the problems of internally displaced women and girls is not well understood. Better data collection methods, disaggregated by age and sex, would help agencies provide assistance. Unless accurate profiles are generated, needs assessments and monitoring activities will not reflect true pictures of IDP populations.

²⁰ Kleine-Ahlbrandt, Stephanie, *The Protection Gap in the International Protection of Internally Displaced*

The social disruption of displacement dismantles the social status of women, and effectively returns them to subordination based on their physical vulnerability. Having lost their social and cultural under-pinning, women in displacement may return to, or first experience, a vulnerable state. Taking advantage of the weakest has long been a key strategy of conflict; fighters are trained to zero in on their enemy's weak points. In situations of displacement, women and girls become easy targets of aggression, a vulnerable flank upon which aggressors focus their attacks to humiliate and defeat their opponent. For the internally displaced, the aggressor may be their own government, or fellow villagers turned rebel. Capitalizing on the notion that women represent the collective 'honor' of a group, by dishonoring or conquering women the aggressor gains ground. The international assistance community must intervene to protect the rights of women and girls and thwart attempts at cultural repression and extermination, even if doing so means suspending or replacing cultural practices that in normal times would be considered essential to a culture's vitality.

D. The fundamental right to basic human needs

When IDPs are forced to flee their homes, often they escape with only the clothes on their backs. Women are usually the ones who must secure the family's necessities. The basic human needs are the fundamental right of all displaced persons. These include food, water, shelter, non-food items (blankets, clothes, pots, etc.), health care, sanitation facilities, education, and opportunities for income generation. In addition to helping with basic rights, assistance agencies should seek to provide displaced women with opportunities to achieve or maintain levels of self-determination, as well as opportunities to make decisions that affect their lives. No amount of material assistance, however, will benefit internally displaced women if they are not physically secure. The buckets and blankets supplied by international agencies were of no use to the hundreds massacred at Kibeho camp in Rwanda.

1. Shelter

Internally displaced persons are considered "temporary"; assistance is thus categorized as emergency relief. According to Sue Ellis and Sultan Barakat, who studied the long-term effects of 'temporary' accommodation on displaced persons in Croatia, relief efforts focus on

saving lives, not on livelihood preservation.²¹ Governments or relief agencies may provide temporary shelter for IDPs: “the emphasis is on logistics—speed, transportation and construction materials—while ignoring the economic, physical, social, political, and psychological realities of human need.”²² Today’s displacement events last an average of six years (Asia and Africa), but 21 percent have lasted for 10 years or more.²³ Typically, internally displaced women are not consulted in housing determinations. As short-term housing slips into long-term and even permanent solutions, the detrimental psychological and physical effects worsen. This paper recommends that housing providers use participatory approaches and enlist women in all housing planning activities. When women are part of the decision-making process, housing design, location, and construction are better suited to their needs.

Homelessness and lack of adequate shelter force many displaced women and young girls into prostitution. In Sierra Leone, girls who have been released or have escaped from the rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), find their way into towns such as Bo. Many lived as captives of the RUF for years, and are now afraid to return to their home villages because they believe they will be unwelcome. They sleep in market stalls at night and eat whatever leftover food they can forage or beg. Many eventually turn to prostitution to survive. Several Bo women set up a drop-in center for nearly one hundred homeless girls who were former captives. The women contacted several UN agencies and a few NGOs to ask for support for their center. They were told such assistance was not the responsibility of the agencies, though the girls desperately needed medical care, food, housing, and skills training. International attention has focused on demobilizing boy soldiers but little notice is made of the rights of girls. Traumatized girls may need even more help reintegrating into society than do boys.

²¹ Ellis Sue and Sultan Barakat. “From Relief to Development: The Long-term Effects of ‘Temporary’ Accommodation on Refugees and Displaced Persons in the Republic of Croatia,” *Disasters* V20N2. 1996

²² *Ibid*, page 112.

²³ Schmeidl, Susanne. “Comparative trends in forced displacement: IDPs and refugees, 1964-96,” in *Internally Displaced People: A Global Survey* edited by Janie Hampton. Norwegian Refugee Council. London: Earthscan Publications Ltd. 1998

The Graca Machel²⁴ study on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children calls attention to the plight of children separated from families and their exploitation as soldiers and captives of war. The social reintegration of girls affected by armed conflict has not received the attention needed.

2. Right to Food

Anecdotal evidence suggests that displaced women and girls are worse off than men; they receive an unequal ration of food, eat less, and eat last.²⁵ Female-headed households fare worse in terms of food allocations, especially when men control the distribution. The ideal method of assuring that women get their share of food in displacement settings has not been established, although the World Food Programme tries to ensure that women are the direct beneficiaries of food aid. Regardless of who collects the food, what really matters is who ends up eating it. Reliable data on household livelihood and food security among IDPs are scarce. Both CARE and Save the Children have begun to look more closely at livelihoods and household food supplies in a number of locations. That approach makes sense because it reveals whether or not food actually reaches the intended beneficiaries. These programs have produced useful assessment tools for gathering information. The shortfall of the approach is that it is time consuming, requires trained field workers, and good access to the population to be studied. An advantage of using the household as the unit of analysis is the method identifies “vulnerable households” without singling-out particular groups such as widows or female-headed households.

Women’s lack of access to agricultural land often underlies their food insecurity. Women farmers may be denied access to land because of national laws. For example, in Burundi women do not inherit land either from husbands or from their parents. In most cases there are no legal measures in place to ensure equitable treatment.²⁶ Without access to agricultural land, women are forced into perpetual dependence for food. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Article 14.2,

²⁴ Machel, Graca. Impact of Armed Conflict on Children, UN Doc A/51/306 of 26 August 1996

²⁵ Voutira, Efithia, *Improving Social and Gender Planning in Emergency Operations*, a report Commissioned by the World Food Programme, Refugee Studies Programme. Dec 1995

²⁶ Deng, Francis M. *Internally Displaced Persons, Profiles in Displacement Burundi*. United Nations, E/CN.4/1995/50/Add.2 28 Nov 1994

addresses the rights of rural women, in particular that they have equal treatment in land reform, resettlement schemes, and access to agricultural credit and loans. Under CEDAW there are no immediate remedies for women whose rights are violated as there are no avenues for individual petitions. Moreover, CEDAW cannot force states to comply with their reporting obligations.

3. Right to Health Care

Access to health care poses a serious problem to displaced persons; women and children usually suffer the most from inadequate health care. Women's reproductive responsibilities added to the conditions found in IDP settlements, poor nutrition, inadequate sanitation, and communicable disease compromise the state of women's health.

Internally displaced women suffer more health problems than do non-displaced women. Overall, mortality rates are higher among IDP populations than they are for refugee populations. The lack of reproductive health services, including family planning and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, may present the greatest threat to the mortality of women IDPs. In certain cultures, women will not seek health services from a male practitioner. More female health workers are needed to overcome this obstacle in IDP settings.

4. Education, skills training, and economic opportunity

The majority of displaced persons receive no educational opportunities or skills training that would prepare them to earn incomes. In most displaced settings data collection is poor or non-existent; thus data on education may not be available. As noted by Roberta Cohen,²⁷ even though education and literacy training can lead to employment opportunities and self-sufficiency, development and assistance agencies have not become interested in funding such programs for displaced persons. Donors are reluctant to fund education because of its association with permanence. Yet, education is a key to rehabilitation and a major step towards independence.

Most IDPs have limited opportunities for income generation. Apart from small, short-term projects supported by the UN or NGOs, and linked to skills training, few jobs are available to IDPs. Many IDPs lack social ties and connections that would help them secure

employment. Women are less likely to find work in urban centers due to lower literacy rates, lack of daycare facilities to care for children and fear of moving around in unfamiliar surroundings on their own.

E. Participation of Internally Displaced Women

Displaced women often have no role in camp activities and programs that directly affect them. Most programs are designed for, rather than by, IDPs. Consequently, many assistance programs are inappropriate and ill-conceived. Some programs actually do more harm than good. For example, in the Rwandan refugee camps in Tanzania there were so many women without husbands that specially marked tents were set up and situated in an area designated "safe." During the brief period when the system was used, the number of sexual attacks increased markedly.²⁸ The bright orange tents acted like beacons pointing to unaccompanied women. Had the women been consulted, more suitable and safer arrangements would have been made.

The greater the involvement of internally displaced women in planning, designing, and monitoring of programs the less likely abuse and exploitation will occur. Given the scarcity of documentation on IDP programs, verification of this claim reverts to successful participatory programming borne out in refugee studies. Internally displaced women need support from their communities to defend their rights and to cope with their plight. Agencies can encourage them to become more involved in existing organizations at the local level.²⁹

Participation may be defined as the active and meaningful involvement of people at different levels in the decision-making process for the determination of societal goals and the allocation of resources to achieve them, and in the voluntary executive of resulting programs and projects. When displaced women participate in activities that affect them, they are less likely to suffer from isolation, depression, and are more likely to have better self-esteem and self-confidence. Participation will increase the probability of successful outcomes of interventions because programs will be more suitable to the needs and wants of the

²⁷ Cohen, Roberta, *Refugee and Internally Displaced Women A Development Perspective*, The Brookings Institution, 1995

²⁸ Field notes of author of an interview with a UN agency staff

²⁹ Obregon, Liliana and Maria Stavropoulou. "In Search of Hope The Plight of Displaced Colombians," in *The Forsaken People Case Studies of the Internally Displaced*, edited by Roberta Cohen and Francis Deng, 1998

beneficiaries. The higher the level of involvement of internally displaced women in programs such as food distribution and food for work programs, the greater the chances of them receiving the equal entitlements, especially for female-headed households.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO THE NEEDS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN

Lack of a Clear Mandate for Assisting IDPs

The UN has no procedural strategy for mandating the responsibility for the protection of IDPs. Those concerned with IDP issues within international organizations generally agree that it is not feasible to set up a new agency to assist IDPs. As Roberta Cohen has suggested, “what is needed is an international system that assures that no major case of internal displacement goes neglected.” Cohen further states that with a central coordinating mechanism in place, the appropriate agencies with the expertise to respond rapidly could do so without having to be asked in each instance.³⁰

The UN should establish a coordinating body to assist IDPs, and to ensure that gender and protection issues are a priority. Internally displaced persons—particularly women and children—will continue to be subjected to human rights abuses until their protection is a priority at the highest UN level.

In the meantime, individual agencies can assume lead roles in certain IDP areas. The logistics of such arrangements can be worked out and coordinated appropriately among UN agencies and with NGOs and government agents. It is vital that these agencies understand gender concerns and implement gender-sensitive programming.

UN Secretariat: The Secretary-General appointed the Special Representative on Internal Displacement, Francis M. Deng, in 1992. Through Mr. Deng’s country visits, reports, books, and his introduction of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, he has brought to the fore the needs of IDPs. The Guiding Principles provide a foundation upon which the international assistance community may build. The principles provide the legal framework upon which to structure gender-sensitive assistance that observes international human rights laws and conventions. The Guiding Principles will advance discussions throughout the UN system and open the door for improved coordination and progress towards a shared conceptual framework for assisting IDPs.

³⁰ Cohen, Roberta, “The Displaced Fall Through World’s Safety Net,” *The Christian Science Monitor*, February 6, 1997

Francis Deng and his colleague Roberta Cohen at the Brookings Institution Project on Internal Displacement recently produced *The Forsaken People and Masses in Flight*³¹ These volumes provide detailed case studies drawn from Deng's investigative country studies and from IDP literature. These important contributions increase the general understanding of IDP issues.

Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA): OCHA coordinates efforts of the United Nations bodies for humanitarian assistance and IDPs at the UN headquarters level. The OCHA recently appointed a person to be in charge of gender concerns. In special cases, for example in Afghanistan, OCHA is working with UNDP to dispatch a gender advisor in the field.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) designated its Working Group as the main inter-agency Forum on IDPs. The Representative of the Secretary-General on Internal Displacement has suggested a more pro-active role for the IASC whereby it could be more active in contingency planning for IDP issues, in assessing the roles agencies are willing to play, and in apportioning responsibility to each agency in resolving IDP issues. The Working Group of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee designated UNICEF, the Secretary-General's Special Representative on IDPs, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as focal points for a project on best practices for IDPs. The Working Group assigned the Norwegian Refugee Council/Global IDP program to conduct a feasibility study for a database on IDPs.

