

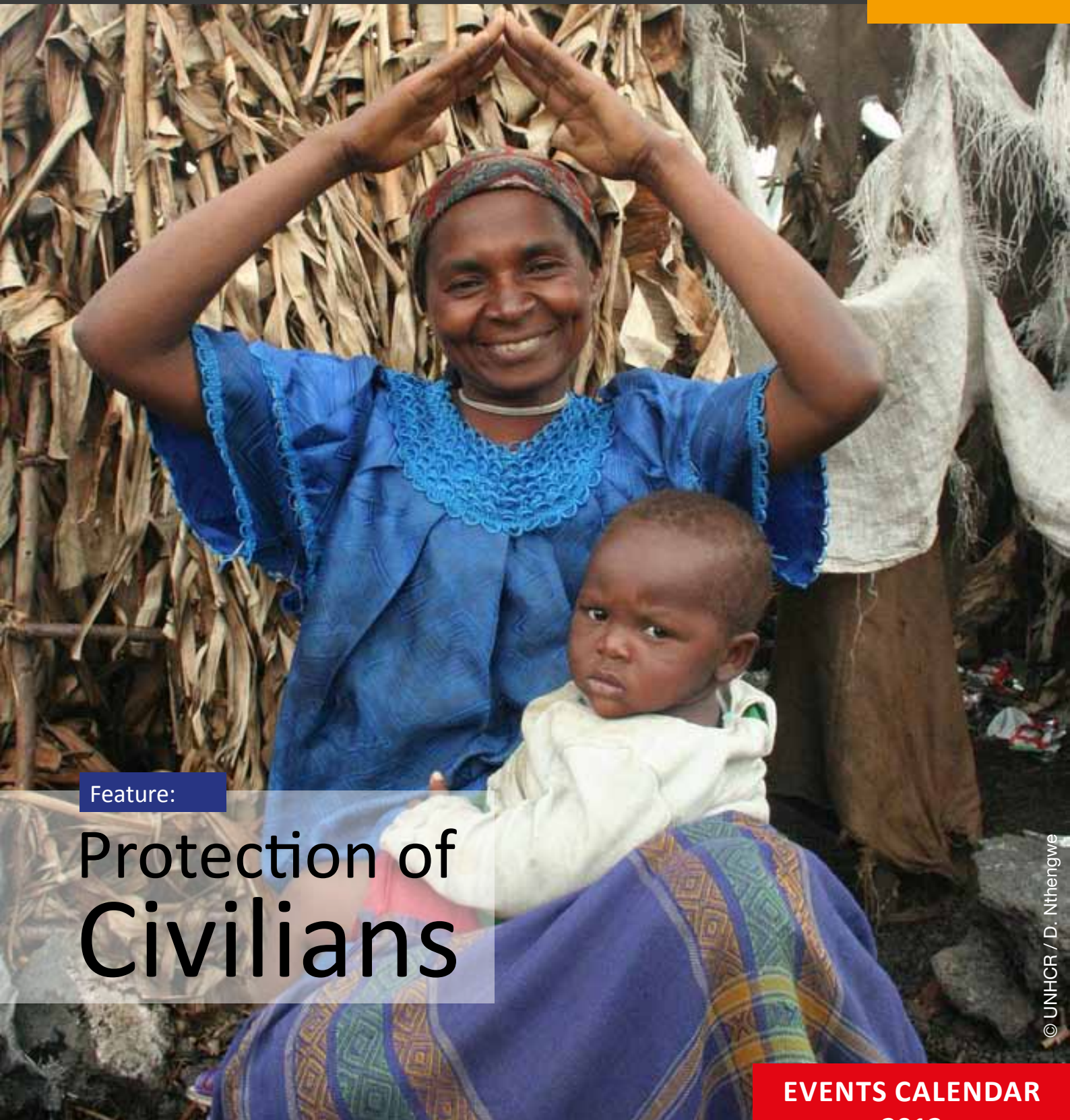


Protection
Cluster

Digest

The Newsletter of The Global Protection Cluster

vol. 01/2012



Feature:

Protection of Civilians

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EVENTS CALENDAR
2012

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Editorial



Louise Aubin

Global Protection
Cluster Coordinator

This is our second offering of the “The Protection Cluster Digest” marking the beginning for a revamped and “New” Global Protection Cluster. In 2011, the Global Protection Cluster underwent a thorough review process, the “GPC Visioning”, which I personally led with the unstinting support and advice of a Reference Group of Global Protection Cluster participants. The “GPC Visioning” was an ambitious and extremely valuable process that has now firmly reoriented the Global Protection Cluster towards the field. The outcomes of the “GPC Visioning” will be implemented starting in 2012 as reflected in the GPC new strategy. The core business of the GPC is operational field support. This is strongly reflected in our 2012 workplan and underpinned by our mantra “working together for protection” as well as our common vision:

“A World in which boys, girls, women and men affected or threatened by humanitarian crises are fully protected in accordance with their rights.”

The GPC vision underlines the need for the Protection Cluster to have a broad protection response in emergencies both in terms of scope and timeframe. First, in terms of scope, “**age, gender and diversity**”, as an approach, ensures that the Protection Cluster considers individuals and their differences when identifying and preventing risks, and responding to needs. The Protection Cluster activities must be multi-dimensional to ensure that boys, girls, women and men enjoy the full set of rights specific to their needs. Second, the timeframe for the Protection Cluster's involvement and accountability to affected populations has to range from response to their immediate needs during an emergency to laying the ground for the identification of appropriate durable solutions. In this respect, finding solutions for displaced persons must be a major pre-occupation of a Protection Cluster.

Accordingly, I would like to emphatically state that we have to step up our advocacy role on protection concerns to ensure that protection imperatives are at the core of a humanitarian response. In its strategy, the GPC has taken up this challenge and has underlined that **Advocacy** and **Protection Mainstreaming** will be two key priority action areas at the global level. This is significant as it articulates a self-evident proposition that humanitarian action should ensure a protection outcome or dividend.

In 2011, the Global Protection Cluster was very active in supporting the humanitarian response in emergencies in Cote d'Ivoire, Horn of Africa, Libya, Pakistan and the Philippines. The Global Protection Cluster also stepped up its training activities and directly supported emergency preparedness efforts in Namibia through the deployment of a trainer support the delivery of the new Protection in Natural Disaster Training Module.

The launch of the Global Protection Cluster Newsletter “The Protection Cluster Digest” was an exciting and resounding success as demonstrated by the feedback received from the field which you can review in this edition.

In this issue, I am very pleased to see that we have submissions from the field, one from Afghanistan and the other from Haiti. Sumbul and Elsa, the Protection Cluster Coordinators, in these two countries mobilized their teams to prepare informative pieces on practical approaches for the protection of civilians and innovative adaptation of protection tools in the field.

In December 2011, we commissioned the development of the Global Protection Cluster's own Website. The Website will soon be functional and will bring the Global Protection Cluster closer to the field in terms of provision of timely and easily accessible guidance and support.

Inspired by the article from the Afghanistan Protection Cluster, we have also focused in this edition on the “Protection of Civilians” theme. This is also to draw your attention to the work that is currently being undertaken by the Global Protection Cluster which is elaborating a Guidance Note, for Field based Protection Clusters, on how best to interact with peacekeeping operations or political missions. This comes in the wake of the issuance by UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Framework for drafting Protection of Civilians Strategies to all field missions with such a mandate. Field based colleagues and NGO partners need to actively contribute to the elaboration of the Guidance Note.

In the Global Protection Cluster, we value our inclusive way of working together. To this end, I have included a short piece on partnerships to remind us of the principles of partnership which are core values of Protection work.

We look forward to another year of excellence and delivery.

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Published by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Internally Displaced Persons/Protection Cluster Unit,
Division of International Protection, 94 Rue de Montbrillant, 1202,
Geneva, Switzerland, 2012

Layout and design: BakOS DESIGN

Feature: Protection of Civilians

In this edition we introduce a new feature section on Protection of Civilians and the role the Global Protection Cluster is playing in promoting protection issues in operations where a peacekeeping operation or political mission is also in effect. Importantly, the Global Protection Cluster has initiated the elaboration of guidance for interaction between field Protection Clusters and these kinds of Missions.

In recent years, the engagement of Protection Clusters in the field with peacekeeping operations or political missions has been steadily increasing in the area of protection. Eight UN peacekeeping missions currently have mandates to protect civilians from physical violence, but also to undertake a range of other protection tasks such as child protection, human rights monitoring and efforts to address sexual violence that are directly relevant to the Protection Cluster. The intention to elaborate a guidance note was included, for the first time, in the GPC's annual workplan for 2010 and planned work on this topic began in the 2011 workplan and will continue in 2012.



Guidance Note on the Interaction between the Protection Cluster and Peacekeeping or Political Missions

The Global Protection Cluster has initiated a project to develop guidance on the interaction between field-based Protection Clusters and peacekeeping/political missions. The need to clarify coordination between Clusters and missions was one of the main findings of the Cluster Evaluation II. Although in recent years a range of guidance on protection has been developed, this does not address sufficiently the question of how humanitarian organizations should interact and coordinate with

peacekeeping or political missions. The purpose of the guidance will be to help clarify the most appropriate and effective way in which Protection Clusters and peacekeeping/political missions should be responding to common protection concerns. A concept note for the development of the guidance is being developed by the Global Protection Cluster, under the joint facilitation of OCHA and UNHCR. A broadbased consultative group of GPC participants will be convened to finalize the concept

note and draft the guidance note during the course of 2012. If you are interested in joining the consultative group please contact the Global Protection Cluster for further information.

