PROPOSITIONS
attached to the thesis

Livelihood Strategies of Internally Displaced Persons in Urban Eastern DRC

by Gloria Nguya

International Institute of Social Studies
Erasmus University Rotterdam

1. The process of identifying IDPs outside of camps has overlooked the displacement status as the main criterion for assisting IDPs and hence goes against the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. (This thesis)
2. Networking through new acquaintances is a major factor enabling IDPs to settle in urban areas, to reorganise their livelihoods and to rebuild their lives. (This thesis)
3. Vulnerability criteria in IDP camps have restricted IDPs initiatives to organise their own livelihood without losing their status as IDP. (This thesis)
4. IDPs women have proven to engage in formal markets than in informal markets as a result of network support in formal markets. (This thesis)
5. Contrary to the commonly held view of local Congolese authorities as predatory, they often play a supportive role towards IDPs. (This thesis)
6. The idea that ″Research is a process, not just a product″ (England 1994, p. 82) is highly applicable in eastern DRC and this research mirrored the efforts of supporting agencies in their difficult journey to identify IDPs.
7. Once in the field, ″insiderness or outsiderness are not fixed or static positions″ (Naples 1996, p. 140), and both positions are equally useful to get deep insights about IDPs lives.
8. ″The understanding of livelihoods has to go beyond the economic or material objectives of life″ (De Haan and Zoomers 2005, p. 32), but understanding the economic or material objectives is already quite a challenge for IDPs.
9. ″The determining condition for poor people anywhere in the world is uncertainty″ (Wood 2003, p. 468), however this uncertainty didn't prevent IDPs in South Kivu from reorganising their lives.
10. ″Whichever approach to data collection is being used, urban analytical processes should involve all major stakeholders as much as possible″ (De Haan et al. 2002, p. 18), yet defining who those stakeholder are, and how they can be identified, is easier said than done.
11. Fieldwork requires creative solutions to gain acceptance of interviewees, whereas in some context it works to display a breadth of experience, in other situations it works more effectively to explain that one is just a beginning student.