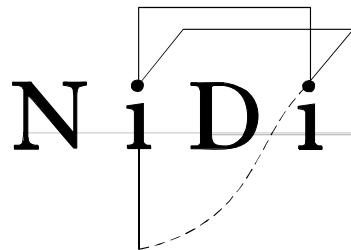


The Living Conditions of Refugees in Armenia and Pakistan, Asylum-seekers in Ecuador and Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka

06/AB/VAR/CM/203-1193017

Sub-Project Monitoring Report Narrative report

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1. Sub-project overview

The project aimed at an assessment of the living conditions and coping behaviour of persons to the concern of UNHCR. The target populations consisted of refugees (Armenia and Pakistan), (semi) illegal asylum-seekers in Ecuador and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka. The living conditions were specifically addressed in terms of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The comparative perspective that is implied by the multi-country and multi-population interest was an explicit objective of the project. The longer-term objective is to better provide protection and assistance to the targeted populations. The principal research methodology for Armenia, Ecuador and Sri Lanka consisted of a sample survey. The Pakistan component was a limited desk study, based on existing data collected in an earlier UNHCR/NIDI survey.

The present MDG project concerns the follow-up to Sub-Project 05/AB/VAR/CM/203, which started on 1 September 2005 and was completed on 31 December 2005. This monitoring report addresses the two sub-projects in conjunction.

Since the project was an exercise to assess the MDG-related living conditions of persons to the concern of UNHCR, rather than a project aimed at direct intervention or assistance, the standard format of the monitoring report is partly of less relevance, especially with regard to sections 2 and 4.

The original project completion date was set at 31 May 2006. Due to obstacles encountered in the phase of data collection in the field, as well as extensive analyses on a broad range of topics, in consultation with UNHCR dates for submission of the country reports were moved to 31 July 2006. Draft final reports for Armenia and Sri Lanka were submitted in July, those for Pakistan and Ecuador in August, and the comparative summary report early September.

2. Description of beneficiaries

The data collected on the populations in Armenia, Ecuador and Sri Lanka reflect the situation as per the first half of 2006. Since then the situation in Sri Lanka might have changed to some extent given the intensification of the conflict in the country this year. The description of the MDG assessment of the refugee population in Pakistan is based on data collected in the first quarter of 2002.

The beneficiary populations of refugees in Armenia, (semi) illegal asylum-seekers in Ecuador and Internally Displaced Persons in Sri Lanka were narrowed down to target populations in specific districts or provinces in the respective countries. The Afghan refugee population in Pakistan was fully represented in the 2002 survey.

Tables 1a-1d provide the distributions of the sampled populations to the concern of UNHCR included in the respective country surveys, by age and sex. The tables also include the approximate total populations from which these samples are drawn and to which survey results refer.

Table 1a Sample population of refugees¹ in Armenia included in MDG survey, by age and sex; and population represented by sample

Age group	Male		Female		Total		Population represented ¹
	Abs.	Perc.	Abs.	Perc.	Abs.	Perc.	
0-4	0	0	1	0.1	1	0.1	4
5-19	23	4.8	37	5.5	59	5.3	206
20-59	302	64.0	404	60.8	706	61.8	2,405
60+	147	31.2	223	33.6	370	32.8	1,276
Total	472	100.0	664	100.0	1,136	100.0	3,891

Locations: Syunik province

¹ In Armenia the surveyed refugee population included naturalised former refugees.

² Based on UNHCR census, 2005

Table 1b Sample population of (semi-legal) asylum seekers in Armenia included in MDG survey, by age and sex

Age group	Male		Female		Total		Population represented
	Abs.	Perc.	Abs.	Perc.	Abs.	Perc.	
0-4	30	12.1	22	9.6	52	10.9	No reliable data available
5-19	112	45.3	92	40.0	204	42.8	
20-59	98	39.7	111	48.3	209	43.8	
60+	7	2.8	5	2.2	12	2.5	
Total	247	100.0	230	100.0	477	100.0	

Locations: Esmeraldas, Carchi, Imbabura, Pichincha and Sucumbios

Table 1c Sample population of IDPs in Sri Lanka included in MDG survey, by age and sex; and population represented by sample

Age group	Male		Female		Total		Population represented ¹
	Abs.	Perc.	Abs.	Perc.	Abs.	Perc.	
0-4	91	5.7	211	12.6	301	9.2	10,375
5-19	588	37.0	574	34.3	1,161	35.6	39,988
20-59	811	51.1	796	47.6	1,608	49.3	55,359
60+	98	6.2	92	5.5	190	5.8	6,558
Total	1,588	100.0	1,673	100.0	3,261	100.0	112,280

Locations: Mannar, Vavunya, Trincomalee and Anuradhapura/Polonnaruwa districts

¹ Based on UNHCR Statistical summary, November 2004

Table 1d Sample population of refugees in Pakistan included in UNHCR 2002 survey, by age and sex; and estimated population represented by sample

