



Guiding Principles 10 through 23 relate to protection for and assistance to internally displaced persons during the period of their displacement. These principles affirm the:

Inherent right to life and the right to protection from attack;

Right to protection from inhuman or degrading treatment, such as rape, slavery, acts of terror, or similar assaults on the physical, mental, and moral integrity of displaced persons;

Right to liberty and security, including protection from arbitrary arrest and detention and also including protection from internment or confinement in a camp when not absolutely necessary;

Protection from discriminatory recruitment into armed forces, especially for displaced children;

Right to freedom of movement and residence, including to move in or out of camps;

Right to seek safety elsewhere, either within or outside his/her country, and protection against forcible return or resettlement;

Right to receive information about the condition of missing relatives, living or deceased;

Protection from family separation and the right to expeditious reunification;

Right to an adequate standard of living, including essential food and potable water, basic shelter and housing, appropriate clothing, and essential medical services and sanitation, with special efforts to ensure women participate fully in these rights;

Right to adequate care and attention for the sick and wounded, including psychological and social services, with special attention to the health needs of women;

Right to recognition as a person before the law, including all documents necessary for the enjoyment of legal rights;

Protection against arbitrary deprivation of property and possessions, including property left behind during displacement;

Right to full enjoyment of freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom to seek employment, free association, participation in public affairs, and freedom to communicate in one's own language;

Right to free education that respects cultural identity, religion, and language, with special efforts to ensure the full and equal participation of women and girls.

To promote the principles relating to protection and assistance during displacement, the following activities may be undertaken in coordination with agencies with designated responsibility 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;

Enhancing Protection of Physical Security and Freedom of Movement

- Disseminating information about the rights of displaced persons during displacement to displaced populations and to relevant authorities; advocating with authorities for the protection of these rights, as well as providing support to local NGOs or other groups advocating for these rights; training military personnel, including national and peacekeeping forces, in principles of protection;
- Establishing monitoring and reporting systems that document violations of the rights guaranteed to internally displaced persons; reporting on food blockages or other serious violations of the right to an adequate standard of living; gathering information and reporting on unwarranted restrictions on freedom of movement of internally displaced persons;
- Where landmines are a threat to displaced communities, implementing programs to raise awareness of the threat and, when possible, to remove it;
- Enhancing protection and advocacy activities by maintaining a presence in or near displaced communities, through regular visits or stationing staff in the field;
- Where camps for the internally displaced exist, ensuring that the principles relating to protection during displacement are reflected in the management of those camps; examining steps that can be taken to prevent camps from becoming the targets of attacks;

- Identifying factors that prevent internally displaced persons from seeking asylum or from seeking safety in another part of their country, and working to address any such factors;

Preserving Family and Community among the Internally Displaced

- Supporting tracing programs that provide the displaced with information about the location and circumstances of family members;
- Locating children separated from families during displacement, and otherwise promoting family reunification;

Protecting Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights

- Protecting the right to an adequate standard of living by ensuring that basic needs for food, water, health care, sanitation, shelter and clothing are being met;
- Designing and implementing programs to enable internally displaced persons to produce their own food or clothing, or to earn an income;
- Supporting attempts by displaced children to enroll in local schools;

Protecting Rights to Identity and Basic Freedoms

- Supporting programs to replace lost documentation, such as birth certificates or property titles;
- Studying gender relations in the local cultural context and how those relations have been affected by displacement; advocating for the full participation of women in all programs for the internally displaced;
- Actively consulting with, seeking the views of, and otherwise engaging the displaced in all program activities.