Colleagues in the field are also invited join the field reference group that will accompany the process.



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Framework for Drafting Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (POC) Strategies

In May 2011, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) finalized guidance to assist peacekeeping missions in developing comprehensive Protection of Civilians (POC) strategies as a part of their wider efforts to improve the implementation of POC mandates. The resulting guidance, entitled, Framework for Drafting Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (POC) Strategies in UN Peacekeeping Operations, was developed based on a request in 2010

from the UN Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations, and on the recognition that effective POC requires sound planning. The Framework provides missions with a template for their strategies and a simple implementation matrix to help them prioritize and assign responsibilities to address POC risks in their areas of deployment.

The Framework is the result of an extensive consultation process led by DPKO, with the involvement of seven peacekeeping missions, UN agencies,

the African Union, and the ICRC. The basic structure of the document was developed in a workshop organized by DPKO, OCHA and the Global Protection Cluster in Addis Ababa in June 2010 (the workshop report can be found at <http://english.nupi.no/Publications>). The resulting Framework is, therefore, a reflection of the experience that both peacekeeping missions and protection actors, have gained in planning for, and undertaking, their respective protection responsibilities.



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Gender Based Violence Area of Responsibility

Jane Lawry jlawrywhite@unicef.org

Support for Gender Based Violence Prevention and Response (GBV) Coordination in the field

The two-year (2011-2012) workplan of the GBV Area of Responsibility (AOR) highlights the importance of developing mechanisms which provide support to GBV Coordination mechanisms in the field, through technical support and additional personnel which can be rapidly deployed, as well as through effective advocacy and participation in field support missions together with other clusters or individually focused on GBV. Current progress on these issues includes (i) GenCap, working with the GBV AoR, now includes GBV experts available for deploy-

ment to support GBV Coordination which will be funded under the GBV window of GenCap (ii) the GBV AoR Community of Practice which was recently launched provides a regional and global forum for exchange of good practice/lessons learned as well as discussion of specific queries and themes initiated by GBV practitioners. Beth Vann (beth@bvann.com) is the Community of Practice Moderator.

Capacity Development

Version one of the GBV Coordination Handbook has been rolled out in about 20 countries. Feedback is currently being collected through evaluation forms and monitoring visits, the handbook will be updated in the light of this feed-

back in late 2012. A global library of key GBV tools and resources is available and kept updated on the oner-response website (<http://onerresponse.info/GlobalClusters/Protection/GBV/Pages/default.aspx>).

Advocacy

The GBV AoR will develop a series of agreed, generic advocacy messages which can be contextualized to specific emergencies so they can be quickly available to member agencies at HQ and in the field. The AoR recently developed messages relating to the Horn of Africa response (available on the oner-response website).

Mine Action Area of Responsibility

Gustavo Laurie glaurie@unog.ch, Helene Ruud hruud@unog.ch

UNMAS leads the Global Protection Cluster's Mine Action AOR. The Mine Action AOR counts on its staffing a Chair (UNMAS Acting Liaison Officer in Geneva) and a Coordinator (UNMAS Liaison Officer in Geneva).

The AOR has adopted its Terms of Reference and is currently working on establishing criteria for member and observer status. A mailing list, including all relevant partners from the United Nations system, NGO, ICRC and others (including academia) is being finalized.

AOR meetings are held every two months. These meetings allow for video link with the UN in New York and also for the participation by teleconferencing bridge line. Agenda items aim to strike a balance between institutional and intra-Global Protection Cluster matters on one side and field-related matters on the other hand. Particular focus has been given to developing an AOR working network, and also to the Libya crisis protection response, where the extensive use of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive ordnance has created a considerable mine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) threat to civilian populations and humanitarian workers, including mine action operators.

The AOR greatly contributed to the establishment of the Joint Mine Action Country Team (JMACT) for Libya. The JMACT coordinates mine action activities by a number of mine action NGOs within Libya and its borders. The AOR has assisted the JMACT in the process of preparing and submitting project proposals through the revised Libya Flash Appeals, but also in outreaching information on progress and challenges faced by mine action partners by circulating the weekly JMACT updates, as well as updates from other relevant actors. UNMAS, with the support of the Chair and Coordinator of the AOR, has opened a webpage on Libya on its website (www.mine-action.org).

The AOR is determined to ensure that mine action projects in consolidated appeals and similar are gender friendly. Therefore, it has supported the gender marker project by encouraging AOR members and partners to undertake gender-marker training and to mainstream a gender perspective into planning, programming and project-drafting.

A comprehensive mapping of mine action activities and coordination mechanisms in countries and territories with complex emergency and humanitarian situations is one of the main tasks for the upcoming period. The AOR has also developed its own Work Plan in 2012 which complements the Global Protection Cluster workplan.





2011 Emergencies

Global Protection Cluster Response



Côte d'Ivoire

The humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire has significantly improved since the cessation of hostilities and the dire circumstances of over 1,000,000 displaced people in the country reported in the first edition of the Newsletter. The humanitarian protection and assistance programme is now mainly focused on supporting the affected population, particularly internally displaced persons and refugee returnees, attain in safety and dignity, the most appropriate durable solution. Significant levels of insecurity still exist in the Abobo and Yopougon neighbourhoods of Abidjan as well as in the western region of the country which witnessed grave human rights violations and massive displacement during the conflict. The precarious security environment is fueled by inter-community tensions, which often flare into violence, with negative implications for the overall human rights situation. Civilians, particularly women and children, remain the primary victims of human rights violations and abuses.

In August 2011, a tripartite agreement among UNHCR, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, which will govern the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees from Liberia, was concluded. Subsequently, similar tripartite agreements were signed with Ghana in October and Togo in November 2011. The agreements establish the framework for the safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees to their country of origin. The returnees' reintegration needs a not dissimilar to those of persons who remained in the country either in their areas of origin or in situations of internal displacement.

IDP and returnees are confronted with issues of general insecurity, including forced evictions which, in the case of IDPs, induce less than voluntary return movements. The illegal occupation of private property also exacerbates social tensions in rural areas in the western part of the country. There is serious concern over reports of ar-

bitrary arrests, extra-judicial killings, extortion and intimidation occurring in a pervasive climate of impunity. This volatile protection environment highlights the need for the restoration of the rule of law and the effective functioning of law enforcement services and the judiciary.

The Global Protection has worked together with the Protection Cluster Lead Agency, UNHCR, to ensure that the Côte d'Ivoire Protection Cluster has sufficient capacity to meet protection response challenges in the country. To this end, the Global Protection Cluster supported the deployment of a Senior Protection Officer from the Protection Capacity Project¹ and the expeditious assignment of an experienced UNHCR dedicated Cluster Coordinator to lead and coordinate the protection response and activities of the Côte d'Ivoire Protection Cluster.

¹ The Protection Capacity Project is managed by OCHA and NRC.

Horn of Africa

Ongoing conflict and drought in Somalia and recent fighting in Sudan have created complex emergencies in the Horn of Africa. In Somalia, over 1.5 million people are internally displaced whilst many have also fled their country seeking asylum in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen and Djibouti. In Sudan, recent conflicts between Sudanese Government forces and SLPM-N armed groups have forced tens of thousands of Sudanese refugees to flee to Southern Sudan and Ethiopia creating immense humanitarian and protection challenges. It is expected that these emergencies will continue to be a priority for the humanitarian community in 2012.

The Global Protection Cluster has been playing a leading role in the emergency response providing support to the Protection Clusters in Kenya and Somalia. The Global Protection Cluster also highlighted the protection concerns in the sub-region in key advocacy messages that were sent out by the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator calling for an effective, robust and well-funded protection response. To underline its leadership role, the Global Protection Cluster supported and facilitated the deployment of technical experts to the region to respond to the special needs of vulnerable persons, including the deployment of an ageing specialist, in collaboration with Helpage International.

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Pakistan

Torrential monsoon rains triggered severe flooding in Pakistan, primarily in Sindh Province and Balochistan provinces in September 2011. The floods affected more than eight million people. UNHCR, as the Cluster Lead Agency of the Protection Cluster in Pakistan, led and coordinated the rapid protection assessment from the onset of the floods. In Sindh province, 56 enumerators completed 386 focus group discussions with 5951 women, men and youth, plus 161 individual "key informant" interviews (e.g. with community leaders/ local authorities) in two days. A similar assessment was undertaken in the Balochistan province. The assessments revealed difficulties in access to relief assistance by vulnerable groups (ethnic/religious minorities, female headed households, disabled persons etc), as well as problems of child/family separation, missing family members, loss of civil documentation such as national ID cards hindering rights/access to assistance, and a rise in and exacerbation of existing protection problems such as domestic violence, child labour, exploitation and harmful traditional practices.

During the response, the Global Protection Cluster provided critical policy guidance and support to the Pakistan Protection Cluster in order for it to effectively respond to the natural disaster.

