

INTRODUCTION

Internal displacement, as it affects more than 20 million people in more than 55 countries, is rightly called a “global” crisis. Increasingly, operational UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations [NGOs] and international organizations—individually, and in partnership—have focused on internal displacement. There is broad consensus that these efforts, while encouraging, are fragmentary and that much work remains to meet the needs of more than 20 million displaced children, women, and men. Nonetheless, the experience of these operational agencies provides field practice models to examine for applicability in other displacement situations.

The Context of this Manual: The past decade has witnessed a series of events that have increased focus within the UN system on issues of internal displacement. In 1992, the Secretary-General appointed a Representative on Internally Displaced Persons [IDPs]. Dr. Francis M. Deng, who has undertaken initiatives—including country visits, reports and analyses—to raise the visibility of and focus on internal displacement.

In 1998, the Representative presented the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*,¹ the first attempt to articulate what protec-

¹The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* were presented by the Representative to the UN Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session, as UN Document E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2. The Commission took note of the *Principles*, of the intention of the Representative to make use of them in his dialogue with governments and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, and noted with interest that the IASC, at its 26 March 1998 meeting, welcomed the *Principles*, encouraged its members to share them with their Executive Boards and their staff and to apply them in the field. The *Guiding Principles* in all official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish), as well as unofficial translations in Azerbaijani, Georgian, and Portuguese, are available from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [OHCHR], with English, French, Spanish and Portuguese booklet versions available from OCHA-New York's IDP Unit. English, French and Spanish versions also are posted on the web-site of OHCHR: <www.unhchr.com>.

tion for the internally displaced should mean. The *Guiding Principles* set forth the rights and guarantees relevant in all phases of displacement: before displacement occurs (that is, protection against arbitrary displacement); during situations of internal displacement; and, in the return or resettlement and reintegration phase. Although the *Principles* do not constitute a legally binding document as such, they reflect and are consistent with international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and refugee law by analogy, which are binding. The *Guiding Principles* restate and consolidate in one document the relevant principles applicable to the internally displaced, providing practical guidance for use in responding to situations of internal displacement.

Also in the 1990s, a number of steps were taken to enhance coordination among UN agencies vis-à-vis the internally displaced. The Emergency Relief Coordinator [ERC], as chairman of the UN's inter-agency standing committee [IASC], is the focal point at UN headquarters level for the inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons. This responsibility includes: (1) global advocacy on both assistance and protection requirements; (2) resource mobilization and the identification of gaps in resources for the internally displaced; (3) in consultation with external institutions, promotion of the establishment of a database and global information on internally displaced persons, including monitoring and issuance of periodic situation reports; and (4) support to the field on related humanitarian issues, including negotiation of access to the internally displaced. At UN headquarters level, the IASC-Working Group [IASC-WG]² is the forum for consultations on all internal displacement matters.

²The IASC-WG consists of the following agencies: FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, and WHO. In addition, there is a standing invitation to the ICRC, IFRC, IOM, the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, and UNHCHR. Three NGO consortia—the International Council of Voluntary Agencies [ICVA], InterAction, and the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response [SCHR]—also are invited to attend on a permanent basis.

At the field level, the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator is, in full consultation with the inter-agency country team, responsible for the strategic coordination of assistance to internally displaced persons. This responsibility includes: addressing humanitarian requirements before, during, and after an emergency; serving as an advocate for assistance and protection; and recommending to the ERC a division of responsibility among agencies. The work of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator on behalf of the internally displaced is carried out in close collaboration with responsible government authorities, local and international NGOs, international organizations, and other relevant actors.

The purpose of this manual. Although internal displacement is a far-reaching global phenomenon, the battle to overcome this worldwide problem is often fought at the family, village, barrio, district or national level. Communities, local organizations, national authorities, and international agencies confronting internal displacement at the grassroots often must develop innovative program responses quickly and under stress.