Field-based examples of such practice include:

Enhancing Protection of Physical Security and Freedom of Movement

20. ADVOCACY WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ON PROTECTION ISSUES FACING INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [SUDAN]

A team of IDP Coordinators, assembled by the UN Humanitarian Coordination Unit [UNHCU] in Khartoum in 1997, took an active role working with government counterparts—including security officials and the military—to enhance protection of displaced communities. The team, comprised of Sudanese nationals, spent much time in open dialogue with IDP leaders to understand the perspectives and protection needs of displaced communities. In Wau, for example, team members opened a dialogue with government officials on the problems of disappearances and looting that led to the voluntary resettlement of several groups of internally displaced persons to more secure local areas. Although the UNHCU IDP Programme emphasizes the linkages between humanitarian assistance and protection issues, the existence of this team of UN officers with terms of reference that emphasize protection raises the profile of IDP protection issues.

21. TARGETED RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING: [RWANDA]

At the end of 1994, following the genocide in Rwanda, it was estimated that some 700 thousand internally displaced persons were in camps in the southwestern provinces of the country. In the same year, UNHCHR established its first field mission in Rwanda. Among other activities, the goal of the mission was to facilitate the return of the internally displaced.

General monitoring of the human rights situation by this mission allowed a greater understanding of the difficulties faced by internally displaced persons in returning to their homes. Visits to com-

munes enabled human rights field officers to determine that internally displaced persons who had returned home faced problems of illegal land and house occupation, arbitrary detention, and security incidents. These factors deterred the return of both the internally displaced still in the camps and refugees in neighboring countries. As a result of the monitoring activities, the Human Rights Mission in Rwanda [HRFOR] was able to provide assistance to the judiciary at the local and national levels and hold workshops for civilian, military, judicial, and police officials on such topics as arrest and detention procedures to combat arbitrary detention. More generally, HRFOR worked in cooperation with the government of Rwanda to promote human rights for all Rwandans, to “re-establish confidence,” to rebuild civil society, and to create conditions for return.

22. COLLABORATION BETWEEN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO DOCUMENT VIOLATIONS OF DISPLACED PERSONS’ RIGHTS: [PHILIPPINES]

Rural villagers on the Philippine island of Mindanao faced repeated displacement due to military conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and opposition groups. These displacements tend to be of short duration, as villagers flee fighting and military “sweeps” through their villages, but displaced communities often endure large-scale destruction of housing, looting of possessions by combatants, and subsequent impoverishment. Although the scale of displacement is large—an estimated 178,500 Filipinos were displaced in the first half of 1997—the situation is not widely understood within the Philippines and virtually unknown elsewhere. To better document the causes and conditions of internal displacement in the Philippines, the U.S. Committee for Refugees [USCR] worked with indigenous NGOs that had access to displaced communities. These local NGOs conducted field interviews in conflict-affected areas and documented human rights abuses by combatants. USCR aggregated reporting data, and issued a substantial report, advocating specific

action steps for the government of the Philippines, the insurgents, and international agencies. For example, based on reports of looting by undisciplined AFP soldiers, the report recommended training soldiers in humanitarian law and disciplining of military personnel who abuse citizens.

23. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND TRAINING TO SENSITIZE PEACEKEEPERS ABOUT THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED: [ANGOLA]

To monitor the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, in particular the disarmament and demobilization of fighters, in 1995 the UN established a military force known as UNAVEM III. In July 1997, UNAVEM III was replaced with a smaller observer mission known as MONUA. To sensitize international military forces in Angola to the issue of internal displacement, which affected over 1.3 million people in the country, the Coordination Unit for Humanitarian Assistance [UCAH] prepared a pamphlet on Understanding IDPs in Angola.

24. A CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE LANDMINE AWARENESS WITHIN INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [SRI LANKA]

Internally displaced populations in general, and displaced children in particular, are vulnerable to the landmines that are a regular feature of the conflict in Sri Lanka. Displaced communities, at least initially, may find themselves in unfamiliar surroundings with little knowledge of where mines have been placed. Also, the limited resources available to the displaced in relocation sites, or "welfare centers," often require widespread exploration of new terrain for water, firewood, or sanitary facilities. Often internally displaced persons must cross active conflict zones in attempts to reach their former properties, either to assess conditions or retrieve resources, further increasing exposure to landmines. In recognition of these realities, UNICEF mounted a grassroots landmine awareness campaign in Sri Lanka targeted at the displaced.