The 1996 study, Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda, prepared by DANIDA, noted the lack of consistent working definitions among agencies and an inadequate understanding between agencies and donors as to what constitutes an appropriate level of investment in emergency preparedness.

UNICEF: UNICEF is active in a number of internally displaced situations, in keeping with its mandate to improve the lives of women and children by providing services in the areas of health care, education, nutrition, and sanitation. Sometimes the organization has been the lead agency for situations with large numbers of internally displaced, for example in

³¹ Cohen, Roberta and Deng, Francis editors, *The Forsaken People and Masses in Flight*, Washington, DC

southern Sudan. UNICEF has demonstrated its recognition of the integral connection between assistance and protection. It has made efforts to address protection problems particularly when they affect the delivery of assistance.³²

UNICEF has taken the lead role in addressing the gender and IDP issue, demonstrating its intent to promote gender-responsive programming and to mainstream gender awareness throughout the organization by promoting the use of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Training Manual (June 1994).³³

UNHCR: The UNHCR has assumed responsibility for IDPs in certain situations. Limitation in its mandate, however, as well as financial limitations, staffing, and other constraints restrict UNHCR's capacity to respond to IDP needs in all situations. Clear guidelines from headquarters regarding involvement on IDP issues are needed in the field so that solutions may be found quickly. UNHCR's mandate is to protect refugees; it does not have a statutory mandate for assisting victims of internal conflict, although it may be requested to do so by the Secretary-General or by the government of the country of displacement. By establishing the position of Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women and appointing regional focal persons, UNHCR has demonstrated its interest in addressing the needs of refugee women.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: UNHCHR could play a greater role in the protection for the internally displaced, but has been limited by operational and financial constraints. The UNHCHR is mandated, however, to promote and protect "the effective enjoyment" of all human rights. This includes monitoring the human rights situation on the ground and providing technical assistance.

United Nations Development Programme: UNDP, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), has fielded 16 UNV gender specialists to support UNDP and UN system activities in country offices. These specialists are working to mainstream gender into UN programming. This program does not target IDPs, but could be a model for other UN programs.

Brookings Institute Press, 1998

³² Deng, Francis M. Report to the Secretary-General, E/CN.4/1995/50-Feb 95

United Nations Development Fund for Women: UNIFEM's African Women in Crisis (AFWIC) program addresses concerns of refugee and displaced women in Central and East Africa. Their programming includes reproductive health care, trauma counseling and training and development of skills

World Food Programme: WFP has provided food aid to internally displaced persons for over 30 years. The agency takes a definitive stand on engaging the participation of women in food distribution WFP is committed to:

- reducing gender gaps in the access to resources, employment, education, and skills development through the earmarking of resources,
- distributing relief food directly to the household's senior female, where possible, using participatory approaches;
- adopting special measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision making on the planning, management, and implementation of food-assisted activities,
- giving due consideration to women's specific nutritional needs when designing food aid interventions;
- generating and disseminating gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation; and working with NGOs under contractual arrangements that specify conditions to fulfill gender-specific planning, targeting, distribution of food aid, and monitoring of progress.³⁴

Non-UN International Organizations

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) assists war-affected populations. ICRC provides protection and assistance to both IDPs and refugees. ICRC's neutrality also applies to gender issues; they normally do not implement programs that target one sex or the other. The ICRC is involved in many activities pertaining to the IDP situation such as tracing, visiting detainees, looking for disappeared persons, to mention but a few.

³³ UNICEF Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment. Developed by Longwe, Clarke and Associates for UNICEF, Training and Development Section, June 1994

³⁴ World Food Programme, *Sudan Emergency Annual Report*, 1996

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) focuses on a wide range of issues dealing with migration, spanning the gap between refugees and IDPs.³⁵ The Constitution of IOM makes specific reference to activities on behalf of IDPs. Following this mandate, IOM made cooperative agreements to assist IDPs in more than 30 States and has initiated programs to address the needs of IDPs in those locations. IOM's assistance to States is in the form of technical cooperation for building the capacity of States to deal with the problem of internal displacement. These activities include: information sharing, training officials, supplying technical equipment, and information management systems. IOM conducts data collection and analysis of humanitarian trends and contributes to the documentation of migration and displacement. IOM facilitates transportation for IDPs returning to their home areas and provides assistance in resettling them.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work with both IDP and refugee groups, depending on their institutional mandates and partnership relationships with UN agencies. Because guidelines which specify protection and participation protocols for IDPs have not been available, each organization deals with gender issues according to its own policies and interests. The commitment to gender equity programming varies among, and within, organizations. "Industry" standards and means to impose accountability are missing.

Human rights NGOs with gender foci play important roles in IDP situations, monitoring and reporting on abuses. Acting as watchdogs, they can help spotlight serious protection problems and advocate for action. Human Rights Watch Women's Rights Project, Amnesty International and the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children have issued reports on the impact of armed conflict and displacement on women and girls.

³⁵ Cuny, Fred, "Assistance in the Post-Cold War Era," in *Humanitarianism Across Borders Sustaining Civilians in Times of War*, edited by Thomas G. Weiss and Larry Minear. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1993.

V. NEXT STEPS--RECOMMENDATIONS AND A PLAN OF ACTION

What Can UNICEF Do?

UNICEF's mandate as the leading agency in promoting the rights of children worldwide gives it an important role in advocating and promoting the rights and concerns of internally displaced women and girls. UNICEF's experience working with IDP populations reflects its strong commitment to relief and development efforts aimed at ensuring the rights of women and children. The example of the Operation Lifeline Sudan illustrates UNICEF's dedicated efforts in gaining access to displaced persons.

The gap in substantive information pertaining to displaced women became apparent during the preparation of this paper and the accompanying Annotated Bibliography. Responsible actions must be based on reliable data; clearly such data is lacking. Substantive research is needed to fill the void. A number of IDP situations have continued for several years. These settings present opportunities for long-term research. Such studies would produce information far beyond the type of data gathered during typical assessments that usually employ rapid assessment methods—those most often used to write program plans and funding proposals.

The following points suggest ways that UNICEF can improve its work on behalf of displaced women and children and improve assistance programming.

1. Compile documented case studies detailing the circumstances of displaced women with particular attention to:
 - a. The right to physical safety and protection (including documenting incidences of violence against women and girls)
 - b. reproductive health issues: family planning, pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV, and counseling services following rape, torture and other forms of gender violence.
 - c. identification and documentation of coping mechanisms which adversely affect the health and welfare of women and girls
 - d. disaggregated data on the general health of women and girls, including their nutritional statuses, behavior and cultural practice shifts in displaced settings

- e. social behavior and shifts in gender roles and responsibilities (use of Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs (KAB) surveys, focus groups and cluster samples)
 - f. household livelihood assessments (particularly food security for female headed households, and property inheritance rights)
2. UNICEF should consider sponsoring a series of roundtable discussions or workshops on IDP protection and gender. Strategies are needed to address such issues as kidnapping, forced military conscription, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, and physical and psychological trauma resulting from exposure to conflict and violence.
 3. UNICEF should consider promoting an inter-agency mechanism to ensure institutional responsibility for gender in IDP situations. For example, UNICEF might encourage agencies to take the initiative in establishing regional or situational advisory committees or task forces which address the wide range of gender concerns outlined above.
 4. UNICEF and other UN agencies should endorse the continuance of the position of the Special Representative on Internally Displaced Persons. The Special Representative is the only individual in the UN system with a mandate from the Secretary General to focus exclusively on internal displacement.
 5. UNICEF should continue to use its good offices to influence other agencies to place less emphasis on distribution of material assistance and focus on self-determination and community development efforts. Humanitarian assistance providers must acknowledge the direct relationship between access to adequate income and the protection for displaced women. agencies should provide skills training, literacy courses and micro-credit opportunities.

Advocacy

Women and children make up 80 percent of the world's internally displaced. Why hasn't this inspired a more urgent humanitarian response? Advocacy is needed to advance the international human rights agenda and to disseminate important instruments such as the

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, so that these are well understood by UN agencies, NGOs, and governments. If the Guiding Principles are to have an impact they must be widely distributed, discussed, and incorporated into codes of conduct. A widespread training and indoctrination program for staff on the Guiding Principles will help to ensure their effectiveness.

All agencies working with displaced persons should commit to promoting and distributing the Guiding Principles. As with all policies and guidelines, their effectiveness is limited by the extent to which they are implemented. Given the urgency of the IDP problem, the lack of agency mandate, and the absence of operational guidelines to assist and protect displaced persons, every effort must be made to close the gap between the principles and their implementation.

In the absence of a single agency mandate for assisting IDPs, UN agencies must diligently work to improve institutional arrangements. Assistance programs for IDPs can be improved by agencies with gender-balanced field staffs that will be better positioned to respond appropriately to the needs of displaced women and girls.

UN agencies and their implementing partners need to take new approaches to assisting internally displaced persons. In particular, they need to focus greater attention on protection, on sustaining livelihoods, on self-determination and independence building activities, on involving women in the peace process, reconciliation, and on managing community development activities.

Annex A: Annotated Bibliography on Gender and Internally Displaced Women

UNICEF and The Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children
Compiled September 1998

Amnesty International. *Annual Report, 1996.* Amnesty International, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Refugees -- Human Rights

This annual report of Amnesty International probes the human rights issues of refugees and internally displaced people. It breaks down the crisis worldwide by region and country and offers analysis and statistics on the major issues and populations.

Amnesty International. *Women in Afghanistan: A human rights catastrophe.* Amnesty International, May 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Gender -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Legal Issues -- Asia -- Afghanistan

AI looks at the situation in Afghanistan during the struggle for control of the country. The report examines the actions of the Mujahideen and the other factions with respect to women and girls. AI highlights the victimization and specific targeting of women and girls in the struggle, as the majority of the affected. The abuses women suffer include displacement, rape, torture, abduction, killing, and persecution of women leaders. In conclusion, AI urges the transitional government in Kabul, the warring factions and the international community to prioritize the abuses of women as a human rights crisis and work towards bringing abusers to justice.

Amnesty International. *Women in Colombia: Breaking the Silence.* Amnesty International, 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Gender -- Americas -- Colombia

This report examines the role of women in Colombia, both as victims of violence and displacement and as leaders in the people's struggle against the violence that has gripped the nation for many years. The report looks at the forms of violence women face, their various coping mechanisms and needs, and the assistance they are receiving. Finally, the report makes a number of recommendations to the Colombian government, such as respecting its constitutional commitments to women's rights, exercising its obligations to provide protection and justice, and ensuring basic rights and protections to victims of gender specific violence. The report emphasizes that women are the main victims, directly and indirectly, of the violence in Colombia. It is therefore incumbent upon the international community and the government to respond to the situation in Colombia to protect women, and especially the poorest women.

Burr, J. Millard and Robert O. Collins. *Requiem for the Sudan: War, Drought and Disaster Relief on the Nile*. Westview Press; Boulder, CO, 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Africa -- Sudan

Over a million people have either perished or been displaced in Sudan since 1983. This book is based on a wealth of documentation -- most not public before now -- from the Sudanese government, private and foreign governmental famine relief agencies, and the international media. The authors recount how the attempts of international and humanitarian organizations to provide food and medical relief have been thwarted by bureaucratic infighting, corruption, greed, and ineptitude. While the book does not devote any specific attention to internally displaced women, it does paint a picture of their lives, their needs and the abuses they have suffered. The book tells of the severe and tragic human consequences in a case where conflict resolution failed, organizations were grossly mismanaged, and a government acted with hostility towards its own people.

Cohen, Roberta. *Human Rights Protection for Internally Displaced Persons*. Refugee Policy Group, June 1991.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues

This paper, prepared for a conference on internally displaced people in June 1991, explores the causes of displacement, the needs of internally displaced people and how they are currently being met. The paper proposes a number of strategies for improving the human rights and humanitarian protections afforded to the internally displaced. Among these strategies are: addressing the issue of sovereignty; diplomatic solutions; new international standards, strengthening both UN level and local level mechanisms; and general advocacy.