Recognizing this reality, the UN IASC-WG asked its members, as well as partner agencies from the international and nongovernmental organization communities, to contribute examples of field programs supporting the internally displaced. The intent of this compilation is to provide field practitioners with examples from a variety of country contexts of interventions on behalf of the internally displaced.

This first edition of *Field Practice in Internal Displacement* is an initial compilation offering field workers a sampling of prior experience of agencies wrestling with internal displacement: more than sixty concise examples of program initiatives undertaken by operational agencies, by governments, and by the displaced themselves. The member agencies of the IASC-WG recognize that internal displace-

ment is a complex phenomenon, with diverse manifestations in different political, cultural, and developmental contexts. Effective programs addressing internal displacement at the field level will always need to grow from a sound analysis of local conditions, capacities, and needs. The purpose of this compendium, therefore, is to stimulate practitioners in their own program design. This publication—and the examples of field practice—intentionally have been kept short, targeted as they are at practitioners in the field. The drafters recognize that busy people confronted with the need to translate knowledge into program action need useful information in digestible units.

Field practice is rapidly evolving, as agencies seek new and more effective ways of addressing assistance, protection, and durable solutions for internally displaced persons. Therefore, readers are invited to send comments, critiques and—especially—examples of sound field practice to enhance future versions of this publication. Send examples of field practice to the the United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF] Office of Emergency Programmes, to the attention of the Focal Point for Internally Displaced Persons.³ The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [OCHA] will serve as a focal point for general inquiries on internal displacement issues, as well as a consolidated resource centre for related materials.⁴

How this publication is organized. Examples of field practice are listed in a Compendium following this Introduction, then grouped under five chapter headings, related to the main sections of the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*: “General Support for the

³The Focal Point can be reached by e-mail at opscen@unicef.org or by FAX 1-212-326-7037.

⁴Inquiries can be addressed to the Internally Displaced Persons Focal Point in the Policy Development Unit by e-mail ocha-pdu@un.org or by FAX 1-212-963-1040.

Guiding Principles,” “Principles Relating to Protection from Displacement,” “Principles Relating to Protection and Assistance during Displacement,” “Humanitarian Principles,” and “Principles Relating to Return, Resettlement, and Reintegration.” Each consists of a brief summary of the relevant guiding principles,⁵ followed by examples of field practices geared toward the fulfillment of each. This publication also provides a Reference Bibliography, a brief list of Selected Further Reading, an index to the examples of field practice, and a index of acronyms.

All members of the IASC-WG contributed to this work. A team composed of OCHA, the office of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internal Displacement, and UNICEF served as the focal point for pulling the publication together.

⁵The summaries of the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* provided in each chapter are intended only to convey the general thrust of the respective principles. Readers should consult the *Guiding Principles* themselves for an authoritative understanding.

COMPENDIUM OF FIELD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE *GUIDING PRINCIPLES*:

General Activities in Support of the *Guiding Principles*

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2. COLLECTION AND DISAGGREGATION OF POPULATION DATA ON THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED: [ANGOLA; AZERBAIJAN]
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The General Principles

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6. ENGAGEMENT WITH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION FORCES ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED: [SUDAN]
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9. FOCUS ON THE PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS OF DISPLACED AND RETURNEE CHILDREN: [SRI LANKA]
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- 11.** SUPPORT FOR AN INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT “EARLY WARNING SYSTEM” TO ALERT COMMUNITIES TO DISPLACEMENT THREATS AND TO ASSIST WITH CONTINGENCY PLANNING: [COLOMBIA]
- 12.** INFORMATION GATHERING AND REPORTING TO MINIMIZE FURTHER DISPLACEMENT: [BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA]
- 13.** INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO BUILD LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPACITY TO MITIGATE DISPLACEMENT RESULTING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS: [TAJIKISTAN]
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- 16.** ORGANIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE IN THREATENED COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT DISPLACEMENT OR REPEAT DISPLACEMENT: [COLOMBIA]
- 17.** INTERNATIONAL AGENCY CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND STOCKPILING TO MITIGATE DISPLACEMENT CRISES: [BURUNDI]
- 18.** RAPID RESPONSE BY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO AMELIORATE INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT: [SRI LANKA]
- 19.** FOCUS ON DISPLACED COMMUNITIES WITH A “SPECIAL DEPENDENCY ON AND ATTACHMENT TO THEIR LANDS:” [COLOMBIA]