Philippines

A Tropical Storm named Washi (known locally as Sendong) struck the Philippines Surigaodel Sur province on the northeastern coast of Mindanao from 16 to 18 December 2011, causing massive flooding, flash floods and landslides. By the beginning of January 2012, reports were that the storm had caused extensive damage and fatalities numbering more than 1,200 people, injuries in excess of 4,600, with at least 429,000 requiring immediate lifesaving assistance, including those located in more than 54 evacuation centers.

The tropical storm struck far to the south of the most storm-prone region of the country, affecting communities in towns and villages not accustomed to preparing and coping with storms of this strength. Most of the casualties were in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan in Region X (Northern Mindanao).

UNHCR is present in Mindanao and it co-chairs the Protection Cluster with the government's Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). As a result, the Mindanao Protection Cluster has been involved in the protection response to the natural disaster from day one. In the first phase of the planned

response, lifesaving assistance was delivered to families to ensure their protection and safety. In the second phase, community-based activities helped to decongest evacuation centres, stabilize communities and find durable solutions for affected persons.

The UNICEF co-chaired Child Protection sub-cluster, reached another 200,000 people through child protection activities. The gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster, co-chaired by UNFPA, supported 100,000 affected individuals, mostly displaced women and girls. It is did so through reduction of GBV risks in areas of displacement and prospective return as well as provision of medical and psycho-social services to displaced GBV survivors.

Since the crisis began, UNHCR, local NGOs, DSWD and the city of Iligan have distributed shelter material, blankets and other humanitarian assistance to more than 4,800 families in 26 villages and 10 Evacuation Centers in Iligan City and Lanao del Sur. More than 1000 children have been provided with psycho-social support.

The main protection challenges are with regard to having a robust protection mechanism for vulnerable individuals. There is also concern with regard to the congestion of Evacuation Centers which

are also limited in number. The special protection needs of women and girls in these circumstances are of particular concern with respect to prevention and response to gender based violence. There is also the need to consolidate and share disaggregated data to enable better targeting of international support to persons with specific needs. The targeted assessment of groups with special needs is also required. The monitoring of the equitable distribution of humanitarian assistance is critical as there are reports that assistance is still not reaching affected families in remote locations, especially in and around Iligan, and outside of Evacuation Centers. The Global Protection Cluster has been closely involved in the protection response. Providing critical support with regard to resource mobilization during the preparation of the flash appeal during which the global level reviewed the protection cluster's submissions and made important comments and suggestions.

In addition, the Global Protection Cluster supported the deployment of a Senior Protection advisor from the Protection Capacity Project. The advisor also supported the Humanitarian Country Team in formulating a robust and effective response.

Namibia

Since 2008, recurrent and severe floods have struck the Northern parts of Namibia causing considerable protection problems for the affected populations. Flood waters have displaced thousands of people to relocation camps, cut off communities who were not able to access relief assistance, inundated schools, and severely disrupted livelihoods, education and other essential services. In addition, a number of protection issues were identified² such as violence, exploitation of children and women, gender based violence, separation of families, lost identity documentation and other important documents, and varying levels of access to early warning messaging and relief services by specific vulnerable groups such as orphans and vulnerable children,

older persons, pregnant women, people with disabilities and people with chronic illnesses. Internally Displaced Persons' right to return to areas of origin or remain in areas where they relocated to and the question of compensation for lost, stolen or destroyed property and livelihood assets are other protection issues which require action. The Government of Namibia, the United Nations System, Inter-governmental organizations and NGOs have responded in concert in order to respond to these challenges.

The Global Protection Cluster supported the deployment of a Senior Protection Officer from the Protection Capacity Project to be deployed to the UNFPA led Protection Working Group in Namibia. In addition, the Global Protection Cluster undertook a support mission to Namibia and in collaboration with the Namibia Protection Working Group delivered a 2 day training workshop on Protection in Natural

Disasters which was contextualized to the local situation. The training was based on the recently developed Global Protection Cluster Training Module on Protection in Natural Disasters. The training in Namibia brought together a range of actors from Government, UN and Inter-Governmental agencies and NGOs and targeted relevant policy-makers, managers and representatives of organizations who are responsible for determining policy, setting the strategic direction for disaster risk management within their respective organizations and institutions at the central and regional levels in Namibia. The training was rated very highly by the participants. Other field operations in areas prone to natural disasters are encouraged to request for this training as part of their preparedness activities. To this end, you may request the Global Protection Cluster Operations Cell for further information.

² During a series of protection missions and assessments e.g. Joint Protection Mission by GRN, OCHA/ProCap, UN and NRCS, October 2010, GRN/UN flood assessment mission, April 2011, UNICEF/UNFPA monitoring visit, June 2011 and UNFPA/NRCS Field Visit, July 2011



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Libya

Since fighting ended in Tripoli in mid-August 2011, the new Government of Libya, together with the Libyan people, has demonstrated a strong capacity to meet most of the humanitarian needs of the population in areas previously affected by the conflict. However, in and around those areas that are plagued by continuing insecurity, there remains a need for targeted international humanitarian assistance until the new Government has established the necessary mechanisms to support the protection needs of the affected population. It is anticipated that the Government, with the support of Libyan civil society, will be able to meet the majority of these protection needs. The Libya Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) outlines the strategy and activities for addressing overall humanitarian needs in Libya, especially in and around areas still experiencing insecurity.

Although fighting has ceased in most places, civilians continue to be injured or killed by explosive devices. In Bani Walid, and particularly in Sirte, where the highest concentration of ordnance

is to be found and the humanitarian impact is the most serious. The Global Protection Cluster is concerned that, though the Mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) continue to be discovered, life-saving mine action work in Libya may be forced to scaledown in 2012, unless the international community steps forward with greater contributions. This was the main message of the Mine Action Appeal that was launched on 15 December 2011, at the United Nations Information Centre, in Tripoli. Organized by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) on behalf of the Joint Mine Action Co-ordination Team (JMACT), the Appeal is a call for greater support towards reducing the contamination of Mines and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in Libya.

During and after the conflict, basic emergency shelter, cash assistance, medical care and educational support to vulnerable persons of concern, including internally displaced persons were provided. The protection environment is gradually improving in many parts of Libya. Public Services

have resumed, shops reopened and internally displaced persons are returning to their homes in conditions of safety and dignity. However, towns that were heavily damaged, such as Sirte and Bani Walid, still require assistance, as do people remaining in displacement and their host communities. Furthermore, sporadic security incidents continue to occur involving clashes between armed groups. The government is following a programme designed to improve security.

The Global Protection Cluster continues to provide support to the field protection cluster facilitating the deployment of technical experts and senior protection staff. In addition, the Global Protection Cluster supported the deployment of a Senior Protection Officer from the Protection Capacity Project to help strengthen the capacity of the Libya Protection Cluster to facilitate durable solutions for the remaining IDPs, minorities and other vulnerable persons. This senior level deployment will also support protection profiling, mapping, survey and analysis of groups with special needs.

Integration of Cross-Cutting Issues



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Gender: The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Marker

| what is it?

The IASC Gender Marker (GM) is required for all Consolidated Appeals Processes (CAPs) and other humanitarian appeals and funding mechanisms. The Gender Marker assigns a code on a 0 to 2 scale to each CAP project that is displayed in the global Online Project System (OPS) and Financial Tracking System (FTS). The Gender Marker is now increasingly used as a tool by donors to fund high quality, gender-informed projects.

Protection Cluster Lead Agencies and Focal Point Agencies for Protection Cluster Areas of Responsibility (AORs) should support their partners in the use of the GM so that the cluster's projects ensure that ALL individuals in affected populations have equal access to services and that targeted action to advance gender equality is based on a gender analysis. This makes projects and programmes more effective.

In order to help clusters and their partners to design quality projects that re-

flect the distinct needs of girls, boys, women and men, tip sheets have been designed for the different sectors. The aim is to:

1. Train users in Gender Marker coding skills and provide an opportunity to practice with the Vetting Form ;
2. Through the use of practical examples and tips, to improve projects by bringing gender dimensions into the needs analysis, the activities and the outcomes

Specific Gender Marker tip sheets for Child Protection, Gender Based Violence and Mine Action, as well as other useful resources, can be downloaded from the gender marker page on-neresponse: <http://onerresponse.info/crosscutting/gender/Pages/The%20IASC%20Gender%20Marker.aspx>

OneResponse

WWW



Crisis situations, be they conflict or natural disasters, have very different impacts on women, girls, boys and men. They face different risks and, accordingly, are victimised in different ways. Understanding their distinct protection needs and shaping a response that addresses their priorities is crucial for an effective humanitarian response.

Question:

WHAT CAN YOU PERSONALLY DO TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO THE SPECIFIC PROTECTION NEEDS OF WOMEN, GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION?

Answer:

TAKE THE E-LEARNING COURSE ON GENDER AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION:

As a humanitarian worker, you often have little time to build your professional skills and strengthen your knowledge in humanitarian programming. This online course will allow you to learn how to develop effective programming during a time that is convenient for you. This three hour, self-paced course will provide information and scenarios which will enable you to practice developing a more effective humanitarian response. You will be able to:

- Learn how to effectively integrate gender equality into your humanitarian programmes
- Practice your skills through an interactive, online, simulated humanitarian crisis
- Earn a certificate in gender mainstreaming in humanitarian settings

By the end of this course, you will know the basic steps that a humanitarian worker must take to ensure gender equality in programming. The “Different needs, Equal opportunities” course will include information on the core issues of gender and how it relates to other aspects of humanitarian response.