Particularly useful to isolated communities, the campaign includes the use of portable flip charts and other transportable instructional material that can be taken to displacement locales to reach large numbers of internally displaced persons.

**25. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE NEAR CONCENTRATIONS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS TO ENHANCE PROTECTION:
[SRI LANKA]**

UNHCR has organized its assistance activities in parts of Sri Lanka to create the model of the “open relief center” [ORC] or “area of relative safety.” For extended periods during internal conflict in the 1980s and 1990s, large numbers of internally displaced individuals in Sri Lanka gathered near the traditional religious shrine at Madhu. The concentration of internally displaced gives Madhu the appearance of a large camp for displaced individuals. However, UNHCR does not operate this site of several thousand displaced families as a camp. Rather, at the Madhu ORC, UNHCR maintains a full-time presence in the center with international staff, flies the UN flag, operates some programs, and works diligently with authorities to maintain a strictly demilitarized environment. International NGOs have also maintained a presence in Madhu ORC. Displaced Sri Lankans residing at the center feel added security because of the international presence.

**26. APPEALS TO PRESERVE THE RIGHT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS TO SEEK ASYLUM:
[AFGHANISTAN]**

Several years of armed conflict in Afghanistan created waves of internal displacement and refugee flows. After heavy fighting in Kabul in 1994, more than 200 thousand people fled to Jalalabad and other locations in eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border. Initially, some of the internally displaced were allowed to enter Pakistan as refugees, while others chose to remain in camps established as part of a UNOCHA-coordinated emergency relief effort.

At one point, however, strict visa and border controls were imposed on internally displaced Afghans who wished to enter Pakistan as refugees. As a result, the right of the internally displaced to seek asylum was curtailed. Following concerted appeals from a number of agencies, including UNHCR, the border controls were relaxed to allow those internally displaced Afghans who wished to do so to seek safety outside their country. The agencies were able to convince the relevant authorities that the establishment of camps or “safe havens” inside Afghanistan did not disqualify internally displaced persons from seeking asylum.

Preserving Family and Community among the Internally Displaced

27. TRACING PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [CHECHNYA]

Major armed clashes in 1994-95 between Russian military forces and Chechen separatists both caused widespread internal displacement and destroyed communications facilities. By 1995, it was virtually impossible for the civilian population to know the whereabouts or condition of displaced relatives. Confronting a breakdown of mail and telecommunications services, the ICRC established its own network for the exchange of family news. ICRC delegates established liaison with local civilian authorities and local Red Cross/Red Crescent branches in every district in Chechnya, as these authorities were most likely to know the whereabouts of displaced populations in their areas. Through this informal, but comprehensive, network, the ICRC was able to convey messages between displaced populations and family members in other locations in war-torn Chechnya.

To supplement this ad hoc system, ICRC delegates encouraged internally displaced persons in conflict zones to write messages to relatives outside Chechnya. This both assured family members that the displaced individuals were safe and provided a return address to

facilitate return communications. Overall, this creative tracing system—despite logistics constraints—significantly enhanced the right of displaced persons to know the whereabouts and condition of relatives.

28. TRACING PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [Sri Lanka]

Internally displaced persons, especially those living near their original communities, may attempt to visit their homes periodically to assess conditions, make repairs, work fields, or salvage important items. In Sri Lanka, the presence of landmines, shifting front lines, and military fears of infiltration sometimes led to the disappearance of displaced persons on such visits. In the Wanni region, the ICRC initiated tracing activities for internally displaced persons missing on visits to their homes. Other international organizations operating there collaboratively refer inquiries to the ICRC. The establishment of such tracing programs attempts to deal realistically with day-to-day conditions confronting the displaced.

