



## Field Clusters Updates

### DRC Protection Cluster 2016 major achievements and 2017 priority actions

#### **In 2016, DRC Protection Cluster 2016 major achievements include among others:**

1. Strengthening coordination mechanisms resulted in the direct participation of DRC government officials within the protection cluster;

In the same line, a Gender Based Violence AoR has been activated within the protection cluster under the leadership of UNFPA who deployed a dedicated senior staff to help in the coordination of prevention and response to GBV issues in line with IASC guidelines.

2. Strengthening of the Protection and Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) collaboration:

In line with the GPC guidance note and the IASC guidelines, the Protection Cluster and the CPWG worked closely together as a team to ensure:

- that the centrality of protection and child protection needs are voiced in core strategic humanitarian coordination fora (including HCT, Humanitarian Advocacy Group (HAG), inter-cluster, Protection Working Group (PWG) meetings, respective plenary meetings of the protection cluster and CPWG); and
- that the same are reflected in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), pooled funds criteria and other key processes.

The CPWG collaborated with the Protection Cluster on all HPC processes notably through the submission of regular monitoring reports; contributed to joint advocacy and advice on protection and child protection; collaborated on other PC areas of responsibility, in particular on GBV and Mine Action; collaborated on protection analysis, mainstreaming, and support to multisectorial field assessments.

In particular, as a concrete outcome of this collaboration, separate paragraphs for all sub-clusters have been inserted into the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and into the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and protection has been mainstreamed in all multisectorial response strategies of the HRP.

3. Bold advocacy efforts, including the working visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons in DRC resulted in stopping of abrupt closure of internally displaced sites in North Kivu. In addition, consistent advocacy initiatives on the centrality of protection as well as on durable solutions of 1, 9 million of internally displaced persons had impact on DRC multiyear planning process, since durable solutions are reflected in the document as one of the strategic objectives of humanitarian communities for the three upcoming years.
4. Protection cluster continued support in favor of the development of a national strategy on durable solutions contributed to the adoption by the Humanitarian Country Team of a strategic framework as a working document among humanitarian actors. The document is awaiting formal adoption by DRC Government ;
5. Humanitarian Funds allocated \$4,617,212 to fund 15 protection projects, including 7 mono-sectoral projects and 8 multisectoral projects.
6. UNHCR and CIAUD CANADA strengthened partnership within the protection cluster on protection monitoring helped to fill out information gaps on protection concerns of 148,000 IDP's living in Maniema, one of most remote provinces in DRC with less humanitarian attention;
7. Capacity development. During the period of review, DRC protection cluster members benefited from GPC/GLC trainings on four majors subjects:
  - Coordination and protection
  - Protection and Cash-Based interventions
  - Protection information management
  - Protection in Practice, Training of Trainers

**2016/2017 key challenges include**

1. Limited number of active national NGO's having access to Country-based humanitarian funds due to eligibility system;
2. Limited commitment of members of protection cluster as well as members of Child protection, Gender Based Violence and Mine Action AoR in daily activities, including needs assessments, collect of information, contributions in key documents ;
3. Limited staff for the coordination of protection cluster in Ituri province where 225,000 IDPs are living. Absence of GBV humanitarian coordination in the east in 2016, the main challenge for 2017 is to start it up and ensure linkage with peacekeeping actors working on conflict related

sexual violence and development actors working on the frame of the national strategy to combat GBV;

4. Challenges to assure functioning House, Land and Property AoR under UNHABITAT leadership due to the institution's challenges;
5. Effective participation of ID's in solutions actions;
6. Solutions-driven actions rather than process-driven interventions;

During the last monthly meeting held in December 2016, national protection cluster members agreed on below objectives as priority actions for 2017:

1. To continue advocacy efforts towards DRC Government and MONUSCO in order to assure unhindered humanitarian access and presence in areas of people of concern;
2. To promote :
  - The adoption by DRC of the national law on the protection of and the assistance to internally displaced persons as domestication of African Union Convention on the protection of and the assistance to internally displaced persons (Kampala Convention);
  - the adoption by the Government of the humanitarian country team working document on the national strategy on durable solutions;
3. To promote profiling of internally displaced persons in order to facilitate active research of durable solutions to their problems;
4. to Promote IASC Policy on the protection in humanitarian action to ensure responsibility of national and local authorities as well as the critical role of national actors and roll out the new IASC guidance on GBV, including as cross-cutting issues in other clusters;
5. To ensure alignment of DRC protection cluster strategy with Global Protection Cluster framework and the existence of strategic framework for sub-sector ;
6. To work towards improvement of statistics of internally displaced in collaborating with partners involved in "Commission on Movements of Populations" both at national and field level
7. To set up a protection information management throughout harmonization of existing tools, reinforce the use of the national system of data collection for GBV by humanitarian action;
8. To ensure accountability to internally displaced persons throughout the Humanitarian Programme Cycle;
9. To support the development of a DRC Humanitarian Country Team Protection Strategy;
10. To strengthen national actors capacities in protection matters, including durable solutions;

### **Upcoming key events**

1. From 06-17 February 2017, Evaluation of UNHCR's role as Cluster Lead Agency for the Global Protection Cluster;
2. From 20<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>th</sup>, ALNAP Adaptive Humanitarian Action Research visit to DRC with facilitation of protection cluster;
3. A retreat of protection cluster members bringing together provincial and national actors is foreseen early March 2017 to elaborate a Road Map for protection cluster activities.