PRINCIPLES RELATING TO PROTECTION DURING DISPLACEMENT

Enhancing Protection of Physical Security and Freedom of Movement

- 20.** ADVOCACY WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ON PROTECTION ISSUES FACING INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [SUDAN]
- 21.** TARGETED RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING: [RWANDA]
- 22.** COLLABORATION BETWEEN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO DOCUMENT VIOLATIONS OF DISPLACED PERSONS' RIGHTS: [PHILIPPINES]
- 23.** INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND TRAINING TO SENSITIZE PEACEKEEPERS ABOUT THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED: [ANGOLA]
- 24.** A CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE LANDMINE AWARENESS WITHIN INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [SRI LANKA]
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- 27.** TRACING PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [CHECHNYA]
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- 30.** USE OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO ASSIST DISPLACED RURAL FAMILIES TO GAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY: [SRI LANKA]
- 31.** ADVOCACY FOR DISPLACED COMMUNITY ACCESS TO LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: [SRI LANKA]

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- 33.** USE OF LIVESTOCK TO ASSIST INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS TO GAIN A MEASURE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY: [AZERBAIJAN]
- 34.** INVESTMENT IN DISPLACED WOMEN TO REBUILD ECONOMIC ACTIVITY: [BOSNIA]
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- 36.** PROVISION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INPUTS IN EMERGENCY SETTINGS: [CONGO/BRAZZAVILLE]
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- 38.** A COMBINATION OF RELIEF AND SELF-HELP INTERVENTIONS IN EMERGENCY PROGRAMS ON BEHALF OF DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [SOMALIA]
- 39.** ADVOCACY FOR THE DISPLACED CHILD'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION: [SRI LANKA]

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- 40.** SUPPORT OF DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMS FOR THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED TO FACILITATE RETURN: [EL SALVADOR]
- 41.** OUTREACH TO GUARANTEE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS THE RIGHT TO A LEGAL IDENTITY: [COLOMBIA]
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- 43.** INCORPORATION OF COMMUNITY PREFERENCES AND THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF WOMEN INTO RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [AZERBAIJAN]
- 44.** SURVEYS OF ATTITUDES IN DISPLACED COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT APPROPRIATE DESIGN OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: [SRI LANKA]
- 45.** INVOLVEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS WITH SPECIAL SKILLS IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS: [AZERBAIJAN]

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- 46.** EFFORTS TO BALANCE THE PRIORITIES OF DISPLACED AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN CONFLICTIVE ENVIRONMENTS: [BURUNDI]
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- 52.** AIRDROPS TO DELIVER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED COMMUNITIES WHEN OTHER METHODS ARE UNAVAILABLE: [BOSNIA]
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- 66.** REINTEGRATION OF A SPECIAL GROUP OF RETURNEES: CHILD SOLDIERS: [MOZAMBIQUE]
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GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement contain four general principles that affirm basic rights of the internally displaced and responsibilities of authorities vis-a-vis the internally displaced.

Principle 1 affirms that internally displaced persons enjoy the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country and prohibits discrimination against the internally displaced on account of their status. At the same time, Principle 1 notes that the Guiding Principles do not remove individual criminal responsibility of the internally displaced or any person under international law.

Principle 2 affirms the responsibility of all authorities, groups and persons to observe the Guiding Principles, noting that such observance will not affect legal status. Principle 2 also affirms that the Guiding Principles shall not be interpreted to limit rights granted under existing international or domestic law, noting especially the right of the internally displaced to seek asylum in other countries.

