

## Regional News Roundup

### AFRICA

#### Go ahead for IDP convention

African Union members have adopted plans to implement the Kampala convention on the protection of internally displaced people, including increasing their contributions to refugee and IDP funding and accelerating the convention's ratification, signature and domestication, the AU said. Signed by 26 countries since it was endorsed in the Ugandan capital of Kampala on 23 October 2009, the convention obliges governments to recognize that IDPs have specific vulnerabilities and must be supported, according to Walter Kälin, Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. AU ministers responsible for forced displacement, who met in Addis Ababa on 4 and 5 June, agreed to seek support for implementation from non-traditional and private sector partners and to accelerate the convention's ratification at an AU summit in Kampala in July. Domestication includes voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement, and strategies for prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and peace building. More than 10 million sub-Saharan Africans are affected by forced displacement, according to the AU.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=89445>

UNHCR chief says 2009 "worst" year for voluntary repatriation in two decades Some 43.3 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide at the end of 2009, the highest number of people uprooted by conflict and persecution since the mid-1990s, according to the UN refugee agency's annual 2009 Global Trends report, released on Tuesday. At the same time, the number of refugees voluntarily returning to their home countries has fallen to its lowest level in twenty years. "Major conflicts such as those in Afghanistan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo show no signs of being resolved," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. "Conflicts that had appeared to be ending or were on the way to being resolved, such as in southern Sudan or in Iraq, are stagnating. As a result last year was not a good year for voluntary repatriation. In fact, it was the worst in twenty years." UNHCR's report shows that only 251,000 refugees went home in 2009, the lowest since 1990. This compares to a norm over the past decade of around a million people repatriating each year. "Already a majority of the world's refugees have been living as refugees for five years or more. Inevitably, that proportion will grow – if fewer refugees are able to go home," Guterres added, referring to the over 5.5 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate in a protracted situation.

Read more: <http://www.unhcr.org/4c11eadd9.html>

Full report: <http://www.unhcr.org/4c11f0be9.html>

Much work left to do on cluster munitions Great strides have been made in getting cluster munitions banned but there is still some way to go, said campaigners at a global conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) that ended on 9 June in Santiago, Chile. The conference sought to put together a plan of action to implement the Convention, and laid the groundwork for the first meeting of States Parties in Laos in November this year. "There is much work left to do - there are countries that have not signed the convention yet, and many others that have signed but not ratified," said CMC campaigner Branislav Kapetanovic, a former deminer from Serbia who lost his hands and feet during a demining accident in the former Yugoslavia. So far, 106 states have signed the convention and 36 have ratified it. Signatories that have yet to ratify the convention are bound by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties to ensure they do not act against the object and purpose of the convention, although they are not bound to implement its content as such.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89434>

### KENYA

Speedy reform needed to deal with past injustices and prevent future displacement In early 2008, an estimated 650,000 Kenyans were displaced and a further 1,300 lost their lives during two months of intense communal violence after the announcement of presidential and parliamentary election results. The incumbent, Mwai Kibaki, leader of the Party of National Unity (PNU), was

declared to have defeated Raila Odinga, head of the opposition Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) in the presidential contest, despite the fact the PNU won fewer parliamentary seats. Both local and international observers questioned the results. Some families displaced by post-election violence have not returned home, whilst those that have are concerned about safety and insecurity. State officials have been accused of mismanaging and embezzling funds intended for the resettlement of those displaced by post election violence. Meanwhile, the situation of people displaced by earlier violence in various areas has not been adequately addressed, and in 2009 violence over access to natural resources, often involving government security forces, resulted in further displacement. Separate commissions investigated post-election violence and the conduct of the election, but the government had not acted on their recommendations by mid-2010. Amendments to the constitution are to be put to a national referendum in August 2010. There is a fear that if reforms are not implemented, violence may cause further displacement in the build up to the 2012 polls.

Read more:

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/\(httpCountries\)/6E38F8898D53EB58802570A7004B4BCB?OpenDocument&count=1000](http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/(httpCountries)/6E38F8898D53EB58802570A7004B4BCB?OpenDocument&count=1000)

## UGANDA

Mixed report card for ICC

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is beginning to deliver justice to survivors of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, but the world has yet to fully commit to ending impunity for the gravest crimes, according to participants at a conference in Kampala reviewing the court's legal foundation. "While the ICC has its shortcomings, it provides a backstop to impunity." Oby Nwankwo, executive director of Nigeria's Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre, said in Uganda, where the

31 May-11 June conference was taking

place. "Established on 1 July 2002, the ICC is conducting investigations in the DRC, Uganda, CAR, Kenya and Sudan, and has issued 13 arrest warrants for eight cases. But critics say the Court has taken too long to conclude cases and is too focused on African countries.

Read more: <http://www.IRINnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89423>

## SUDAN

Unsettled prospects for Jonglei State

Continuing conflict has displaced thousands of people in Jonglei State, Southern Sudan, while poor crop production and the lean season have led to extreme levels of food insecurity, especially in Akobo County. Poor and displaced households - about 30 percent to 40 percent of Akobo's population - are likely to meet only 60 percent of basic food needs this year, although slight improvements in food security are expected with the green harvest in September, FEWSNET said. Aid workers in Southern Sudan said Jonglei had been quieter since January 2010. In 2009 more than 2,500 people were killed and 350,000 displaced by violence across the state, and between January and June 2010 some 450 were killed, according to UN estimates. Tensions rose over the outcome of Sudan's historic elections in April, created by a standoff between former Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) general George Athor, and his former colleagues in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89440>