Darfur Protection Cluster Lead
Terms of Reference
August 2009

I.   Background

With the roll-out of the cluster approach in Sudan in 2009, the establishment of a Darfur Protection Cluster (DPC) with UNHCR as cluster lead, and 3 sub-clusters (Child Protection; UNICEF; GBV: UNFPA; Return: IOM) was agreed upon by the Humanitarian Country Team in Khartoum. To ensure adequate coverage in the field, three Protection Cluster Working Groups will be functioning in the Darfur States, under the overall umbrella of the Darfur Protection Cluster.

II.   Responsibilities of the Darfur Protection Cluster Lead

The (Deputy) Humanitarian Coordinator – with the support of OCHA and the HCT – retains responsibility for ensuring the adequacy, coherence and effectiveness of the overall humanitarian response in Darfur.

UNHCR as protection cluster lead in Darfur is accountable to the (Deputy) Humanitarian Coordinator for ensuring predictable and accountable leadership at the protection cluster level aimed at ensuring the following:

Inclusion of key humanitarian partners
* Ensure inclusion of key partners for the protection cluster and the PCWGs, respecting their respective mandates and programme priorities.

Establishment and maintenance of appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms
* Ensure appropriate coordination with all humanitarian partners through establishment/maintenance of appropriate protection cluster coordination mechanisms.
* Secure commitments from humanitarian partners in responding to needs and filling gaps, ensuring an appropriate distribution of responsibilities within the cluster, with clearly defined roles for the sub-cluster leads.
* Ensure the complementarity of different protection actor's actions.
* Support to mainstream early recovery planning as well as prevention and risk reduction concerns into cluster activities.
* Ensure effective links with other clusters, including active participation/representation in the inter-cluster meetings.
* Ensure that cluster coordination mechanisms are adapted over time to reflect the capacities of local actors.
* Represent the interests of the protection cluster in discussions with the (D)HC and other stakeholders on prioritization, resource mobilization and advocacy. In this respect, ensure that the interests of the sub-clusters are duly represented (either

through direct representation by sub-cluster leads or indirectly by incorporating their views and priorities in representations made on behalf of the Protection Cluster).

Coordination with national/local authorities, State institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors
- Ensure that humanitarian responses build on local capacities.
- Ensure appropriate links with national and local authorities, State institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors (e.g. UNAMID) and ensure appropriate coordination and information exchange with them. In this respect, the sub-cluster leads will ensure similar links for their respective area of responsibilities.

Participatory and community-based approaches
- Ensure utilization of participatory and community based approaches that take into consideration age, gender and diversity, in cluster needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response.

Attention to priority cross-cutting issues
- Ensure integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in cluster needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring and response (e.g., age, diversity, environment, gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights).
- Contribute to the development of appropriate strategies to address cross-cutting issues particularly as concerns gender-sensitive programming and promotion of gender equality, ensuring that the needs, contributions and capacities of women and girls as well as men and boys are addressed.

Needs assessment and analysis
- Ensure effective and coherent cluster needs assessment and analysis, involving all relevant partners, with a particular role and responsibility for the sub-cluster leads in their respective area of responsibility.

Emergency preparedness
- Ensure adequate contingency planning and preparedness for new emergencies.

Planning and strategy development
- Ensure predictable action within the cluster for the following:
    o identification of gaps;
    o developing/updating agreed response strategies and action plans for the cluster and ensuring that these are adequately reflected in the overall country strategies, such as the UN & Partners Work Plan; and
    o drawing lessons learned from past activities and revising strategies accordingly.

Application of standards
- Ensure that cluster participants are aware of relevant policy guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments that the Government has undertaken under international humanitarian and human rights law.

- Ensure that responses are in line with existing policy guidance, technical standards, and relevant Government legal obligations that the Government has undertaken in international humanitarian and human rights law.

Monitoring and reporting
- Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of the Protection Cluster as well as sub-clusters and progress against implementation plans.
- Ensure adequate reporting on protection issues, in cooperation with the sub-cluster partners, and effective information sharing (with OCHA support), with due regard for age and sex dis-aggregation as well as cross cutting issues.

Advocacy and resource mobilization
- Identify core advocacy concerns, including resource requirements, and communicate key messages to broader advocacy initiatives of the D/HC and other actors.
- Coordinate the input and reporting for the Protection Cluster insofar it relates to Darfur.
- Provide advice to the (D) HC on the allocation of CHF funds for the Protection Sector in Darfur, manage the CHF allocations for the protection sector/cluster and coordinate the CHF reporting for the sector/cluster at Darfur level.
- Advocate for donors to fund actors to carry out priority activities in protection, while at the same time encouraging cluster participants to mobilize resources for their activities through their usual channels.

Training and capacity building
- Promote/support training of staff and capacity building of humanitarian partners.
- Support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the national authorities and civil society.

III. Structure

To provide appropriate support to and ensure efficient coordination, information sharing and follow-up on agreed actions between UN agencies, international NGOs, and the PCWGs, UNHCR will host a Support Cell for the DPC.

The DPC Support Cell based in El Fasher will comprise the designated UNHCR staff member who will act as a Chairperson of the DPC and one UNHCR staff member to provide overall support for the activity of the Chairperson.

Key Tasks of the Support Cell
Key areas of work of the Support Cell at Darfur may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Provision of administration and secretarial support to the operation of the cluster, agenda, minutes, invitations, contact lists, organisation of meetings, etc;
- Supporting sub-cluster leads in the administration of their working groups (as appropriate/requested);
- Facilitating active coordination and information/ tools-sharing between DPC lead and sub-cluster leads and the PCWG at State level;

- Ensuring appropriate communications/reporting between the Darfur Protection Cluster and the Global cluster and its various task-forces established under the auspices of the cluster;
- Ensuring effective communications between field coordination mechanisms and the cluster members;
- Receiving requests of support from the field and forwarding to appropriate cluster members for their action, as well as follow-up to ensure appropriate action is taken;
- Facilitating Global cluster and Darfur protection Cluster missions to the field as well as the organisation of the periodical meetings of the DPC;
- Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Work Plan and of the CHF allocations;
- Supporting cluster chair in liaison with donors and other stakeholders as requested;
- Acting as focal point for links with other clusters, including participation in other cluster meetings; and
- Ensuring timely and accurate sharing of information from the global protection cluster.

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