Cohen, Roberta. *International Protection for Internally Displaced Persons - Next Steps*. Refugee Policy Group, Focus Paper No. 2, January 1994.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Legal Issues

In this paper, Cohen examines the various protection needs of internally displaced people, such as protection from conflict, evacuation from the frontlines of combat, and protection from forced conscription and sexual assault. Further, Cohen assesses the capacities and mandates of the various UN agencies to provide this assistance. Under current constraints, Cohen calls for better coordination among agencies and with NGOs for provision of all of the needs of internally displaced people. After looking at the role and findings of the Representative of the Secretary-General, though, she concludes that more than just coordination is needed. She recommends the creation of an international secretariat, outside of the UN, which would serve as a clearing-house of information on all levels of programs being undertaken in a given emergency, to promote coordinated efforts.

Cohen, Roberta. *Refugee and Internally Displaced Women: A Development Perspective*. The Brookings Institution/Refugee Policy Group Project on Internal Displacement, November 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

Since women comprise the majority of displaced people, this report looks at the program failures which arise from their inadequate participation in planning and implementation of programs targeting internally displaced people. Cohen addresses the need to include women in relief and development programs and to close the theoretical gap between relief and development. She looks at the needs for new policy orientations, better statistics on women, better access for women to assistance, health care, employment opportunities and education, and greater participation and mobilization of women. The report calls for a merging of the gender-sensitive theories and guidelines for development with the programs and planning methods of relief work with internally displaced people.

Cohen, Roberta. *The Displaced Fall Through World's Safety Net*. The Christian Science Monitor, February 6, 1997.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates

This brief article outlines the issues and actions being taken regarding internally displaced people. The article notes that while refugee women can expect certain protections from UNHCR -- for example, from genital mutilation while in the camps -- internally displaced women have no recourse to an international body. This lack of consistent international protection affects women predominantly, as they constitute the majority of the displaced and because of the types of abuses they suffer. Finally, the article calls for a clearer mandate for the protection and assistance of internally displaced people.

Cohen, Roberta and Jaques Cuenod. *Improving Institutional Arrangements for the Internally Displaced*. The Brookings Institution/Refugee Policy Group Project on Internal Displacement, October 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates

This short institutional analysis examines the challenge internally displaced people pose to the international community and reviews the current capacities of a number of UN and other agencies to deal with the crisis. It makes recommendations for improving protection and assistance through the current systems and weighs options for wider institutional reform.

Cohen, Roberta and Francis M. Deng. *Masses in Flight: The Global Crisis of Internal Displacement*. Brookings Institution Press, Washington, DC, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

This volume begins with a global overview which analyzes the causes and consequences of internal displacement, seeks to arrive at an appropriate definition of the internally displaced, and discusses the geographic distribution, numbers and characteristics of the displaced. International legal standards applicable to the internally displaced are then analyzed, and a body of principles, specifically tailored to the needs of the internally displaced, are proposed. Institutional arrangements at the international and regional levels are examined, as well as the role of NGOs, with recommendations made for remedying gaps, especially in the area of protection. The volume closes with comprehensive strategies for preventing displacement, integrating protection and assistance, and addressing reintegration and development.

Cohen, Roberta and Francis M. Deng, eds. *The Forsaken People: Case Studies of the Internally Displaced*. Brookings Institution Press, Washington, DC, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Burundi -- Liberia -- Sudan -- Rwanda -- Azerbaijan -- Armenia -- Bosnia and Hercegovina -- Sri Lanka -- Colombia -- Peru -- Tajikistan

This book contains case studies of ten countries or regions that have suffered severe problems of internal displacement: Burundi, Rwanda, Liberia, and the Sudan in Africa, the former Yugoslavia and the Caucasus in Europe; Tajikistan and Sri Lanka in Asia; and Colombia and Peru in the Americas. The editors and contributors discuss the historical factors leading to internal displacement, the manner in which it is manifest, the efforts made at the national, regional and international levels to deal with the problem, and close with recommendations for further action. Contributors are: Thomas Greene, Randolph Kent, Jennifer McLean, Larry Minear, Liliana Obergon, Amir Pasic, Hiram Ruiz, Colin Scott, H.L. Seneviratne, Marie Stavropoulou, US Committee for Refugees, and Thomas Weiss.

Coomaraswamy, Radhika. *Preliminary Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women*. E/CN.4/1995/42 - 22 November 1994.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates -- Psychosocial & Health Issues

This preliminary report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women delves into the issues of gender violence in the context of armed conflict and displacement. The report describes what these high-risk situations entail and identifies women's needs and various protection possibilities. In terms of the needs of internally displaced and refugee women, the report analyzes the kinds of abuses these women may face, the legal recourse available to them, and their special needs and issues.

Davies, Wendy, ed. *Rights have no Borders: Worldwide Internal Displacement*. Norwegian Refugee Council/Global IDP Survey, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues

This book is a collection of the papers presented at the November 1997 Norwegian Refugee Council conference on internally displaced people. The conference attempted to bring together a number of influential people at a time when the issue of internal displacement was just beginning to get the attention it deserves. The conference addressed certain key issues such as definitions, institutional capacities and UN agencies' mandates. One paper, presented by Roberta Cohen, concentrated on the needs of women and children. In this paper, Cohen examines the barriers to protection, the opportunities for advocacy, and some practical measures available for the international community.

Deng, Francis M. *Compilation and Analysis of Legal Norms, Part II: Legal Aspects Relating to the Protection against Arbitrary Displacement*. E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.1 - 11 February 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

In this analysis, the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People, along with a team of experts, looks at the legal issues involved in forced displacement. The analysis explores the pertinent human rights instruments and their implications for the issue of forced displacement. The report examines each right, such as the freedom of movement, the right to housing, the prohibition of racial and religious discrimination and the prohibition of genocide, and their implications for forced displacement. The report does not look at the rights of women separately but does emphasize the importance of equal and non-discriminatory application of all rights and laws.

Deng, Francis M. *Conclusions on the Compilation and Analysis of Legal Norms*. E/CN.4/1996/52/Add.2 - 5 December 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

In this first compilation of the legal norms, the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People highlights the kinds of protections and rights the international treaties accord to internally displaced people. He culls the pertinent sections and articles and discusses their applications for the particular issues and circumstances of internally displaced people. In his analysis, Deng emphasizes where the existing legal documents fail to protect internally displaced people and calls for a legal framework directed at them specifically.

Deng, Francis M. *Profiles in Displacement: Burundi.* E/CN.4/1995/50/Add.2 – 28 November 1994.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Africa -- Burundi

This report of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People documents his trip to Burundi in 1994. The report takes note of the serious psycho-social problems facing women and children. He finds that these issues are hard to discuss or question a woman on without, at the same time, being able to provide counseling. Additionally, women face specific legal barriers to rehabilitation since they cannot own or inherit any land, this is an especially serious problem for the many women-headed households now in Burundi. Women are -- for the first time now -- often the sole provider and sole stable force in the family. Citing this new family role, the Special Representative highlights the need for better and more education programs specifically targeted at Burundi's women.

Deng, Francis M. *Profiles in Displacement: Colombia.* E/CN.4/1995/50/Add.1 – 3 October 1994.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Americas -- Colombia

This report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons documents his trip to Colombia in 1994. The report examines the various issues driving displacement and conflict in Colombia and the government's and the United Nations' activities on their behalf. The report lays out in detail the problems of tracking, counting and gathering information on the internally displaced. While the report does not contain a specific section on women, it does acknowledge that women are greatly affected by displacement and examines some of their experiences. Within his recommendations, the Special Representative notes that there is a particular need for women to be organized and involved in providing services and gathering information.

Deng, Francis M. *Profiles in Displacement: Mozambique.* E/CN.4/1997/43/Add.1 – 24 February 1997.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- UN Mandates -- Africa -- Mozambique

This report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People gives a thorough history of the conflict in Mozambique and looks at the rehabilitation and return process underway at the time of his visit. Deng examines the differences in treatment of refugees and internally displaced people with respect to access to services and protection during their return and repatriation. The report briefly discusses the issues facing women in the country. Deng notes that female headed households comprised the majority of the internally displaced. Women's issues are being addressed in creative ways by their communities. For example, upon their return, traditional healers and chiefs have helped women move past traumatic experiences, such as rape, through special purification rituals designed to reintegrate them into society. Finally, Deng notes that in some areas the conflict between customary laws and national legislation threatens women's access to land and, given the predominance of women-headed households, is an issue Mozambique must tackle if it is to ease its rehabilitation.

Deng, Francis M. *Profiles in Displacement: Peru*. E/CN.4/1996/52/Add.1 – 4 January 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- UN Mandates -- Americas -- Peru

The report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Internally Displaced People outlines the situation in Peru and the causes and conditions of displacement. It mentions that while in the past there was once greater support for the Shinning Path, the group has since alienated many of its follower because of its campaigns of forced recruitment of women and children, mandatory collective farms and "popular trials" of officials. The report notes that among the most pervasive problems caused by displacement are the disintegration of the family, the loss of cohesion of communities, and disruption of other conventional support networks. Women are therefore victims of violence due to the war, their stressful domestic situations, the loss of family members, their participation in organizations, and changes in their societal roles. Additionally, women face discrimination and unequal access to services and protection upon their return home, as most of the protectors are male and there is little access to other official legal or law enforcement channels.

Deng, Francis M. *Profiles in Displacement: Sri Lanka*. E/CN.4/1994/44/Add.1 – 25 January 1994.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Asia -- Sri Lanka

This report describes the findings of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People on his trip to Sri Lanka in 1994. The Representative provides a background on the crisis and looks at the work that is being done in the various IDP camps he visited in the conflict areas. He notes that "[g]overnment officials acknowledged that the problems of women and children (especially widows and orphans) were daunting, but expressed the hope that the NGOs would help address them." Finally, the Representative analyzes the work of various UN agencies, notably UNHCR and UNDP, and suggests improvement strategies within their roles and mandates.

Deng, Francis M. *Protecting the Dispossessed: A Challenge for the International Community*. The Brookings Institution: Washington, D.C., 1993.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

Deng provides a collection of country reports from Yugoslavia, Russia, Somalia, the Sudan, El Salvador and Cambodia, in discussing nations that have suffered (or are currently enduring) crises with displaced people. In providing a global perspective, Deng explores the strategies that governments, NGOs and other international bodies have employed -- or might, or even should, adopt -- in dealing with the displaced; these strategies stem from basic human rights, humanitarian and refugee laws that concern all countries. Deng's book focuses particular attention to the necessity of external humanitarian intervention in responding to civil violence. In an emergent world order based increasingly on international humanitarian law, practices and principles, the excuse of state sovereignty cannot long mask the current lack of a clear statement regarding the rights of the internally displaced. Deng cites this woeful condition throughout the book, calling for more international oversight and action under the aegis of the United Nations' various agencies. Deng characterizes civil violence as not just a serious national problem but also an international one -- one which warrants the redefining of UNHCR's and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs' respective mandates to specifically deal with this intractable problem.

Deng, Francis M. *Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People - 1995.* E/CN.4/1995/50 – 2 February 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Legal Issues

This annual report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People reviews his own and the United Nation's progress on the issue at this stage in his mandate. The report notes that while progress has been made, more work is needed and the Guidelines still need to be drawn up. From his field experience and from the fact that women comprise the majority of the displaced, the Representative makes some key observations: women are being consulted less often than men; women's security needs are not adequately being met; and provisions for the changes in women's family and societal roles are not being made. Specifically, Deng cites a number of the security needs of displaced women: increased sexual violence; trauma from witnessing killings of those around them, and coping with the loss of close family members, including children and male providers. In analyzing the institutional mechanisms in place, Deng notes that UNICEF particularly has played a key role in caring for the displaced. UNICEF has provided health care, education, nutrition and sanitation in programs that deftly blend protection and assistance. He remarks, though, that since UNICEF's mandate encompasses specifically women and children it may not be appropriate to appoint it as the lead agency for all internally displaced people.