Protecting Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights

29. PARTICIPATORY, ACCURATE, AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENTS TO SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO SAFE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL FOOD: [BURUNDI]

The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* (principle 18) set forth the right to an “adequate standard of living,” including “safe access to essential food . . .” In Burundi, participatory methods to assess and understand the food security situation of displaced groups helped to identify, design, and target interventions to mitigate nutritional deficiencies.

In an October 1998 workshop organized jointly by UNICEF, WFP, and the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], representatives

of the Ministries of Health and Agriculture and NGOs working in the country met to discuss information needs related to food security, methodologies for data collection, and appropriate interventions. The workshop agreed that information on the causes of malnutrition was required to supplement anthropometric data, in order to understand the nutritional needs of food-insecure, primarily displaced communities. Workshop participants agreed on an initial checklist of issues to explore and potential indicators (household size/number of valid adults, access to food, food preparation and consumption, care and solidarity systems, living conditions) and discussed the most appropriate techniques to generate the required information. National participants explained that questionnaires would not provide reliable information on locally sensitive issues, such as the frequency or composition of meals. Workshop participants agreed that required qualitative information could best be obtained through participatory appraisal techniques. A training course on such techniques was consequently programmed, designed, and implemented. Workshop participants also agreed that active involvement and collaboration of all institutions present in the field were essential. The combination of inter-institutional collaboration and appropriate data gathering techniques are planned to raise awareness of the situation of displaced persons in the area, and define mechanisms to assist them with appropriate food security and nutrition strategies.

30. USE OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS TO ASSIST DISPLACED RURAL FAMILIES TO GAIN SELF- SUFFICIENCY: [SRI LANKA]

In 1996-97, in response to an urgent request from the Sri Lankan government, the FAO provided seed paddy to internally displaced farm families in the Jaffna Peninsula for cultivation during the Maha season. This enabled the displaced farmers to recommence paddy cultivation. Out of the season's yield, the farmers were able to stock a sufficient quantity of seed paddy for the next season.

In 1997-98, FAO also provided urgently needed support for the production of vegetable and field crops for the Yala season in the Jaffna Peninsula. In cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, FAO conducted a number of field-based training courses for the displaced farmers, supported local vegetable seed production, and supplied agricultural kits to returning displaced farmers. This assistance minimized food aid needs, reduced logistics constraints, and strengthened household food security for some 17,500 vulnerable displaced farm families.

31. ADVOCACY FOR DISPLACED COMMUNITY ACCESS TO LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: [SRI LANKA]

Few internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka, despite their primarily agricultural backgrounds, have access to garden plots. Space considerations within displaced camps and land ownership patterns outside restrict displaced communities' ability to supplement their livelihoods by growing consumables or cash crops. CARE reports that its office in the Wanni region of Sri Lanka successfully advocated with local authorities to allow displaced families access to fallow agricultural lands within walking distance from their settlement. Access to garden plots both increased income and gave a sense of normalcy to the internally displaced. CARE provided first-year agricultural inputs to jumpstart the garden initiative.

32. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DISPLACED COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO A DECENT STANDARD OF LIVING: [GUATEMALA]

By 1992, widespread displacement and diminution of economic opportunities were two results of more than thirty years of internal conflict in Guatemala. IOM, working with the government of Guatemala, recognized that the estimated 1.5 million internally displaced persons faced special constraints to earning a living, including lack of credit, limited access to land, degradation of productive land, and lack of technical skills. To respond to these constraints, IOM devel-

oped the Labour and Productive Reinsertion Fund [FORELAP], a program of small projects intended to offer a decent standard of living to internally displaced persons and returnees. By 1997, the Fund had executed more than 1 thousand small projects, including:

- Purchasing agricultural land;
- Promoting value-added modification of products;
- Supporting commercialization efforts;
- Providing technical assistance to participants in credit programs; and
- Promoting soil conservation and silviculture development.

FORELAP benefited more than 20 thousand displaced and returnee families by increasing earnings and economic opportunities.