Age group	Male		Female		Total		Population represented
	Abs.	Perc.	Abs.	Perc.	Abs.	Perc.	
0-4	572	13.1	571	15.6	1,143	14.3	428,326
5-19	1,919	44.1	1,574	43.1	3,494	43.6	828,903
20-59	1,650	37.9	1,402	38.4	3,052	38.1	724,164
60+	214	4.9	105	2.9	319	4.0	75,659
Total	4,356	100.0	3,652	100.0	8,008	100.0	3,000,000

Locations: Nation-wide (camps and urban)

3. Implementation arrangements

UNHCR, Geneva has commissioned the project to the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI). As the implementing agency, NIDI coordinated the project and had primary responsibility for country comparability, questionnaire development, training material and curriculum development, sample design, analysis plan and report outline/format. Sample implementation, operational logistics, data collection, interviewer training and data processing was to be undertaken by local counterpart executing agencies, with feedback from and under supervision of NIDI. In the case of Ecuador, direct project supervision, sampling design and report writing was carried out by Prof. Richard Bilsborrow (University of North Carolina (UNC), who was associated to NIDI for this purpose. In the case of Sri Lanka, analysis of results and production of the country report has been a joint endeavour of NIDI and local executing agencies. In the case of Armenia, NIDI performed all data analysis and report writing. The Pakistan desk study was entirely a NIDI activity, as was the production of the comparative summary report. UNHCR liaison officers were identified in each country, and provided valuable logistic support to the project.

Table 2 Distribution of primary responsibility for project tasks

<i>Project tasks</i>	<i>NIDI</i>	<i>UNC</i>	<i>Local agency</i>
Project coordination	X		
Questionnaire development	X		
Training material	X (Arm, SL, (Pak))	X (Ec)	
Curriculum development	X (Arm, SL, (Pak))	X (Ec)	
Sample design	X (Arm, (Pak))	X (Ec)	X (SL)
Analysis plan	X		
Report outline/format	X		
Sample implementation			X (all countries)
Operational logistics			X (all countries)
Interviewer training		X (Ec)	X (all countries)
Data-entry programme	X (Arm)		X (Ec, SL, Pak)
Data-processing guidelines	X (Arm, SL, (Pak))	X (Ec)	
Data processing			X (all countries)
Country supervision	X (Arm, SL, (Pak))	X (Ec)	
Analysis	X (Arm, SL, Pak)	X (Ec)	X (SL)
Country reports	X (Arm, SL, Pak)	X (Ec)	X (SL)
Comparative summary report	X		

Local agencies involved in fieldwork and data processing, with technical backstopping from NIDI/UNC included:

Ecuador - Centro de Estudios de Poblacion y Desarrollo Social (CEPAR), Quito

Sri Lanka - Health Policy Research Associates (HPRA), Colombo

Armenia - Armenia UNHCR country office, Yerevan

The 2002 survey among Afghan refugees in Pakistan involved Dataline Services, Islamabad

Compared to the 2005 sub-project, the 2006 sub-project had data analysis and report writing for Armenia entirely shifted to NIDI in view of the limited local capacity in this area. The project budget was accordingly adjusted. Severe winter conditions in Armenia delayed the start of the main body of field work to the beginning of February and hampered fieldwork implementation well into April. The country team also required additional time for the database development and data processing.

In Sri Lanka, constraints in fieldwork operations (sample implementation and data collection, government support) were related to the intensified conflict and the deteriorating security situation throughout all survey districts. The evolving situation caused problems for sampling and fieldwork operations. In effect, the total sample size was restricted from 1,500 to just over 1,000 households and fieldwork was shifted to safer periods and areas.

In Ecuador, the main problem consisted of fewer cases produced from the sampling procedure than anticipated. An additional round of snowballing had to be performed in order to produce a number of (illegal) respondent households that was within acceptable margins from the target sample size. In addition, the fieldwork was temporarily slowed down by local tensions in various parts of the country.

These various circumstances and constraints lead to the delivery of the five draft final reports (separate country reports for Armenia, Ecuador, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, and a comparative summary report) two months later than planned.

4. Impact on the protection situation of the beneficiaries and UNHCR's policy priorities

The sub-project did not aim at direct interventions or assistance to refugee populations, and, therefore, has no direct measurable impact on the beneficiaries. Rather, its aim was to provide UNHCR and governments or other development agencies with relevant information to support decision making and priority setting.