Deng, Francis M. *Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People - 1996.* E/CN.4/1996/52 – 22 February 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Legal Issues

In this annual report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People, Mr. Deng stresses the need to pay closer attention to the issues of internally displaced women. Devoting an entire section of his report to the issue, Deng outlines a number of the risks that women face. These risks include facing all forms of gender-specific violence such as rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment; being forced or sold into marriage, slavery or prostitution; exploitation in exchange for food, shelter, vital documents or other assistance; discrimination in receipt of food or other assistance, difficulty acquiring the necessary documents or legal status, discriminatory laws for owning, getting or managing land and other property. In light of these risks, Deng emphasizes the need to protect of the family unit, ensure women's access to education and employment opportunities, and promote their participation in planning and programming activities. Additionally, he recommends a number of steps for international human rights and humanitarian bodies: "monitoring the situation of women in accordance with the UNHCR Guidelines for the Protection of Refugee women; documenting violations and interceding with the relevant authorities on behalf of the women concerned, offering counselling services ...; and ensuring the equitable distribution of food and supplies and the better representation of displaced women in camp administration and decision-making." He also notes that gender sensitivity training of staff and more women staff members are needed.

Deng, Francis M. *Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People - 1997.* E/CN.4/1997/43 - 4 February 1997.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

This annual report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People provides an update on his three main areas of work: developing a framework for addressing the needs of internally displaced people; promoting effective institutional mechanisms for protecting internally displaced people, and conducting site visits to promote dialogue on the issues. The Representative notes that the protection needs of internally displaced women and children are still not being met. He especially praises UNICEF's work increasing its capacity to address the specific needs of internally displaced children and the women who care for them. This work stems from an agreement UNICEF made with UNHCR to take the lead in tracking and caring for internally displaced children. He also mentions that UNHCR needs to do a better job of disseminating and acting on its guidelines on the protection of refugee women and children and on sexual violence against refugees. In light of these gaps in the work of the international agencies, the Representative stresses the need for thorough assessments of the work being done and better coordination efforts for protecting and providing services to internally displaced women.

Deng, Francis M. *Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People - 1998.* E/CN.4/1998/53 - 11 February 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

In his annual report, the Representative of the Secretary-General examines the gains achieved thus far in the field of research and protection of internally displaced people. He analyzes the progress of the normative framework, in the form of both the Guidelines and the second compilation of legal norms, both published as addenda to this report. Second, he analyzes advances in institutional arrangements for the protection of internally displaced people. He notes particularly the formation of the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the coordinated efforts of UNICEF and UNHCR. He also notes that, with external partners, the United Nations has established a mechanism for gathering, consolidating and processing information on internally displaced people. While noting all of these advances, he stresses that protection for internally displaced people is still in its earliest stages and that much more work needs to be done. As his mandate enters its third phase, he proposes that he should now focus on making sure that the frameworks and initiatives he has seen take shape are adequately implemented in the field.

Ellis, Sue and Sultan Barakat. *From Relief to Development: The Long-term Effects of 'Temporary' Accommodation on Refugees and Displaced People in the Republic of Croatia.* Disasters. Vol. 20, No. 2, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Croatia

This paper examines the provision of shelter for refugees and displaced persons in the Republic of Croatia and identifies ways in which this kind of assistance has encouraged and discouraged sustainable reconstruction. Increased expenditure on emergency relief, static levels of overseas development aid and a subsequent lack of funds for development dictate that agencies design relief projects that also positively influence developmental reconstruction. Therefore, Ellis and Barakat argue that, to promote lasting reconstruction, programs must focus on saving livelihoods as well as lives, minimizing the long-term psychological and physical impacts of aid on refugees, displaced persons and host communities

Global IDP Survey. *Internally Displaced People: A Global Survey.* Norwegian Refugee Council/Global IDP Survey, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

This independent survey collates the most comprehensive and up-to-date information available about internally displaced people, presenting facts, figures and trends for over 50 countries on 5 continents and drawing on the expertise of over 30 academics and development workers around the world. It includes articles from leading experts on forced migration, which analyze and discuss relevant concerns such as the rights of internally displaced people and the responsibilities of the international community towards them. Two particularly pertinent articles are by Roberta Cohen, on recent trends, including an analysis of how the UNHCR guidelines for refugee women and its guidelines against sexual violence should be applied to internally displaced women, and by James Kunder on internally displaced children

Goodyear, Lorelei. *Lessons Learned: Azerbaijan.* International Rescue Committee, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Azerbaijan

This document offers a review of the IRC reproductive health programs in Azerbaijan. IRC projects in the area include: housing construction; public building rehabilitation, provision of clean water and sanitation, income generation; distribution of non-food items; and public health and women's health education. The Women's Health Program focuses on reproductive health issues and trains health educators from settlements to form women's groups as a forum for on-going health education. This document looks at this program to gain insights, offer recommendations and promote this kind of work with refugee and internally displaced women. The document provides useful programmatic information on working with internally displaced women and serves as a guide to building best-practice concepts

Human Rights Watch. *Failing the Internally Displaced: The UNDP Displaced Persons Program in Kenya*. Human Rights Watch, 1997.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Case Studies -- Africa -- Kenya

Between 1993 and 1995, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) administered a program to return an estimated 300,000 persons who were driven off their land by state-sponsored "ethnic" violence. Throughout the UNDP program and since, the government has obstructed efforts to return the displaced to their homes. The government is responsible for harassing the displaced and those who assist them, while allowing the perpetrators of the violence to enjoy complete impunity. In terms of offering effective assistance, protection and reintegration to the thousands of internally displaced Kenyans, the UNDP's record fell far short of what it could, and should, have been. Ultimately, the manner in which the program was run resulted in the greatest attention being placed on that part of the program that was relatively the easiest and least politically controversial to administer -- the relief part -- and a neglect of the protection, human rights, and long-term needs of the internally displaced.

Human Rights Watch. *Human Rights Watch World Report, 1997*. Human Rights Watch, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- UN Mandates -- Legal Issues

The annual report of Human Rights Watch traces and documents human rights violations around the world. This volume discusses the issues of internally displaced women specifically in one chapter.

Human Rights Watch. *Proxy Targets: Civilians in the War in Burundi*. Human Rights Watch, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Africa -- Burundi

Human Rights Watch describes the conflict in Burundi and how it has specifically targeted and affected civilian populations. The report traces the abuses by the military, the rebels, and the government. HRW discusses how the conflict has created a displaced population on the frontlines of the ethnic warfare, a majority of whom are children and women, and the various forms of forced displacement they have suffered. Finally, HRW calls for the recognition of and action on the abuses the displaced have suffered.

INSTRAW. *The Migration of Women*. INSTRAW; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 2nd ed., 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

This book, published by the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, provides an in-depth look at some of the problems that contribute to the neglect of research on women's migration. Primarily, the book focuses on the inadequacies in existing data on women's migration, employing a methodological perspective to examine matters confronting the internal and international migration of women in the Third World. This book offers concrete recommendations on how to improve statistics and indicators on migration, eliminating -- to the extent possible -- existing biases and misrepresentations of women's migration. It also provides a framework for analyzing the determinants and consequences of women's migration.

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. *Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.* OAS/Ser.L.V/II.92, doc. 31 rev. 3 - May 3, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- Americas

This international treaty, covering the Americas, commits its parties to the protection of women from violence. The Convention catalogues the abuses and the remedies the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights affords.

IRC Oral History Project. *Displaced Lives: Stories of Life and Culture from the Khmer in site II, Thailand.* IRC Oral History Project, 1990.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Asia -- Cambodia -- Thailand

This book vividly portrays the lives of refugees and internally displaced Cambodians at a camp on the border of Thailand. The book vividly depicts the lives of the displaced -- particularly women -- and tells their stories in their own words. The issues that arise partly address the problem of non-legal, non-recognized refugees and their access to assistance and protection. This book examines the issues of one of the most pervasive and problematic struggles in the world in terms of its impact on innocent civilians and, as such, offers great insight into the current issues of internal displacement.

Jelich, Diana. *IRC/Georgia: Public/Reproductive Health Program.* International Rescue Committee, 1997.

Keywords: IDPs -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Georgia

This evaluation looks at a public health and reproductive health training program run by the IRC in Georgia. The beneficiaries were some 4,000 or so internally displaced people in six centers. The program activities included: producing a literature review; drafting a health facilities checklist; conducting focus group discussions, and performing general public health work. The evaluation found -- through interviews and discussion groups -- that the program had very effectively met many of its goals. The program was participatory and reflected the needs of the many women and children it primarily served.

US Committee for Refugees. *Feeding the Tiger: Colombia's Internally Displaced People.* Issue Paper, US Committee for Refugees, July 1993.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Americas -- Colombia

This paper is based on two missions by the US Committee for Refugees to Colombia in June and October 1992. The report presents a brief history of the conflict and internal displacement situations that have plagued Colombia for years. The author points to the nexus between drug-trafficking and political violence, noting the lack of reporting and analysis on this issue. The paper explains the regional characteristics of Colombia's displacement and identifies common themes. Noted is the link between wealth and displacement. Wealthy landowners are linked to paramilitaries (of which there are over 150). The landowners seize land from small land holders who in turn become displaced. A 1987 survey showed that 40 percent of the country's arable land was owned by 2 percent of the population. The paper

ends with recommendations addressed to the Government of Colombia, insurgent groups in Colombia, and the international community

Kleine-Ahlbrandt, Stephanie T.E. *The Protection Gap In the International Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: The Case of Rwanda.* Université de Genève, Institut Universitaire de Hautes Études Internationales, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates -- Africa -- Rwanda

This work examines the current deficiencies in international protection of internally displaced persons from a legal, institutional, and operational standpoint. The first part of the book considers the body of international law relevant to populations displaced within their own territory. It reveals certain lacunae regarding the protection of internally displaced persons and examines the institutional mechanisms of the international community, exposing the ad hoc nature of institutional arrangements depending on the institutions present in a country, their mandates, and the characteristics of a particular situation. The second part of the book deals with the failure of this arrangement to adequately address the protection needs of internally displaced persons through an examination of the Kibeho crisis. The final part assesses the responsibility of the various actors involved. The conclusion evaluates the different causes and draws conclusions from this experience. In a postscript, measures are proposed for the improvement of the international system of protection for internally displaced persons. While this book does not specifically address gender issues, it does provide a thorough review and critique of the international humanitarian community's responsibility to protect internally displaced persons.

Kunder, James. *The Needs of Internally Displaced Women and Children: Principles and Considerations.* UNICEF, February 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

This paper looks at the obligations and capabilities of UNICEF to serve and protect internally displaced women and children. Kunder outlines UNICEF's strategies, which include advocacy, prevention activities, protection, and rehabilitation activities on behalf of women and children. Further, he analyzes the Guiding Principles in light of UNICEF and the needs of women and children. Finally, Kunder recommends some field-level strategies and coordination and participation possibilities.

Lattu, Kristi, David Garner and Dennis Culkin. *Humanitarian Needs Evaluation for Victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict.* United States Agency for International Development, Bureau of Europe and New Independent States, January 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Azerbaijan

This report looks at the needs of the large displaced population in Azerbaijan. The report assesses the situation and makes recommendations for protection and assistance. Among the programs it recommends, the report lists some income-generating activities and community development activities, specifically building on the few women's groups already existing.

Loughna, Sean. *Colombia: a search for peace in the midst of conflict. Forced Migration: Internal Displacement*, Issue 1, January-April 1998. pp. 15-17.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Americas -- Colombia

This article explores the conflict in Colombia, where displacement is no longer a by-product of the conflict but its goal. The article explores the human rights abuses by the rebels and the lack of protection from the state. Loughna notes that 60% of internally displaced people are women, most of whom are widows, single mothers and primary wage earners in their families.

Maran, Rita, ed. *The Human Rights of Women: A Reference Guide to Official United Nations Documents*. <http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/instreet/women/eng-wmn.html>.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

Maran has compiled the relevant articles and sections of the international conventions, treaties and declarations that bear upon the protection of the rights of women. The list serves as a useful guide to the international instruments and exposes the gaps they leave in the realm of international women's rights.

