



Protection  
Cluster

Digest

The Newsletter of The Global Protection Cluster – 7<sup>th</sup> Edition

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Feature:

## THE CENTRALITY OF PROTECTION IN ARMED VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

Volker Türk:

## Protection at the heart of humanitarian action

Measuring Results:

## Exploring how Information Management plays a critical role in Results-based Protection

Voices from the Field:

## IDPs registration in Ukraine



**LOUISE AUBIN**

Global Protection  
Cluster Coordinator

## A WORD from the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator

Dear Colleagues,

This edition of the Global Protection Cluster Digest explores the longstanding commitment to place protection at the heart of humanitarian action; we as humanitarians still have much to accomplish in order for this commitment to become a reality. The challenge facing humanitarians is to ensure that differences in understanding of the concept of protection enhance, rather than restrict, the assistance provided to crisis-affected communities.

We look at this issue from different perspectives: building on the December 2013 Inter-Agency Standing Committee statement on the “Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action”, the newsletter reflects on the meaning of protection in practice, from upholding legal rights and norms, to ensuring those interventions and activities through which a person’s rights are secured. In other words, if protection is to be placed at the centre of humanitarian action, a strong link needs to be made between rights and assistance. Protection and assistance are not separate sectors or activities: rather, assistance is a means to achieving protection outcomes for people, while protection concerns, as experienced by internationally displaced persons and other affected communities will determine how appropriate assistance is prioritized, programmed and delivered. In this sense, Digest contributions on Rights Based Solutions for the internally displaced, on Protection Mainstreaming and on Information Management’s critical role in results-based protection, provide good examples of the importance of such a link.

Placing protection at the center of humanitarian action also means giving specific attention to the “Human Rights Up Front” (HRuF) initiative, intended to prevent and respond to serious human rights concerns in humanitarian crises. HRuF should lead to better and earlier responses to the risk of serious human rights violations. An interesting article explains HRuF and its linkage with our efforts to make protection central to humanitarian response.

At the core of protection is people’s own understanding of what protection means to them on each context. In this issue of the Digest, you will find voices from the field focusing on community-based protection: you will read about communities and their own support systems and self-protection mechanisms and evidence of the critical need for more meaningful dialogue and participation of communities during and beyond humanitarian response.

You will also see updates from the Areas of Responsibility, including the newly revised IASC Guidelines on Integrating Gender based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, along with news from the GPC Task Teams on Learning, Protection Mainstreaming, Donor Dialogue and the recently launched Task Team on Law and Policy. We have also included the calendar of GPC training and learning achievements and the 2015 GPC work plan, in the hope of receiving further feedback from you to inform our work in 2016 and beyond. We have also added protection briefings on key countries and the updated JIPS tools to analyze protection data.

The Digest is your forum for sharing experiences, updates and new initiatives. Through each edition, you have the opportunity to contribute to the protection community by sharing specific challenges and innovative solutions benefiting all of us. I thank you for making the Digest a helpful tool for practitioners everywhere.

Sincerely,  
Louise



**Global Protection Cluster**

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Cover photo: A woman  
refugee in the UNHCR Doro  
Camp, Mabaan County in  
Southern Sudan, chops  
firewood. Wood for cooking  
and heating is in very short  
supply in the area.

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# Protection at the heart of humanitarian action

**Volker Türk**, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection.  
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Our commitment to place protection of persons affected by crisis at the heart of humanitarian action is longstanding – and yet, we still have much to accomplish for this commitment to become a reality. The findings of the Secretary-General’s 2012 internal review panel on UN action in Sri Lanka have set in motion several far-reaching initiatives over the last three years, starting with the Human Rights Upfront Action Plan and the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. Protection actors themselves have actively contributed to this period of reflection, with two studies in 2014 and 2015: the whole of system review of protection in humanitarian crises, commissioned under the auspices of the Global Protection Cluster together with the Inter Agency Standing Committee, and a study by the Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, *Ten Years After Humanitarian Reform: How Have Internally Displaced Persons Fared?* Consequently, 2016 is set to be a year for change as we invest in more strategic, informed and effective leadership and coordination, and commit to ways of working that will contribute to protection outcomes.

What do these studies tell us? On many levels, their findings confirm what is already known by many. To strengthen our collective performance in humanitarian response, we above-all need to approach protection from the perspective of the communities themselves, recognizing the different risks and needs experienced by women, men, children and others. It is equally important to set out candidly, in each context, what protection in humanitarian settings can and must do, being clear about its potential as well as its limitations – limitations that are not least circumscribed by fundamental humanitarian principles.

In all circumstances, the aim of protection is to save lives, ensure safety and security, alleviate suffering and restore the dignity of affected communities. As a result and as dictated by the context, protection is preventive, responsive, remedial and environment-building. Rarely is protection a one-off event; rather it is a combination of interventions over time requiring input and expertise from a range of actors, including those outside the humanitarian sector. Delivery of protection is thus dynamic, moving from preparedness and prevention through to emergency and, incrementally, towards the search for solutions.

There are undoubtedly interventions and services that require the dedicated knowledge and expertise of protection actors, such as, for example, documentation, legal representation for survivors of violence and human rights violations (including redress for lost property),

child protection, family tracing and reunification, and the prevention, detection and response to sexual and gender-based violence. Protection as a sector in humanitarian action is thus vital and life-saving. And yet, protection is much more than a sector; it is the lens that informs and enables effective humanitarian responses and it is the overarching goal that drives all our humanitarian endeavours.

Such a holistic approach to protection demands coordination that can leverage complementary action in respect of mandates, expertise and experience to address the most acute needs of crisis-affected communities within any inter agency set-up. Coordination is a critical means to maximize impact; but it is not a means in of itself. There is a responsibility incumbent on us all to streamline processes so that energy is not taken away from direct and meaningful engagement with communities, timely delivery and advocacy. Here, informed and effective protection leadership becomes paramount.

Protection leadership must be informed by a thorough and joined up analysis of the internal and external environment: Which communities are affected? What risks do they face? What are their needs? Answers to these questions are only obtained through regular and meaningful dialogue with communities. In parallel, the same level of inquiry needs to occur to understand the political environment. As a compliment to community feedback and participation, local sources and networks can enrich the analysis that feeds into the strategic discourse, decision-making and prioritization within the Humanitarian Country Team as well as with political, development and security actors. The end results are strategies for protection that enable concrete action for the protection of crisis-affected communities.

In support of leadership, protection actors need sufficient resources, capacity and expertise, visibility and input into decision-making. Often times, protection actors, with their proximity to communities affected by conflict, are the first to detect a humanitarian imperative to intervene in a critical incident or on behalf of a particular group. When given a voice, protection actors can use their insights and knowledge to mobilize action within the humanitarian system and to galvanize broader support when protection risks are beyond the full scope of the humanitarian system to mitigate or stop. Protection actors can likewise promote the necessary standards and principles for a system-wide response to crises, in a manner that is politically astute and, at the same time, ultimately serves to enhance protection to internally displaced and other crisis affected communities.



Safe drinking water in the UNHCR refugee Camp Doro in Mabaan County, Southern Sudan. © UNHCR / S. Rich

## “Human Rights up Front” and Humanitarian Action

Andrew Painter

It is often said that the United Nations (UN) rests on three pillars: peace and security, development and human rights. Yet, these pillars do not always enjoy equal attention when it comes to UN planning and decision-making, with human rights often falling behind. The reasons for this are many, not least of which being the meager amount of funds devoted to human rights as a percentage of the overall UN budget. Another, less visible, reason is a reluctance to raise with host Governments issues which could be considered politically sensitive and which may lead to tensions in the UN’s relationship with national authorities.

The 2012 report of the Secretary-General’s Independent Review Panel (IRP) on the UN response to the armed conflict in Sri Lanka, which claimed the lives of tens of thousands of civilians, found that there was a “systemic failure” in UN action. In particular, it identified: an inadequate sense of responsibility for the human rights violations that were occurring; fragmented analysis and strategy in the UN response; multiple UN entities and coordination mechanisms at HQ level with overlapping mandates; and a UN presence on the ground that lacked the capacity and experience needed to respond to the situation as it had evolved.

As a result of these findings, the Secretary-General launched the “Human Rights up Front” (HRuF) initiative, seeking to fundamentally change how the UN approaches situations where there is either a risk of, or ongoing, serious human rights violations. First, and foremost, HRuF seeks cultural change within the UN, placing the protection of human rights back at the center of its mission. HRuF encourages UN staff to take principled stances and to act with moral courage. Second, it seeks operational change, including common analysis and decision-making among UN entities so that human rights risks and UN responsibilities are well understood by all UN actors. Finally, it calls for more effective engagement with Member States, providing States with the information that they need to meet their own responsibilities to act.

Since its launch 20 months ago, the reaction of UN staff to HRuF has been overwhelmingly positive, reminding many why they joined the UN in the first place. Indeed, the Secretary-General has called it a “once-in-a-generation opportunity to help ensure the United Nations meets the aspirations of the Charter.” While this embrace of the spirit of HRuF has been critical, staff must also see its impact in the work they do and the people they serve. This is now beginning to happen.



It should be stressed from the outset that HRuF is primarily intended to be a tool of prevention, seeking to better position the UN – analytically, operationally, and politically – to prevent situations from deteriorating into violence and conflict. Inter-agency “horizon-scanning” is now taking place, with human rights considerations at the center of discussions. Human rights, development, political and humanitarian perspectives are all considered to determine if human rights risks are present and how the UN’s various mandates and capacities can be used to address them. The scanning process has resulted in such actions being taken as the development of a common UN strategy, the deployment of additional political and human rights staff to support UNCTs, increased and strengthened advocacy by the Secretary-General, and the referral of particularly complex situations to a more senior body of UN principals.

It is active conflicts, however, that have become the first tests of HRuF. In South Sudan, the decision of UNMISS to “open the gates” to the UN compound in Bor received much stronger and rapid UNHQ backing as a result of HRuF. While the situation of those admitted to the UN compound has since created its own challenges, lives were undoubtedly saved at the time. In CAR, much stronger interventions were made with Member States about the need to act decisively and quickly, including through the deployment of a peacekeeping mission to protect civilians.

Humanitarian actors have an important role in these efforts, in particular in situations of armed conflict and violence. The IASC Statement on the Centrality of Protection translates the centerpiece of HRuF, i.e., the need to put human rights at the heart of what the UN does, into a humanitarian context. Given the important role of non-UN actors in humanitarian action, it makes sense that the Statement commits all humanitarian actors, and not just UN staff, to protection principles.

Is HRuF useful for humanitarian action? The answer is a clear “yes.” Most fundamentally, HRuF should lead to better and earlier responses to serious human rights

concerns, which are often the drivers of humanitarian crises. Less obviously, in crisis situations, HRuF should help ensure a stronger human rights presence on the ground, such that humanitarian actors are not called on to fill a human rights void, complicating their efforts to deliver protection and assistance.

HRuF also offers humanitarian actors important opportunities. Through its focus on strategic, joined-up responses to situations of concern, humanitarian agencies are better able to inform, understand, and influence, the actions of other entities in the UN system, be they political, development or human rights-focused. As well, issues of particular concern to humanitarian actors should receive greater attention by the UN system as a whole by being on the HRuF agenda.

The discussions now taking place on the expectations and limitations of humanitarian actors in responding to human rights and IHL violations are important in this regard. HRuF does not expect, or want, all UN actors to become “human rights monitors.” This is the job of OHCHR, with its human rights partners. Nor does HRuF expect all UN staff to “speak out” against human rights violations, especially if there are mechanisms and trained staff in place to do so.

HRuF does expect, however, UN staff to look afresh at how they work and to identify those spaces where they can play a role in preventing or responding to serious rights violations. This is now happening in the context of information management, with discussions taking place on how the UN can better collect and analyze human rights information from across the system. While there are important issues to be addressed (e.g., how to maintain principles of confidentiality and neutrality), the discussion is going in the right direction.

The role of NGOs and civil society in HRuF bears particular mention. While HRuF is fundamentally about improving how *the United Nations* does its job better, NGOs and civil society have an important role to play. As the actors most informed about human rights conditions on the ground, they bring with them important information and analysis that can improve UN programming in all areas. Under HRuF, it is hoped that UNCTs will take greater advantage of what these organizations have to offer. HRuF can also be a useful advocacy tool for NGOs seeking more principled UN action. Hopefully, NGOs will use this tool constructively, to ensure that the UN fully considers the human rights dimension of a situation when deciding on a course of action. While there may still be disagreements on what the UN can or should do, the nature of the discussion should change.