Register online at:

www.iasc-elearning.org

If you would like more information, visit:

<http://gender.oneresponse.info>

Ageing: Enhancing protection response to address specific needs of older people

Since February 2008 and funded exclusively by UNHCR, HelpAge International and UNHCR have a partnership agreement that facilitates the secondment of experts on ageing to the Global Protection Cluster to enhance its capacity to identify and respond to the specific protection needs of older people in the field during emergencies. The practical objectives of these secondments are a) to increase awareness on the protection needs of older persons, upgrade knowledge and skills of cluster members and partners in the field to undertake evidence based protection programming that includes the needs of older persons, and b) to ensure the inclusion, participation and visibility of older people in field-level protection activities. The secondments also served as a primary vehicle for UNHCR, as Protection Cluster lead agency, to implement the relevant recommendations adopted by the IASC Working Group on ageing in 2007 and 2010. Following this arrangement, deployments were carried out in 2008 (Uganda and Georgia), 2009 (Myanmar, Georgia and the Gaza Strip), 2010 (Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Yemen) and 2011 (South Sudan and Horn of Africa Famine Crisis). Whilst an independent review of this work has been undertaken, the overall impression of the partners is very positive and the UNHCR-Helpage partnership is viewed as model for the incorporation of cross-cutting issues into the activities of clusters. More deployments are envisaged for 2012. In terms of process, the experts have made a remarkable difference – consultations were held with large numbers of older people, which led to the identification of specific protection risks and needs. At the same time, guidelines and training materials were produced at the field level, training was carried out and specific recommendations were formulated regarding needs assessment, planning, implementation and funding of assistance and protection activities in humanitarian contexts. In one case – Pakistan – specific support was provided to a country-level coordination mechanism (the Age and Disability Task Force), resulting in it effectively influencing the work of several humanitarian clusters. In terms of outcomes – a noticeable

change in the practices of humanitarian actors in the field – and actual impact on the lives of old people, results are more nuanced. Field missions yield few examples of replicable good practice related to addressing the protection needs of older people. These results, rather than question the validity of the secondments model, highlight once more the pressing need for the entire humanitarian sector to bring considerations such as age and gender at the very core of what it does. Humanitarian assistance and protection activities which are not founded on the diversity and specificity of needs are simply not true to what they were created to do.



The experience of models such as Pro-Cap and GenCap indicate that providing advice and technical support at the appropriate level to actors in the field can indeed be effective. The deployment of ageing experts has potential to make a similar, essential contribution.

The Global Protection Cluster encourages field Protection Clusters to request deployment of technical experts to assist with protection programming. Requests for support can be submitted to the Global Protection Cluster Operational Cell.



What's Been Happening

- 1 Global Protection Cluster Review (“Visioning”) Exercise and Outcome;
- 2 28 Protection Clusters Active in the Field;
- 3 Cluster Coordination Positions Created in UNHCR;
- 4 Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons Translated;

1 Global Protection Cluster Review (“Visioning”) Exercise and Outcome

Five years after the initiation of the Humanitarian Reform, which led to the creation of the Cluster Approach system, the Global Protection Cluster initiated a review exercise dubbed the “GPC Visioning” exercise at the beginning of 2011 to firmly anchor the Protection Cluster at the global level on a strengthened field operational support bed rock. This was also in line with requests from protection clusters in the field for more emphasis on operational support. The “GPC Visioning” re-visited the scope and focus of the Global Protection Cluster to ensure that support is better targeted to the needs of the field and that this informs priority setting at the global level as well.

The Visioning has taken the shape of two Geneva Thematic Discussions, the first of which was held in June 2011 and focused on the broad conceptual Vision for the GPC and strategic priorities. The outcomes of this first meeting were captured in the report from the meeting and formed the basis for the second Thematic Discussions meeting which was held from 22-24 November 2011. The second Thematic Discussions meeting focused on outlining the priority areas for Global Protection Cluster work for the coming years, both in terms of support to field protection clusters and key areas for engagement at the global level. A revision of the working methods and organisation of the GPC was also considered in view of the priorities that were identified. The second Thematic Discussions set out to achieve the following:

- To identify priorities for support to field protection clusters;
- Set out strategic areas of engagement at the global level;
- Re-visit the working methods and organization of the Global Protection Cluster to ensure that they are commensurate with identified priorities.

The meeting agreed that the Global Protection Cluster should have the following priority actions related to

Field Support and Global Level engagement:

Field Level Support

Develop and disseminate a Protection Cluster Toolbox

The Protection Coordination Toolbox should contain essential tools that are needed to start up a protection cluster during the first two weeks of an emergency.

Establish a GPC Panel of Experts (Help Desk)

The Global Protection Cluster Panel of Expert (HelpDesk) will be a team of technical specialists and experienced practitioners available by phone or email to provide guidance and assistance on various aspects of protection. A mapping of expertise within the GPC membership will be undertaken and a focal point list developed. Individual members of the Protection Clusters worldwide and independent experts are encouraged to volunteer for this panel.

Ensure rapid deployment capacity

Whether through the help desk or as an individual team, the Global Protection Cluster agreed to identify capacity and resources to undertake rapid deployments in support of field protection clusters when requested or needed. Such a function will build on existing capacity within the GPC Areas of Responsibility (AORs) and various agencies and NGOs within the GPC.

Training

Training and capacity building for Cluster Coordinators and protection cluster members will be prioritized. Existing trainings on cluster coordination, including the GPC Task Force on Learning and the AORs, will be mapped and complementarity ensured. Training initiatives will include training modules on protection mainstreaming.



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Global Level Engagement

Donor engagement

Through the development of a concept note, the GPC will clarify its role in engaging with donors, including member states, and map issues, outcomes and stakeholders for this engagement.

Advocacy

Global level advocacy by the GPC will have two main components: a) advocacy on recurrent themes within protection, with a focus on neglected or invisible groups and funding for protection, and b) context specific advocacy in support of field protection actors in raising concerns at the global level.

Protection mainstreaming

The global level protection mainstreaming efforts will focus on mainstreaming of protection concerns in field operations. Focus should therefore be placed on collaborating with other global clusters in developing tools in support of the field and a plan for implementation of any tools developed, including training. An incremental approach should be adopted starting with 1-2 selected clusters.

The meeting also decided that the working methods and organisation of the Global Protection Cluster needed reorientation in the following manner:

Establishment of a Global Protection Cluster Operations Cell

In order to ensure effective implementation of the priority themes identified, a Global Protection Cluster Operations Cell would be set up to replace the current Global Protection Cluster Support Cell to undertake the following tasks:

- Respond to requests from the field;
- Develop tools, guidance and policy and ensure effective dissemination to the field;
- Coordinate and undertake short-term deployments;
- Promote protection mainstreaming, undertake advocacy;
- Manage information, ensure the secretariat function of the GPC.

As well as undertaking specific tasks, the Global Protection Cluster Operations Cell will serve a catalytic role by working through existing capacities and expertise within the Global Protection Cluster membership, including AORs.

Revise structure of the GPC to be commensurate with tasks

The existence of task forces needs to be better linked to specific and time-bound actions. To this end, all existing GPC task forces will be the object of a review as to their deliverables and continued existence.

As the AOR structure in the case of Rule of Law and Justice has not served its purpose in terms of ensuring the incorporation of the theme

in the work of the Global Protection Cluster, the AOR will be phased out and the issue of rule of law mainstreamed in the work of the Global Protection Cluster with UNDP and OHCHR as focal points to ensure field support and global advocacy.

Greater coordination between the constituent parts of the Global Protection Cluster, including AORs and task forces, needs to be ensured and complementarity enhanced. Activities and capacities particularly existing within the AORs need to be more strategically used to reinforce the overall work of the Global Protection Cluster.

Improve coordination through strategy, workplan, communication and meetings

The Global Protection Cluster will develop a strategy that sets out the broad framework under which the cluster will operate as well as highlight the overarching objectives of its work. Based on the strategy, the Global Protection Cluster will develop an annual workplan with time bound concrete tasks and outcomes that clearly show how the priority themes translate into practice.

Communication and information flow within the Global Protection Cluster will be significantly enhanced to ensure transparency and lay a stronger foundation for coordination. This includes using meetings and electronic communication, including a well-functioning dedicated Global Protection Cluster Website, more strategically.

When do IDPs achieve a durable solution?

documentation, family reunification, public participation and remedies for displacement-related violations. A condensed, foldable pocket-size version of the Framework is included at the beginning of the publication for quick reference.

The Framework differs from the pilot version in several ways. First, it presents new formulations of the settlement options available to IDPs. Building on “return” and “resettlement” as stated in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, IDPs may choose among sustainable reintegration at the place of origin (return), sustainable local integration in areas of refuge (local integration) or sustainable integration in another part of the country (settlement elsewhere in the country). Second, the Framework emphasises that the sustainability of durable solutions depends on the engagement of development, human rights and peace-building actors in addition to humanitarian actors. The development, human rights and peace-building challenges of the durable solutions process are clearly spelled out, and stakeholders in each of these areas have an indispensable role in the achievement of durable solutions. Finally, while the pilot version was entitled *When Displacement Ends: A Framework for Durable Solutions*, the Framework does not attempt to answer the question of when displacement ends. In fact, the phrase “when displacement ends” is not used in the Framework and has been replaced by “the achievement of durable solutions”.

The IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Georgian, Russian and Spanish at:

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/thematics/durable-solutions>

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre of the Norwegian Refugee Council offers training on the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons for national stakeholders. For more information, please contact training@nrc.ch

Over the past decade extensive effort has gone into answering the question of when IDPs achieve a durable solution. In 2001, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator tasked the Representative of the UN Secretary-General (RSG) on internally displaced persons to provide guidance on how to determine when a person should no longer be considered an IDP. Following broad consultations with governments, donors, international agencies and NGOs, civil society and IDP organisations, a pilot publication *When Displacement Ends: A Framework on Durable Solutions* was issued by the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement in 2007. This text was shared widely and the feedback received provided the basis for a thorough revision, which was led by the RSG and involved UNHCR, UNDP, OCHA, IOM UNICEF, UNEP and IDMC/NRC. In 2009, the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons was endorsed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group, and in 2010 the RSG presented the Framework to the UN Human Rights Council.

The Framework is primarily aimed at international and non-governmental actors and is presented in four sections. These sections are the definition of a durable solution, key principles for the search for durable solutions, organization of the durable solutions process, and criteria for the achievement of durable solutions. The Framework states that “a durable solution is achieved when IDPs no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and such persons can enjoy their human rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement”. Eight criteria for the achievement of a durable solution are put forward: long-term security and freedom of movement, an adequate standard of living, access to employment and livelihoods, restoration of housing, land and property rights, access to

28 Protection Clusters Active in the Field

At the global level, UNHCR continues to provide vision and leadership in setting the protection agenda, establishing strategic priorities and coordinating support activities of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) to the field. The Global Protection Cluster coordinates and provides inter-agency policy advice and guidance on the implementation of the cluster approach to 28 active Protection Clusters in the field. At the country level, UNHCR leads 20 Protection Clusters, UNICEF 5 Protection Clusters and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights 3 Protection Clusters which all provide an inter-agency platform for coordinating the protection response in emergencies.

Cluster Coordination Positions Created in UNHCR

To mainstream its Cluster Coordination functions, in 2011, UNHCR elaborated a standard job description for dedicated Protection Cluster Coordinators and then created the regular functional position and job title of Cluster Coordinator (Protection) as a standard post. To action this, six such positions were created and advertised externally and internally in the March 2011 UNHCR compendium of vacant positions. This is a major achievement for UNHCR and goes a long way in ensuring that it mainstreams its cluster coordination responsibilities.

Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons Translated

A landmark field tool, the Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), has been produced by the Global Protection Cluster. The drafting and publication process was facilitated and funded by UNHCR. The tool will help field workers to more effectively protect the rights of IDPs around the world. The Handbook has been translated into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish. Dissemination of the translated handbooks will be undertaken in 2012.

In 1969 the Organization of African Union, the predecessor of the African Union, adopted the first regional treaty on refugees which complements the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Four decades later, the region has maintained its pioneering role in the development of normative standards on displacement by adopting the African Union Convention on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (The Kampala Convention) during the first African Union Summit on forced displacement held in Kampala, Uganda in October 2009. The Kampala Convention is the first ever binding legal instrument on internal displacement with extensive provisions addressing the various aspects of internal displacement. The Global Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, has been closely associated with this important regional initiative by supporting the secretariat of the African Union, to ensure that the outcome was consistent with existing international normative standards particularly the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

The Convention incorporates 23 articles which present a comprehensive treatment of the responsibility of states and non-state actors in providing protection and assistance to IDPs during all stages of displacement, i.e. prior to displacement, during displacement and in the context of the search for durable solutions. It defines IDPs, prohibits arbitrary displacement, provides provision of assistance and protection to IDPs, promotes durable solutions and recognizes the right of IDPs to receive compensation for violations of their human rights. The Kampala Convention's framework on state responsibility complements the approach adopted by the Guiding Principles which identifies the needs of IDPs as an overarching framework. Not only does it cover all the key causes of internal displacement including armed conflicts, human rights violations, natural disasters and climate change, it also adopts a broader human rights approach by underscoring the need to respect and protect the human rights of IDPs and the responsibility of states to "prevent political, social, cultural and economic exclusion and marginalisation, that are likely to cause displacement of populations or persons by virtue of their social identity, religion or political opinion." The Convention transforms the Guid-

ing Principles into "hard law." By introducing some new issues, it also expands the scope of existing normative framework.

Responsibilities of States: The Convention recognizes the primary responsibility of states to prevent displacement; to protect, respect and fulfill the human rights of IDPs; and to ensure that durable solutions are found including by promoting self-reliance and livelihood activities. While addressing the protection and assistance of IDPs, states are required to take into account the needs of host communities. The Convention requires states to enact legislation and ensure the designation of the appropriate institutional focal point at the national level. By adopting the Convention, states express their determination to take measures in preventing displacement. The Convention also obligates states to provide essential services to IDPs particularly the most vulnerable such as women, children, and pastoral communities.

Beyond individual responsibility of states, the Kampala Convention also provides a platform for regional cooperation to address displacement crisis and its consequences. The Convention also stipulates for the collective obligation of members of the African Union to intervene in member states where systematic violations of human rights such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity occur. Article 8 stipulates for the role and responsibility of the African Union. These provisions have been inspired by regional legal instruments such as the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

Accountability of non-state actors: In addition to the responsibilities of states, the Kampala Convention also covers the obligations, responsibilities and role of non-state actors such as armed groups, multinational companies, private security companies, non-governmental organizations and others in preventing displacement and providing the necessary protection and humanitarian assistance to IDPs. By providing a separate provision on the obligation of non-state actors, it significantly expands the application of international norms in governing the conduct of non-state actors. This is important given the impact and role of non-state actors on displacement in Africa during situations of armed conflicts. It also

acknowledges that individuals are also displaced as a result of economic activities undertaken by private companies. The Kampala Convention has important provisions dealing with the responsibilities of these companies in preventing internal displacement. It has also been clearly stated that provisions dealing with the obligation and responsibility of armed groups does not necessarily mean that armed groups will assume a special status in international law.

Protection in the context of natural disaster and climate change: The Kampala Convention is well tuned to challenges of protection arising from natural disaster and climate change. In order to address the problem of internal displacement associated with mega trends, member states are required to put in place early warning systems; emergency preparedness and management measures, disaster reduction strategies and climate change mitigation policies. It is stated that during situations of natural disaster, eviction shall take place only if the safety and health of the individuals concerned demand such measures.

Implications for international humanitarian action: By requiring the elaboration of domestic legal standards on internal displacement and the designation of the appropriate national focal point with key responsibilities including to coordinate with international actors when necessary, the Convention includes provisions on the responsibilities and role of international humanitarian organizations when government authorities are unable or unwilling to provide the necessary protection and assistance to IDPs. The preamble importantly cites the particular protection expertise of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and reiterates the call made by the Executive Council of the African Union in its Decision EX/CL. 413 (XII) of July 2008 at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, to continue and reinforce its role with respect to IDPs within the Cluster Approach system. By urging all actors in the conflicts to adhere to international humanitarian law and principles, and providing for binding regulation of their action, the Kampala Convention provides the much needed tool for reinforcing the expansion of humanitarian space.

Conclusion:

So far thirty-four Countries have signed the Convention, of which ten have also ratified the Convention, and ten countries have officially deposited their ratification with the African Union. The human rights approach adopted by the Convention makes the role of regional and national human rights mechanism quite important. The respective role of the African Commission and its special rapporteur in overseeing the implementation of the Convention has been covered under the Convention. The African Union's secretariat particularly the Humanitarian and Political Affairs Division will coordinate the activity of the African Union in this regard.

At the national level, states are expected to designate a national mechanism that will coordinate the national response. States are required to undertake legislative reforms that are necessary to fully implement the Convention. While a stand-alone national legislation might be appropriate to address the problem of internal displacement in a comprehensive manner, reviewing existing legislation relevant to internal displacement should be encouraged. For instance, under Article 7(4), the role of national criminal law in holding armed groups liable for acts which violate the rights of IDPs is important.

The full implementation of the Convention requires much more than adapting new legislation or setting up a national focal point. States should allocate the necessary resources and create a conducive environment encouraging international cooperation and assistance. They should also strengthen the enforcement of their commitment under human rights law and international humanitarian law through capacity building programs and training and facilitating effective partnership relations with civic society.