5. Related inputs and projects

NIDI contributed extensively to the sub-project from own resources. To the 2005 sub-project, NIDI added USD 49,994 to the UNHCR project budget of 147,681 (25% of overall expenditure). To the 2006 sub-project, NIDI contributed USD 51,069 in addition to the UNHCR project budget of USD 139,553 (27% of overall expenditure). Overall, NIDI's contribution was, therefore, USD 101,063 (26% of overall expenditure). See also the financial monitoring reports of the 2005 and 2006 project phases, as well as the combined overview (Tables 3a-c), in addition to the Financial Monitoring Report.

NIDI has no insight into the financial contributions made by the University of North Carolina and local implementing agencies (HPRA, CEPAR, UNHCR) in addition to the UNHCR project budget transferred through NIDI. At least for UNC and HPRA it is known that this has been significant since the amount of time spent on the project was considerably more than anticipated.

Table 3a Financial overview of project phase 1
(September-December 2005; sub-project code 05/AB/VAR/CM/203(a\$))

Budget line	Activity	UNHCR budget and contribution	Realised costs			NIDI contribution	Balance UNHCR budget
			Local implementing agencies	NIDI/UNC (incl. TA and supervision)	Total		
0010	Desk study Pakistan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
0020	Survey Armenia	10,790	P.M.	32,421	32,421	21,631	0
0030	Survey Sri Lanka	72,092	63,102	20,428	83,530	11,438	0
0040	Survey Ecuador	59,549	36,142	26,613	62,755	3,206	0
0050	General tasks	5,250	NA	18,968	18,968	13,718	0
Total		147,681	99,244	98,431	197,675	49,994	0

Table 3b Financial overview of project phase 2
(January-December 2006; sub-project code 06/AB/VAR/CM/203)

Budget line	Activity	UNHCR budget and contribution	Realised costs			NIDI contribution	Balance UNHCR budget
			Local implementing agencies	NIDI/UNC (incl. TA and supervision)	Total		
0010	Desk study Pakistan	5,250	NA	8,194	8,194	2,944	0
0020	Survey Armenia	10,790	P.M.	42,817	42,817	32,027	0
0030	Survey Sri Lanka	30,726	21,736	11,410	33,146	2,420	0
0040	Survey Ecuador	82,537	63,724	26,010	89,734	7,197	0
0050	General tasks	10,250	NA	16,731	16,731	6,481	0
Total		139,553	85,460	105,162	190,622	51,069	0

Table 3c Financial overview of project phases 1 and 2

Budget line	Activity	UNHCR budget and contribution	Realised costs			NIDI contribution	Balance UNHCR budget
			Local implementing agencies	NIDI/UNC (incl. TA and supervision)	Total		
0010	Desk study Pakistan	5,250	NA	8,194	8,194	2,944	0
0020	Survey Armenia	21,580	P.M.	75,238	75,238	53,658	0
0030	Survey Sri Lanka	102,818	84,838	31,838	116,677	13,858	0
0040	Survey Ecuador	142,086	99,866	52,623	152,489	10,403	0
0050	General tasks	15,500	NA	35,699	35,699	20,199	0
Total		287,234	184,704	203,593	388,297	101,063	0

6. Reporting on progress against indicators

Impact indicators	Actual progress
The core of the survey questionnaires will consist of information related to the measurement of relevant MDG indicators.	The sub-project fully produced the planned information related to the living situation in terms of relevant and feasible MDG indicators.
In addition, data on household wealth status and livelihoods, migration history and special needs, and basic demographics will be collected	In addition, the country reports for Armenia, Sri Lanka and Ecuador, and to a lesser extent Pakistan, provided a wide range of information on the socio-economic and demographic profile of the relevant populations, migration and fleeing histories, and vulnerability, special needs and coping behaviours.

	In Sri Lanka, Ecuador and Armenia, reference populations were included in the survey as to compare the situation of people to the concern of UNHCR with other local populations (gap analysis).
	A comparative report provided an overall summary view and put the MDG information in a comparative perspective. It also compared the differences of MDG indicators between refugees/asylum seekers/IDPs and non-refugees/asylum seekers/IDPs across the surveyed countries.

<i>Performance indicators</i>	<i>Actual progress</i>
UNHCR (DOS) commissions the project on MDGs for refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers to the NIDI.	UNHCR (DOS) commissioned the project on MDGs for refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers to the NIDI in September 2005 (2005 sub-project) and March 2006 (2006 sub-project).
NIDI provide a team of survey and migration/refugee experts to coordinate the project, analyse results and provide technical supervision and backstopping to local implementing organisations.	NIDI provided a team of survey and migration/refugee experts to coordinate the project, analyse results and provide technical supervision and backstopping to local implementing organisations. The team included a sub-contracted supervisor from UNC for the Ecuador component.
For Ecuador and Sri Lanka qualified counterpart sub-contractors will be hired to conduct data collection and contribute to analysis and report writing.	For Ecuador and Sri Lanka qualified counterpart sub-contractors (see section 3 of this report) have been hired to conduct data collection, process data and contribute to analysis and report writing. The local counterparts performed in accordance with the NIDI sub-contracts (except for the timing of deliverables due to external circumstances) and were rewarded accordingly.
In Armenia, the UNHCR country office will be responsible for the local counterpart tasks.	In Armenia, the UNHCR country office was be responsible for data collection and data processing. Except for the timing of deliverables due to external circumstances, UNHCR delivered in accordance with guidelines of NIDI. NIDI was responsible for analysis and report writing.
	Draft final country reports (4) and a comparative summary report were submitted to UNHCR in July/August 2006. Final reports were submitted in November 2006.