With the Secretary-General leaving office at the end of 2016, the next 12-18 months will be crucial for HRuF. Key objectives include ensuring a greater understanding of HRuF in the field, making HRuF sustainable over the long-term, and improving accountability mechanisms. These objectives can certainly be achieved, but will require sustained efforts by all involved, not least by senior UN managers at UNHQ and in the field.



## PROTECTING CIVILIANS, PROTECTING IDPs

Elizabeth Ferris

While protection of civilians has become quite the buzzword in international circles, there is a danger that the progress made in addressing the protection needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is ignored in a ‘protection of civilians’ approach.

Earlier this year, we completed a study on “[how IDPs are faring ten years after humanitarian reform](#)” with field-based case studies on [Colombia](#), [Somalia](#), and the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) and telephone interviews with humanitarian actors in a number of other countries. We found that humanitarian reform has generally improved response mechanisms to IDPs although it has not been effective in either preventing new displacement or finding solutions for those suffering protracted displacement. In some cases, governments are implementing policies that improve the lives of IDPs. In other cases, international agencies largely substitute for national authorities in providing at least some protection for the internally displaced. But we also signaled the danger that the progress achieved on IDPs over the past two decades – a recognition of their rights and awareness of their needs – risks being reversed when IDPs are seen merely as part of a much larger group of people in need. In all the consultations and background materials prepared for the [World Humanitarian Summit](#), you have to search high and low to find a reference to IDPs.

Presently the number of IDPs is at an all-time global high – 33 million in 2013 – a number likely to be even higher when statistics for 2014 are released. It is ironic that at a time when the scale of internal displacement is mounting, the international humanitarian community seems to be turning away from addressing their specific protection needs. Those displaced by conflict have specific protection needs: most obviously for safety, shelter and documentation to enable them to access social services.

Our study’s findings were grouped around six recommendations:

- Maintain the visibility of IDPs.
- Always bear in mind that governments are – or should be – the key actor in preventing, responding to and resolving internal displacement.
- Consolidate progress in humanitarian reform.
- Prioritize finding solutions to displacement and the challenge of engaging development actors.
- Think boldly about protracted displacement
- Devote more resources and creativity to data-collection on IDPs to support policy and programming decisions.

IDPs are not always the most vulnerable – sometimes those who cannot escape face greater risks – but they do have displacement-specific needs which must be addressed. Assuming that their needs will be met and their rights upheld in programs for affected populations is short-sighted. As I have written elsewhere, we need to [make sure that IDPs are not mainstreamed into oblivion](#).

## PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING AND THE CENTRALITY OF PROTECTION

Julien Marneffe

Protection Mainstreaming (PM) constitutes a framework that provides ethical and technical guidance for humanitarian approaches, decisions and actions, at the program and strategic levels. As such, Protection Mainstreaming is crucial to contributing to the full operationalization of the concept of Centrality of Protection as articulated by the IASC Principals in their *Statement on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action* (Dec. 2013). Indeed, the Statement highlights all the key elements of protection mainstreaming (safety, dignity, meaningful access, participation, and accountability to affected populations)<sup>1</sup> throughout the document and emphasizes the responsibility of humanitarian actors across sectors to mainstreaming protection principles in their programs – while underlining the particular technical support role of the protection cluster.

To this end, the Protection Mainstreaming Task Team (PMTT), currently co-chaired by the International Rescue Committee and OCHA, has developed over the past few years an interagency operational framework on Protection Mainstreaming, clarifying the concept and its *key elements* while providing concrete guidance for humanitarian field programs across sectors on how to implement these principles throughout the humanitarian program cycle. This effort resulted in the publication of a Protection Mainstreaming Training Package in September 2014<sup>2</sup>, which is currently being rolled out through a series through a series of six Regional Trainings of Trainers (ToT) aimed at building capacity on Protection Mainstreaming at the operation and strategic levels by targeting cluster and intercluster coordinators and co-facilitators. Regional ToTs have already been completed in South East Asia, Latin America, and Central Africa. Further regional ToTs are planned for West Africa, East Africa, and the Middle East by the end of 2015.

In addition, the PMTT is actively working with Global Clusters to foster these fundamental humanitarian principles by developing strategic commitments and standards as well as concrete tools specific to each humanitarian sector, i.e. sector checklists and tip sheets as well as strategic minimal commitments, such as those developed by the Global Wash Cluster in 2014. These efforts are also undertaken in collaboration with the IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA) Task Team to ensure that PM Key Elements of *participa-*



The Makaguan indigenous tribe are almost physically and culturally extinct now having been forced to flee from their reservations many times. They currently live close to a military base which is a target for guerilla groups making them very vulnerable to attack. © UNHCR/H. Christensen

*tion* and *accountability* are coherent with the AAP standards and best practices, while including safety, *dignity and meaningful* access as key objectives underlying AAP principles and efforts. In parallel, the PMTT is developing a Protection Mainstreaming session for the Task Team on Learning's coordination trainings, which will be rolled out starting September 2015 through a series of trainings of trainers. Furthermore, in line with its work plan objective to enhance result-based Protection Mainstreaming, the PMTT is looking into the development of guidance and tools to measure and demonstrate the results and impact of Protection Mainstreaming in humanitarian responses. This initiative would address one of the gaps highlighted in the Whole of System Review regarding monitoring and evaluation of protection<sup>3</sup>. Last but not least, the PMTT is working on clarifying the concept the *Protection Integration* as a way to promote *protective outcomes* in humanitarian programs beyond those achieved by protection sector interventions. It would emphasize a *whole caseload approach* as recommended in the recent Whole of System Review and in accordance with the latter and spirit of the IASC Statement on Centrality of Protection.

Although past Protection Mainstreaming approaches have been developed with a focus on the program level, its principles also apply to the strategic level, particularly the humanitarian response decision-making and planning processes. The Centrality of Protection states that the “protection of all persons affected and at risk must inform humanitarian decision-making and response, including engagement with States and non-State parties

<sup>1</sup> Although, a more explicit and comprehensive endorsement of the concept of affected populations' *meaningful access* to humanitarian assistance is warranted.

<sup>2</sup> Available in English, French and Arabic, together with other tools and guidance for field practitioners, on the Protection Mainstreaming page of the Global Protection Cluster website: <http://goo.gl/feXNhQ>

<sup>3</sup> Whole of System Review, May 2015, Page 70



to conflict”. In other words, it calls for humanitarian responses that prioritize the safety and dignity of affected populations at the strategic level against the risks of delivering assistance in a context or in a way that cannot save lives because it exposes these populations to continued or greater physical or psychological threats. Protection Mainstreaming provides principled and practical guidance that can help humanitarian strategic decision-makers in their efforts to protect populations at risk in complex and volatile contexts while ensuring meaningful access to necessary assistance. The PMTT is thus engaged in a series of activities to promote these principles not only in humanitarian programs but also at the strategic response level, including:

- 1 Working with the OCHA Inter-Cluster Coordination Support Section to incorporate protection mainstreaming principles and priorities in humanitarian strategic planning and decision-making processes, particularly the field *Humanitarian Needs Overview* (HNO) and *Strategic Response Plans* (SRP). This strategic approach was piloted in the OCHA training on coordination for Inter-Cluster Coordinators end of June in Berlin, and completed with the Regional Training of Trainers on Protection Mainstreaming to support HNO and SRP processes in the remaining target regions.
- 2 Working with the task team developing the new edit of the Humanitarian Coordinator’s (HC) manual to better reflect the key elements of Protection Mainstreaming in the manual, and highlight not only how HCs can support Protection Mainstreaming efforts in all humanitarian programs, but also how Protection Mainstreaming principles can guide both their decision-making process (such as the SRP and humanitarian protection strategies), and their engagement with key strategic stakeholders, such as host governments and donors.

The inclusion of Protection Mainstreaming principles at the strategic level supports the broader *Centrality of Protection* efforts to ensure more protective humanitarian responses by ensuring that they are driven by fundamental humanitarian protection principles and objectives. This in turn enhances the effectiveness of on-going Protection Mainstreaming efforts supported by the PMTT at the operational level.

The GPC website provides information on Protection Mainstreaming, including access to the Training Manual in English, French and Arabic, as well as a series of tools and guidance developed with and by field actors. For further information on the work of the PMTT or on Protection Mainstreaming and related issues, please contact the Task Team coordinator at [julien.marneffe@rescue.org](mailto:julien.marneffe@rescue.org).

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## PROTECTION CONCERNS IN NATURAL DISASTERS

Laurie S. Wiseberg

The centrality of protection in armed violence and conflict – the theme of this newsletter – should be easy to understand, though challenging to implement. Perhaps harder to grasp are the protection challenges confronting humanitarian actors in the context of natural disasters, particularly sudden onset disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, volcanic eruptions or floods, which become “disasters” as they sweep away lives and livelihoods. In recent years, such natural hazards have been increasing in frequency and intensity: the earthquake in Pakistan in 2005 killed over 73,000; the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 killed more than 160,000 and displaced nearly 1.5 million; Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2012 affected over 23 million, including 1.9 million displaced. The death toll from Nepal’s April 2015 earthquake has topped 8,000 with over half a million displaced.

When such disasters strike, the exigencies demand that efforts focus first on search and rescue, on lifesaving operations, on the logistics of reaching those in urgent need of medical attention, clean water, food and shelter. Generally, in such situations, it is the government that leads the response, and it may call on its armed forces and police to assist. Frequently, the scale of the emergency may overwhelm the government, and it will request international humanitarian assistance. There are also situations where a government, though incapable of an effective response, refuses outside help.

In all of these situations, there are protection issues which inevitably emerge at different stages of the crisis.<sup>1</sup> Indeed, if life-saving is the focus of the first hours and days of the crisis, it is important to recognize that the longer people remain in displacement, without the support of former social networks, in conditions of overcrowding, lack of privacy, and increasing dependency, the greater the danger that they will experience abuse, neglect and gender-based violence. The following are some of the protection concerns – by no means a comprehensive listing – which are manifest in natural disasters.

- 
- 1 **Non-discrimination in the provision of assistance:** to water, food, shelter, medical care, education and other basic services. It is vital to ensure that all those in need have equal and unrestricted access to such assistance, without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sex, age, social status, etc. Also critical is ensuring that IDPs sheltering with host communities – not only those in camps – are identified and get assistance, and that assistance is giv-

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<sup>1</sup> Susanne Ringgaard Pedersen, a Senior Protection Officer of ProCap, developed a “Protection Checklist for Nargis Response and Recovery” during her mission in Myanmar (August 2008 – April 2009), which was based on an earlier “Checklist for Integrating Protection in Natural Disaster Management in the Pacific”, which she helped to develop while on mission in the Pacific in 2007. This article borrows heavily from these Checklists.



en to those hosting the displaced as their resources become over-stretched. The “Do No Harm” Principle signals the need to ensure that the provision of assistance does not provoke jealousies or increase hostility or violence between communities.

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- ② **Prioritization of the most vulnerable:** e.g., those in remote locations, marginalized communities, indigenous and minority communities, single-headed households, the elderly without care givers, unaccompanied and separated children, the chronically-ill or disabled. Prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable is not discrimination and represents a critical protection response since women without livelihood to feed their children are at risk of resorting to “sex for food” (a risk heightened when there are soldiers and police controlling access); destitute girls, boys and women are particularly at risk of human trafficking; children are at risk of engaging in the worst forms of child labour as a survival strategy; girls are at risk of early marriage; and those without access to life-saving medicines, or who have lost wheel chairs, crutches or eye glasses are extremely dependent on others. The longer the crisis lasts – and in some cases it can last for years – the greater the threat to the safety and dignity of such vulnerable individuals. For children, access to education, particularly free primary education, is a key protection concern, as is access to psycho-social support for those who have been traumatized by the emergency. As well, ensuring there are services for victims of gender-based

and domestic violence takes on special importance for persons living in displacement.