Principle 3 takes note of the primary duty and responsibility of national authorities to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and affirms the right of the internally displaced to request and receive such assistance from authorities without risk of persecution or punishment.

Principle 4 affirms that the Guiding Principles shall be applied without discrimination of any kind, such as language, religion, ethnic origin, age, or disability and recognizes that certain categories of the displaced (such as female heads of households, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly) are entitled to protection and assistance that take into account their special needs.

General Activities in Support of the *Guiding Principles*

To promote general activities in support of the *Guiding Principles*, the following activities may be undertaken, in coordination with agencies with designated responsibilities in the field:

- Disseminating the *Guiding Principles*, and information about the *Guiding Principles*, especially in languages used by the internally displaced and relevant authorities; advocating widely for the application of the *Guiding Principles*;
- Supporting training programs on the *Guiding Principles* and on international humanitarian and human rights law for staff, for the displaced themselves, and for relevant authorities and partner organizations;
- Monitoring and disseminating information on compliance by relevant authorities with the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*;
- Supporting data gathering efforts that provide accurate information on the numbers of internally displaced persons and their condition, taking due note of requirements for security, protection, and privacy;
- Promoting, participating in, and supporting inter-agency coordination efforts focused on the internally displaced, ensuring that local organizations—including organizations of the displaced themselves—are partners in such coordinated efforts.

Field-based examples of such practice include:

1. TRANSLATION OF THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES INTO LOCAL LANGUAGES TO SUPPORT ADVOCACY: [AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA, GREECE, ANGOLA]

Primarily as a result of conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan holds one of the world's highest concentrations of internally displaced persons, with one in eight citizens displaced. In light of these conditions, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] arranged for the translation of the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* into the Azerbaijani language, in both Latin

and Cyrillic alphabets, to increase access. Making this document available in Azerbaijani increased significantly its value as an advocacy tool. Government officials, for their part, noted how increased access to the *Guiding Principles* will facilitate the incorporation of protection regimes into national legislation.

A number of initiatives have led to the translation of the *Guiding Principles* into other languages: the Georgian Young Lawyers Association produced a version in Georgian; Amnesty International/Greece produced a Greek-language edition; and OCHA's Angola office produced a Portuguese version.

2. COLLECTION AND DISAGGREGATION OF POPULATION DATA ON THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED: [ANGOLA; AZERBAIJAN]

With more than 1 million internally displaced persons spread across its vast territory, Angola in 1996 faced difficult issues of care, protection, and return. Angolan and international institutions had only fragmentary data on the location and condition of displaced persons. In an attempt to fill this gap, the government's National Institute of Statistics [NIS], with UNICEF and UN Development Programme [UNDP] support, conducted a multiprovince sociodemographic study of the displaced population in cooperation with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. The design and results of the survey were especially significant for the large proportion of Angolan displaced who were women or girls. By disaggregating IDP data by gender and age, the study alerted agencies to concentrations of women, teenagers, and girls who were vulnerable. The findings permitted more precise targeting of program efforts to ensure that women's status and views were considered. In one province, researchers found that 63 percent of households were headed by women, underlining the need to include women in decisionmaking processes.

In Azerbaijan, the World Food Programme [WFP] computerized the data of its beneficiaries on cards issued to each family, including the head of the household and its members' names, gender, age, type and serial number of documents (passport, birth certificate, etc.); the residence before and after displacement (by district and village); and the date[s] of displacement to distinguish those who moved from disputed territories voluntarily before the conflict. This computerized data system enables WFP/Baku to analyze the displaced population and to improve the targeting of program interventions.

3. INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION ON BEHALF OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: [SUDAN]

To improve programming for the internally displaced in the Sudan, in coordination with other UN agencies and NGOs, the UN Humanitarian Coordination Unit in Khartoum created a six-person team of IDP Coordinators, deployed in five locations. The team, assembled in 1997, neither managed separate programs nor attempted formal coordination of other agency operations. Rather, through collaborative efforts at information gathering, analysis, and assistance in field coordination, the IDP program attempted to improve work in seven issue areas:

- Garnering a better profile of displacement through data collection and analysis;
- Assisting in field coordination among UN agencies, NGOs and government;
- Improving access for humanitarian assistance and promoting humanitarian principles;
- Assisting government authorities in protection of the internally displaced ;
- Ensuring that the displaced were involved in relief planning and implementation;
- Improving relations between displaced and host communities;
- Supporting self-reliance for displaced communities.

Recruitment of Sudanese nationals as coordinators enhanced local knowledge, cultural awareness, and communication. However, rec-

ognizing that local officers might be susceptible to political pressure, international officers backed up the team through short-term field assignments. Team members, prior to deployment, received intensive training in topics including: humanitarian operations; displacement, including the *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*; child rights; humanitarian principles; international law; and gender issues. Although the program is new, initial evaluation suggests it has made a contribution in improving information and analysis of the displacement situation, in raising awareness of displacement issues through discussions with government authorities, in assisting field coordination among agencies, and in providing some protection for displaced communities.

The General Principles

To promote activities in support of the *General Principles* themselves, the following activities may be undertaken in coordination with agencies with designated responsibilities in the field:

- Ensuring that program interventions are based on a sound understanding of The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and of international humanitarian and human rights laws;
- Designing “rights-based” programs, that focus on the displaced as possessors of rights rather than as victims;
- Planning program activities to ensure that benefits reach internally displaced persons equally with other persons in the country;
- Ensuring that programs do not, intentionally or unintentionally, restrict the rights of internally displaced persons under international law, including the right to seek asylum;
- Advocating vigorously with national authorities that they accept their responsibilities regarding the internally displaced;
- Supporting, through training and other support, efforts by national authorities to accept responsibility for internally displaced persons;

- Facilitating channels for internally displaced individuals, families, communities, and leaders to approach national authorities to seek protection and assistance;
- Taking into account, in program design, “special needs” groups within the displaced population;

Field-based examples of such practice include:

4. INTERNATIONAL AGENCY SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: [AZERBAIJAN]

With more than one-half million IDPs, internal displacement is a major issue facing the Azerbaijani government. Although the government generally accepted its responsibilities vis-à-vis its internally displaced citizens, coordination among government ministries remains a problem, with multiple ministries managing different aspects of internal displacement. Recognizing that better coordination would benefit the internally displaced, the International Organization for Migration [IOM] worked with Azerbaijani authorities to develop a framework for enhanced coordination.

The resulting State Commission for the Development of the Unified Migration Management Programme is intended to take a comprehensive view of migration, with five areas of focus:

- Refugees and internally displaced persons;
- Labor migrations;
- Policy and management;
- Border management; and
- Migration information systems.

In an environment of limited resources, elimination of duplication and better targeting by the State Commission could significantly benefit those internally displaced persons most in need.

5. INTERNATIONAL AGENCY SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: [SIERRA LEONE]

In late 1991, the Government of Sierra Leone established NARECOM, the National Rehabilitation Committee, to take charge of coordinating internally displaced persons' relief and rehabilitation assistance. With assistance from a locally set up UN task force, in June 1993 NARECOM developed a six-month plan for emergency relief to the internally displaced and launched an appeal for assistance to the international community.

6. ENGAGEMENT WITH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION FORCES ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED: [SUDAN]

Operation Lifeline Sudan [OLS], launched in 1989, was an early effort to link both parties controlling access to internally displaced persons—the Government of Sudan and the opposition Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]—into an agreement for relief delivery. Although the approach to a rebel force like the SPLA initially raised serious issues for UN agencies, the resulting agreement was the only hope of reaching 1.5 million displaced and war-affected, as both sides to the conflict controlled displacement sites and access. The OLS agreement, although it has continued to face problems in an ongoing conflict, permitted international humanitarian assistance in each side's area of operations and guaranteed safe passage in designated "corridors of tranquility."

