

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Protection

OVERVIEW

Since 2005, USAID/OFDA has modified policies and programming guidelines to more explicitly address protection of vulnerable populations. This evolution has included the development of a USAID-wide policy for IDPs, the first to be adopted by any donor country. USAID/OFDA has *clarified the message on protection* to partners and now offers a new guidance section on protection as part of the Additional Program Description Requirements (APDRs) in the newly revised proposal guidelines.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROTECTION APDRS

Mainstreaming protection refers to designing and implementing a humanitarian activity within traditional response sectors in a manner *that reduces risks or harm to vulnerable populations*. The APDRS require that mainstreamed protection activities *be described in specific and adequate detail*, with illustrations and examples of activities. Stating that “protection is mainstreamed” in a proposal is not sufficient.

Stand-alone protection programs identify *vulnerable groups of people that need protection* from the effects of war and disasters, as well as threats and violations. These programs also specify the *nature of violations, threats, and abuses*; their *impact on people’s lives*; and the extent to which vulnerable populations are able to cope with the additional risks.

UPDATES ON USAID/OFDA-FUNDED IDP AND PROTECTION PROGRAMS

- **Darfur:** Despite significant challenges, USAID/OFDA partners are implementing humanitarian protection strategies, including responding to sexual and gender-based violence, improving camp coordination activities, and targeting vulnerable populations for assistance.
- **Cote d’Ivoire and Liberia:** USAID/OFDA staff met with IDPs and returnees to identify and address outstanding protection issues, noting that the recent rape law passed by the Government of Liberia is an important step toward helping sexual and gender-based violence concerns in the country.
- **Sri Lanka:** Since the renewed fighting between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam separatist group in 2006, USAID/OFDA has increased protection funding to several partners for activities ranging from child-friendly spaces to psychosocial support.
- **USAID/OFDA IDP and Humanitarian Protection Workshops:** USAID/OFDA protection staff members have begun to offer protection workshops in the field for colleagues and implementing partners. Workshops have been conducted in the Latin America and the Caribbean and West Africa regions, with another planned in Southern Africa in June 2007.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

- USAID IDP Policy
www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/200mbc.pdf
- USAID/OFDA Grant Guidelines
www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/resources/pdf/guidelines_2006.pdf
- ALNPAP Humanitarian Protection Booklet
www.odi.org.uk/rights/Publications/protectionbooklet3.pdf
- Growing the Sheltering Tree
www.icva.ch/files/gstree.pdf