Partnerships

All protection actors in the Global Protection Cluster share responsibility for ensuring that activities in the Protection Cluster and other areas of the humanitarian response are carried out with “a protection lens”. This can best be done through effective partnerships and collaboration. As a matter of priority, protection clusters worldwide need to devote much more time and attention to finding ways to ensure all cluster participants are treated as genuine partners. It is a lamentable fact that NGOs “..often feel overwhelmed by meetings; they do not feel respected as equal partners and they do not see reform grounded in accountability to crisis-affected communities. While many NGOs will engage in clusters at the global level, they are finding that in several countries, their staff continue to be frustrated by the inefficiency and inequality demonstrated in many clusters. Some NGOs see the value in co-leading/co-facilitating/co-chairing clusters, but what that role entails requires clarification.” To concretely address this, the Protection Cluster, at the global and field levels, is committed to respect the following principles of partnership endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform:

Equality

Equality requires mutual respect between members of the partnership irrespective of size and power. The participants must respect each other's mandates, obligations and independence and recognize each other's constraints and commitments. Mutual respect must not preclude organizations from engaging in constructive dissent;

Transparency

Transparency is achieved through dialogue (on equal footing), with an emphasis on early consultations and early sharing of information. Communications and transparency, including financial transparency, increase the level of trust among organizations;

Result-oriented approach

Effective humanitarian action must be reality-based and action oriented. This requires result-oriented coordination based on effective capabilities and concrete operational capacities;

Responsibility

Humanitarian organizations have an ethical obligation to each other to accomplish their tasks responsibly, with integrity and in a relevant and appropriate way. They must make sure they commit to activities only when they have the means, competencies, skills, and capacity to deliver on their commitments. Decisive and robust prevention of abuses committed by humanitarians must also be a constant effort

Complementarity

The diversity of the humanitarian community is an asset if built on comparative advantages which complement each partner's contributions. Local capacity is one of the main assets to enhance and on which to build. Whenever possible, humanitarian organizations should strive to make it an integral part in emergency response. Language and cultural barriers must be overcome.

GPC Partnership Arrangements Surge Protection Capacity

The Global Protection Cluster makes strategic use of deployments of experienced cluster coordination staff from the Headquarters or field operations of member agencies to establish field Protection Clusters in new emergencies or to support already existing ones improve their response capacity. In addition, the Global Protection Cluster can also facilitate access by field operations to complementary deployment schemes maintained under various established partner arrangements, especially the Protection Standby Capacity Project (ProCap) administered by OCHA and NRC. Field Operations facing protection capacity problems are encouraged to approach the Global Protection Cluster Operations Cell for further information on the appropriate use of the following standby arrangement and deployment schemes:

Danish RC

Danish Refugee Council Standby Roster - DRC maintains a roster of more than 200 individuals to deploy in both emergency and non-emergency situations. Roster members are generally at the P2/P3 level.

Norwegian RC

Norwegian Refugee Council - NORCAP - maintains emergency standby capacity, for deployment within 72 hours, with over 800 members in the areas of protection and child protection. Roster members are generally at the P2/P3 level.

ProCap

Protection Standby Capacity Project - ProCap - is a collaborative project between members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Through the deployment of senior protection officers for 6 months, ProCap provides Humanitarian Country teams with strategic expertise, operational policy, planning, coordination and other guidance. Many deployees have led Protection Clusters in complex emergencies and natural disasters and have proven to be valuable resources in the establishment of protection coordination mechanisms, the development of protection strategies, planning frameworks, monitoring frameworks and advocacy strategies, and capacity building and training. The resource is usually at the P5 level.

GenCap

Gender Standby Capacity Project - GenCap - is a collaborative project between members of the IASC which builds the capacity of humanitarian agencies at the country level in order to mainstream gender equality, GBV prevention and response programming. Advisors are usually hosted by the Humanitarian Coordinator's office and work on behalf of all agencies.

UNV

United Nations Volunteers - UNVs programme maintains a roster of more than 6,000 qualified candidates in 105 professional categories including protection and community services. UNVs usually work at the P2 level.

ActionAid

ActionAid Australia Standby Roster - maintains a roster of specialists in protection, child protection and gender-based violence.

ActionAid

Irish Aid Standby Roster - administers a standby roster whose 64 members include profiles in protection and emergency programme support.

SDC

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Standby Roster - administers a roster of several hundred experts including protection officers.

Handicap

Handicap International specialist support - has provided disability specialists for technical support to operations, as well as support to the Global Protection Cluster and national protection clusters on inclusive assistance, disability rights, physical and social accessibility, health and rehabilitation.

IRC

IRC Surge Protection Capacity Project - a joint-initiative with UNHCR. With an active roster of more than 340 individuals, IRC enhances UNHCR's staffing capacity in the areas of general protection, statelessness, local integration, prevention and response to gender-based violence and IDPs, with deployments for up to 11 months. The project provides staff at the P2/P3 level and is intended to address temporary and sudden increases in staffing needs.

Helpage

Helpage International: Provision of technical expert support to field based Protection Clusters on drawing-up strategies and programming for older persons and persons with disabilities.



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Afghanistan

Afghanistan Protection Cluster Advocacy Initiatives for the Protection of Civilians

Humanitarian actors in Afghanistan face a daunting task with the ongoing armed conflict having a direct and continuing impact on the civilian population. In violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Afghan civilians are killed, injured, maimed and abducted on a daily basis, while their belongings and livelihoods bear the burden of the conflict.

While 80% of the civilian casualties in 2011 are allegedly perpetrated by Anti Governmental Elements, 15% of civilian deaths and injuries are attributed directly to Pro-Governmental Forces.

Civilian casualty figures while exceedingly important cannot be considered in isolation. In order to comprehensively capture the real impact of armed operations on civilians beyond deaths and injuries a wider perspective is es-

sential. The brunt borne by civilians encompasses the destruction of livelihoods and shelter, severe limitation on freedom of movement to markets, mosques, hospitals and relatives, and general disruption of the most basic services of education and health.

In addition, combat operations, whether large scale or those focused on smaller communities and limited in time, are forcefully uprooting fami-

lies and communities. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) account for nearly 500,000 persons and are forced to remain away from their homes in cramped accommodations with host communities or in collective public spaces. Living in abject poverty and destitute conditions in displacement they remain at risk of secondary displacement.

Advocacy by the Afghanistan Protection Cluster (APC)

In order to address issues of prevention and reduction of harm to Afghan civilians, the APC led by UNHCR and supported by an Advocacy group of NGOs and UN agencies has steered Protection of Civilians advocacy. The key objective is to enhance understanding of the varied impact of the conflict on civilians and advocate for the respect for IHL with critical stakeholders. While both parties to the conflict are objects of advocacy, methods and approaches for differ. The APC has since mid 2009 been involved in a series of high-level advocacy efforts with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

These efforts firstly encompass the bi-annual collation of recommendations to the Security Council Expert Group on Protection of Civilians (SCEG) in the context of discussions held on the renewal of the UNAMA and ISAF mandates. Once they receive approval from APC members, those notes are sent to the SCEG through the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator. These notes are given due weight as they represent a common position shared by operational protection agencies that work directly with Afghan civilians.

Secondly, the Protection Cluster steers joint advocacy with ISAF for a uniform and effective redress mechanism for civilians harmed due to international military operations. This has resulted in exchanges with Commander ISAF (COMISAF), to stress the importance of prompt and uniform compensation to civilians suffering personal or property loss due to combat operations. Concerted NGO advocacy underpins this and has resulted in 2010 in the NATO non-binding guidelines on civilian compensation for troop-contributing nations in Afghanistan. Implementation of these has triggered further APC advocacy requesting the COMISAF in February 2011 for the issuance of a directive on redress and compensation and strengthening of the Civilian Casualty Tracking Cell. COMISAF response to the APC in June 2011 indicates their interest in addressing the issue of in-

creasing civilian casualties and the need for transparency in this regard.

Thirdly, as a consequence of outstanding demands from the civil society and humanitarian actors for ISAF to engage with them on its conduct of operations and on reduction of civilian harm, the ISAF finally convened a conference on civilian casualties in June 2011 and has committed to organise regular consultations with NGOs and Advocacy groups. The APC is well represented in this working group and uses this forum to share concerns on the impact of the night raids, ground combat and air operations conducted by ISAF on civilians. While this initiative needs to further develop, it nonetheless has opened a way for discussions.

Fourthly, in order to fill the vacuum of comprehensive protection of civilian overviews, the APC has since January 2011 developed a series of briefing documents covering various regions of the country. These are developed in consultation with field and national Protection clusters and are widely disseminated including shared with donors and other stake holders and now provide a documentary base for the deteriorating protection of civilians.

Conclusion

The challenges are vast, not the least relating to civilian casualties by anti government elements, however addressing the gap in communication with ISAF/ NATO forces, as a concerted cluster membership has resulted in recognition for APC concerns. Given its wide based membership and its regional coverage, the APC is in a position to facilitate lateral advocacy across various sectors.

News

from
the
Field



Field Based Protection Clusters

Once protection cluster leadership is assumed at the country level, the Protection Cluster Lead Agency is responsible for ensuring a well coordinated and effective response in the protection area of activity covering the identified needs of persons of concern. This does not mean that the cluster lead agency is expected to carry out all the necessary activities within protection, but that it is committed to being provider of last resort, which entails, inter alia, advocating for full coverage.

Clusters are invited to share information for publication in this part of the newsletter.