Martin, Susan Forbes. *Issues in Refugee and Displaced Women and Children*. EGM/RDWC/1990/WP.1 - 25 June 1990.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Legal Issues

For all refugees and displaced persons, the experience of becoming uprooted causes major changes in their lives. The impact on women and children is particularly poignant and, in some cases, traumatic. This paper outlines the situation of refugee women and children, discussing both their needs and the resources that they have to offer. It describes steps that have been taken by the UN, governments and non-governmental organizations to address their needs and build on their resources and makes recommendations for further action. The author notes that progress regarding internally displaced women has been markedly slower than even that for refugee women. The issues that the international community and local governments are still tackling include definitions, mandates and understanding displaced people's needs.

Martin, Susan Forbes. *Refugee Women*. Zed Books, Oxford, 1992.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview

This book looks at the harsh conditions of daily life for refugees and the implications for their host countries. It shows how discrimination and violence from refugee women's own communities, in addition to the threat of military attack, abduction and rape, can greatly increase their emotional trauma. It examines the steps needed to protect refugee women's rights and promote their empowerment. The book finds that with a lack of a mandate and clear guidelines, the UN has failed at times to provide services to internally displaced people, and, not surprisingly, has ignored the needs of particular sections of this population, such as women and children. In conclusion, Martin stresses the importance of refugee women's participation. She also surveys the current international commitment to refugees and offers practical recommendations for action.

Martin, Susan Forbes. *Return and Reintegration: The Experiences of Refugee and Displaced Women.* Refugee Policy Group, 1992.

Keywords: IDPs -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Legal Issues -- Asia -- Americas -- Cambodia -- Afghanistan

This paper discusses the protection and assistance needs of returning women, whether refugee or displaced, and the contributions they can make to their home countries. It draws primarily on information from Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Central America, where significant work has been done on these issues, but also uses lessons from as many other locations as possible. Displaced and refugee women are particularly important to the goals of reintegration as they comprise about 80 percent of the displaced and because their hopes and goals are for peaceful and productive lives for themselves and their children.

Miller, Janice and Deirdre Wulf. *The Camps for the Displaced Populations of Rwanda.* in *Refugee Women and Reproductive Health Care: Reassessing Priorities.* Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children: New York, 1994. pp. 23-31.

Keywords: IDPs -- Gender -- Case Studies -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Africa -- Rwanda

This article, one in a collection of articles on refugee reproductive health care, examines the conditions of the displaced people's camps in Rwanda in 1993. The authors list the agencies working with the displaced people, the projects and programs being run for the displaced, and the conditions under which they are living. The authors focus on the provision of reproductive and other health care to the women in the camps.

Mischke, Maja. *Women and Armed Conflict: The 42nd Commission on the Status of Women.* Vrouwenberaad/WIDE, March 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview

This report compiles the discussions and papers presented at the Commission of Women. The participants discussed various issues related to women in armed conflict, including: women as actors not just victims; definitions of security, the role of the International Criminal Court, the experience of the girls child, and, refugee women

Oloka-Onyango, Joe. *The Plight of the Larger Half: Human Rights, Gender Violence and the Legal Status of Women in Africa*. Denver Journal of International Law & Policy, Vol. 24:3,3. pp. 349-94.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- Africa

This paper launches a broad inquiry into the nature of the burden shouldered by the larger half of humanity, setting the framework for a critique of international and regional law, the two main bodies of jurisprudence within which the issue is addressed. Specifically, why is international law in general so oblivious to the overall situation of women? What are the specific points of law and policy that require critical analysis? How sensitive are feminist critiques of the international arena to the specific condition of African women? The paper concludes that displaced African women and refugees were experiencing "the plight of the larger half." Since the global population of women exceeds that of men, and Africa contains more than fifty percent of the world's population, and the number of internally displaced exceeds that of refugees, then, whether examined in their separate spheres as women, as refugees, or as internally displaced, or as a combination thereof, these groups comprise the world's "larger half." Separately, each group faces daunting obstacles, and concurrent membership in two or more of the group classifications places a person at an even greater risk of marginalization. African internally displaced women, therefore, comprise one of the most vulnerable groups, which is correspondingly least protected by law.

Osorio Perez, Flor Edilma. *Conflicts for Land and Territory: An Analysis of Internal Migration in the Rural Areas of Colombia*. Refuge, Vol. 16, no. 6, December 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Americas -- Colombia

This article compiles some elements of analysis on the problems of displacement of the rural population in Colombia. To that end, the author has gathered quantitative and testimonial data and articulated perspectives at national and local levels. Four aspects are discussed: conflicts for land and territory, some characteristics of the displaced population, the uncertainty of the alternatives and the governmental presence and role.

Oxfam, UK & Ireland. *Oxfam at Work in Afghanistan*. <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/atwork/where/asia/afghanistan.htm>.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Asia -- Afghanistan

This brief fact sheet describes some of the programs and activities Oxfam UK is working on with internally displaced people and refugees in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has some of the world's worst human development indicators, especially relating to women. Oxfam's work with women tries to ensure food security for the many who are now landless. Oxfam's basic programs reflect some ways in which gender issues have been integrated into its work in emergency situations in the field.

Oxfam, UK & Ireland. *Oxfam at Work in Azerbaijan*. <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/atwork/where/asia/eefsu/azerbaijan.htm>.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Azerbaijan

This brief fact sheet describes some of the programs and activities Oxfam UK is working on with internally displaced people in Azerbaijan. The fact sheet notes that women bear the brunt of the displacement; new widows and wives of disabled soldiers face instability throughout the country, erratic prices for goods, lack of many public services, the burden of dangerous and tenuous work, and the daunting task of caring for their families in camps. Some of the activities Oxfam promotes include income-generation and community development plans and provision of basic needs. Oxfam's basic programs in Azerbaijan focus predominantly on women, the elderly and the disabled.

Oxfam, UK & Ireland. *Oxfam at Work in Sudan*. <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/atwork/where/africa/sudam.htm>.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Africa -- Sudan

This brief fact sheet describes some of the programs and activities Oxfam UK is working on in internally displaced persons' and refugee camps in the Sudan. Some of these activities include income-generation schemes, micro-credit projects, family reunification, and basic needs provision. Oxfam's basic programs reflect some ways in which gender issues have been integrated into its work in emergency situations in the field.

Paul, Eileen, ed. *African Refugees: Human Dimensions of the Continuing Crisis on Africa*. The Ethiopian Community Development Council, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview -- Africa -- Ethiopia

This record of the proceedings of the Second National Conference of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. addresses many issues in the various crises in Africa. One major issue it addresses is internally displaced people and women in particular. In a speech for the section on women, Judy Mayotte specifically addresses internally displaced women and children, looking at protection and assistance needs. Following the speech are notes from discussions by attendees on issues and problems related to refugee and internally displaced women.

Refugee Policy Group. *Internally Displaced Women and Children in Africa*. Refugee Policy Group, Draft Report, February 1992.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview -- UN Mandates -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Legal Issues -- Africa

This paper looks at the majority of the 15 million displaced people in Africa, women and children. It examines the causes of their displacement, the conditions under which they live, and various protection problems and measures. The paper mentions, under this last section, how women and children may be easier to reach and help during periods of conflict since most governments are willing to allow assistance to them under basic humanitarian grounds. Additionally, the paper looks at the role and mandate of the United Nations, under the Geneva Conventions and other human rights treaties, and the ICRC, as a neutral and independent organization. Finally, the paper looks at some of the longer term impacts of displacement, such as decisions not to ever return and the inability to resume regular economic activities.

Refugee Studies Programme. *Forced Migration Review*. Refugee Studies Programme, Issue 1, January-April 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview

This first issue of the Journal is published by the Refugee Studies Programme in association with the Global IDP Survey. Its focus is on Internal displacement and includes a number of articles specifically addressing the issue. Pertinent to this listing are a number of country studies.

Roe, Michael D. *Displaced Women in Settings of Continuing Armed Conflict*. *Women & Therapy: A Feminist Quarterly*, Vol. 13, no.1/2, 1992.

Keywords: IDPs -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Americas -- El Salvador -- Philippines

Based on interview data and observations primarily from Central America and the Philippines, this article reviews the psychosocial adaptation of women forced to flee their homes due to armed conflict, but who remain in settings of war violence. The pervasive danger and fear in such settings impedes progress toward psychological and social equilibrium. These women experience terror, a spectrum of war-related emotional traumas, gender and family role instabilities, and sexual vulnerabilities. These women may also experience empowerment in the midst of armed conflict through the formation of new communities in which they share leadership through filling essential roles and through conscientization, in which they both analyze and take action against political and economic oppression and gender subordination.

Segura-Escobar, Nora and Donny Meertens. *Uprootedness, Gender and Internal Displacement in Colombia*. Beyond Law, Vol. 6, Issue 17, January 1997. pp. 15-34.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Americas -- Colombia

Half a century of chronic violence in Colombia has produced hundreds of thousands of internally-displaced people, including individuals, families and, at times, entire villages. Based on lengthy field work with displaced populations, the authors show some of the ways displacement differentially affects women, while examining the types of strategies women and men use in order to survive the effects of violence, uprootedness, poverty and changes in gender roles and the domestic structure.

Sinclair, Marion Ryan. *Living in the Shadows: internally displaced people in southern Africa*. Forced Migration: Internal Displacement, Issue 1, January-April 1998. pp. 12-14.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Africa -- South Africa

This article discusses the issue of internally displaced people in southern Africa. The article looks at the problem of providing assistance to a group that comes under no official international mandate. The article calls for more watchdog organizations and more public information on the issue within the region. Finally, the article notes the needs to equalize the status of refugees and internally displaced people and provide protection and assistance to all people in need, regardless of origin or destination.

Taft, Julia Vadala. *Issues and Options for Refugee Women in Developing Countries*. Refugee Policy Group, 1987.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview -- Americas -- Asia -- Africa -- Pakistan -- Somalia -- Sudan -- Thailand

This report is an initial effort to explore a number of the complex issues relating to refugee women and the impact that displacement has had on their lives. Its purpose is to create an awareness of the needs of refugee women and to foster interest and commitment among assistance agencies. The report examines some of the key issues related to refugee and displaced women, such as protection, equal access to food and non-food assistance, access to adequate health care, access to education and training, and participation. The author illustrates these issues through a number of specific examples from countries facing refugee and displacement emergencies. Finally, the author lists her major findings and draws recommendations for action based on these findings.

UK NGO AIDS Consortium. *Refugees, Displaced People and their Vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS: Report of the Seminar on NGO Action*. UK NGO AIDS Consortium: London, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Reproductive Health -- Gender -- Psychosocial & Health Issues

This report amasses the papers and activities of the seminar on HIV/AIDS and displaced people. The objectives of the seminar were to look at the impact of displacement on the vulnerability to AIDS, to consider the role NGOs can play, to share experiences, and to raise awareness of the issues. While most of the topics affect women or are relevant to them, the book also includes a report of a small group discussion specifically on women's issues.

UN Division for the Advancement of Women. *Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Gender-Based Persecution. EGM/GBP/1997/Report - 1997.*

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Legal Issues -- Gender -- Human Rights

This report of the Expert Group meeting on gender-based persecution, sponsored jointly by the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University, deals throughout with the issues of women in conflict. The meeting made recommendations for the UN, NGOs, and intergovernmental bodies in the areas of: legal definitions and standards, training, dissemination and education, participation, and implementation, monitoring and accountability. The meeting specifically notes the need for advancement in all of these areas for internally displaced women.

UN, Executive Committee. *Executive Committee Conclusions: Refugee Protection and Sexual Violence.* <http://www.unhcr.ch/refworld/unhcr/excom/econc/excom73.htm>.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

This short note describes the conclusions of the ExComm on the protection of refugees from sexual violence. The note commits the ExComm to protecting refugees and displaced people from sexual violence and categorizes all sexual violence as a human rights abuse.

UNHCR. *A Framework for People-Oriented Planning in Refugee Situations Taking Account of Women, Men and Children.* UNHCR, 1992.