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- ③ **Family Reunification:** Especially, tracing the parents of unaccompanied minors, but also reuniting husbands and wives or the elderly with their kin, is a key protection concern.
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- ④ **Identification of the Dead:** So the affected can eventually learn what has happened to their relatives, requires procedures for photographing bodies or taking DNA samples, even if health requirements necessitate a rapid interment. This is important not only so families who have lost loved ones can have closure, but also so that death certificates can be issued and inheritance transferred.
- 
- ⑤ **Providing information, consultation, participation:** In natural disaster settings, one of the greatest failings of government and the humanitarian community is not providing the affected population with timely and comprehensive information in a language and format they can understand about: (a) the nature and scale of the disaster; (b) early warning, potential secondary hazards, and possible risk mitigation measures that can be taken (e.g., improving drainage, constructing flood protection, improving health and nutrition, vaccinations); (c) the assistance and compensation they are entitled to and how to claim it; (d) the options they have regarding housing, livelihood



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opportunities and education; and (e) available durable solutions (return, local integration or settlement elsewhere). A second huge failing is not consulting with affected populations about decisions affecting their lives. The tendency is to treat them as victims and not as subjects of their own destiny – a totally disempowering process. A third and related failing is not giving them the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the management of their situation, whether inside or outside of camps, in the timing and manner of such actions as “return”, or in the design of programs intended for their benefit.

**④ Lost Documentation:** During natural disasters, people frequently lose vital civil documentation (birth, marriage, divorce certificates, national ID certificates, passports, pension cards, etc.), documentation about housing, land and property (e.g., deeds and titles), or other important papers (e.g., educational records, diplomas). This raises serious protection concerns if it prevents affected individuals from accessing services, getting their entitlements, or claiming what is rightfully theirs.

**⑦ Housing, Land and Property (HLP):** Inevitably, surfaces as a major concern in almost all natural disasters as: (a) people may be prevented from returning home to areas deemed unsafe or in need of environmental protection (frequently called “no build zones”), or where the land no longer exists (after an earthquake or rising waters); (b) widows are

often blocked from claiming their inheritance after the death of their husbands – or children, after the death of their parents; (c) there is a need for fair and independent procedures to assist those who have lost land deeds or titles, and those who held land according to ancestral, traditional or customary law without formal property documents; (d) there may be competing claims to the same property; (e) former renters or squatters (those without land) need to be provided with alternative housing meeting minimum humanitarian standards. Thus, provision of free legal assistance in this area can be a paramount need.

**⑧ Compensation for the affected population:** Frequently, the government provides special assistance or a compensation package for the affected population to enable them to rebuild their homes and restart their livelihoods. It is important for people to know what their entitlements are, how to claim them, and how to access any available complaints mechanism should they believe they have been unfairly treated with respect to this compensation. Should such a mechanism not exist, a protection approach would advocate for its creation.

As noted above, this list is not a comprehensive one, but highlights some of the main protection concerns which surface during natural disaster emergencies. What it illustrates is that protection must inform the humanitarian response in the case of natural disasters as well as conflict, so that the outcome of the strategy is a population resuming their lives in safety, in security and in dignity.

# Measuring Results: Exploring how Information Management plays a critical role in Results-based Protection

Jessica Lenz

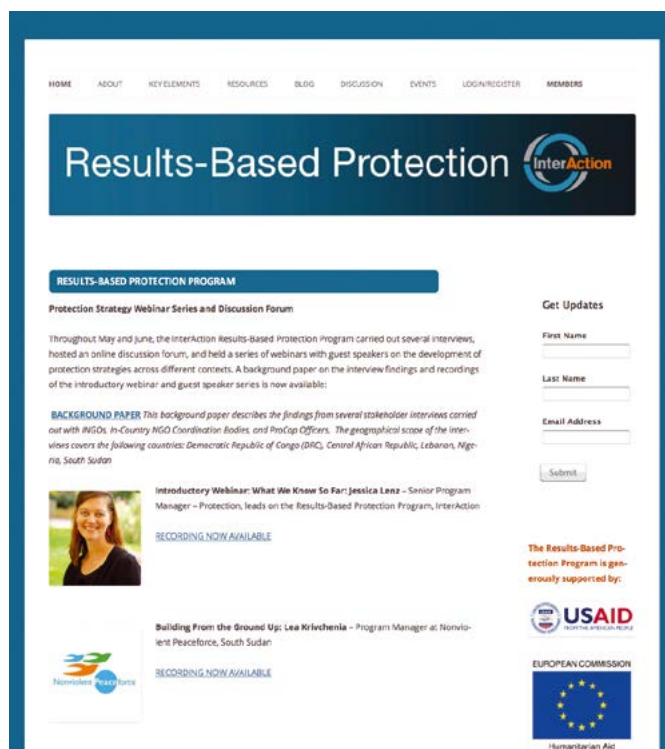
Information and knowledge management has emerged as an essential element of results-based protection and the ultimate achievement of protection outcomes. Information plays a critical role in protection analysis, development of the causal logic or theory of change to reduce risk, program design, situation monitoring and ongoing adaptation of programs, and protection strategies. Unfortunately, many current approaches to protection monitoring collect massive amounts of data but are not purposefully designed with these uses in mind.

If we want to measure the results of efforts to reduce risk and enhance protection, it is essential to take a deliberate and purposeful approach to information collection, analysis and use. This means looking at 1) the people who are involved in both collecting and providing information, 2) the process set up to collect, manage, and analyze data, 3) the structures in place that ensure standards and ethical practices on information management and information sharing are upheld, 4) the organizational and/or inter-agency leadership that steers the strategy, purpose of data collection, and use of information, and, 5) the information itself and its use to support decision-making.

How these five requirements come together in an effective coordinated manner underpin the role of information to achieve protection outcomes. The Results-Based Protection Program is just beginning to explore this topic. We invite practitioners, specialized experts, and humanitarian actors who engage on protection to join the discussion and help us shape how information and knowledge management can support a results-based approach to protection. In July 2015, an on-line discussion forum was launched to share learning, capture practical examples and approaches, and explore challenges and opportunities to strengthen information management. A few key questions we will examine:

- Is the right information being collected to develop an analysis which informs protection strategies and program design?
- How can disaggregated data help to understand patterns of risk? Can more specific information lend itself to the measurement of indicators of changes in risk patterns and, therefore, the measurement of results?
- How can we monitor protection issues beyond incident tracking to better understand patterns and trends in protection priorities and inform decision-making in a continuous manner?

- Where does the demand for information originate and how does that shape the purpose, process, analysis and decision-making? What is the role of the at-risk population in information collection, analysis and use?
- What structures need to be in place to ensure ethical standards, such as informed consent and confidentiality, are upheld?
- Who should engage in the analysis of data and to what extent does this engagement drive how data is used, how to inform programs?
- What considerations should be taken into account before designing and using data for early warning if humanitarian actors cannot guarantee potential threats or risks will be addressed?



To learn more about the Results-Based Protection Program and engage in this and other on-line discussions please visit: <http://protection.interaction.org> and/or contact Jessica Lenz, Senior Program Manager-Protection at InterAction at [jlenz@interaction.org](mailto:jlenz@interaction.org).

# Dr. Riak's Top 10 Tips on Communicating with Communities in South Sudan

“ You cannot protect people who you do not talk to or who you do not know.



Dr. Pauline Elaine Riak, a graduate of Stanford University, is the only female full Professor at the university level in South Sudan. She is the former Chairperson of the South Sudan anti-corruption Commission and the former Chairperson of the Board of

Advisors and current Executive Director of the Sudd Institute in Juba, an independent research organization that conducts and facilitates research and training to inform public policy and practice, to create opportunities for discussion and debate, and to improve analytical capacity in South Sudan. The Sudd Institute's intention is to significantly improve the quality, impact, and accountability of local, national, and international policy and decision-making in South Sudan in order to promote a more peaceful, just and prosperous society. On 18 June, Dr. Riak was invited as a panelist on an ECHOSOC/ Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) Global Protection Cluster side event on "Strengthening Protection in Humanitarian Settings". As part of her address, Dr. Riak stressed the importance of effective communication with the affected communities which humanitarian organizations are striving to protect. She addressed some of the shortcomings of humanitarian agencies' attempts to communicate and meaningfully engage with communities in South Sudan, and provided some thought-provoking tips for improvement, which could be applied in other humanitarian settings as well:

- 1 Learn the local culture. If you are coming to work in South Sudan, you need a crash course on basic understanding of the local culture, which is anything but homogeneous. There are sixty-four ethnic groups and at least fifteen languages in South Sudan. Take time to understand the context and adapt your behavior accordingly.
- 2 Introduce yourself. Explain why you are here. Do not assume that people will know that you are there to protect them, or that they need to be protected. Hospitable to visitors, South Sudanese will first assume we are protecting you, not the other way around.
- 3 Listen – and hear. Do not come in with the assumption that you know what the needs of affected communities are. Understand the power dynamics and gender balance, and how your assessment of needs might be negatively affected, if the views of the community have not been meaningfully taken into account. Help us to help ourselves.
- 4 Ensure that assistance or gifts you provide are culturally sensitive. For instance, there are some types of food that South Sudanese will not eat. They may also not accept wearing secondhand clothes, as they prefer going without clothes or fear catching diseases. They may not use medicine if they do not know where it comes from or what its purpose is.
- 5 Consider with whom you are communicating. Your interlocutors should not only be community or political leaders. Communicate with those you seek to protect as well. Be cautious about gender sensitivity. Consider whether women in the community feel comfortable or safe speaking to a male humanitarian worker in public.
- 6 Consider how your organization is perceived in the community. How does the community feel when they get covered in dust when a 4x4 all-terrain vehicle from your organization drives by at high-speed? Or when they cannot sleep at night because of the noise from your generator? What message do you send by spending all your time in your compound behind a closed gate and high walls, with armed guards?
- 7 Be innovative. For instance, bargain with local leaders for access to land for IDPs, or provide people with the technical know-how that will enable them to care for themselves.
- 8 Be neutral. Mind your own political business and save lives in a dignified manner. Being too close to the political elite, for instance, prevents you from being perceived as neutral in South Sudan.
- 9 Coordinate. Humanitarian agencies tend to be very territorial and fight among themselves. You must spend financial resources and report to donors on the successful implementation of a project, while other organizations need to do the same. Do not blindly implement your projects, but ensure you consult communities and coordinate among the various organizations wishing to implement related projects.
- 10 Think about how you want to be remembered as an organization. Take time to honestly reflect on the impact of your work, and be bold enough to implement the organizational changes you need to uplift the lives of those you serve.

# Protection Cluster Colombia: Rights-Based Solutions for IDPs

Finding durable solutions for the country's displaced populations is a key aspect of Colombia's peace-building process. Some 6 million people or 13% of Colombia's total population have been internally displaced because of the armed conflict, individual persecution or other forms of violence, and at least 400,000 Colombians have sought international protection in neighboring countries and beyond. According to the Victim's Unit registry, the rate of displacement has averaged 223,000 persons per year. Minority Afro-descendant and indigenous communities continue to be the groups most affected by displacement and account for a year-on-year average of 24% and 3.2% respectively of total displacement.

The Colombian government has made significant efforts to foster solutions through policies and measures in areas such as public health, education, income generation, and the reparation of victims including land restitution. Nonetheless, most of the IDPs in neighboring countries have remained in a protracted displacement situation, i.e. they haven't had access to security and other basic human rights such as adequate housing and thus haven't found a durable solution. This is among others because State authorities have not yet been able to adopt in a comprehensive manner all the measures and budgets needed to facilitate displaced populations' access to a rights-based approach to solutions ("rights-based solutions") such as the local integration in urban settings.

Failure to find durable solutions for IDPs may jeopardize the success of the fragile transition period from conflict to lasting peace. Conversely, success in reintegrating IDPs in safe and dignified conditions will substantially contribute to the recovery of the country and sustainable peace. Helping IDPs to return and effectively reintegrate by following a rights- and community based approach will simultaneously address some of the root causes of the conflict and help prevent further displacement. The safe and dignified return of displaced populations and their effective reintegration can thus become an important indicator of peace and the end of conflict, and validate the post-conflict political order in which IDPs and refugee returnees will be salient agents of change for the new "Colombia of opportunities".

According to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, durable solutions for IDPs are complex and long term processes through which they stop requiring special assistance or protection that is associated with displacement and may enjoy their human rights without discrimination. Put differently, IDPs stop being IDPs when they have returned to their place of origin ("voluntary return"), integrate in areas where they have taken refuge ("local integration") or relocate to another part of the country

("settlement elsewhere in the country") **and** their needs are no different from other similarly situated citizens.

Solutions for displaced populations must be addressed through a human rights protection lens so as to ensure their sustainability. A rights-based approach to solutions places displaced populations and their communities at the center of durable solutions.