7. Overall assessment of sub-project results

The project's aim was to provide information to UNHCR on the living conditions of refugee populations. Overall impact cannot be assessed in the framework of this sub-project.

In different phases of the project – especially in the initial phases and during questionnaire design – cooperation was sought and attained with various agencies; besides local UNHCR offices, these included government departments, UNDP, UNICEF and ILO.

With regard to unmet needs and lessons learned and recommendations, the project reports identified disadvantages and specific needs for the surveyed populations in terms of MDGs and coping. Reference is made to the comparative summary report and, more specifically, the country reports. The executive summaries of these reports are attached to this document as Annexes IIa-e.

Annex IIa Executive summary Armenia country report

To support their work in Armenia, UNHCR carried out the fall of 2005 a ‘census’ in Syunik province whereby all towns and villages were screened for the presence of refugees and naturalized former refugees. At that time, 1766 households were identified with refugees or naturalized former refugees. The results of this census provided the sampling frame for the survey on living conditions of refugees, including naturalised former refugees. Below, the term “refugee” includes refugees and naturalized former refugees. The sample design was a multi-stage stratified non-self-weighting sample design to sample 660 refugee households and 330 households of non-refugees (called ‘locals’). Eventually, 552 households of refugees and 312 households of locals were successfully interviewed. The prime objective of this report is to provide estimates of MDG indicators for the refugee population in comparison with estimates of such indicators of non-refugees, called ‘locals’. Where possible we make the distinction between two types of refugee households: households in which all members are refugees (i.e. refugee households), households in which one or more members are refugees (mixed households) and households without refugees (households of locals). The latter constitute the benchmark group, that is, they are a representative sample of the non-refugee households in the province.

For a number of MDG indicators the differentiation between refugee and mixed households is simply not possible, either because information on a sufficient number of cases not available (e.g. on orphans), which is indicated as n.a. (see the endnotes to the summary table for important information on particular indicators), or, because the information of particular indicators is simply not available at all, in particular for refugee households when it comes to data on children. Children born in Armenia to ethnic Armenian refugees are by law Armenian citizens. Therefore, we decided to name households with such a mixture of adults and children “mixed households”. In such cases, cells in the summary table below have been merged. Where the number of cases or the analysis appeared large enough we have provided in the main text urban-rural estimates for these three types of households as well. In addition to information on MDG indicators, additional analyses were carried out to provide more ‘context’ to the MDG indicator values, such as information on perceived income, on perceived income relative to that of others in the community, perceived food-security, indebtedness and on how the inhabitants of Syunik manage to cope with their critical living conditions, including the assistance received to meet certain critical needs, such as housing, food, medical support, and clothing.

The summary table on the next two pages describe main findings. It is concluded that refugee households do constitute a vulnerable group in the province, though their living conditions as measured in terms of the levels of many MDG indicators are, statistically speaking, not much different from levels of indicators pertaining to ‘locals’. Some MDG indicators take on values that are, more in general, reason for concern as 90% of the persons living in mixed households live on less than national poverty line of US\$ 4 per day, which is considerably higher than the situation in households of locals (74%). The combined figure for refugee and mixed households of 77% though is only slightly higher than the situation in households of locals. Both figures also indicate that, more in general, living conditions in Syunik province in terms of income are not favourable as about three out of four persons in Suynik Province live below the national poverty line. Immunization rates of children in households with refugees (i.e. mixed households) are somewhat lower than in households of locals and so is the proportion of persons with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS that is 8% vis-à-vis 10%. Refugee and mixed households are also less endowed in terms of being connected by means of a telephone, in rural as well as urban areas.

Annex IIb Executive summary Ecuador country report

For decades small numbers of Colombians have been entering Ecuador as international migrants, seeking work and a better way of life, as well as to escape from the civil strife and violence in Colombia. But migration to escape the violence has increased considerably since the late 1990's. Data from the most recent population census and other sources indicate a substantial increase in Colombians living in Ecuador. The Government of Ecuador is interested in understanding better the origins and characteristics of this increasing flow of international migrants, which is the main influx of international migrants to Ecuador, as well as their living situation in Ecuador, including degree of assimilation, economic situation, living standards, plans to remain and in general their benefits and costs to Ecuador. The local office of UNHCR in Ecuador, ACNUR, is also very interested in having much better data about Colombians in Ecuador in order to determine how many persons and families are in need of protection and assistance as refugees or asylum seekers or likely to seek that status, how many could qualify, and what the numbers are likely to be in the future.