Keywords: IDPs -- Refugees -- Gender -- UN Mandates

This training manual, aimed at refugee workers, introduces and outlines people-oriented planning. The three part framework consists of a refugee population profile and analysis, an activities analysis and resource analysis. The manual stresses the need for participation of all groups in all activities and emphasizes the need for sensitivity to the changing social and traditional roles of the refugees, due to their displacement. This framework and manual serve as critical tools for facilitating program and project planning, implementation and evaluation.

UNHCR. *Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women.* UNHCR, 1991.

Keywords: IDPs -- Refugees -- Gender -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

The Guidelines, following the mandate outlined in the UNHCR Policy on Refugee Women, integrate the resources and needs of refugee women into all aspects of programming to ensure equitable protection and assistance activities. The Guidelines recognize that special efforts may be needed to resolve problems faced specifically by refugee women. They have been prepared to help UNHCR staff and partners to identify the specific protection issues, problems and risks facing refugee women. They outline protection measures, provide programming suggestions, and outline steps that can be taken to ease and report upon the problems that arise.

UNHCR. *Refugee Women and UNHCR: Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action*. UNHCR, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Legal Issues

This report examines UNHCR's commitments and goals in light of the Beijing Platform for Action. The report deals with a number of issues pertinent to UNHCR's mandate, such as girl soldiers, sexual exploitation and other issues related to women in conflict and refugee situations. The report also explores best practices in peace building and gathers lessons for the repatriation and rehabilitation of women.

UNHCR. *Sexual Violence against Refugees: Guidelines on Prevention and Response*. UNHCR, 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Refugee -- Gender -- UN Mandates -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Legal Issues

The Guidelines provide basic advice on appropriate action, particularly preventive, and are intended to encourage active reflection and discussion among UNHCR field staff and partners. They seek to promote attitudinal changes in relation to sexual violence where these are an obstacle, to improve or initiate services that address psychosocial as well as health needs, and, overall, to create an awareness and sensitivity to the special needs and concerns of refugees who have been subjected to sexual violence.

UNHCR. *The State of the World's Refugees 1997-98: A Humanitarian Agenda*. UNHCR, Oxford University Press, Oxford: 1997.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview -- UN Mandates

This annual overview of refugee and internally displaced peoples' situation comprises the annual report of UNHCR. It specifically addresses issues in internal displacement, including gender, in chapter 3, "Internal Conflict and Displacement". This chapter examines the progress towards a legal framework, development of a UN mandate, and various specific crises around the world.

UNHCR. *UNHCR's Operational Experience with Internally Displaced Persons*. UNHCR, Division of International Protection, September 1994.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates

This brief booklet offers an historical and current overview of UNHCR's work with internally displaced people. It builds on case studies of past work to assess UNHCR's capacity for dealing with this issue and to make programmatic suggestions for future situations.

UNICEF. *Internally Displaced Children: The Role of UNICEF*. UNICEF Draft Discussion Paper on Programme Issues Related to Internally Displaced Persons, no date.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates

This paper analyzes the role of UNICEF in dealing with internally displaced children. It examines UNICEF's goals and strategies for programs benefiting displaced children, in an attempt to establish a collaborative, multi-level response to the issue. The paper notes the importance of UNICEF enhancing its capacity to better deal with displaced women and children as the problem of displacement continues to grow and a competent lead agency is needed in situations of crisis. The onus on UNICEF with respect to this crisis is particularly great since displacement particularly affects the populations about whom it cares, since its mandate demands that it respond, and since its strategies would contribute significantly to the world's response to the internally displaced.

UNICEF. *Internally Displaced Persons: UNICEF Emergency Handbook (draft)*. UNICEF, 1997.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates

Taking its mandate from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF pledges itself to the protection of the rights of all children, especially those displaced by conflict. Given this goal, the handbook examines UNICEF's policies and its role with respect to internally displaced children and their families. The handbook analyzes its six broad principles for effective work in emergencies for their impact on the work with internally displaced people and presents a number of field level strategies. Finally, the document suggests some coordination possibilities and partnerships.

UNICEF. *Programme Issues Related to Internally Displaced Persons: Institutional Arrangements for the Protection and Assistance for the Internally Displaced*. UNICEF Draft Discussion Paper #2, January 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates

This discussion paper looks at the steps that have been taken within the UN system for protecting and understanding internally displaced people. The paper notes that what is still needed is a better understanding of the tasks that may be required of any given agency in a crisis of internal displacement. With such an understanding, better institutional and normative steps can be taken to ensure that proper protection is given to internally displaced people. The paper constructs a tentative matrix with the crisis phases (advocacy, preparedness, prevention, onset, crisis, recovery, return, reintegration, protracted emergencies) on one axis and likely tasks (liaison, access, services, protection, gender, livelihood) on the other as a way of beginning the work it proposes.

United Nations. *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women*. G.A. res. 34/180, 34 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 46) at 193, U.N. Doc. A/34/46, entered into force Sept. 3, 1981.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues

This convention, signed into force in 1981 and since ratified by over 100 nations, calls for the recognition, protection and prosecution of all human rights abuses targeted at women. The Convention

lists all abuses and creates a legal framework for exposing and remedying those abuses.

United Nations General Assembly. *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.* G.A. res. 48/104, 48 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 217, U.N. Doc. A/48/49 (1993).

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues

This Declaration, accepted in 1993, targets the specific issue of violence against women. The declaration commits the UN and its member states to recognize and eliminate gender specific violence as a human rights abuse

United Nations General Assembly. *Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict.* G.A. res. 3318 (XXIX), 29 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 31) at 146, U.N. Doc. A/9631 (1974).

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues

This Declaration brings to the forefront the issues of women and children in war. The declaration notes the various specific protection and assistance needs of women and children and commits the UN and the international community to meeting those needs

United Nations, Commission on Human Rights. *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.* E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2 - 11 February 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues -- UN Mandates

The purpose of the Guiding Principles is to address the specific needs of internally displaced persons worldwide by identifying rights and guarantees relevant to their protection. The Principles provide guidance to: the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People in carrying out his mandate; States when faced with the phenomenon of internal displacement; all other authorities, groups and persons in their relations with internally displaced persons; and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations when addressing internal displacement. The Principles call for the participation of women in planning and management, the recognition of rape as a crime from which people deserve equal protection, the provision of adequate health care for women, and a guarantee of their equal rights in every sphere. The 30 Principles, based upon existing international humanitarian law and human rights instruments, are to serve as an international standard to guide governments as well as international humanitarian and development agencies in providing assistance and protection to internally displaced people.

US Committee for Refugees. *Conflict and Displacement in Sri Lanka. Immigration and Refugee Services of America, 1997.*

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Asia -- Sri Lanka

This report covers a site visit to many of the refugee and internally displaced peoples' camps throughout Sri Lanka and India. The report examines the reasons for displacement and the conditions in which the displaced are living. It also reports on the many abuses and privations that the displaced are suffering. Women's concerns enter the report in two main areas. The first is women's traumatization by the disappearance of their family members with no notice. They specifically ask the researchers for information on and better government monitoring of arrests and detentions. Secondly, the concerns of women revolve around rapes and other physical abuses perpetrated by the government and rebel forces. While some of the women interviewed did not blame the government or the rebel leaders for these crimes, they felt that better discipline of the forces was needed. Both of these abuses left women fearing for their and their family's safety and curtailed their ability to move freely around and work or go to school.

US Committee for Refugees. *Faultlines of Nationality: Refugee and Displaced Persons from Armenia and Azerbaijan. USCR, March 1994.*

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Azerbaijan -- Armenia

This report looks at the history and the continuing conflicts between ethnic Armenians and Azerbaijanis in both Armenia and Azerbaijan. It examines in detail the pressures and issues that face the internally displaced. One such issue is the political situation and goals of Iran which have pushed that country to set up internally displaced people's camps within Azerbaijan rather than accept refugees. The depiction of the internally displaced people is primarily gathered through interviews with internally displaced women, looking at their lives and the issues they are facing. The report traces the human rights abuses in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, making recommendations for the international community concerning ways to intervene.

US Committee for Refugees. *Go Home/Stay Put: Tough Options for Displaced Peruvians. US Committee for Refugees, Issue Paper, June 1996.*

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Americas -- Peru

This paper gives a thorough overview of the situation in Peru, outlines the causes for displacement, and discusses the conditions for the displaced. Of note is one section on women's participation in displaced people's associations and their changing roles due to their experiences. In Peru, as elsewhere, many issues of widows and other women-headed households arise upon return, such as landlessness and inadequate protections and access to services. The paper notes that the visit of the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People, Francis M. Deng, to Peru helped to highlight their issues and take note of the importance of local NGOs and their work. Finally, the paper makes a number of recommendations to the government of Peru and the international community in which it urges closer coordination and cooperation with local NGOs and greater participation of displaced people in the provision of services and the making of policy decisions that affect them.

US Committee for Refugees. *The Voice for Colombians Campaign.*
<http://www.refugees.org/news/crisis/colombia.htm> -- USCR, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Americas -- Colombia

This literature forms the basis of USCR's campaign for Colombians. It looks at the various causes and issues for displaced people. Looking specifically at the many internally displaced people, the report notes the prevalence of women in this group and their special needs. The documents provide an overview of the issues and some program and advocacy suggestions.

US Committee for Refugees. *World Refugee Survey, 1996.* US Committee for Refugees, Immigration and Refugee Services of America, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Overview

This survey of refugee and displaced peoples around the world is published by USCR as a tool for advocacy and information dissemination. The report looks at the issue of internally displaced people in a specific article by Roberta Cohen on the subject. The report also issues information and synopses of the situations in countries around the world.

US Department of State. *U.S. Policy Initiatives Related to Refugee Women.*
http://www.state.government/www/global/prm/women_refu.html -- Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, March 1997.

Keywords: IDPs -- Legal Issues

This fact sheet briefly outlines the policy initiatives undertaken by the United States on behalf of refugee and internally displaced women. The sheet mentions seven major initiatives of 1997 and discusses briefly the normative and programmatic issues behind supporting and protecting refugee and internally displaced women.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *A Living Wall. Former Yugoslavia: Zagreb, Slavonski Brod, and Sarajevo.* WCRWC, 1993.

Keywords: IDPs -- Gender -- Case Studies -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Europe -- Bosnia and Hercegovina

This Women's Commission delegation, consisting of Pippa Scott and Mary Anne Schwalbe in October 1993, aimed at gathering data for a documentary film for the war crimes tribunal. The delegation found the effects of the sanction and the dwindling relief aid taking their toll on people as they approached their second winter of war. In Slavonski Brod, they observed IRC-run support groups for women, which, under the supervisions of a psychologist, allowed women to talk about the various stresses that they were under and to cope with their anger so they could continue to care for their children and themselves. Overwhelmingly, the delegation saw the fatigue that was creeping in on the relief workers and on the displaced people after the long ravages of the war; many expressed concern about their abilities to withstand any more trauma.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Balkan Trail of Tears Revisited: Living with the Nightmare.* WCRWC, 1993.

Keywords: IDPs -- Gender -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Bosnia and Hercegovina

This report covers the findings of the delegation that visited a number of refugee sites in early 1993. At that time, the situation in the former Yugoslavia was still dire and the war continued unabated. The delegation found that, since the Women's Commission's last visit to the camps, there was increased international support, primarily from NGOs, but that the displaced who were in "unofficial" camps were still essentially on their own. The delegation also noted that there was a pervading sense of confusion as to responsibilities of UNHCR and the Croatian Office of Displaced Persons and Refugees and a general lack of coordination among agencies. Some productive activities for the displaced people existed in the camps, such as a women's knitting group, but by and large the refugees and internally displaced people were without any paid employment. The report highlights the fact that civilians are the primary targets of this war and, as such, many personal issues and traumas, such as rapes and loss of family members, reflect an on-going traumatization with which the whole community has not yet but will eventually need to cope.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Balkan Trail of Tears: On the Edge of Catastrophe.* WCRWC, 1992.