Haiti

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The Protection Cluster (PC) was established in Haiti in February 2010 in response to the 12 January 2010 earthquake. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) serves as the Cluster Lead Agency in Haiti. OHCHR is an integral part of the “UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti” (MINUSTAH) in the form of the mission’s Human Rights Section (HRS). Thus, it is the HRS (OHCHR) which serves as the Protection Cluster Lead. The Protection Cluster has a national cluster in Port-au-Prince and regional Protection Clusters operating in six Departments. The Protection Cluster supports the Government as well as local human rights institutions and groups in their efforts to promote and protect human rights in the humanitarian effort. In practice, the substantive work is focused on immediate protection concerns, in particular regarding the population living in camps. The Protection Cluster has been able to develop and/or oversee the elaboration of two key protection tools outlined below. The overarching objective of both tools is to respond to needs and gaps identified with regard to the protection response and to develop Haiti specific tools. The Protection Cluster in Haiti would like to share with other readers of the newsletter the following information on the tools:

1 Protection mainstreaming in Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

The Protection Cluster is actively involved in the Emergency Preparedness and Response in coordination with OCHA, the other Clusters and governmental counterparts (mainly the Direction de la protection Civile). A practical step in this regard has included the mainstreaming of protection through the development of a protection and emergency toolbox. This initiative was launched as a result of the identification of critical protection gaps in the preparation and response to the emergency during the EPR simulation exercise organized by the MINUSTAH in April 2011. As a result, the Protection Cluster coordination team decided to develop and mainstream protection tools aiming at sensitizing all the actors operating in this field. Within this framework, a protection toolbox was created. This toolbox is composed of technical and operational guidelines and a programmatic project composed of kits “AVEC” (Alerter, Voir, Etre Informé, Conserver).

Operational and technical guidelines: they are based on IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of persons in situations of natural disasters but were adapted to fit the Haitian context. It is the joint product of the Protection Cluster, the two Areas of Responsibility of the Protection Cluster (GBV and child protection, and the two PC working groups (Housing land and property working group and Documentation working group) which contributed to the factsheets. Those guidelines have been presented to the humanitarian community and were also put into an operational format under the shape of a plastic booklet that can be used as a memo by field workers even under the rain.

Kits “AVEC”: The Protection Cluster coordination team managed to involve its partners in the constitution and distribution of AVEC Kits. AVEC kits aim to protect the most vulnerable and isolated persons in case of an emergency. They are composed of a whistle (alerter), a solar lamp (voir), a radio (être informé) and a plastic bag (conserver les documents et médicaments).

2. Standard Operating Procedures to coordinate field actors' response to forced evictions

In light of the absence of a clear and comprehensive national strategy to address the situation of people living in camps and the number of informal sites on both public interest and private land, eviction of camp populations and forced camp closure became a growing concern. While the humanitarian community's primary role was meant to support Haitian State entities in fulfilling their obligation to protect those affected by the earthquake, it was obliged to play a central role with regard to forced camp closures.

Though recognizing that field actors' involvement on a case by case basis could only have limited effect on the situation, these standard operating procedures were developed in response to agencies and cluster members (especially CCCM and Protection Cluster) requesting operational guidance on managing the issue of forced evictions from camps in view of coordinating efforts to prevent or at least delay evictions.

Although they are more tailor-made for evictions from privately owned land, these SoPs can be adapted to instances where State authorities plan to evict affected people.

The SoPs are meant to serve as an orientation and are designed with the understanding that there is no "one-size-fits-all"; thus the SoPs need to be adapted based on the context.

They comprise 11 steps which are based on the context and the field reality, to be implemented in various manners: 1) verification of the threat, 2) notification of the Camp Coordination and Management Cluster, 3) Engagement with the presumed land owner, 4) elaboration of plan of action, 5) informing the persons in camps of the situation; 6) negotiation/mediation; 7) identification of the relevant support needed, 8) development of an advocacy strategy; 9) camp population registration; 10) monitor the forced eviction and conduct a post-eviction assessment; 11) coordinate among actors in case of human rights violations, security issues, etc.

The SoPs are composed of a pathway describing a recommended plan of action which puts seeking the dialogue and support of local authorities at the heart of the process flow and of technical factsheets pertaining to: an eviction incident report, negotiation techniques, legal and social arguments to support mediation efforts, advocacy messages, camp population registration form, vulnerable groups form, template form for monitoring of evicted individuals and official camp closure form.

In recognition of the extremely complex nature of the forced eviction issue in the Haitian context, these documents were developed jointly with IOM which is the lead agency for the Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) Cluster and with the participation and major contribution of various key members of the Protection Cluster's housing, land and property working group (HLP WG) led by UN Habitat. International non-governmental organizations, UN agencies as well as Haitian lawyers shared template tools and/or substantial feedback based on their field experience in view of developing a practical tool which aimed to identify the most relevant actors involved in cases of forced evictions and to determine how to coordinate their actions.

Once these SoPs were validated by the DSRSG/RC/Humanitarian Coordinator, they were distributed to the Protection Cluster members and presented to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). As part of the dissemination strategy developed by the HLP working group, members of the HLP WG and PC members were invited to disseminate the SoPs widely including on their website. Although initially developed for actors discharging Camp Managing responsibilities, such as IOM whose camp managing coordinators in Port-au-Prince participated in a sensitization workshop on the SoPs, other actors such as NGOs were invited to prepare trainings for camp committee members on the most pertinent factsheets of the SoPs. Such training has already taken place for over 100 camp committee members.

The SoPs are presently being translated in creole and a workbook version of the document is under preparation.

The Field speaks out on the GPC Digest



We would like to share with you some reactions from the field on the launch of the Newsletter:

"Thank you for sharing with us this informative Newsletter."

"Dear Colleagues, Congratulations for this excellent initiative and the well prepared digest."

"Thank you very much for coming up with the Protection Cluster Digest. The Digest is an excellent initiative and much needed for cross fertilisation of ideas across different humanitarian operations. We look forward to keeping abreast of the developments on the global visioning process too."

"I am happy to see there is also guidance in the first edition on various Task Forces/ Sub Clusters....that reminds me of our responsibility to particularly co-ordinate with and keep informed of developments on HLP issues, on which we seem to be a bit lost in Another gap area for which we look forward to reading about is the Rule of Law Task Force."

"Congratulations! The newsletter is really substantive and interesting. It is also a lot of work...."

"Way to go!"

Training Achievements

During the course of 2011, important strides have been made to improve the professional capacity of personnel working in Protection Clusters through training. To this end, UNHCR as the Cluster Lead Agency has taken a leading role in the elaboration and design of innovative training modules, focusing on coordination, leadership and fundamental knowledge of the Cluster Approach system. The training has primarily targeted personnel leading or occupying key roles in Protection Clusters or likely to assume such roles in the near future. The training programmes are open to all Protection Cluster participants at the global and field level. Protection Cluster participants are all invited to express interest in taking part in the training by writing to the Global Protection Cluster Operations Cell. The following tangible progress has been made under the auspices of UNHCR:

1. The Protection Cluster Coordination Learning Programme

The Protection Cluster Coordination Learning Programme was initially launched in November 2008, by the Learning Task Force of the Global Protection Cluster. In its initial training workshop form it was rolled out in two regional workshops, in Asia and Africa, as well as one national workshop (Yemen). The training workshops targeted staff from UN agencies, NGOs, and national authorities who held key roles in Protection Clusters in the field. In October 2010, the Global Protection Cluster decided to undertake a revision of the training as a result of lessons learned and the experiences gained from these training workshops. The initial revision, with the assistance of UNHCR's Global Learning Centre, was concluded in December 2011, it has resulted in the elaboration of an up to date long distance Protection Cluster Coordination Learning Programme which will take participants a few months to complete. The programme will also include a workshop as an integral part of the learning experience. The first pilot will be undertaken in the early part of 2012. The Learning Programme on Protection coordination will aim to ensure that people leading or chairing Protection Clusters/Areas of Responsibility at the national or local level effectively mobilize all relevant partners and coordinate the planning, implementation, and evaluation of an integrated multi-stakeholder protection strategy in line with the letter and spirit of the humanitarian reform.

2. UNHCR Tri-Cluster Training initiative

The UNHCR Tri-Cluster Training comprising (Protection Cluster, CCCM and Emergency Shelter Clusters) focused on fundamental cluster approach knowledge as well as the roles and responsibilities of Clusters and Cluster Coordinators. This technical knowledge and skills training workshop targeted UNHCR mid-level managers and staff occupying or likely to occupy key cluster positions. External partners were also invited. The training was held for participants from four sub regions (South East Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, and Southern Africa) before it was upgraded into a fully-fledged learning programme with the assistance of UNHCR's Global Learning Centre.

3. UNHCR Coordination and Leadership Learning Programme

The UNHCR Coordination and Leadership Learning Programme is the successor of the UNHCR Tri-Cluster Training. The UNHCR Global Learning Centre re-designed the Tri-Cluster Training Module and merged it with an existing cluster coordination/inter-agency leadership programme. The re-design process was spurred by the need to further professionalize and mainstream UNHCR capacity to lead, coordinate and effectively respond in operations implementing an inter-agency framework, including the cluster approach. The re-design process

concluded in December 2011. The programme offers a substantial three month and three component learning programme that encompasses a self-study phase (6 - 8 weeks), a 5.5 day workshop and follow-up webinars as well as the establishment of a virtual resource center for cluster coordinators. The pilot Programme was launched in December 2011. Three more trail blazer trainings are planned for 2012. The programme primarily aims to significantly bolster UNHCR emergency response capability by expanding the pool of qualified staff that can be deployed as cluster coordinators. However, as the attitudes and skill-set for a successful cluster coordinator are also applicable in many complex situations with multiple stakeholders, we expect that the course will be of wider interest. Accordingly, participation is also open to non-UNHCR staff, especially partners working on protection clusters.