33. USE OF LIVESTOCK TO ASSIST INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS TO GAIN A MEASURE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY: [AZERBAIJAN]

An FAO emergency assistance program in five regions of Azerbaijan provided sheep, along with fodder and veterinary supplies, to internally displaced families in 1997, to enable them to produce food and to earn income. A follow-up program that included veterinary visits, initiated to ensure that the animals remained in good condition and to monitor the use of the animals, found that internally displaced women were using wool from the sheep to make clothing, mattresses, and blankets. Some families were using milk from the sheep to make cheese.

The project has improved the quality of life of the targeted internally displaced population by providing enough sheep to start self-sustaining herds. These herds are now generating both income and in-kind benefits.

34. INVESTMENT IN DISPLACED WOMEN TO REBUILD ECONOMIC ACTIVITY: [BOSNIA]

From 1996 through 1998, the Bosnian Women's Initiative [BWI] provided funding for more than 200 economic development activities, many of them targeted at displaced women or returnees. Two-thirds

of these projects are income-generating enterprises, ranging from chicken farming, to the running of a commercial laundry, to the manufacturing of toilet paper.

BWI is a cooperative venture of UNHCR and NGO partners combining grants, microcredit availability, livestock “banks,” and training. It focuses on the particular needs of Bosnian women and girls who make up more than one-half of the displaced population from the 1992-95 Bosnian conflict. Many displaced women not only face the economic depression of postwar Bosnia but have lost spouses and are otherwise emotionally scarred by the conflict. A spokesman from the NGO Delphi International engaged in business training for BWI participants noted that the program helps “make sure that some women don’t become a permanent underclass, dragged down further by the economic problem.” Beyond BWI’s role in giving displaced and returnee women a chance at an economic livelihood, observers note that collaborative business ventures among women help break down ethnic barriers in Bosnia.

35. IMPLEMENTATION OF A MASS IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN FOR POLIO AND MEASLES IN INTERNALLY DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [SUDAN]

In southern Sudan, a major mass immunization campaign for polio eradication in early 1998 targeted all children under age five. The campaign, part of a national initiative (National Immunization Day, [NID]), took place in a setting of large-scale internal displacement, severely limited infrastructure, access only by air to much of the population, unpredictable flight bans, a short dry season, and no reliable population estimates. More than 400 thousand children were immunized during the first round and more than 600 thousand in the second round a month later. The NIDs were orchestrated by OLS—a coalition of more than thirty NGOs and UN agencies—in collaboration with national counterparts and with technical assistance from

the World Health Organization [WHO]. More than 5 thousand Sudanese field staff were trained for and participated in the exercise.

The complex logistics in this setting posed a major challenge as most of the campaign equipment had to be flown from northern Kenya. New temperature controlled vaccine-vial monitors [VVM] proved invaluable in the field, allowing the vaccinators to use the vaccine safely even beyond the cold chain. The vaccinators also used alternative methods, including water and wet cloths, to keep the vaccine cold. Many of the lessons learned from the exercise have led to benefits in implementation of polio eradication activities among other internally displaced populations in Somalia, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, which also conducted NIDs in 1998 or 1999. In addition, the remarkable community participation led to identification of new population groups and changed the scope of the Expanded Programme on Immunization [EPI] in southern Sudan. This led to a measles campaign and vitamin A supplementation program that reached more than 300 thousand children in June 1998.

36. PROVISION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INPUTS IN EMERGENCY SETTINGS: [CONGO/BRAZ- ZAVILLE]

Guiding principle 19 addresses “reproductive health care” during displacement crises. To assist in the provision of basic reproductive health services during the emergency phase of a crisis situation, the “minimum initial service package” [MISP] was put into operation by the United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]. The MISP consists of: reproductive health kits of material resources necessary to implement services, including essential drugs, supplies and basic surgical equipment; guidelines and training materials; and human resources in the form of a reproductive health coordinator. UNFPA field tested and is stockpiling the reproductive health kits.

