

This report provides a synthesis of the discussions and conclusions reached by workshop participants, and is divided into the following sections:

- (I) background to the refugee camp security issue and the actors involved in refugee camp situations;
- (II) security challenges and possible responses;
- (III) incorporating security considerations into refugee crisis planning;
- (IV) resource issues associated with refugee camp security; and
- (V) recommendations.

I. BACKGROUND

While insecurity in refugee camps has long been an issue, it has largely been left for humanitarian actors to sort out with host countries (who bear the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of refugee and settlements³), even though they often lacked the capacity to deal with such complex and unsafe situations. Events in the Great Lakes region of Africa in the mid-1990's precipitated renewed international concern, and reinforced the urgency of identifying methods of addressing such circumstances.

United Nations members states and agencies have recently taken steps to try and address refugee camp security issues. In response to the Secretary General's April 1998 Report on "The Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa" (S/1998/318), the Security Council passed Resolution 1208, "Security of Refugee Camps" in November 1998 (S/RES/1208). This resolution noted that there are instances where host states may require assistance to ensure the security, and the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps and settlements. This assistance could include law enforcement, the disarmament of armed elements, curtailment of the flow of arms and separation of refugees from persons who do not qualify for international protection. Measures to assist host governments with security threats might include training, logistical and technical advice and assistance, financial support, enhancement of national law enforcement mechanisms, provision or supervision of locally hired security or firms, and deployment, in accordance with the Charter, of international police and military forces.

Resolution 1208 has been followed up by further discussion by Security Council members within the context of its deliberations on the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict. In this regard, provisions for refugee camp security were included in resolutions 1265 (September 1999) and 1296 (April 2000). As a result of these most recent efforts, it is to be hoped that the protection of civilians, including refugees and Internally displaced persons, now will be considered automatically as part of any peace support and/or humanitarian mission. The means of providing such protection will vary from case to case, however, and will be dependent on the overall security situation in the region.

In a report to the Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Programme entitled "The Security, and Civilian and Humanitarian Character of

³ The responsibilities of host states are set out in the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its Protocol of 1967.