The concept of rights-based solutions requires working with both State authorities as well as displaced and reception communities. The former have the duty to respect, protect and guarantee human rights. Hence the need to strengthen their capacity to effectively assume their human rights obligations and foster durable solutions for displaced populations. On the other hand, efforts must continue towards strengthening communities' capacities, especially Afro-descendant and indigenous communities, in terms of self-protection and negotiation/dialogue with State entities for accessing a progressively wider range of Human Rights.

In Colombia, this has resulted in the development of an internal and external advocacy strategy. The rights-based approach to solutions is not only the main strategic objective of our field work but it is also an advocacy tool that we have used at different levels and with different actors. UNHCR has assisted the government by providing technical assistance in several areas including the design and evaluation of public policies and strategies regarding the protection of IDPs. The agency has also worked closely with communities and local authorities *inter alia* through the Transitional Solutions Initiative. The rights-based approach to solutions is also being mainstreamed into our work within the National Protection Cluster as well as the nine different Protection Clusters at the field level. The comprehensive rights-based solutions strategy has also been presented to the donor community, NGO consultation forum as well within the Humanitarian Country Team, which greatly improved the overall understanding and coordination of solutions. Of particular interest has been the regional dimension of solutions, including prospective refugee returnees in the context of peace-building and solutions, with the Refugee Coordination Model providing best practices to ensure cohesive coordination among humanitarian actors.

To conclude, in order to ensure the centrality of protection in our work in the specific context of Colombia, we have to ensure continuous engagement with different actors, especially with government entities, the community, civil society, donors, humanitarian and development actors, the private sector and many others as the peace process gathers momentum.

# Contribution to the Global Protection Cluster Digest

Brooke Lauten

Melanie Kesmaecker-Wissing



Women gather for a focus group discussion in a displacement site in Bukuru, Masisi, DRC. (IDMC/M. Kesmaecker-Wissing, June 2014)

## PROJECT PAPER

### Increasing resilience of people affected by multiple displacement: innovation to inform new practice

A three-year project to improve responses to displacement in eastern DRC

17 JULY 2014

**Quick facts**

**Title:** Increasing resilience of people affected by multiple displacement

**Aim:** To reach a common understanding of vulnerability, and to identify approaches that strengthen the resilience of people affected by repeated displacement in eastern DRC

**Geographical focus:** Masisi and Rutshuru in North Kivu; Kalehe, Mwenga, Fizi and Uvira in South Kivu

**Duration:** April 2014 to March 2017

**Consortium members:** The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), International Alert and Climate Interactive

**Funded by:** The Department for International Development (DFID)

Armed violence and instability have displaced millions of people in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) over the last two decades (OCHA, [May 2014](#)). Many internally displaced people (IDP) in the region have been living in protracted displacement for many years, and many have been forced to flee their homes more than once – the result of clashes between armed groups and the security forces, fighting between the armed groups themselves as alliances shift, and human rights violations associated with the conflict ([University of Berkeley, August 2008](#); OCHA, [March 2014](#)).

Displacement reduces IDPs' resilience by forcing them to flee their homes and land, and to seek refuge with host communities, or in official camps or informal sites and settlements. They lose material assets and livelihood opportunities, education is interrupted, they suffer psychological trauma and sometimes physical injury, social cohesion breaks down and tensions between communities increase. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the passage of time and each new displacement alters the coping mechanisms of both IDPs and their hosts.

In the context of a permanent crisis, in which the state has proved unwilling or unable to protect and assist its population,

**CLIMATE INTERACTIVE** **International Alert** **UKAID** **NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL** **IDMC** Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

This is an excerpt from 'IDPs' Decision-Making in DRC: Defining a Framework to Support Resilience in Humanitarian Responses to Multiple Displacement' – the first in a series of thematic papers that contribute to understanding resilience in the context of multiple displacement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the framework of a [project](#) undertaken by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), International Alert and Climate Interactive and funded with UK aid from the British people.

Displacement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is both a coping mechanism and a shock, which can lead to deepening vulnerability and impoverishment.<sup>1</sup> As such, resilience must be understood both in terms of the underlying ability to recover from the effects of conflict, and decision making that mitigates the risks inherent in displacement itself. In order to do so, there is a need to better understand the many interlinked factors that influence IDPs' decision making, and the way in which those factors change over time.

<sup>1</sup> As Michael Cernea explains in *Impoverishment Risks, Risk Management, and Reconstruction: A Model of Population Displacement and Resettlement* (Beijing, 2000), impoverishment can be understood as a loss of natural, human, social and human-made physical capital. There are nine risks or processes that cause IDPs' impoverishment: landlessness, joblessness, homelessness, marginalisation, food insecurity, increased morbidity and mortality, loss of access to common property and services, social disarticulation and the loss of education opportunities.

Our research in Masisi and Uvira suggests that decision making about displacement involves the interplay of three broad concerns – individual and family security; economic opportunity and ability to maintain livelihoods; and the strength of social networks. Our findings indicate that beyond their initial flight from imminent threat, IDPs' decision making is influenced as much by social networks as it is by their pure physical safety. Concerns about access to livelihoods are also fundamental to decision making about displacement. Farming is the main source of livelihoods, making land most families' primary capital asset.

From this, we draw four main conclusions that will be explored further in our ongoing research:

- Responses to displacement that aim to help people affected by displacement become more resilient to shocks should address the push and pull factors that shape IDPs' decision making in terms of security, economic opportunities and social networks.
- IDPs' criteria in terms of security, economic opportunity and social networks change over time and with each new displacement, and humanitarian interventions must take such change into account.
- Humanitarians can support resilience by helping to improve the choices available to people affected by displacement. This can only be achieved in collaboration with IDPs and host communities themselves, in order to ensure that interventions are aligned with their needs and priorities, and that impacts are sustainable in the long term.
- Greater attention must be given to ways in which responses can build on communities' existing protection mechanisms, decision-making processes and other positive coping strategies.

To read the full paper, please see <http://goo.gl/t6uUjX>.

# Centralite de la Protection: Impact du sous-financement des activités de protection

*La tendance sur le financement du secteur de la protection dans le cadre des appels globaux, révèle depuis les 4 dernières années, une forte baisse (74 % en 2012 ; 46 % en 2013 ; 29% en 2014 et 5 % en 2015).*

Ainsi, le sous-financement continu du secteur de la protection qui est au cœur de l'action humanitaire, risque d'impacter sur son positionnement et de compromettre son rôle central et en conséquence l'efficacité de l'action humanitaire.

Le manque de financement dans le domaine de la protection générale et particulièrement dans celui de ses sous-secteurs ( protection de l'enfance, violences sexuelles et basées sur le genre, accès à la justice pour les victimes des abus et violations de droits lors de la crise au nord, lutte anti-mines humanitaire, documentation, suivi des mouvements de population, solutions durables, etc...) pourrait compromettre la mise en place et le renforcement des mécanismes d'alerte précoce pour prévenir et répondre à des situations d'urgence.

De même, l'insuffisance du financement qui devait servir à renforcer les activités de collecte et d'analyse des besoins (protection monitoring) afin de mieux répondre aux préoccupations majeures de protection, risque d'avoir un effet négatif sur la planification et la mise en œuvre des activités de protection en réponse à la crise.

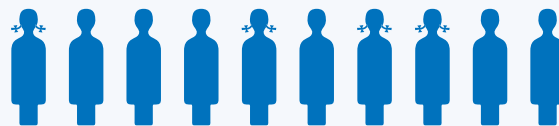
Aussi, dans le souci de préparation des partenaires nationaux à l'urgence, de pérennisation des acquis et de facilitation de la phase de transition au moment venu, il s'avère indispensable de soutenir la stratégie du Groupe Sectoriel de Protection qui vise entre autres, le renforcement des capacités des contreparties nationales dont le Gouvernement et autres acteurs nationaux de protection ainsi que les structures communautaires de protection tels que prévus et décrits dans le Plan de Réponse Stratégique 2015-2016.

Enfin, les besoins humanitaires en matière de protection encore sous financés restent importants et nécessitent des efforts/soutiens conséquents afin de renforcer la prévention, la réduction et la réponse aux risques/incidents de protection tout en minimisant le recours à des mécanismes d'adaptation de suivi néfastes et la détérioration continue de la situation humanitaire.

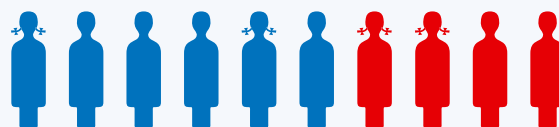


Protection Cluster  
Mali

PRS-GSP Mali  
Chiffres clés



**1 Million**  
de personnes dans le besoin



**600.000**  
personnes ciblées



**28** projets approuvés    **21** Organisations soumissionnaires



**77 Millions USD**  
Fonds requis

En dépit des contraintes majeures d'accès humanitaire, les membres du Cluster Protection Mali restent activement engagés à remplir leurs obligations d'apporter une réponse cohérente et coordonnée aux besoins de protection découlant du conflit.

Face aux besoins accrus en matière de protection, le HCR en tant que chef de file du Cluster Protection Mali, lance un appel pour la mobilisation des fonds nécessaires afin de répondre efficacement aux besoins prioritaires des personnes les plus vulnérables d'une part ; et de préserver l'emplacement de la protection au cœur de l'action humanitaire pour des interventions plus efficaces en faveur de promotion/du respect des droits humains.

**Coordination du Cluster Protection / HCR Mali.**



## THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR MINE ACTION (IMSMA)

Olivier Cottray



The objective of Information Management (IM) is to ensure that actors in any given sector are enabled to leverage information effectively towards evidence-based operational and strategic decision-making. This is accomplished by ensuring the availability of an adequate pool of skilled personnel at its disposal an up-to-date and fit-for-purpose information management system for compiling, storing, analysing and disseminating accurate, timely and relevant information. Skilled personnel and an up-to-date and fit-for-purpose information management system are becoming all the more central as principles of Results-Based Management (RBM), which rely on the availability of sound information to build indicators, are adopted throughout the humanitarian and development sector.

The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) has, over the years, become the *de-facto* standard IM tool in mine action. It is currently in active use by over 60 Mine Action organisations in more than 40 countries for recording the extent of explosives contamination, and planning, monitoring and reporting on mine action activities. IMSMA's development was initiated by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in 1999 and the Centre has maintained the tool regularly since then through a number of development cycles. The latest of these was initiated in October 2014.

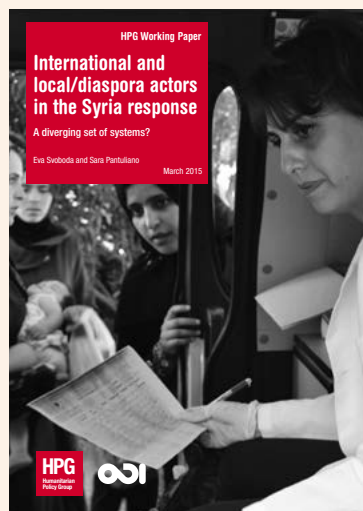
The future Information Management **System** for Mine Action should be understood not as a single tool, but as a system, that is as a set of *interrelated* tools and processes that operate together to provide the sector with the information management it needs. This future approach is illustrated in Figure 1: each step in the information management cycle can be carried out by a variety of either standard or customized tools (developed by GICHD or by third-party developers) as long as these tools are interoperable; they must communicate data between one another in a standardized and reliable manner. To accomplish this, the GICHD will develop and maintain 'IMSMA Core', a data validation and storage component, and, together with partners, expand the range of existing purpose-specific tools, such as mobile data collection (IMSMA Mobile), spatial analysis (IMSMA Geoservices), reporting (IMSMA MINT), etc. IMSMA Core will play a pivotal role in the exchange of functionality and of data between different tools in the system using IMSMA's established data exchange standard (maXML).

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By better leveraging technological advances, this 'ecosystem' of user-driven and interoperable tools will help deliver the full potential of information to all relevant stakeholders (beneficiaries as well as operational and strategic decision-makers).

## International and local/diaspora actors in the Syria response: A diverging set of systems?

Eva Svoboda



As the brutal conflict in Syria continues, the international humanitarian system has found itself stretched to the limit. Today 12.2 million people are in need of assistance, 4 million have fled the country and 7.6 million are internally displaced.<sup>1</sup> With access for international humanitarian agencies restricted

or constrained, diaspora and local organisations are on the frontline of the aid response, providing assistance and protection to war-torn parts of the country international aid agencies are struggling to reach. With good understanding of the conflict, the people and the area, diaspora and local aid organisations are uniquely placed to know what is most needed, in which areas, and how to gain access to people in need. But still they struggle for recognition and funding from traditional humanitarian NGOs and donors. This [research by the Humanitarian Policy Group](#) highlights some of the challenges and opportunities in collaboration between local humanitarian actors and international agencies.