7. DISCUSSIONS WITH OPPOSITION GROUPS ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED: [SRI LANKA]

In situations of internal displacement, negotiations with opposition groups who control portions of national territory will always be sensitive. Nonetheless, active engagement with opposition forces by international organizations operating in Sri Lanka expanded substantially the protection available to the internally displaced. The Spe-

cial Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, during a 1998 visit to Sri Lanka, sought and obtained a number of commitments from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] regarding children's rights. These commitments included limitations on recruitment of children and an agreement to train fighters in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] sought and achieved commitments from the LTTE on adherence to key portions of the Geneva Conventions.

8. "COMMUNITIES OF PEACE:" AN IDP RESPONSE TO ARMED CONFLICT (WITH MIXED RESULTS): [COLOMBIA]

Several displaced or returnee communities in Colombia, caught between warring factions, attempted a desperate but unique response to the conflict: they declared themselves "communities of peace." Communities of peace, essentially, attempt to opt out of the civil war; their members pledge not to carry arms, not to participate directly or indirectly in the warfare, and not to provide information to any of the parties to the conflict. Such a declaration becomes, in the words of one Colombian NGO officer, an "act of resistance" by displaced communities "searching for alternative strategies for survival" in an environment where the government is unable to provide basic security.

Communities of peace, whose members also pledge increased cooperation in community affairs and production, are encouraged by activists within the Catholic Church and by some Church-related social agencies. Community members are issued identity cards indicating their neutrality in the armed struggle, and communities of peace generally erect signs publicly stating their chosen course. The strategy has, thus far, generated mixed results in displaced and returnee communities. Several communities report that community of peace

status has deterred armed incursions. Other communities have had less success, continuing to face armed incursions or attacks.

9. FOCUS ON THE PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS OF DISPLACED AND RETURNEE CHILDREN: [SRI LANKA]

Many Sri Lankan children, both the displaced and recent returnees, have experienced the trauma and disruption of war. Indeed, many of these children have known virtually nothing but conflict and displacement. These children often face problems readjusting to their new environments, to altered family and community life, and to school. In the Jaffna peninsula and elsewhere in Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan NGOs have established community-based “drop-in” centers for displaced and returnee children, where normal play and artistic activities are encouraged in a calm, supportive atmosphere, reintroducing the children to normal childhood activities.

Sri Lankan organizations, supported in some cases by UNICEF, have also recognized the importance of teachers in meeting children’s psychosocial needs. Given the importance of formal education in Sri Lanka, enrolling displaced and returnee children in classes is a high priority for displaced families. These organizations recognized that many of the re-enrolled students were still deeply affected by the conflict and experience of displacement and that teachers were in a unique position to observe students facing adjustment difficulties. They initiated training programs for primary school teachers to help recognize signs of psychosocial needs in internally displaced children and to guide appropriate interventions or referrals.

10. INTERVENTIONS TO MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF FORMER COMBATANTS AMONG THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION: [MOZAMBIQUE]

By the time a peace agreement was signed in 1992, there were an estimated 3.7 million internally displaced individuals in Mozambique. A significant number of these, more than 150 thousand, were

excombatants returning to their homes or settling in other parts of Mozambique. These former fighters faced special problems adjusting to the postconflict environment and faced uncertain reception and prospects in the communities where they settled. IOM developed several programs to strengthen the capacity of local communities to absorb excombatants and to support these returnees to develop a civilian life. The Provincial Reintegration Fund funded small-scale economic initiatives aimed at providing a livelihood for former fighters, either as entrepreneurs or as employees. The Information and Referral Service Project established a referral and counseling network, supported vocational training, and funded other activities to assist demobilized soldiers.