This monograph summarizes the results of a project intended to provide detailed information about Colombians living in Ecuador who arrived recently. The project centred on a household survey, "Survey on Living Conditions of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Other Recent Immigrants from Colombia." In the absence of more recent or complete data, the sampling frame for the survey was the November 2001 census of population. The survey used a multi-stage, stratified, largely self-weighting sample design to sample households containing Colombians who arrived in Ecuador after January 1, 2000 and who were at least age 15 at the time of arrival (to ensure they were involved in the decisionmaking process). In the end, those for whom complete data were collected included 123 households comprising *only* refugees or asylum seekers, 99 households containing *both* refugees/asylum seekers and others, and 277 households containing only Colombian immigrants who had *not* asked for asylum or refugee status. The sample was intended to be representative of all Colombians who came to Ecuador during the six-year period from January 1, 2000 (an easy date for respondents to recall) up to the time of the survey in early 2006, but financial constraints made it necessary to limit the geographic coverage of the survey to the five northern provinces--the five receiving the largest numbers of migrants from Colombia in 2005. The survey provides a wealth of data on the composition and characteristics of Colombians entering Ecuador since 2000, including whether they are refugees or asylum seekers, the assistance they have received, and their need for further assistance. Data from the survey indicate that nearly 2 in 5 of the Colombians arriving in Ecuador actively seek assistance as refugees or asylum seekers, but the numbers in need of assistance are undoubtedly higher.

The survey results show that refugees/asylum seekers as well as some other recent migrants from Colombia constitute an important vulnerable group in Ecuador, with high levels of unemployment and poverty (higher than those of non-refugee migrants from Colombia or of Ecuadorians) and that many live with insecurity and fear. Most but by no means all Colombian immigrants are aware of the existence of UNHCR (ACNUR) and the possibility of applying for and receiving assistance and most of those who say they have actually applied for protection and assistance from ACNUR have received it, from an apparently well-functioning program. That assistance was very important for them in the first months or year after arrival. But this assistance was almost always temporary and has long since ended for most of these households, who arrived throughout the six year period prior to the survey.

Given that almost 9 out of 10 of the migrants intend to remain in Ecuador (apparently thinking the 40-year violence in Colombia is not about to end), then several questions arise: (1) Do any refugees/asylum seekers have needs for assistance after the initial aid they receive from ACNUR, and how can those needs be met, or their problems alleviated? (2) Are there other Colombian migrants who are in need of protection and assistance who have not applied for it and why? (3) For those who are refugees, how can they be weaned of the need for assistance and better integrated into Ecuadorian life? Many refugees as well as many others who have not applied for refugee status (whose status as distinct from refugees is not always clear, since over 40% say they left Colombia due to the violence, albeit lower than the 80% figure for refugees) are unemployed or have low-paying jobs. This may be due in part to their lack of an inexpensive document that would give them legal permission to live in Ecuador and work. If the Ecuadorian government, working together with ACNUR, were to facilitate such a document, many migrants would likely improve their

living conditions on their own. This could be a very cost-effective way of addressing their poverty and deprivation, as well as their feeling of insecurity and vulnerability.

Apart from the economic differences above, the survey also yields other results that indicate that refugees from Colombia are generally not as well off as non-refugees, and the two groups generally have living conditions inferior to those of Ecuadorians, as measured by the Millennium Development Goal indicators. However, it is not possible to fully compare the circumstances of the Colombian migrants with those of Ecuadorians since it was not possible for this present survey to collect data from a comparable sample of Ecuadorians in the same study sites. As a result, data on Ecuadorians comes from independent sources, mainly from a high quality national demographic and health survey carried out about a year and a half before this survey (see Summary Table below, footnotes). That survey used different sampling methods and sometimes different questions to collect the data.

The results from the present survey indicate that education levels of refugees are slightly higher than those of non-refugees, though economic living conditions are inferior. Data on education indicate a lower enrolment ratio of girls than boys in primary school among refugees, unlike the situation for non-refugees and Ecuadorians; and greater adult illiteracy of females compared to males for refugees compared to other migrants from Colombia. Immunization levels are also slightly lower for refugee children than non-refugee children, but refugee women are more likely to have modern medical personnel attending their births. Both measures suggest that Colombian migrants have little difficulty obtaining health care equal to that of Ecuadorians on average. On the other hand, use of contraceptives including condoms is much lower among Colombians, indicating a need for better access to information and methods for spacing pregnancies, especially for refugees. Furthermore, Colombians have a huge deficit in access to secure housing compared to Ecuadorians. This is especially true for refugees, with very few having secure tenure, though partly due to their recent arrival. On the other hand, access to safe water is the same for Colombian migrants and Ecuadorians, but sanitary facilities are better for refugees than the other two groups. With respect to modern technology, refugees have little access to telephones or computers in their house—less than that of other Colombian migrants or Ecuadorians—but their use of cell phones and the internet is higher, indicating they have knowledge of technology and find ways to access it, despite having lower incomes and fewer assets.