Access by humanitarian organisations to people in need has dominated the aid debate in Syria. Both the Syrian government and the various armed groups in the country restrict access to people in need, hampering the international response and leaving diaspora and local aid organisations almost inadvertently filling the gap. This has not been easy by any means, both in terms of insecurity and in negotiating their relationship with the formal humanitarian sector.

Many Syrian groups see themselves neither as protection actors nor as doing protection work, and most were unfamiliar with the standard Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) definition. However,

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unocha.org/syria>

when probed further it becomes clear that much of what these groups do can be considered protective. For some protection is clearly equivalent to physical security, but most regard protection as going beyond that, mentioning dignity and the need to understand the link between violations of rights and protection. Generally, these organisations do what could be considered 'protection mainstreaming' rather than stand-alone protection activities. They engage in activities such as social programmes, including support to families with orphans, female-headed households and the elderly. This support is provided through education and psychosocial work, which in themselves have a protective benefit. Some Syrian organisations focus on addressing child labour by helping families with food or cash so that they do not need to send their children out to work. Others provide female-headed households with food, medical help and psychosocial support in community centres.

The sense among diaspora and local groups that they are used as mere service providers is unfortunately widespread. Syrian organisations regret that they are not considered equal partners with international actors, with risks and responsibilities shared. Partnership on an equal footing would entail involving local groups in identifying needs, planning the response and evaluating its impact, while at the same time ensuring the necessary logistical (including in relation to security), financial and moral support.

The lack of clarity on how the term 'partnership' is understood and differing expectations on both sides often lead to disappointment. Syrian groups explained that some of the workshops they attended were ill-adapted to their needs. They recognise that they need training in strategic planning and operational capacity to run growing organisations, but training can at times be limited to how to write funding proposals, leaving out essential issues like monitoring and evaluation or how to deal with counter-terrorism legislation. Some diaspora groups have grown significantly over a very short period: one group, which started out with two volunteers, now has over 800 staff and several warehouses. The skills to manage such expansion are precisely what Syrian organisations need.

The research identified funding as another challenge. Initially, diaspora and local organisations were funded by the Syrian diaspora, but as the conflict dragged on these private donations started to dry up, prompting diaspora organisations to look increasingly for institutional funding from larger organisations such as UN agencies, international NGOs and government donors. Accessing sufficient institutional funding is however difficult, though improvements have been made, for example through the use of pooled funding. Certainly at the beginning of the conflict, Syrian organisations were considered unknown entities unable to meet donor funding stipulations, including the requirement to be registered and audited. Some of these conditions have since been relaxed, but valuable time was lost.

The Syria crisis is inevitably associated with groups engaged in terrorist activities, and by extension with



legislation to combat terrorism and prevent the diversion of aid to armed groups engaged in terrorist acts. Such legislation can have a [direct impact](#) on how aid agencies do their work. This legislation can be ambiguous, and it is not always clear precisely what activities may be in contravention of counter-terrorism laws. International NGOs and UN agencies

more familiar with these issues are well placed to help Syrian groups negotiate some of this complexity.

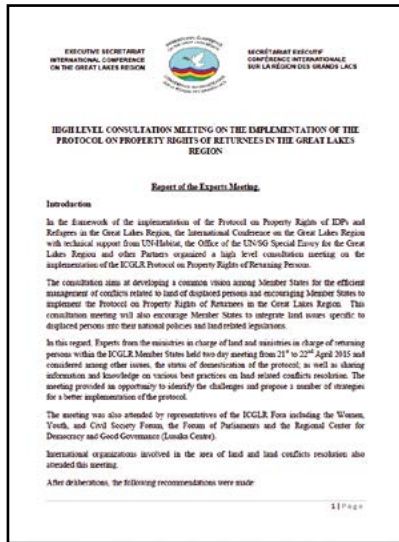
There is an assumption that the challenges faced by the formal humanitarian system are fundamentally different from those faced by local/diaspora groups. Yet access, insecurity, funding and the effects of counter-terrorism legislation are issues that all aid agencies are grappling with. Focusing on differences rather than recognising similarities encourages the belief that local and international aid agencies cannot work together, and discourages them from exploring how they could. As needs in Syria far outweigh what each individual organisation can do, it is time to explore how forces can be combined, while also recognising that there will be instances where international aid agencies and local/diaspora groups will operate separately.



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# OUTCOMES OF THE REGIONAL MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION ON LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS OF RETURNING PERSONS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Florian Bruyas



From 21 to 23 April in Nairobi, the International Conference of the Great Lakes region (ICGLR) together with the EU-UN Partnership on Land and Natural resources, UN-HABITAT, the World Bank Group and the Swiss Co-operation held a regional high-level ministerial summit on land and property rights, an event that was attended

by the 12 Member States of the ICGLR with the objective to generate a commitment to domesticate the 2006 “Pacte de Stabilité” additional protocol on protection of property rights for IDPs and Refugees in the region.

A two days technical meeting attended by 12 delegations representing national Ministry for Land Affairs as well as national authorities for returning person led to the drafting of a regional declaration which was then endorsed by the 12 Ministers under the auspices of the ICGLR secretariat together with the UN Special rapporteur on human rights for IDPs, Pr. Beyani, during the high-level segment.

If the consultation aimed at developing a common vision among Member States for durable management of tension and conflict related to land and property rights in the context of displacement and Return and Reintegration (R&R), the outcome of the regional consultation goes far beyond expectations as it recognizes in its “Regional Commitments” paragraph 16, the need to develop land policies meaning that the Ministerial meeting has recognized the importance of addressing land issues in the region from a global perspective including but limited to property rights for returnees.

Such a recognition gives a new mandate to the ICGLR to work on a wide range of land related issues, from conflict prevention, conflict resolution to policy formulation through security of tenure, it creates linkages with the Voluntary Guidelines and the Land Policy Initiative, the Africa Mining vision and institutionally brings together land and natural resources at the regional level in the Great Lakes.

This new “Nairobi Declaration on the effective implementation of the protocol on property rights of returning person in the Great Lakes” also takes into account a number of recommendations generated by Member States and which should be considered as a solid basis for the current development of the regional action plan.

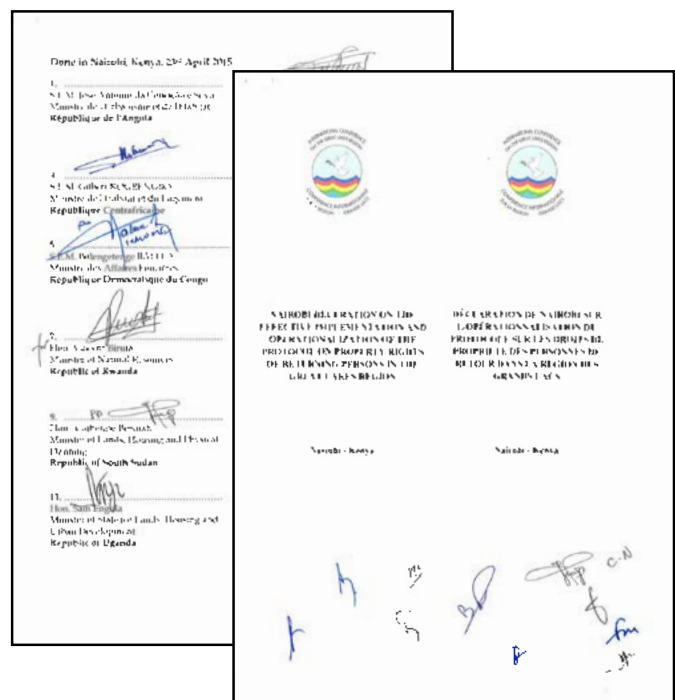
Among the recommendations we should note the one calling for the creation of core Civil Society Organization (CSO) network at regional level working on land and property rights and linked to the existing one working on natural resources and illegal exploitation of minerals in the region (COSOC).

Among other the one calling for conflict prevention, trans boundary collaboration, security of land tenure and holistic approach to land issues are critical.

These recommendations are directly extracted from the EU-UN Partnership Great Lakes civil society road map following the regional land and natural resource conflict sensitivity activity recently implemented in the region. This also include the recommendation on engagement with private sector as well as the trans boundary data collection and mapping exercise of local tension around land and natural resources.

The adoption of the Declaration is a key milestone for the ICGLR secretariat; with the required multi-expertise of the UN, the political support of the UN special envoy office and development partners the action plan is currently being developed fully in line with the international plan of action for the implementation of regional benchmarks under the commitments of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) framework.

As a next immediate step and as part of the action plan, strengthening the capacity of the ICGLR Secretariat to address land and property rights will be a pre-condition for any further success at the regional level.





## IDP registration in Ukraine

Simon Russell

OCHA reports that at least 3.9 million persons have been directly affected by the conflict in Ukraine and OHCHR reports that there have been some 7,000 deaths and 18,000 wounded. According to the Ministry of Social Policy, 1.2 million persons are now registered as internally displaced and UNHCR reports that another 640,000 have taken refuge in other countries. A number of factors dramatically increased the number of registered IDPs in December 2014, starting a trend that still continues, including:

- a. The arrival of winter and weakened economic resilience among residents in conflict areas increased outflows as conditions deteriorated.
- b. Pull and push factors: Government decree 875/2014 issued in mid-November closed all government offices in non-government-controlled areas, halting funding of pensions, social benefits and other services while also withdrawing support to schools and hospitals. Ukraine's Central Bank offices also closed, limiting access to cash and banking services. Pension and social payments are now only available to persons with registered residences in government-controlled territory. This withdrawal of financial services and resources to government-supported institutions deepened vulnerability and prompted outflows of some of the Donbas re-

gion's most desperate residents. There are indications, for example, of extraordinary numbers of pensioners leaving non-government controlled areas in December and January and registering as IDPs in government-controlled areas.

- c. The late December 2014 transition from an Ukraine State Emergency Service (SES) paper-based methodology for IDP registrations to a Ukraine Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP)-managed electronic system which more rapidly tracks and aggregates the numbers. The MoSP uses a formal registration procedure, local welfare offices, regional offices that aggregate formal submissions and check the data at the regional level, and a central registry office that aggregates IDP registration data at national level. The switch to MoSP led to an elevation of 400,000 in the numbers of IDPs. Electronic registration is seen as a useful tool.
- d. An intensification of fighting since early January 2015. Fierce fighting and heavy, indiscriminate shelling in densely populated areas continues in different locations along the frontline in the east, prompting some additional outflow of persons from conflict-affected areas, with many remaining trapped. Exiting from territories controlled by the armed groups is becoming increasingly perilous, due to the presence



of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mines, the destruction of critical transport infrastructure such as bridges and main roads, and increasingly restricted freedom of movement in and out of the conflict area.

- e. Introduction of the Temporary Order limiting the movement of people and cargoes to and from the conflict affected area amidst the severe intensification of the armed hostilities.

The patterns of displacement in eastern Ukraine are similar to crises in other countries. Women and children represent a sizeable proportion of the IDP population: for the eastern five oblasts, the numbers of able-bodied, working-age women (who often leave with their children) averaged 34% of IDPs in September and October of 2014. This proportion has since fallen, as the number of disabled and elderly among new IDPs has increased significantly – from 17% in December to 70% in January 2015. The relatively small number of disabled and elderly residents leaving in early waves of displacement is common to forced displacement crises, due to mobility challenges, fear of the unknown in displacement, misinformation or hearsay, or the insistence by long-time residents (who are also typically past fighting age) to stay in their home areas near what they know. The current increase in displacement among older and disabled residents is due to circumstances including an inability to access official financial support. In general, since September 2014, the percentage of able-bodied men among registered displaced persons in the east has remained constant, averaging 15%-17% of the total number of IDPs in the East.

Over 96% of IDPs originate from the oblasts of Luhansk and Donetsk. Of these, 75% have sought refuge in host communities within the five eastern oblasts. More telling is that 49% of IDPs have stayed within Luhansk and Donetsk, swelling the population of conflict-affected host communities nearest the fighting.

This is a typical movement pattern for IDPs, reflecting a desire to achieve greater physical safety, while remaining within a reasonable distance of homes, relatives, property and former livelihoods. In Ukraine this pattern is likely reinforced by IDP fears of poor treatment if they move to areas further west, as well as by the movement of pensioners and other social service support payment recipients to adjacent government-controlled areas in order to register for continuation of their assistance. The result, however, is a concentration of the displaced into host areas that are poorly prepared to receive them. Conditions for the displaced and hosts alike deteriorate as these inflows continue.