Keywords:: IDPs -- Gender -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Bosnia and Hercegovina

This report describes the findings of the first delegation of the Women's Commission to the former Yugoslavia. The delegation observed displaced women in all kinds of situations -- with or without shelter and support, with and without the will to live. The delegation's main concerns reflect the lack of the most basic needs. The delegation found that many women needed -- as a coping mechanism -- to deny or distance themselves from the rapes and other traumas they have suffered. The delegation stressed the inappropriateness of pressing these women for details, not to mention its inability to do so. At the same time, the injuries and conditions of the women do require medical assistance that has not as yet been provided. The sensitivity of the issues and the continuing trauma highlight the need for adequately trained and gender sensitive medical assistance. Finally, more information on missing family members, on the numbers of displaced and on the nature of their suffering needs to be collected.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Cambodia Can't Wait.* WCRWC, 1993.

Keywords:: IDPs -- Gender -- Case Studies -- Asia -- Cambodia

The delegation arrived in Cambodia as the country prepared for elections in May. The delegation's mission was to understand both the repatriation process and the atmosphere into which the refugees and displaced would be returning. The one "Displaced Persons Camp" the delegation visited housed over 5,000 people with no services or protection being provided. Many of these people were newly displaced by a war that is not yet over, or were recent returnees with nowhere to go. While the needs of internally displaced people are similar to those of many others, they suffer from a certain invisibility and lack of recourse given that they were often returned to Cambodia by UNHCR itself.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Cambodia on the Brink of Peace.* WCRWC, 1991.

Keywords:: IDPs -- Gender -- Case Studies -- Asia -- Cambodia

The delegation entered Cambodia as UN peace talks to end the civil war were reaching their final stages. It tried to assess the needs of refugee and internally displaced women. It found that the 144,000 internally displaced people in the country live in 30 camps, with what little aid they do get being distributed through the Cambodian Red Cross. These camps have no sanitation facilities and, according to the World Food Programme, only 25 percent of the food aid is diverted for internally displaced people, a highly insufficient amount. Additionally, many of these camps are so near the frontlines of the war that the people are in immediate danger within them. The recommendations of the delegation with respect to internally displaced people note the need to remove mines, allow people to leave the camps and return to their villages should they want to, and appeal to the international agencies to provide adequate care for them.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Ethiopians and Eritreans: The Struggle to Return and Rebuild their Nations and their Lives.* WCRWC, 1992.

Keywords:: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Africa -- Ethiopia -- Eritrea

The delegation sought to assess the needs of the countries as they move towards the repatriation and return of refugees and internally displaced people. At this time of tenuous peace, it found that the countries were reeling from long years of drought and war and were sorely lacking in the basic services and economic opportunities the people needed. Judy Mayotte's note to the delegation report deals more directly with the issue of internally displaced people. She finds that people have been displaced by war, drought and forcible resettlement and that these groups are frequently indistinguishable from each other. Additionally, there is a fear of providing for internally displaced people and attracting poor people from the area as well, thereby over-taxing and misusing the services and the aid. She emphasizes that internally displaced people require comprehensive and structural assistance not just targeted or short-term help, since the problems they face are generally deep-rooted.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Families at Risk: Fleeing the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict.* WCRWC, 1994.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- UN Mandates -- Psychosocial & Health Issues -- Europe -- Azerbaijan

The delegation's report focuses primarily on the health issues and concerns of internally displaced women. The delegation found that the agencies in charge of the camps had gathered little disaggregated information on the needs and situations of women. Particularly, they found that the needs of pregnant or lactating women were rarely singled out for consideration. The delegation also found that the younger women's needs for birth control and abortion assistance were being ignored because the women were reluctant to speak about these issues in front of their families and because aid workers assumed that, given the traditional cultural backgrounds of these women, family planning would not be a concern. By and large, access to and information on internally displaced women was hard to find. Many of the delegation's recommendations reflected the difficulties this lack of information and access raised.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Internal Displacement in Kosovo: The Impact on Women and Children.* WCRWC, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Kosovo

This report examines the situation of the Albanian people displaced in Kosovo. This population is particularly difficult to help and trace because the displaced are often in hiding, fearing persecution and, therefore, preferring not to draw international or local attention to themselves. Despite the secretive nature of their displacement, the numbers of the displaced have been estimated at nearing 100,000, with 80 percent being women and over half of the families having at least one pregnant or lactating woman. The report recommends that the international community pressure the Serbian government to allow it access to the displaced populations and that it develop links with local health care providers and humanitarian groups. Additionally, the report stresses that the particular situation in which the displaced find themselves will make collective aid distribution centers impossible and dangerous, therefore, it recommends working through local capacities to provide assistance. Finally, this assistance must be concentrated on women and children, who comprise the majority of the affected.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Our Forgotten Family. Liberians: The Plight of Refugees and the Displaced.* WCRWC, 1991.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Africa -- Liberia

This delegation report looks at the situation for displaced and refugee women in Liberia in 1991. The report highlights the dire situation around Monrovia, where many of the displaced have congregated or the returnees have settled. The security or economic situation is still too poor in the rural areas for the people to return home, and many are not planning on leaving the relative security that the makeshift camps and the city afford.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *Refugee Women in Former Yugoslavia.* WCRWC, 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Bosnia and Hercegovina

The Women's Commission delegation sought to assess the implementation and use of UNHCR's Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women. It found that conditions were still quite bad in the region and that people were continuing to be displaced. The psychological issues of most of the women in the camps were still not being met. Compounded by further displacements and attacks on "safe havens" these displaced women were only worse off than before. Additionally, many of the displaced reported feeling unwelcome in the areas to which they had fled, and suffered discrimination at the hands of the local people. Besides the lack of basics, such as food and shelter, these women had no country, no jobs and little prospect for improvements in the future.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *The Struggle for Peace and Recovery in Former Yugoslavia: Move Women from the Background to Foreground.* WCRWC, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Europe -- Bosnia and Hercegovina

The purpose of this Women's Commission delegation to the former Yugoslavia was to assess the progress of the Dayton Accords. The report highlights a number of key issues facing the countries during rehabilitation and during the repatriation of the internally displaced and refugees. Specifically relating to women, these issues include determining the number and needs of widows and other women headed households; creating economic opportunities, for both women and men; strengthening and continuing to build women's groups; and informing women of their rights under the Accords. The delegation also stressed the need to include women in all aspects of the rehabilitation process and encouraged seeking their help in finding or identifying the missing.

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. *We have a voice and we can speak: Women and Children Refugees, Repatriates and Displaced in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Mexico.* WCRWC, 1992.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Americas -- El Salvador -- Guatemala -- Nicaragua -- Mexico

The mission of the delegation to Central America was two-fold. to become familiar with the political, social and economic factors driving displacement and to make recommendations to facilitate rehabilitation and reintegration. The delegation dealt specifically with internally displaced populations in El Salvador and Guatemala. In El Salvador, the delegation found that in refugee camps, the literacy rate actually went up -- from 25 percent to 85 percent. Additionally, women acquired management skills and took on leadership positions. These programs, however, were primarily in refugee camps and few internally displaced people benefited from the protection or the projects these camps afford. The delegation also found that, in some areas, six out of ten displaced families are headed by women. As such "[t]he delegation was impressed by the explicit assertion that this juncture in Salvadoran history represents a unique opportunity for women to find their "voice ". During the long years of repression and war, many Salvadoran women found themselves in non-traditional roles. As they assumed more diverse positions in society, they attained a greater measure of self-awareness. "In Guatemala, economic disparity in the country is at the root of the conflict and the flight of the people. Many internally displaced live in model villages under military control and are subjected to "ideological reeducation ". Other internally displaced people have disappeared into the slums of the cities, and still others are perceived by the military as supporters of the rebels and are therefor treated as such.

World Food Programme. *Afghanistan: Situation Report No. 3.* WFP, 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Asia -- Afghanistan

This report, which examines the situation in Afghanistan and the WFP's work there, finds that the WFP needs to undertake a number of steps to improve service delivery to women. It recommends recruiting more female field staff, implementing more participatory programs through Women's Management Groups, and choosing gender-sensitive NGO partners to deliver its services.

World Food Programme. *Basic Documents for the World Food Programme.* WFP, 1993.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates

This booklet contains the main documents which make up the WFP's mandate. The documents include the terms of reference, various General Assembly resolutions, and the WFP's general regulations. These documents show how the WFP's mandate can be extended or already covers internally displaced people and women's issues.

World Food Programme. *Gender Mainstreaming in WFP: An Integrated Assessment.* WFP/EB.2/98/9 - 17 April 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates -- Afghanistan -- Burundi -- Rwanda -- Ethiopia -- Cambodia

This document discusses the WFP's commitment to the Beijing Declaration. The document offers an overview of all its programs for women, its commitments to gender issues in the future, and highlights some programs it has run or is currently running for women. Such programs include the women's bakery projects in Afghanistan or the Women's Health and Micronutrient Facilities, which it operates in 16 countries. Additionally, the document delineates some ways in which the WFP has improved its internal capacity to help target women's issues. The discussion of programs and other efforts reveals some work the WFP has done with internally displaced women around the world in light of its new commitments.

World Food Programme. *Joint Food Aid Needs Assessment Mission: Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.* WFP, 1998.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- UN Mandates -- Europe -- Bosnia and Hercegovina

This report, assessing the needs of the internally displaced and refugee populations in the former Yugoslavia, finds that women have high levels of literacy and do not comprise the majority of the refugee or internally displaced populations. The report encourages equal access and special attention to single mothers and pregnant women but does not target women in general, finding their needs similar to those of the rest of the population.

World Food Programme. *Reaching the Hungry, 1996.* WFP, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- UN Mandates

WFP's annual report for 1996 gives some general figures and outlines of programs which the WFP has run over the course of the year. Through the report it is possible to determine what kinds of programs the WFP runs for internally displaced people and how many such programs it ran in this year.

World Food Programme. *Rwanda/Burundi Regional Emergency: 1996 Food and Cash Resource Requirements.* WFP, 1995.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- UN Mandates -- Africa -- Burundi -- Rwanda

This report documents the WFP's work in Rwanda and Burundi. It highlights the way in which WFP encourages the participation of women and how it targets their specific needs. For example, women are becoming more and more active in the camps, either through women's groups run by UNHCR or by gaining leadership positions as in camps in Tanzania where women leaders meet with food distribution officials regularly to discuss problems and improvement strategies. Regarding internally displaced populations, the WFP notes that it is cutting back services to target the most needy and provide only emergency relief. For internally displaced women, as with refugee women, the WFP tries to target women-headed households and seek out women when conducting surveys.

World Food Programme. *Sudan Emergency: Annual Report 1996.* WFP, 1996.

Keywords: IDPs -- Case Studies -- Africa -- Sudan

This report assesses and outlines the work of the World Food Programme in Sudan. It examines the kinds and levels of assistance the WFP has provided. The report pays particular attention to the commitments the WFP made in Beijing and reflects its work toward meeting these commitments through an analysis of its objectives and achievements under its Gender Action Plan for Sudan.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

INTRODUCTION: SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1 These Guiding Principles address the specific needs of internally displaced persons worldwide. They identify rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of persons from forced displacement and to their protection and assistance during displacement as well as during return or resettlement and reintegration.

2 For the purposes of these Principles, internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

3. These Principles reflect and are consistent with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. They provide guidance to:

(a) The Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons in carrying out his mandate;

(b) States when faced with the phenomenon of internal displacement;

(c) All other authorities, groups and persons in their relations with internally displaced persons, and

(d) Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations when addressing internal displacement.

4. These Guiding Principles should be disseminated and applied as widely as possible.

SECTION I - GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Principle 1

1. Internally displaced persons shall enjoy, in full equality, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country. They shall not be discriminated against in the enjoyment of any rights and freedoms on the ground that they are internally displaced.

2. These Principles are without prejudice to individual criminal responsibility under international law, in particular relating to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Principle 2

1. These Principles shall be observed by all authorities, groups and persons irrespective of their legal status and applied without any adverse distinction. The observance of these Principles shall not affect the legal status of any authorities, groups or persons involved.
2. These Principles shall not be interpreted as restricting, modifying or impairing the provisions of any international human rights or international humanitarian law instrument or rights granted to persons under domestic law. In particular, these Principles are without prejudice to the right to seek and enjoy asylum in other countries.