In addition to information on MDG indicators, much additional data was collected and analyzed from the survey on the broader ‘context’ of living conditions of refugees and non-refugees. This includes information on their perceptions about whether their household income and food consumption is sufficient, on what they see as their major needs and on whether they feel secure or have any fears living in Ecuador. Results are also provided on coping behaviour, especially the types and sources of assistance received to meet their basic needs, such as housing, food and health care. A key issue is whether and how to assist those who are now in Ecuador for the long-term, beyond the initial protection and assistance (mainly food) that refugees receive from UNHCR. As noted above, one approach could be to improve access to an inexpensive document that would give them the right to work in Ecuador.

Annex IIc Executive summary Sri Lanka country report

As part of a global study examining the conditions and progress towards the MDGs in IDP populations, a survey was conducted of the IDP population in Sri Lanka. This survey examines the conditions faced by conflict-related IDPs in Sri Lanka, in the districts of Mannar, Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee. Other districts in which there are sizeable numbers of conflict-related IDPs were not surveyed. The survey also excluded half the IDPs in the country, whose displacement was the result of the December 2004 tsunami, many of whom were doubly displaced as a result of the conflict and the more recent tsunami.

To provide a comparison with an appropriate group, the survey also sampled non-IDP households living next to the surveyed IDP communities or households. The original target for the survey was a total of 1,500 households, but owing to operational difficulties and a worsening security situation, only 1,064 households were eventually surveyed, comprising 873 IDP households and 191 non-IDP households.

IDP households have a similar demographic structure to those of the non-IDP population, although the percentage of households who have children is modestly greater, and overall household size is larger. In terms of their displacement, the history of IDP households in all districts reflects the multiple waves of displacement that have occurred in the past two decades. Many in Mannar, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa come from afar afield as Jaffna and Vavuniya, whilst most of the rest are internally displaced within their own districts. Most IDPs have been separated from their original homes for more than five years, and most first fled more than 15 years ago. Only a small minority of IDPs desire to return to their original homes, and overall very few intend to do so, even in the longer term.

In terms of living conditions, IDPs are in most respects worse off than the average Sri Lankan household, and worse off than the typical residents of the districts and communities they now find themselves in. It was not possible to reliably assess the overall income level of the surveyed households, but data collected on ownership of household assets indicates that, whilst the non-IDP households surveyed are commonly drawn from the second and third poorest income quintiles in the country, IDPs are mostly concentrated in the poorest quintiles. IDPs, therefore, typically live below the national poverty line. Their generally precarious economic situation is reflected in their employment conditions – IDPs tend to be as likely to work as non-IDPs, but more of them do not participate in the workforce owing to household responsibilities and the need to care for other family members, and possibly because of discouragement at finding work if they search for it. The poorer economic status of IDP households is also reflected in lower rates of home ownership in both urban and rural areas, more inferior housing materials being used in their homes and worse than average access to improved sanitation and water supplies.

Nutritional and anthropometric indicators offer a better and less potentially unbiased measure of overall household status than direct questions concerning income. When statistics such as stunting and wasting in children are examined, the survey reveals that the non-IDP households are probably modestly worse off than the national average, but that the IDP children do even worse, with higher levels of stunting and wasting.

Access to education for IDPs appears to be relatively high and comparable with their non-IDP neighbours, with access even better in some respects. Primary school enrolment rates are uniformly high and similar to national levels, but it was found that literacy rates amongst young adults was lower than the national average, reflecting perhaps a legacy of disrupted schooling in previous years as a result of the conflict.

Whilst the levels of coverage with basic health services as immunization are high in the IDP population at over 80%, the average levels are still 10-15% lower than in the non-IDP population surveyed. With respect to access to maternal services, similarly access was also generally high for IDPs, with IDP mothers reporting high levels of access to antenatal care and to skilled attendance at child birth, but with some indications that they did slightly worse than the non-IDP mothers, with fewer IDPs than non-IDPs accessing antenatal care from doctors, and 4% of IDP mothers giving birth at home (compared with 1-2% nationally), and 8% of births being attended by traditional birth attendants (compared with 1-2% nationally). Importantly, it should be noted that the high levels of access to basic services was due almost exclusively to provision by the government, as the public sector accounted for almost all maternal and antenatal care received by IDPs.