The majority of the displaced in Ukraine have moved at least twice in the course of their displacement. A third has moved three or more times. Repeat movements are typically driven by a search for secure, adequate and reasonably priced accommodation but should be understood as disruptive episodes in the lives of the displaced as they search for improved circumstances.

The registration of internally displaced persons in Ukraine occupies much of the discussion in the Protection Cluster and in other clusters. However, information about the characteristics of IDPs is collected from various sources as the data collected from registration is not disaggregated by age, gender or other factors and does not provide a profile of the displaced population.

In Ukraine, registration is seen as necessary, including in terms of providing a sense of the number and location of IDPs and their access to benefits and entitlements. It may provide a baseline of information for future profiling, particularly of intentions to return or find a different durable solution. IDP registration is strongly influenced by Soviet norms, including the continuation of a domicile registration system-based on the old “propiska” system—the use of internal passports and registration of people to defined places of residence, from which flows access to social and other services. In short, the propiska is linked to a person’s legal status and their access to privileges and benefits. IDP registration is seen as a bridge between residence in the normal locality and residence in the place of displacement, as changing residence in a propiska can be a cumbersome process. It is doubtful that the propiska system can survive integration of the Ukrainian economy with the EU.

Despite the high numbers of IDPs registered, there are IDPs who are not registering because of manifold difficulties with the registration. Roma IDPs are not registered because they never had ID documents before and the procedures can be confusing to many people, especially the elderly and those in need of care and Ukraine does not have enough social workers compared to need. The Ministry of Social Planning (MoSP) does not apply a consistent procedure to registration and social workers do not assist people to register. In addition, procedures which in normal times are protective – e.g. the requirement to prove legal guardianship over a child – are preventing the registration of unaccompanied and separated children as IDPs travelling with extended family or other care-givers.

IDPs who do not need assistance are not registering with MoSP and some may avoid registration if they see an associated risk, e.g. single men of mobilization age. A potentially large group of unregistered IDPs are displaced persons in territories not listed by the Government- not IDPs according to legislation. Another group of IDPs who are facing problems with receiving any support from the Government encompasses those who do not fall within the definition of the IDP. These include foreigners, stateless persons, people who do not have their domicile registration in the conflict-affected areas in their passports, and also those who were displaced to the territories controlled by the armed groups.

However, it is impossible to say how many people are affected by problems with registration or are not registering. The MoSP is receiving about 100 complaints per week, although not all are about registration and many are repeat complaints as procedures are so slow.



The Cabinet of Ministers amended **Resolution no. 509** on IDP registration, introducing a mechanism for the verification of registered IDP addresses by the State Migration Service. Non-confirmation of addresses will lead to the closure of IDP files in the Government database and cancellation of IDP certificates by the Ministry of Social Policy. Many IDPs registered with temporary addresses and host communities are often reluctant to officially declare that they host IDPs (often for free for tax reasons). The resolution may also affect IDP pensioners who had to register in order to receive the state pension. There are estimates that the measure could reduce the number of IDPs by 20 to 30 per cent.

On 27 March 2015, RBC reported that social protection officers conducted the verification exercise based on residence in Dnepropetrovsk in March, as a result of which 3,000 “fake IDPs” were identified. There are concerns that the verification exercise will be marred by administrative incompetence, including the lack of a procedural rule about deemed notification of an inspection visit and the proper stamping of addresses in IDP certificates.

The Handbook on the Protection of IDPs states that “registration is not necessarily required, and sometimes not even desirable, in IDP contexts; rather the benefits of registration depend on factors such as the actual need for detailed data, the role of the government, and the period during which the information will remain valid”. It recommends that where registration is needed, all efforts must be made to explain the purpose of registration to IDPs and to safeguard their confidentiality.

The Brookings-Bern Manual for Law and Policy-Makers on Internal Displacement of October 2008 makes clear that there can be protection risks associated with registration of IDPs. Unlike refugees, IDPs remain citizens or habitual residents of their country and are entitled to protection and assistance on that basis alone. They can invoke their right to protection under the rights listed in the Guiding Principles and contained in relevant international conventions because they are displaced and thus have specific needs, not because they are registered or formally recognized as IDPs. The manual recommends that States should not, therefore, create a system whereby IDPs can enjoy their rights only after having been granted a legal status that could also be refused or revoked. From the perspective of international law, displacement is a factual state that triggers certain legal consequences, and unlike in refugee law, there is nothing like an “IDP status” that can be enjoyed only after it has been formally granted to an individual. Nevertheless, it often is necessary to be able to identify who the displaced are. In many countries, individual registration serves the purpose of identifying IDPs. However, registration procedures should always be tied to specific and concrete goals, meaning that displaced persons should be registered not as IDPs per se but rather as IDPs entitled to receive specific benefits. Thus, it may be necessary to register recipients of benefits such as food assistance, medical care, waiver of school fees, or entitlement to stay in a camp. By contrast, it may not be



necessary to register all IDPs who are not dependent on humanitarian assistance. Here, alternatives to registration, such as the profiling of displacement situations, may be considered. Overly bureaucratic registration procedures or the creation of a legal IDP status are not only unnecessary but also raise significant protection concerns, including the following:

- a. If humanitarian aid eligibility is entirely contingent on registration, that may lead to bureaucratic delays in its distribution to displaced populations with urgent humanitarian needs because they have to await official recognition as IDPs.
- b. National IDP definitions or their application in practice may be narrower than the description in the Guiding Principles; for example, they may exclude persons displaced by military actions of certain armed groups but not others or as a result of disaster but not conflict. That may result in unequal treatment of people in equal need, effectively depriving them of their rights under international human rights and humanitarian law. This is the case in Ukraine where some people are not registered because the place they are from is not “listed” by the Government.
- c. If IDPs are located in isolated areas, they may be unable to register and thus formally ineligible for assistance.
- d. IDPs who are especially marginalized or traumatized by their experiences may wish to avoid contact with the authorities or may be reluctant to provide personal information. This is the case with certain ethnic minorities in Ukraine and groups like single men of mobilization age.

e. If benefits beyond those initially envisioned depend on IDP status, that would arbitrarily deny IDPs access to those benefits in cases in which they did not originally register, such as when rights related to property restitution later become available to those who registered for IDP status initially related to food distribution. It is important, therefore, to keep in mind the timeline as registration today has an effect when thinking about durable solutions in future. The Government needs to bear in mind “do no harm” principles and ensure that IDPs are not deprived of their property because they did not register as an IDP. Experience from other operations suggests that initial registration and the finding of durable solutions should be de-linked.

f. Criteria for registration should be no more restrictive than the descriptive elements set out in the Guiding Principles and should not be limited to specific times or places to ensure that any further internal displacement (for example, displacement of communities in another part of the country or secondary displacement of IDPs who cannot find security where they were first displaced to) can be addressed without setting up a new mechanism.

g. The decision-making process should be swift, particularly when registration is a prerequisite for aid, while providing a full opportunity to claimants to demonstrate eligibility. Specifically, all relevant evidence or information brought by claimants should be considered and appeals of negative decisions allowed. Generally speaking, by focusing on specific registration processes (such as voting drives or registration for shelter, food assistance, and so forth) rather than creation of a catch-all IDP status, competent authorities can minimize the risk of preventing displaced persons in genuine need from obtaining benefits.

The leaking of registration data is often cited as a protection risk in Ukraine. Article 8 of the **European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950** provides that:

“1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.”

The storing by a public authority of information relating to an individual’s private life amounts to an interference within the meaning of Article 8. The subsequent use of the stored information has no bearing on that finding (*Leander v Sweden* [1987] ECHR 4; *Kopp v Switzerland* [1998] ECHR 18). The storage and use of information

must conform to principles of legality, necessity and proportionality.

In Community law, this right is enshrined in Article 7 of the **EU Charter**. The collection of personal data and the protection of people on whom information is collected is regulated by the **Data Protection Directive (95/46/EC)**. The Directive provides that data should not be collected at all unless certain conditions are met, provides for the subject to be informed that data is being collected and requires consent, must be legitimate and comply with principles of proportionality. An amended version of Ukraine’s **Law on Personal Data Protection** came into effect on 1 January 2014 and is intended to bring Ukrainian law on personal data protection more into line with Community law. The Law provides for sanctions when its provisions are not complied with.

Notwithstanding these safeguards, there are concerns about the leaking of the IDP database to unauthorised persons- identifying who is “with” us or “against” us and feeding into the bitter conflict.

Many IDPs do not seek out aid or register as IDPs for government services, fearing that male members of displaced families might be conscripted, or concern over how they may be treated by the authorities, as well as anxiety over the consequences that registering may have vis-à-vis separatist *de facto* authorities in their home areas. Furthermore, it is widely believed that those IDPs who register are among the most vulnerable subset of the IDP population and most in need of social support. These concerns are exacerbated by poor adherence to data protection law.

The right to freedom of expression includes the right to receive and impart information. Greater effort needs to be put into ensuring IDPs know about registration, the risks associated with it and the benefits. They need to know about their right to consent to the collection, storage and use of data about them and avenues of complaint about misuse of data.



# Centrality of protection in armed violence and conflict



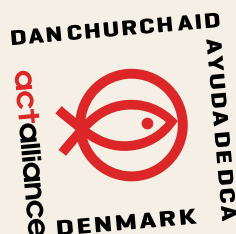
## UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE (UNMAS) MALI



# UNMAS

As coordination body for Humanitarian Mine Action activities and partners, UNMAS co-chairs, together with UNICEF, the Humanitarian Mine Action Working Group under the Protection Cluster led by UNHCR. This working group allows all Humanitarian Mine Action actors operating in the country to coordinate and prioritize their activities.

## DAN CHURCH AID (DCA)



Established in 1922, DCA is a Danish, ecumenical, non-missionary organization working to assist the poorest of the poor. Mine action is one of DCA's five key focus areas. DCA mine action works with communities affected

by post-conflict violence, landmines and explosive remnants of war to make them safer by building resilience, improving human security and facilitating long-term development.

## ARMED VIOLENCE REDUCTION IN CENTRAL MALI – COMMUNITY BASED SAFETY PLANNING

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is a national security problem in Mali but it is not a new problem. The establishment of the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (CNLPAL) dates back to 1996 where the latest civilian disarmament took place.

The availability of SALW in Mali has, over the years, fuelled repetitive rebellions in northern Mali, supported banditry, drug trafficking and have given a new dimension to community conflicts.

The conflict that erupted in the north of the country in 2012 affected the whole country but especially the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal, together with some areas of the regions of Mopti and Segou (central Mali).

In March 2014, UNMAS and its implementing partner DCA (DanChurchAid) launched a pilot project aiming to contribute to the prevention and reduction of armed violence in two districts of Mopti region. These two districts, Douentza and Mopti, were indeed particularly affected by the recent conflict. Between February 2013 and May 2015, more than 9,000 pieces of ammunitions have been cleared by UNMAS and humanitarian mine action NGOs in this region. While the number of victims of explosive hazards has decreased (2013: 22; 2014: 2;

Jan-Apr 2015: 0), the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is still perceived as a threat.

The aim of armed violence reduction is to reduce “the real and perceived levels of insecurity as defined by local populations affected by insecurity”<sup>1</sup>. The project main objective is to contribute to increase community security by developing locally owned safety strategies. The communities involved in the project are electing committees, engaged in defining “safer community action plans”, and each of these action plans presents the local priorities to improve the level of security.

To date the project teams are deployed in 8 communities to support the implementation of the locally owned safety strategies. Depending on the priorities defined by each community, project activities include mediation to facilitate cooperation between communities and security forces through dialogue; advocacy and conflict management trainings; and firearms safety awareness (more than 7,000 direct beneficiaries to date).

This pilot project yields very important learning about the conflict dynamics at community level. Therefore, the lessons learned throughout the project period will be used actively to make informed decisions to build long term resilience, in order for the communities to prevent and to respond to protection problems related to armed violence.

<sup>1</sup> 3 OECD-DAC, 2009, Armed Violence Reduction – Enabling Development



# Le comité local de protection communautaire comme stratégie d'auto-protection dans les zones affectées par les conflits au Mali



Dans le souci de renforcer l'environnement de protection notamment dans les régions au nord du Mali où la situation sécuritaire reste précaire et ainsi remettre les questions de protection dans les mains des communautés, le HCR à travers son partenaire de mise en œuvre IEDA Relief, a financé et rendu possible la mise en place des Comités Locaux de Protection Communautaire (CLPC) dans les régions de Gao, Tombouctou, Kidal et Ségou, afin de renforcer la capacité d'autoprotection / de résilience de ces communautés affaiblies par les crises sécuritaire, politique et humanitaire.