The MISP was used in Brazzaville, Congo from December 1997 to March 1998, when the displaced population returned after a five-month civil war to a largely destroyed city. In cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies [IFRC] and the NGO International Rescue Committee [IRC], a program was initiated that included distribution of reproductive health kits and training for local health staff on HIV-AIDS precautions, family planning, safe delivery, sexual violation, and other topics.

37. LOCAL RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO SUPPORT REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE FOR DISPLACED INDIVIDUALS: [SRI LANKA]

In Sri Lanka, the long internal conflict and related displacement of more than 1 million people created severe shortages of important health personnel. For example, WHO documented more than 700 vacant midwife positions in the northeastern part of the country, where fighting and displacement were concentrated, resulting in increased morbidity and suffering within displaced communities and other conflict-affected populations. Moreover, ethnic sensitivities and practical transport issues rendered impractical the previous system of centralized training in the capital for replacement midwives. WHO took steps to remedy the shortage by advocating with the government for local recruitment of midwives and local training in the local language in the affected northeastern regions. WHO's efforts resulted in the filling of many vacant positions and improved obstetric and neonatal services for the internally displaced.

38. A COMBINATION OF RELIEF AND SELF-HELP INTERVENTIONS IN EMERGENCY PROGRAMS ON BEHALF OF DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [SOMALIA]

Severe flooding in the Lower Juba Valley in 1995 drove tens of thousands of Somalis from their homes and prompted the ICRC to distribute life-sustaining emergency supplies to more than 9 thousand families. In addition to the relief distribution of a month's supply of

maize, beans, and cooking oil, families received self-help material, including fishing equipment and seeds, that would sustain them during an extended displacement or assist in recovery after return.

As the Lower Juba Valley contained a very large number of poor families, the ICRC was concerned that distributions to flood-displaced would stigmatize these recipients in the eyes of their neighbors. The ICRC, including Somali staff, worked closely to involve village elders in the distribution program and to explain that the assistance was targeted at the most needy.

39. ADVOCACY FOR THE DISPLACED CHILD'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION: [SRI LANKA]

Displaced and returnee children attempting to re-enter school in Sri Lanka, often in environments where facilities are crowded and teacher shortages are common, can face serious barriers to enrollment. Lack of school uniforms, inability to pay fees, registration or documentation problems, malnourishment, stigmatization, and resistance by local communities already facing shortages all lessen the likelihood that displaced children will continue their education.

UNICEF and program partners in Sri Lanka undertook advocacy campaigns with local and national authorities to break down barriers to education for displaced children. Partly as a result of such advocacy, the Sri Lankan Ministry of Education issued a national circular aimed at relaxing registration barriers and directing local schools to facilitate the enrolment of displaced and returnee children.

Protecting Rights to Identity and Basic Freedoms

40. SUPPORT OF DOCUMENTATION PROGRAMS FOR THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED TO FACILITATE RETURN: [EL SALVADOR]

Following the attainment of peace in El Salvador in 1992, a lack of identity documents among the internally displaced proved to be a major obstacle to their return and reintegration. In close collaboration with the government, UNHCR launched a large-scale documentation project on behalf of 1 million Salvadorans. In addition to providing documents to persons who were previously displaced, the project helped to restore municipal archives by reprocessing Electoral Council data. The government of El Salvador assumed its responsibilities by facilitating the documentation project through the promulgation of relevant decrees.

41. OUTREACH TO GUARANTEE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS THE RIGHT TO A LEGAL IDENTITY: [COLOMBIA]

As in many environments of large-scale displacement, Colombians forced to flee their homes often encounter problems with identification documents. Documents are lost, children are born in circumstances where registration is difficult or, in some cases, fear of being recognized by persecutors drives displaced individuals to destroy their identity cards—at great cost in lost opportunities for jobs or public services.