Consistent with the picture of good access to healthcare, IDPs appear to have similar levels of access to family planning services as non-IDPs, and in fact use of condoms was higher than in non-IDPs. Compared with the results of the DHS 2000, both the IDP and non-IDPs surveyed had good knowledge of HIV/AIDS, suggesting that efforts to improve community awareness in the past six years have been successfully generally, and also especially in reaching the IDP populations, who would be expected to more vulnerable in this respect owing to their situation.

When asked questions about their general vulnerability and ability to access services, both IDPs and non-IDPs reported a significant level of problems, but these were generally higher in the case of non-IDPs. For example, the percentages of IDP households reporting problems in accessing healthcare (27%), education

(20%), obtaining official documents (13%), access to places of worship (19%) and ability to vote (15%) are generally half or double as much as that for non-IDPs.

In summary, the general picture that emerges from this study is that most IDPs have typically been in this state for many years, but have been living in their current places of residence for a number of years. Most do not want to return to their original homes for whatever reasons, but continue to live in conditions of precariousness and vulnerability, and most are essentially below the poverty line. On the positive side, it was found that despite their problems, access to government-provided health and education services was generally high, and often comparable to non-IDPs. More significant problems and disparities are found elsewhere, chiefly in areas related to normal living such as freedom from threats and dealings with the authorities.

Annex IId Executive summary Pakistan country report

To support their work in Pakistan, UNHCR carried out in the first quarter of 2002 a 'rapid' socioeconomic and demographic sample survey among Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Information was collected from 1044 refugee households and 8022 household members. The sample is representative of 97% of the Afghan refugee population who lived in camps and in urban areas in Pakistan at the time of the survey (see: Annex I and map A1).

At the time of the survey, the issue and need to collect information on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicators was not yet evident, which explains why the survey questionnaire (Annex 2) does not contain specific questions on more MDG indicators (e.g. health, comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS, secure tenure). Therefore, the analysis is limited, but important, subset of MDG indicators, namely those pertaining to participation in education and employment and to gender equality.

The age distributions of refugee populations in camps and urban areas are alike, though the population in refugee camps is somewhat younger. Contrary to expectations –women and children are usually overrepresented among refugees- there is a clear overrepresentation of men among refugees, in camps as well as in urban areas. Although no data were collected to substantiate it, it may be so that among the refugees there is an unknown proportion of men that did not flee because of the war, but because they are just part of the traditional flow of Afghan labour migrants who move back and forth to Pakistan in search for employment or trade opportunities, but found it 'convenient' to become a registered refugee. Another explanation could be -to some extent supported by the data- that older men (60+), who may be too old to participate in warfare, accompany women and children to a safer and better place. The protection of women in general, and prevention of exposing women having contact with other men without the explicit consent of husbands, brothers or fathers is very important in Afghan culture.

Households of Afghan refugees are large, on average 11 persons, but they are smaller where refugees live in urban areas. Not surprisingly, only 4% of the household were found to be headed by women. The prevalence of another vulnerable group, households solely consisting of elderly, is also small, i.e. 0.5%. The data show that the majority of refugees have been in Pakistan for many years, that is, on average about 16 years. The analysis of places of origin in Afghanistan and destination in Pakistan shows that certain patterns in the flows of refugees can be discerned that are related to their ethnic identity.

As the summary table on the next page shows, enrolment rates in schools are low. Enrolment of refugee children in primary school is still very low at about 11% in camps and 12% in urban areas, while girls are less often enrolled than boys. Literacy levels also vary considerably between the sexes, with women more often being illiterate than men. Literacy levels also vary by ethnic group and province of current residence.

Regarding participation in paid employment the data show that unemployment rates are high among refugees, notably among women, but they decrease with increased levels of education. Only few refugee women participate in paid work activities. If they do, they mainly work in the education or wholesale/retail sectors in the Pakistan economy. At the time of the survey in 2002, 52% of the refugees mentioned that they want to return to Afghanistan. Three years later, at the time of the census of Afghan refugees in

Pakistan, results reveal that only 17% of the remaining 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan express the intention to return to their homeland.

Annex IIe Executive summary Comparative summary country report

The aim of this study is to assess the living conditions of peoples to the concern of UNHCR in four countries: refugees in Pakistan and Armenia¹, asylum seekers and refugees in Ecuador and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka. The generic acronym 'RAI' is used to the combined group of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that presently guide the international development agenda are used for the methodological approach for this study. The internationally agreed MDG framework identifies key areas of development and a large number of quantitative indicators and sub-indicators to monitor progress in these areas.

For the purpose of this study a specific survey instrument was developed, covering 29 MDG indicators and sub-indicators for which data collection at household level was relevant and feasible. Surveys covering RAIs and non-RAIs were conducted in the first half year of 2006 in Sri Lanka, Armenia and Ecuador. The survey information on RAIs is representative at the level of selected districts or provinces where the surveys were conducted. In addition, limited MDG information was drawn from a 2002 nationally representative survey in Pakistan that addressed issues relevant to the return of Afghan refugees.