Afin d'obtenir des résultats plus efficaces et plus durables en matière de protection en identifiant les lacunes par des consultations et en renforçant les ressources et les capacités locales, il se développe l'activité de mise en place des CLPC.

Ainsi donc, 20 CLPC ont été mis en place en 2014 dans les quatre régions suscitées: Nampalary (Ségou), Gourma Rharous, Tombouctou, Douékiré, Doukouria, Diré, Soumpi, Léré, Alafia (Tombouctou), Ouatagouna, Bourem,



Anderamboukane, Ichinane, Ménaka, Anchawadi, Téssit, Tin-Hama, Ansongo (Gao), Kidal et Aguelhok (Kidal).

Cette approche communautaire qui favorise la participation active des personnes vivant dans les zones affectées par les conflits armés, vise l'implication des populations dans l'identification des problèmes de protection en vue de recherche de solutions adéquates, tout en mettant en valeur les capacités existantes au sein des communautés.

Un plaidoyer est en cours avec les structures administratives pour l'intégration des CLPC dans leur structures comme faisant partie du mécanisme communal ou villageois de gestion et de prévention des conflits liés aux violations des droits humains.

## ENTRE AUTRES, QUELQUES ACTIONS RÉALISÉES PAR LES CLPC

- Résolution de conflits entre agriculteurs et éleveurs à Bourem/région de Gao;
- Organisation de séances de sensibilisation sur les Droits Humains et la cohésion sociale;
- Facilitation des focus groupes lors des enquêtes d'évaluation des conditions de vie dans les communes prioritaires du HCR notamment les principales zones de retour (Goundam, Léré, Tombouctou, Nampalary, Souboundou) ;
- Levée de fonds localement pour faire don de matériel culinaire, de riz, nattes, savons, au centre de détention de Diré/région de Tombouctou ;
- Facilitation de l'opération du RAVEC (Recensement Administratif à Vocation d'Etat Civil) à Nampalary/région de Segou.

## PERSPECTIVES POUR 2015:

- Mise en place de 10 nouveaux CLPC;
- Consolidation des 20 CLPC.



# Self-Protection practices in North Kivu, DRC

Ngwasssi Mulume Oderhwa, Monique Van Hoof

The Eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is an area characterized by the presence of dozens of active non state armed groups, whose activities affect seriously civilian populations. Due to the protracted conflict, North Kivu has become the site of extensive and continuous internal displacement, where people settle in displacement sites or in host communities. Activities in support to the Internally Displaced People and their host communities are coordinated by the two lead agencies, UNHCR and IOM and assisted by the whole humanitarian community based in Goma town. The territories which are directly affected by the armed conflict are Masisi, Walikale, Rutshuru and Lubero, all in the Eastern Congo region.

With the ultimate goal to build resilience and support communities' capacities to cope with challenges imposed by conflict and rebuild their path to stability, IOM has undertaken capacity building activities, developed trainings and awareness campaigns so as to sensitize affected populations on key protection issues and risk preventions mechanisms, community conflict resolution, and contingency planning. As a result, a number of good practices have been identified and codes of conduct for law-enforcement actors established.

A process of identification of community security threats and risks as well as ways to mitigate them has led to the creation of "community patrolling committees" which identify imminent risks and work with communities to counter them. These committees are constituted by community leaders and key stakeholders, reputable men and women nominated by the community. Efforts to capacitate these committees and have them gain trust have taken a long time but have eventually led to tangible results. These self-protection community efforts are also coupled with a strategy of self-reliance based on income generating activities for all affected communities. Women and girls are at the center of these self-reliance efforts to ensure their exposure to risks of exploitation and neglect are reduced and ultimately eliminated. Self-protection and self-reliance will ultimately lead all communities in the affected areas in Eastern Congo to become direct interlocutors of both the Government and non – state armed groups for their own wellbeing and peaceful co-existence.

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## THE CENTRALITY OF PROTECTION IN ARMED VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT

Protection Cluster, Occupied Palestinian Territory

From 7 July to 26 August 2014, the hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza resulted in a huge loss of life and unprecedented destruction and damage to homes, infrastructure, hospitals and schools.<sup>1</sup> During and following the crisis, the Protection Cluster, led by OHCHR, engaged on a number of fronts to integrate protection in humanitarian advocacy, assessments and responses. During the hostilities, OHCHR worked with Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations to document and compile fatality figures, which were used in daily humanitarian situation reports and by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The cluster also used the situation reports to raise concerns relating to the protection of civilians, explosive remnants of war and child protection. OHCHR provided legal analysis on the conduct of hostilities (e.g. the targeting of civilian homes, and medical facilities and personnel) that was used in situation reports, the Gaza Crisis Appeal and humanitarian advocacy. Following the hostilities, the Protection Cluster mainstreamed protection in the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), which identified an increase in protection needs, and also identified priority and vulnerable groups to be targeted by all humanitarian interventions. This protection analysis was reflected in the Gaza Crisis Appeal, the application to the Central Emergency Response Fund and applications to the Palestine Emergency Response Fund. This enabled funding to be mobilised to support critical protection responses such as legal assistance to victims to pursue accountability and an effective remedy for violations of international law, psychosocial support, child protection, responses to gender-based violence and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) interventions.

<sup>1</sup> For more information, see the Addendum to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory between 12 June and 26 August 2014, including the escalation in hostilities between the State of Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza (26 December 2014, A/HRC/28/80/Add.1.)

# Community-based protection in South Kordofan, Sudan

Nils Carstensen



“Protection is very important. If it were not for the awareness on protection, many people would not be alive now. Since the war continues, we will continue with the message on protection.

(Leila Karim, Head of Nuba Mountains Women's Association, Sudan)

The situation in opposition-controlled parts of South Kordofan, Sudan offers an extraordinary example of how people caught in conflict have engaged in their own protection through individual and community-based action. About one million people remain in the area, trying to survive a violent civil war, which broke out in 2011. The civilian population continue to be targeted by aerial bombardment and ground attacks. At the same time, they are denied any formal humanitarian assistance or public services despite a severe food crisis, massive displacement and increased mortality from disease. The Sudanese government is perceived by those interviewed as a main source of threat while international actors – be they political or aid actors – are seen to be paralysed by the government's continued ban on access, leaving their 'responsibility to protect' unfulfilled.

In this vacuum, local NGOs and a women's association have developed a project that has reached several hundred thousand individuals with a holistic and autonomous self-protection strategy. Based on existing participatory research into locally led protection responses in the area, the Women's Association focused its awareness training on practical skills to protect against:

- 1 Danger of injury or death from armed conflict, such as how to hide from aerial bombings and provide first aid;
- 2 Life-threatening risks from lack of food, income, basic services and shelter, such as pre-positioning food and property in safe places;
- 3 Fear, sense of isolation, hopelessness, erosion of dignity and core values such as how to build and maintain psycho-social support including ensuring that basic education for children and adults has continued even when, for security reasons, it has to take place in mountain caves.

Building on existing networks civil society groups in 2011 set up a system of 'training-of-trainers', which has since expanded to larger parts of the area. Often all that was needed from outside advisors, apart from the encouragement and some limited resources, assistance to identify, locate, and disseminate skills and knowledge already present but not equally shared among the population.

The training and protection messages quickly spread to schools, mosques, and churches and have reached several hundred thousand individuals in the conflict-affected areas. Subsequent interviews show that the messages and training perceived to be most helpful has been: Protection during aerial bombardment (foxholes/caves), followed in descending order by health and sanitation, family budgeting and food storage, women's rights and violence against women, traditional medicine, first aid, and finally dealing with mental trauma and psycho-social issues. A female participant expressed her experience this way: "Now we understand how the bombs work and kill us with flying metal. So now we can respond better".

What sets this community-based response apart from an internationally led protection response is:

- 1 The fact that it has happened at all and has been sustainable over four years of intense war in an area with no international access,
- 2 The holistic understanding of protection and the interconnectedness of the threats and responses,
- 3 How the appreciation by community members and leaders have given the women the momentum to also address issues such as women's rights and violence against women with communities and civil and military leaders and finally, 4) the significant scale, reach and cost-effectiveness of the project.

For more information including the film "Fighting Bombs with Perfume", please refer to the Local to Global Protection website at [www.local2global.info](http://www.local2global.info)



# Interview: Nagwa KONDA, Nuba Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organisation

## What inspired you to start up this kind of work in community based protection in South Sudan and how did you get the idea?

When the war started, the aerial bombardment became very intensive. We heard every day about children and women being killed and we realized that most of these victims had no knowledge about what to do when there is an aerial bombardment. So women came together and discussed among them how casualties could be minimized. We agreed on doing training for 4 days (ToT) to train people on the do and don'ts in case of a bombing. We identified participants for the training – everybody agreed to involve the youth as well as women already had too many responsibilities – and we trained them on the message we wanted them to send to the community.

The first message was physical protection. When the Antonov planes started bombing, people started running and looking for each other instead of hiding where they were. Therefore we asked people to dig fox-holes everywhere and to immediately hide on them whenever they heard the sound of an Antonov plane approaching. In places with lots of noise, we asked the security guards to whistle or ring a bell as soon as the plane approached, so everyone could take shelter in the fox-holes.

Secondly, since schools, mosques and churches were specifically targeted, we proposed the community to transfer them to more sheltered places and to change the daily schedules so they would not be easily targeted.

The third issue was health. At the end of the first year, we noticed that many bounded people were dying due to lack of nearby health care facilities in their communities. So as a solution, it was requested to the women associations to provide first aid training within the communities using natural herbs and other available remedies. After some HIV/AIDS cases were identified, women also decided to include HIV/AIDS lessons within the first aid training. Regarding mental health, the need of psychosocial therapy was also identified for women with post-traumatic disorder. At first, women were getting together to visit survivors to comfort them, and gave them the strength to take care of their dependants. Overtime, we brought professional psychosocial trainers to give training to the women associations on technical aspects of PTD therapy, so they could effectively support survivors.

Finally, the community adopted the prepositioning of food and belongings as a protection measure, because we realized that when a house is bombed everything within is gone. The prepositioning methods helps families to save a set of essential items by stacking them

elsewhere. This way, they can support themselves until an external actor intervenes. They did also received training on how to produce basic items (soap) with available resources so they didn't have to depend on external aid.

## How did the community respond to the training they have received?

Everybody coming to the training was so eager, that most traditional leaders wanted to participate themselves! People complained because they did not have access to the training. We then trained people to be our ambassadors, to share the protection messages everywhere they went.

## How successful would you say you are in terms of bringing protection to the community and what have been some of the challenges?

Some of the success stories I am proud of is the dramatically decrease of casualties in the community. Since we started our messages we realized that the numbers went significantly down because through our project we were able to reach more than 400,000 people directly or indirectly. We also realized that women associations were able – through this community mechanism – to find ways to express themselves within the existing decision-making structure. The women associations became a platform to affirm their leadership, to be respected as members of the community, and to have an authoritative voice for essential issues such a GBV.

We would be much more successful should we have more support. We have some individual donors, but their resources are limited so funding remains a big challenge: as an example we have shortage of materials for most of our activities.

## Has this led to positive changes in the dynamics between men and women?

Yes, the project had an impact on the existing power dynamics. The attitudes of the people towards women have significantly changed since the project started because women alone were able to conceive it and carried it out. The local community openly says that if you want to succeed on implementing things, you have to involve the women associations.

## Any final recommendation?

I would advise that in conflicts humanitarian organizations should help locals to help themselves, so they can be self-sufficient. Also, children should be given priority involving them in decisions affecting their future.



## A Child Help Line for DRC: The experience of War Child UK and the Ministry of Social Welfare

After more than 30 years of humanitarian investment and intervention in eastern DRC, it is apparent to agencies, authorities and communities that short term cycles of planning and response have yielded little in terms of sustainable results. For communities afflicted by armed conflict and violence over a long period, longer term solutions need to be found.

War Child is interested not only in short term actions to support children affected by conflict, but also in supporting the development of child protection systems that can provide safety nets for vulnerable children from community to national level. No doubt this is a very difficult strategy to pursue in countries and regions suffering from chronic instability and low investment in services, but our experience in DRC shows that with the right relationships and some creative programme design, there are approaches which can make a substantial contribution to building the protective environment.

