

Appendix 1 - Terms of reference

A Review of UNHCR's involvement in IDP situations

UNHCR's role and responsibilities with regard to the internally displaced has evolved over the past decades. Critics, both within and outside UNHCR have described UNHCR's approach to IDP situations as unilateral, unpredictable, not clearly articulated and not sufficiently linked to existing criteria.

For several years, there has been recognition of the need to address this problem. But, as the new WG acknowledged at its first meeting, there has not been a serious analysis of the variables that have influenced or determined UNHCR's involvement in IDP situations in recent years.

The purpose of this review is to fill this gap in our knowledge, and to establish a more realistic understanding of the possibilities for UNHCR to be more consistent and predictable in relation to its involvement in IDP situations.

The review will focus primarily on the following:

- Who takes the decision of engagement (or non engagement) and at whose request? Is the process transparent?
- To what extent are existing policy criteria used in operational decision making?
- At what point in time does UNHCR make decisions about involvement with IDPs?
- If UNHCR does get involved, what is the nature and extent of the involvement?
- To what extent is UNHCR engaged in inter-agency discussions on IDP throughout the process? How are UNHCR's decisions communicated to external actors regarding its role with IDPs?

The review will be conducted by a team comprised of an independent consultant and a UNHCR/EPAU staff member between 1 July and 26 August 2004.

The review will be undertaken from Headquarters and will include a review of documentation, archival research and interviews with key informants. A report, supported by case studies (Angola, Burundi, Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, Uganda, Colombia, Sri Lanka, and if time allows Sudan) is expected to provide overall lessons learned and implications for UNHCR's further involvement with IDP populations.

The evaluation will be managed by EPAU and the report will be submitted to the IDP Working Group and may be used as a basis for a submission to the Operational Policy Committee and possibly to the Senior Management Committee.

EPAU, 1 July 2004