In the framework of this study four country reports have been produced that assess the country-specific living conditions of RAIs in terms of MDG indicators. They also include a large variety of other development- and displacement related information. The present summary report adopts a cross-country comparative perspective and compares the demographic profiles of the RAI populations, their position on MDG indicators and their MDG situation vis-à-vis the surveyed comparison population and national MDG indicator, i.e. the relative deprivation.

In terms of the demographic structure of the populations under study, relatively old populations were found in Armenia and relatively young populations in Pakistan and Ecuador. Armenia and Pakistan also contrasted in terms of sex ratio: large over-representation of women was found in the former country and a strong male bias in the latter. Widowed, separated and divorced women constitute one third of the adult female refugee population in Armenia and almost one-fifth in Ecuador. RAI households in Armenia average less than 2 persons and are usually female-headed, whereas those in Pakistan count nearly 10 persons on average and are almost exclusively male-headed. In Ecuador and Sri Lanka, mean household size is around four persons.

The review of the living conditions of RAI populations in the countries covered by the surveys presents a varied picture. Relatively favourable conditions in one development domain are offset by disadvantages in others. It is apparent that sheer poverty occurs less among refugees in Armenia than among RAIs in Sri Lanka and Ecuador. Indicators on income, food security, employment and tenure, as well as answers to perception questions on the financial situation and food supply support this evaluation.

Education, literacy and health indicators are generally satisfactory for RAIs in Sri Lanka, Ecuador and Armenia (with a notable exception of primary school enrolment of Colombian refugees in Ecuador), but not so for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Indicators for gender equality based on education and literacy mirror this pattern, but economically, RAI women in Pakistan and to a lesser extent in Sri Lanka are much more disadvantaged than those in Armenia and Ecuador.

With respect to health-related indicators, the three MDG survey countries have rather similar profiles. Levels of immunisation against measles and skilled birth attendance are consistently high, and the contraceptive prevalence rates are also in the same broad range between 56 percent in Ecuador and 43 percent in Armenia, with Sri Lanka in between. The low levels of correct and comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS (ranging between 0 and 15%) are worrisome, even though HIV/AIDS is not a major

health issue in any of the countries and many seem to have a fair understanding of ways of preventing the transmission of HIV.

There is not much difference in the living conditions of RAIs across countries —either urban or rural— in terms of basic supply of water and sanitation. Solid fuels are used by 98, 64 and 8 percent of the RAI populations in Sri Lanka, Armenia and Ecuador respectively. The access to information and communication technologies is low, but relatively most widespread among refugees/asylum seekers in Ecuador.

With respect to the relative position of RAIs within their country of residence, the MDG indicators point out that RAIs are underprivileged compared to non-RAIs in terms of resources, access to services and support. This is according to expectation. Relative deprivation seems lowest in Armenia, where considerable time elapsed since arrival of the refugees and where government policy is directed at full integration of this population group. In Ecuador and Sri Lanka, RAIs face more obstacles for full integration in society. The legal situation of asylum seekers in Ecuador may hamper the employment of effective strategies for improvement of living conditions in certain areas and in Sri Lanka, many IDPs might be trapped in a blind-ally situation of an enduring conflict and few opportunities for economic improvement.

The comparative approach allows the identification of specific areas that require attention from the government or aid agencies if equity is to be achieved between RAIs and the general population in the country. The MDG analysis indicates that for IDPs in Sri Lanka special attention is required for the food security situation (in particular that of children), employment and economic opportunities (in particular for women), secure tenancy and rural sanitation. For Ecuador, priority areas include access to education (especially for girls) and secure tenure (both possibly well served if asylum seekers are provided with access to legal documents), food security and information on and access to contraceptive methods. Finally, the disadvantaged position of refugees in Armenia is particularly evident for supply of safe drinking water, both in urban and rural areas, and information on and access to contraceptive methods. In all countries, RAIs are relatively underprivileged in terms of improved water supply in rural areas, telephone use and access to the internet.

The MDG indicator assessment and the comparison of living conditions of RAIs and non-RAIs in and across countries may support decision making by governments, NGOs and international development agencies for priority and target setting support programmes. It is worth mentioning that the MDG surveys in Armenia, Ecuador and Sri Lanka produced a wealth of information that is only partly tapped by this report and the country reports. Additional, in-depth analysis may produce information of prime interest to governments and aid agencies. This relates, for example, to understanding better the problems faced by RAIs, coping behaviours, and analysis of specific vulnerable groups, such as children, adolescents, women and the elderly. In a broader context, the development of the MDG survey instruments may facilitate comparable studies in other settings. The experience gained in the surveyed countries allows the further development of focused survey instruments that would permit rapid MDG assessments in targeted populations.