Principle 3

1. National authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction.
2. Internally displaced persons have the right to request and to receive protection and humanitarian assistance from these authorities. They shall not be persecuted or punished for making such a request.

Principle 4

1. These Principles shall be applied without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, legal or social status, age, disability, property, birth, or on any other similar criteria.
2. Certain internally displaced persons, such as children, especially unaccompanied minors, expectant mothers, mothers with young children, female heads of household, persons with disabilities and elderly persons, shall be entitled to protection and assistance required by their condition and to treatment which takes into account their special needs

SECTION II - PRINCIPLES RELATING TO PROTECTION FROM DISPLACEMENT

Principle 5

All authorities and international actors shall respect and ensure respect for their obligations under international law, including human rights and humanitarian law, in all circumstances, so as to prevent and avoid conditions that might lead to displacement of persons.

Principle 6

1. Every human being shall have the right to be protected against being arbitrarily displaced from his or her home or place of habitual residence.
2. The prohibition of arbitrary displacement includes displacement

- (a) When it is based on policies of apartheid, "ethnic cleansing" or similar practices aimed at/or resulting in altering the ethnic, religious or racial composition of the affected population;
 - (b) In situations of armed conflict, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand;
 - (c) In cases of large-scale development projects, which are not justified by compelling and overriding public interests;
 - (d) In cases of disasters, unless the safety and health of those affected requires their evacuation, and
 - (e) When it is used as a collective punishment.
3. Displacement shall last no longer than required by the circumstances.

Principle 7

1. Prior to any decision requiring the displacement of persons, the authorities concerned shall ensure that all feasible alternatives are explored in order to avoid displacement altogether. Where no alternatives exist, all measures shall be taken to minimize displacement and its adverse effects.
2. The authorities undertaking such displacement shall ensure, to the greatest practicable extent, that proper accommodation is provided to the displaced persons, that such displacements are effected in satisfactory conditions of safety, nutrition, health and hygiene, and that members of the same family are not separated.
3. If displacement occurs in situations other than during the emergency stages of armed conflicts and disasters, the following guarantees shall be complied with.
 - (a) A specific decision shall be taken by a State authority empowered by law to order such measures;
 - (b) Adequate measures shall be taken to guarantee to those to be displaced full information on the reasons and procedures for their displacement and, where applicable, on compensation and relocation;
 - (c) The free and informed consent of those to be displaced shall be sought;
 - (d) The authorities concerned shall endeavour to involve those affected, particularly women, in the planning and management of their relocation;
 - (e) Law enforcement measures, where required, shall be carried out by competent legal authorities; and
 - (f) The right to an effective remedy, including the review of such decisions by appropriate judicial authorities, shall be respected.

Principle 8

Displacement shall not be carried out in a manner that violates the rights to life, dignity, liberty and security of those affected.

Principle 9

States are under a particular obligation to protect against the displacement of indigenous peoples, minorities, peasants, pastoralists and other groups with a special dependency on and attachment to their lands.

SECTION III - PRINCIPLES RELATING TO PROTECTION DURING DISPLACEMENT

Principle 10

1. Every human being has the inherent right to life which shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her life. Internally displaced persons shall be protected in particular against:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Murder;
- (c) Summary or arbitrary executions; and
- (d) Enforced disappearances, including abduction or unacknowledged detention, threatening or resulting in death.

Threats and incitement to commit any of the foregoing acts shall be prohibited.

2. Attacks or other acts of violence against internally displaced persons who do not or no longer participate in hostilities are prohibited in all circumstances. Internally displaced persons shall be protected, in particular, against:

- (a) Direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence, including the creation of areas wherein attacks on civilians are permitted;
- (b) Starvation as a method of combat;
- (c) Their use to shield military objectives from attack or to shield, favour or impede military operations,
- (d) Attacks against their camps or settlements; and
- (e) The use of anti-personnel landmines.

Principle 11

1. Every human being has the right to dignity and physical, mental and moral integrity.
2. Internally displaced persons, whether or not their liberty has been restricted, shall be protected in particular against:
 - (a) Rape, mutilation, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and other outrages upon personal dignity, such as acts of gender-specific violence, forced prostitution and any form of indecent assault;
 - (b) Slavery or any contemporary form of slavery, such as sale into marriage, sexual exploitation, or forced labour of children, and
 - (c) Acts of violence intended to spread terror among internally displaced persons

Threats and incitement to commit any of the foregoing acts shall be prohibited

Principle 12

1. Every human being has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention.
2. To give effect to this right for internally displaced persons, they shall not be interned in or confined to a camp. If in exceptional circumstances such internment or confinement is absolutely necessary, it shall not last longer than required by the circumstances
3. Internally displaced persons shall be protected from discriminatory arrest and detention as a result of their displacement.
4. In no case shall internally displaced persons be taken hostage.

Principle 13

1. In no circumstances shall displaced children be recruited nor be required or permitted to take part in hostilities.
2. Internally displaced persons shall be protected against discriminatory practices of recruitment into any armed forces or groups as a result of their displacement. In particular any cruel, inhuman or degrading practices that compel compliance or punish non-compliance with recruitment are prohibited in all circumstances.

Principle 14

1. Every internally displaced person has the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his or her residence.

2. In particular, internally displaced persons have the right to move freely in and out of camps or other settlements

Principle 15

Internally displaced persons have:

- (a) The right to seek safety in another part of the country,
- (b) The right to leave their country;
- (c) The right to seek asylum in another country, and
- (d) The right to be protected against forcible return to or resettlement in any place where their life, safety, liberty and/or health would be at risk

Principle 16

1. All internally displaced persons have the right to know the fate and whereabouts of missing relatives.
2. The authorities concerned shall endeavour to establish the fate and whereabouts of internally displaced persons reported missing, and cooperate with relevant international organizations engaged in this task. They shall inform the next of kin on the progress of the investigation and notify them of any result.
3. The authorities concerned shall endeavour to collect and identify the mortal remains of those deceased, prevent their despoliation or mutilation, and facilitate the return of those remains to the next of kin or dispose of them respectfully.
4. Grave sites of internally displaced persons should be protected and respected in all circumstances. Internally displaced persons should have the right of access to the grave sites of their deceased relatives.

Principle 17

1. Every human being has the right to respect of his or her family life.
2. To give effect to this right for internally displaced persons, family members who wish to remain together shall be allowed to do so.
3. Families which are separated by displacement should be reunited as quickly as possible. All appropriate steps shall be taken to expedite the reunion of such families, particularly when children are involved. The responsible authorities shall facilitate inquiries made by family members and encourage and cooperate with the work of humanitarian organizations engaged in the task of family reunification.

4. Members of internally displaced families whose personal liberty has been restricted by internment or confinement in camps shall have the right to remain together

Principle 18

1. All internally displaced persons have the right to an adequate standard of living.
2. At the minimum, regardless of the circumstances, and without discrimination, competent authorities shall provide internally displaced persons with and ensure safe access to:
 - (a) Essential food and potable water;
 - (b) Basic shelter and housing;
 - (c) Appropriate clothing; and
 - (d) Essential medical services and sanitation.
3. Special efforts should be made to ensure the full participation of women in the planning and distribution of these basic supplies.

Principle 19

1. All wounded and sick internally displaced persons as well as those with disabilities shall receive to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention they require, without distinction on any grounds other than medical ones. When necessary, internally displaced persons shall have access to psychological and social services.
2. Special attention should be paid to the health needs of women, including access to female health care providers and services, such as reproductive health care, as well as appropriate counselling for victims of sexual and other abuses.
3. Special attention should also be given to the prevention of contagious and infectious diseases, including AIDS, among internally displaced persons

Principle 20

1. Every human being has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law
2. To give effect to this right for internally displaced persons, the authorities concerned shall issue to them all documents necessary for the enjoyment and exercise of their legal rights, such as passports, personal identification documents, birth certificates and marriage certificates. In particular, the authorities shall facilitate the issuance of new documents or the replacement of documents lost in the course of displacement, without imposing unreasonable conditions, such as requiring the return to one's area of habitual residence in order to obtain these or other required documents.

3. Women and men shall have equal rights to obtain such necessary documents and shall have the right to have such documentation issued in their own names.

Principle 21

1. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of property and possessions
2. The property and possessions of internally displaced persons shall in all circumstances be protected, in particular, against the following acts:
 - (a) Pillage,
 - (b) Direct or indiscriminate attacks or other acts of violence;
 - (c) Being used to shield military operations or objectives,
 - (d) Being made the object of reprisal; and
 - (e) Being destroyed or appropriated as a form of collective punishment
3. Property and possessions left behind by internally displaced persons should be protected against destruction and arbitrary and illegal appropriation, occupation or use

Principle 22

1. Internally displaced persons, whether or not they are living in camps, shall not be discriminated against as a result of their displacement in the enjoyment of the following rights:
 - (a) The rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, opinion and expression,
 - (b) The right to seek freely opportunities for employment and to participate in economic activities;
 - (c) The right to associate freely and participate equally in community affairs,
 - (d) The right to vote and to participate in governmental and public affairs, including the right to have access to the means necessary to exercise this right; and
 - (e) The right to communicate in a language they understand.

Principle 23

1. Every human being has the right to education.

2. To give effect to this right for internally displaced persons, the authorities concerned shall ensure that such persons, in particular displaced children, receive education which shall be free and compulsory at the primary level. Education should respect their cultural identity, language and religion

3. Special efforts should be made to ensure the full and equal participation of women and girls in educational programmes

4. Education and training facilities shall be made available to internally displaced persons, in particular adolescents and women, whether or not living in camps, as soon as conditions permit.

SECTION IV - PRINCIPLES RELATING TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Principle 24

1. All humanitarian assistance shall be carried out in accordance with the principles of humanity and impartiality and without discrimination.

2. Humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons shall not be diverted, in particular for political or military reasons.

Principle 25

1. The primary duty and responsibility for providing humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons lies with national authorities

2. International humanitarian organizations and other appropriate actors have the right to offer their services in support of the internally displaced. Such an offer shall not be regarded as an unfriendly act or an interference in a State's internal affairs and shall be considered in good faith. Consent thereto shall not be arbitrarily withheld, particularly when authorities concerned are unable or unwilling to provide the required humanitarian assistance.

3. All authorities concerned shall grant and facilitate the free passage of humanitarian assistance and grant persons engaged in the provision of such assistance rapid and unimpeded access to the internally displaced.

Principle 26

Persons engaged in humanitarian assistance, their transport and supplies shall be respected and protected. They shall not be the object of attack or other acts of violence.

Principle 27

1. International humanitarian organizations and other appropriate actors when providing assistance should give due regard to the protection needs and human rights of internally

displaced persons and take appropriate measures in this regard. In so doing, these organizations and actors should respect relevant international standards and codes of conduct.

2. The preceding paragraph is without prejudice to the protection responsibilities of international organizations mandated for this purpose, whose services may be offered or requested by States

SECTION V - PRINCIPLES RELATING TO RETURN, RESETTLEMENT AND REINTEGRATION

Principle 28

1. Competent authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. Such authorities shall endeavour to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled internally displaced persons.

2. Special efforts should be made to ensure the full participation of internally displaced persons in the planning and management of their return or resettlement and reintegration

Principle 29

1. Internally displaced persons who have returned to their homes or places of habitual residence or who have resettled in another part of the country shall not be discriminated against as a result of their having been displaced. They shall have the right to participate fully and equally in public affairs at all levels and have equal access to public services

2. Competent authorities have the duty and responsibility to assist returned and/or resettled internally displaced persons to recover, to the extent possible, their property and possessions which they left behind or were dispossessed of upon their displacement. When recovery of such property and possessions is not possible, competent authorities shall provide or assist these persons in obtaining appropriate compensation or another form of just reparation.

Principle 30

All authorities concerned shall grant and facilitate for international humanitarian organizations and other appropriate actors, in the exercise of their respective mandates, rapid and unimpeded access to internally displaced persons to assist in their return or resettlement and reintegration.