A cooperative program between UNICEF and Colombian government agencies, supported by ECHO, organizes “one-stop” registration campaigns that make it easier for internally displaced persons to regain identity documents. Materials developed by “registration brigades” are written clearly, in simple language, and are widely distributed to encourage participation. Multiple sites are selected for visits by the registration brigades to overcome transportation obstacles

faced by displaced families. And, of special note, registration programs were targeted at areas—like the Colombian-Ecuadorian border region—where temporary displacement near national boundaries may further confuse registration requirements. In the August to September 1988 registration campaign, for example, dozens of registration sites were opened in border areas, and individuals of either Colombian or Ecuadorian citizenship were eligible to participate at any center on either side of the frontier.

42. PROGRAMS TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF DOCUMENTATION IN DISPLACED COMMUNITIES AND TO PREVENT ABUSES: [AZERBAIJAN]

During displacements related to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, thousands of Azerbaijanis lost their identification documents and made use of a government document called “form number nine” as a substitute for lost documents. Noting apparent inflation in the beneficiary rolls, WFP staff researched the availability of form number nine. Studies indicated that multiple copies of the form were widely available from illicit sources for a nominal cost, increasing the food assistance case load to twelve times the genuine level. WFP worked with Azerbaijani government officials to correct the flawed design of form number nine, making printing of false documentation more difficult, and to find other ways to control forged documents.

With the goal of ensuring that benefits reached target displaced populations, WFP also worked with relief partners in Azerbaijan to computerize beneficiary data and to exchange diskettes to cross check duplication in beneficiary lists. In 1999, WFP reported that 10 percent duplication was discovered in beneficiary lists from partner organizations.

43. INCORPORATION OF COMMUNITY PREFERENCES AND THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF WOMEN INTO RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO DISPLACED COMMUNITIES: [AZERBAIJAN]

In Azerbaijan, WFP provides food assistance to a large percentage of the estimated one-half million internally displaced. After discussions with displaced community leaders, WFP modified the composition of the food ration to alternative—equally nutritious and comparably priced—commodities, based on the community's stated preferences. For example, a simple change in the allotment from green peas to white beans, as requested by the community, boosted community morale and retained some element of community control over its diet.

In the same communities, WFP—to diminish the sexual exploitation sometimes associated with food deliveries—delivered food directly to women recipients. WFP's implementing partner, World Vision International, also ensures that women staff members are present in displaced communities during food distribution to assess and monitor the equity of the distribution.

44. SURVEYS OF ATTITUDES IN DISPLACED COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT APPROPRIATE DESIGN OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: [SRI LANKA]

Several international organizations working with the displaced in Sri Lanka completed detailed surveys of community attitudes, to help structure program interventions. Save the Children Fund and OXFAM, working in conjunction in the late 1990s, completed three annual, in-depth surveys of displaced persons' perspectives, including the perspectives of internally displaced children. In Sri Lanka, the ICRC completed a dwelling-by-dwelling visit of each displaced family benefiting from its programs. These agencies report that insights gained from the studies greatly benefited program design and their understanding of the displaced community.

4.5. INVOLVEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS WITH SPECIAL SKILLS IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS: [AZERBAIJAN]

Among Azerbaijan's one-half million internally displaced are many individuals with highly developed technical skills and capabilities. Two program efforts by international agencies make use of these skills to assist the rehabilitation effort and provide income to displaced communities. In camps managed by the IFRC, for example, displaced persons with medical skills provide much of the health care to residents. Utilizing food for work and other types of payment, IFRC's program delivers cost-effective health care, while allowing medical practitioners to retain skills and generate income.

UNHCR's "Public Building Rehabilitation Project" in Azerbaijan improves the public facilities housing many displaced families through winterization efforts, electrical safety improvements, water and sanitation upgrades, and partition of family living spaces. UNHCR and implementing partners have hired contractors from within the internally displaced community for much of this work, increasing opportunities for income in the short-term and developing business skills that will remain in demand in the future.