The programme recognizes the fact that successful coordination in the humanitarian sector is the result of a combination of attitudes and skills underpinned by subject matter expertise. The programme will focus on self-awareness and on the strengthening of positive attitudes (inclusiveness, participation, building cohesive and effective teams, leading from behind, etc); and provide plenty of opportunity to exercise core skills for (cluster) coordinators, including but not limited to, meeting management, facilitation, presentation, conflict management, stakeholder mapping, trust-building and feedback. It also aims to bolster participants' understanding of the

Humanitarian Reform and of the principles governing cluster approaches, and to provide specific content related to clusters. The expected outcome is cluster coordinators with the right attitude, and well-honed soft skills to facilitate inclusive, yet effective and results-oriented processes, supported by technical and professional experience.

4. The Protection in Situations of Natural Disaster Training

The Protection in Situations of Natural Disaster Training was elaborated by the Global Protection Cluster and the design process was led by UNHCR under the auspices of the Taskforce on Protection in Natural Disasters and the Taskforce on Learning. The training has a sub-regional level version and a country level version. The pilot of the one day sub-regional module was delivered as part of the Tri-Cluster (Protection, CCCM and Shelter) Training which took place in Budapest, Hungary, in June 2011. And the pilot of the one and half day country level module was done in Windhoek, Namibia, in November 2011. The aim of the training is to provide guidance to international and national, humanitarian, protection and development actors on identifying, preparing for and responding to the specific protection concerns affecting people in natural disaster situations, in support of national authorities, and using the international legal framework. The training will be formally launched in 2012.

5. UNHCR IDP Protection e-learning Induction Course

The course is designed to introduce UNHCR staff members and partners to the concept of internal displacement, and to explain how UNHCR participates in the inter-agency humanitarian response to internal displacement. The course addresses the following areas: i) the definition of internal displacement, ii) the legal framework relevant to UNHCR's work with the internally displaced, iii) the inter-agency response to internal displacement,

including UNHCR's cluster leadership roles at the global level, iv) the Cluster Approach at the country level, and v) UNHCR's protection and operational activities for the internally displaced. The course will be mandatory for UNHCR staff and implementing partners working in IDP operations. The course is contained in six e-learning modules and the learner's comprehension will be assessed. The course will be available during 2012.

6. Cluster Approach Incorporation into Existing Training

The UNHCR Global Learning Centre has also incorporated implementation of the cluster approach knowledge, skills roles and responsibilities content into existing core training for UNHCR staff. The UNHCR Protection Learning Programme (PLP), a broad-based substantive learning programme aimed at junior protection staff and junior and middle level staff in other career streams now contains appropriate cluster approach implementation content. Likewise the UNHCR Protection Facilitation Learning Programme which is designed to equip in-house trainers with relevant facilitation skills contains cluster content. In addition, the Workshop on Emergency Management (WEM), UNHCR's flagship emergency management programme, has also fully incorporated cluster approach knowledge and skills content in its curriculum. It is very important that the WEM has incorporated cluster approach content as it is a highly successful and sought after programme internally and is rated amongst the best emergency training programmes in the United Nations System. Similarly, the new UNHCR Representatives Orientation, inducting its senior field managers into head of country office roles, also includes important information on the implementation of the Cluster Approach. UNHCR's GLC is also working together with the Brookings Institution to deliver the Sanremo IDP course.

Profiling as Protection:

Introducing the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS)

Established in November 2009, the Joint Internally Displaced Persons Profiling Service (JIPS) is an inter-agency humanitarian service commissioned to provide technical support to countries planning or undertaking profiling exercises of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and to advocate for profiling as a key protection activity. Through the application of a variety of data collection and analysis methodologies, IDP Profiling aims to produce an overview of a population with its core function being to provide IDP statistics disaggregated by sex, age and location. In addition, it can serve to assess other important issues such as movement patterns, IDP intentions with regard to durable solutions and importantly, specific vulnerabilities and protection needs.

The initiative for creating a technical service for IDP profiling arose in response to the crucial role of profiling in planning, funding and implementing appropriate and targeted protection activities for IDPs. With a Steering Committee consisting of DRC, IOM, NRC-IDMC, OCHA, UNFPA and UNHCR, JIPS makes use of its inter-agency character to enhance collaborative profiling exercises and ensure multi-stakeholder buy-in on data collected from IDPs for programming.

JIPS has supported profiling related activities in Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Serbia and Yemen. Final reports and more information about these exercises, as well as JIPS' services and the value of IDP profiling in general, can be found on its website: www.jips.org.

Event	Led by	Dates	Location
Caring for Child Survivors in Humanitarian Settings	UNICEF/IRC:	Jan 23-27 2012	Kampala, Uganda
Protecting Women and Child Survivors in Emergencies through Improved Coordination	UNICEF/IRC:	Jan 30 – Feb 5 2012	Kampala, Uganda
Managing Gender-based Violence Programmes in Emergencies	UNFPA and International Medical Corps.	Feb 15-22, 2012	Nairobi, Kenya
GBVIMS Training of Trainers	UNFPA/IRC: Erin Kenny	13-23 March	Nairobi, Kenya
Coordination of Multi-Sectoral Response to GBV in Humanitarian Settings	UNFPA	May/June (TBD)	Brazil
UNICEF GBViE training for Irish aid and roster partner	UNICEF	June 18-22 2012	Ireland
Coordination of Multi-Sectoral Response to GBV in Humanitarian Settings	UNFPA	June/July	Geneva, Switzerland
Coordination of Multi-Sectoral Response to GBV in Humanitarian Settings	UNFPA/Ghent University:	Nov	Ghent, Belgium
GBV AoR annual consultation	GBV AOR:	6-8 March	New York, USA
Training Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Violence in emergencies	UNICEF/IRC	Jan 23-27	Entebbe, Uganda
Training Protecting Women and Child Survivors in Emergencies through Improved Coordination	UNICEF/IRC	30 Jan – 5 Feb.	Entebbe, Uganda
Meeting on Interagency safe cooking fuel strategy in HoA	UNICEF/ WRC/WFP/UN-HCR	6-7 Feb.	Nairobi, Kenya
GBV Prevention and Response in Emergencies Training for UNICEF and stand-by partners	UNICEF/Irish Aid	18-22 Jun	Limerick, Ireland
Community based psychosocial support training	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group	23 - 27 April	Härnösand, Sweden.
Annual meeting of the MHPSS RG	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group	September	
Training on the IASC MHPSS Guidelines, Pacific region	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group	September/ October	Pacific Region
Training of Psychosocial Trainers	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group	1 - 9 Oct	Härnösand, Sweden
ProCap: Technical Workshop	ProCap	16-20 April	Geneva, Switzerland
Meeting of Task Force on Standards	CP AOR	May 23-24	Geneva, Switzerland
CPWG annual meeting,	CP AOR	October 29 - November 2	Geneva, Switzerland
MA AOR Annual Meeting	Mine Action AOR	22.-23. March	Geneva, Switzerland
"Lend your leg Campaign"/ Marking of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.	Mine Action AOR	4. April:	Geneva, Switzerland

The Global Protection Coordination Team

Essential Contact List

Name	e-mail	Tel.
Coordination and Secretariat		
Louise Aubin	aubin@unhcr.org	(Geneva) 00 41 22 739 8340
Anne Thurin	thurin@unhcr.org	(Geneva) 00 41 22 739 7652
Murat Yucer	yucerm@unhcr.org	
Leonard Zulu	zulu@unhcr.org	(Geneva) 00 41 22 739 7686
Gender Based Violence AoR		
LAWRY-WHITE Janey	jlawrywhite@unicef.org	(Geneva) 00 41 22 909 5629
Child Protection AoR		
BARNETT Katy	cbarnett@unicef.org	(Geneva) 00 41 79 559 7173
Housing, Land & Property AoR		
FRICSKA Szilard	fricska.unhabitat@unog.ch	(Geneva) 00 41 22 917 8391
Mine Action AoR		
RUUD Helene	hruud@unog.ch	(Geneva) 00 41 22 917 3435
Protection Cluster Toolbox		
ZULU Leonard	zulu@unhcr.org	(Geneva) 00 41 22 739 7686
GPC Helpdesk & Rapid Deployments		
FRICSKA Szilard	fricska.unhabitat@unog.ch	(Geneva) 00 41 22 917 8391
THURIN Anne	thurin@unhcr.org	(Geneva) 00 41 22 739 7652
Learning & Training Task Team		
DELFABRO Claudio	delfabro@unhcr.org	(Budapest) 00 41 22 331 5656
MANCINI Kim	kim.mancini@nrc.ch	(Geneva) 00 41 22795 0739
Donor engagement Task Team		
ZULU Leonard	zulu@unhcr.org	(Geneva) 00 41 22 739 7686
Protection Advocacy Task Team		
THURIN Anne	thurin@unhcr.org	(Geneva) 00 41 22 739 7652
Protection Mainstreaming Task Team		
LUBRANO Paolo	paolo.lubrano@worldvision.org.uk	(London) 00 44 1908 84 1006