Child Help Lines, sometimes known as “hotlines”, are an established method in many countries for promoting awareness of children’s rights, giving children an avenue to report problems and abuses, and for them to receive information, support and referral. In many settings, both in advanced and emerging economies, from France to Kenya, Child Help Lines have been credited with transforming understanding of and responses to children’s rights issue, and are considered to be a crucial part of a child protection system from local to national level.

But can this work in the poorest and most conflict affected countries? The answer is yes, and War Child’s experience of developing a Child Help Line with the Ministry of Social Welfare in DRC is proof of this.

A few crucial ingredients have come together to make this possible. First, the availability of mobile phones has rapidly transformed communication. Second, the interest and commitment of the Ministry of Social Welfare from Ministerial to district level to make the Help Line work and to develop it as a government run service. Third, the role of War Child and a supportive donor (the European Union) in providing the technical support and resources to develop the project and build ownership and capacity of the state body responsible for this, raising awareness of its existence across many urban and rural communities, and securing from the commercial telecoms companies the crucial toll free 117 telephone number.

The easy-to-remember number is widely disseminated through high profile awareness campaigns. Children use the number to get advice, support and referral from the Ministry of Social Welfare social workers who run the call centre, with calls ranging from children who are escaping armed groups, suffering physical abuse at school, or separated from their families. The call centre already receives 7,000 calls per month, within which there is a big case-load for the overstretched social services to respond to. But it shows the immediate interest in and demand for this service, which clearly has a vital role to play in protecting children and young people who continue to suffer the consequences of the long conflict in DRC.



# What's Been Happening: AoR Updates

## MINE ACTION NEWS

### VIDEO MESSAGE (APRIL 2015)

The British actor Daniel Craig, who has supported United Nations mine action work over the last two years, made a video message for the 10 year anniversary of the observance of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pk1t\\_QwjnH0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pk1t_QwjnH0)

## GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD) 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The past year was particularly productive for the GICHD: we helped achieve more clarity on the global extent of explosive contamination and strengthened national capacities. We had a positive impact on national mine action programmes and supported wider security and development issues. Finally, with the invaluable support of our governance and partners, we developed our new 2015-2018 Strategy.

## GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### PRESENTATION AND TRAININGS (JUNE 2015)

REGA Asia Pacific presented at the Regional conference of the International Feminist Journal of Politics (IFJP) "How Women and Gender Perspectives Make a Difference to Peace and Security in Asia Pacific" organized by the University of Queensland and Monash University in Australia. She was part of the three days conference which allowed for developing a network with academics and researchers in the region and strengthening linkages with practitioners and the understanding of addressing GBV in humanitarian action as part of WPS and UNSCR 1325.

## MISSIONS

**Past Missions:** • Iraq – Erbil, June 21 2015 – July 4 2015, will be supporting an inter-agency GBV assessment focusing on the Syrian response. • Singapore, July 21-23 2015, Workshop on Sexual Violence in Disasters and Conflicts. It was a two-part round table through the ICRC and the HADR Programme at the Center for Non-Traditional Security Studies of the Rajaratnam School of International Studies

**Current Missions:** • Nepal, 03 – 06 August: Support for the transition of the GBV sub-cluster to function again as a part of the Protection Cluster as it was coordinated pre-earthquake.

**Potential Upcoming Missions:** • Gaza, August 2015: 4 day training on GBV in emergencies.

## GUIDELINES REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE, PRESENTED BY ERIN PATRICK, INTER-AGENCY COORDINATOR FOR THE GBV GUIDELINES, UNICEF

The Guidelines Package, including the final guidelines, one of the thematic guides as an example, and some background documents, has gone to the IASC focal points for review and electronic endorsement. There is a 3-week period for the focal points to review the documents, so they have a deadline of August 15th. Ideally by the mid-end of August the guidelines will go to print. The French, Arabic, and Spanish translations should be ready in the fall. Visual communication materials, info-graphic and a video will accompany the guidelines.

## RESOURCES

**Addressing Human Trafficking & Exploitation in Times of Crisis – Women & Girls**, a new study by The International Organization for Migration is now available online. (July 2015) <http://goo.gl/YjnS4c>

**A Sexual Violence Management Conference for the Humanitarian Sector** is being hosted by The CHS Alliance on Thursday September 3rd. To find out more about this event, or to register for the event, please visit <http://goo.gl/6Vjqyn>

**The International Feminist Journal of Politics** has released a Call for Papers for their 2016 special issues called The Difference that Gender Makes to International Peace and Security. For more information, please visit <http://goo.gl/Toi4Zv>

## GLOBAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY LAUNCHES STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE ON HOW TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WHEN WAR OR DISASTER BREAK OUT

Wednesday 16 September 2015, Stellenbosch, South Africa: The Inter-agency Gender-based Violence Guidelines Reference Group<sup>1</sup> is pleased to announce the official launch of the 2015 *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action* during the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum in Stellenbosch, South Africa.



Globally, one in three women will experience sexual or physical violence in her lifetime<sup>2</sup>. These risks are even higher in crisis-affected settings, due, for example, to the breakdown in family and social support structures, risks associated with accessing basic needs (using the latrine, collecting water or firewood, etc.), the lack of privacy and protection in

camps for displaced people, the expansion of armed elements and generalized chaos.

These new GBV Guidelines offer an essential and practical, field-tested tool that recognize these risks and provide step-by-step guidance for humanitarian actors and communities affected by conflict and disasters on the necessary actions for GBV prevention across all sectors of humanitarian response – resulting in safer and more effective programmes.

The GBV Guidelines were fully revised from the 2005 version by an inter-agency Task Team led by UNICEF and UNFPA, and endorsed by the Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) in 2015 as well as by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator.

The Guidelines are available in hard copy in both a comprehensive and thematic area version as well as online at the dedicated website [www.gbvguidelines.org](http://www.gbvguidelines.org), and will soon be available in Arabic, French and Spanish in addition to English.

For more information please consult [www.gbvguidelines.org](http://www.gbvguidelines.org) or contact [gbv.guidelines@gmail.com](mailto:gbv.guidelines@gmail.com)

<sup>1</sup> The Reference Group is led by UNICEF and UNFPA and includes as its members: American Refugee Committee, Care International, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ChildFund, International Medical Corps, International Organization for Migration, International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Refugees International, Save the Children, UNHCR, World Food Programme and Women's Refugee Commission.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organisation (2013), *Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence*.

## AoR UPDATE

CARE International is pleased to share with you the report (May 2015) **“TO PROTECT HER HONOUR” Child Marriage in emergencies – the fatal confusion between protecting girls and sexual violence**.



It highlights that the secretary general is deeply alarmed by the dramatic increase in the number of children being affected in different parts of the world, Syria, Nigeria, and Palestine. It re-asserts that children are not soldiers and that they should be protected from violence.

<http://goo.gl/LDndc7>

**Webinar Recording Release – CPC and IICRD – Measuring the Strength of Child Protection Systems in Humanitarian Settings (June 2015).** This webinar focused on the experience of the CPC Learning Network and UNHCR in developing, piloting and refining a Child Protection Index (CPI), designed to assess the strength of the child protection system in humanitarian settings. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jL46j1pCrR0>

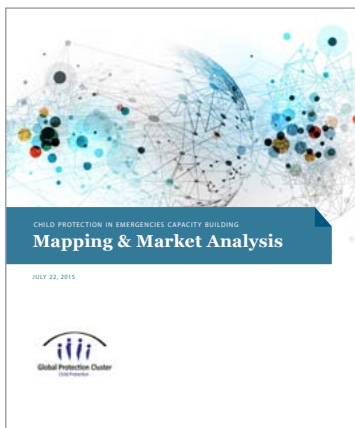
**Review and Webinar Recording: A Research Synthesis of Evaluations of Outcomes for Children and Youth from NGO-supported Microeconomic Interventions (July 2015).** This systematic review – published by **Josh Chaffin**, CPC Task Force on Economic Strengthening and Livelihoods Lead, and Cali Mortenson Ellis, in the journal *Enterprise Development and Microfinance* – is a systematic synthesis of randomized impact evaluations of NGO-implemented interventions in low-income countries. <https://goo.gl/187dTZ>

**Webinar Recording: Measuring the Strength of Child Protection Systems in Humanitarian Settings: A Study in Uganda and Rwanda.** On June 29, 2015, the CPC Learning Network hosted a webinar featuring **Dr. Sarah Meyer**, Associate Director of Research at the AfriChild Centre of Excellence for the Study of the African Child, and **Gita Swamy Meier-Ewert**, Senior Planning and Monitoring Specialist at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This webinar focused on the experience of developing, piloting and refining a child protection index, designed to assess the strength of the child protection system in humanitarian settings. <http://goo.gl/qBOUZA>



**Webinar Recording: Making the Invisible Visible: Counting Children on the Streets in Malawi.** On July 28, 2015, the CPC Learning Network hosted a webinar featuring Joanna Wakia, Monitoring and Research Advisor at Retrak, Charles Gwengwe, Executive Director at Chisomo Children's Club, and Mr. McKnight Kalanda, Director of Child Affairs in the Malawi Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability, and Social Welfare to share an enumeration study of children on the streets in Malawi, undertaken by **Retrak, Chisomo Children's Club** and the **Government of Malawi**. The presenters shared the approach, initial results, implications for interventions, and future research steps. <http://goo.gl/XdDxir>

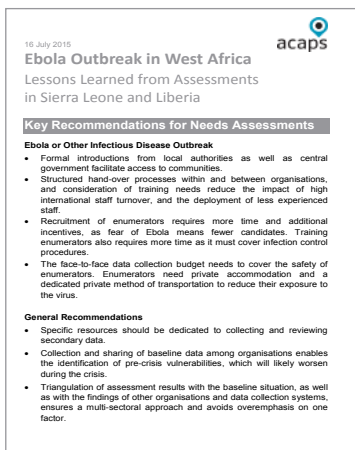
## REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS



**July 2015 Report: Child Protection in Emergencies Capacity Building Market Analysis:** aims to help better understand the Child Protection sector's current capacity and how best to build it, considering the training market and demand. It focuses on three strands of enquiry: 1) a mapping of existing child protection

in emergencies learning and development courses; 2) a current sector needs analysis; and 3) a "user demands" analysis. <http://goo.gl/0mwRU0>

**Book: Advances in Child Abuse Prevention Knowledge: The Perspective of New Leadership.** This book is available for download <http://goo.gl/KFVnjg>



**ACAPS published a new report related to the Ebola Outbreak (July 2015).** Lessons Learned from Assessments in Sierra Leone and Liberia. This report is available for download <http://goo.gl/PnMTU1>

**UNHCR NGO Consultations "In pursuit of solutions":** A record-breaking number

of participants attended this year's UNCHR NGO consultations (over 500!). The NGO rapporteur, Zainab Raza Jafri of SHARP Pakistan, in her **closing remarks** identified some of the ways in which we must adapt the humanitarian system to today's challenges and emphasized on the need to engage with host communities, persons of concern, and national NGOs as part of the solution.

## PROTECTING CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

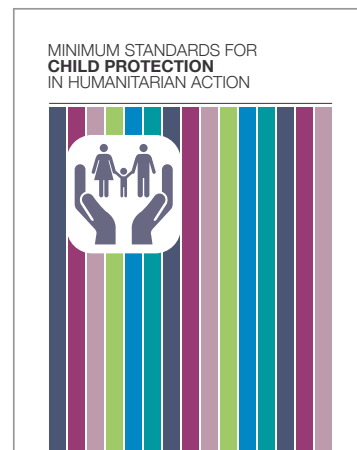
The IASC's statement on the centrality of protection, and the subsequent whole of system review, have made us all question what our role is in protection. What, materially, can each one of us working in humanitarian situations do to protect those affected by wars and disasters?



A starting point is understanding who we are talking about. In most almost all emergencies over 50% of those affected by the emergency are children – boys and girls below 18 years of age. UNHCR has even noted that for the populations fleeing war in South Sudan, the proportion

of children is as high as 70%. New data now shows that [one billion girls and boys live in areas that were affected by armed conflict in 2013 or 2014](#).

When lives are uprooted, the systems working to keep children safe – in their homes, schools and communities – may be undermined or damaged and at the same time boys and girls face increased risk of all forms of violence and exploitation – such as the child marriages happening in Syria today or the recruitment happening in Eastern DRC. Experience has shown that it is safest for children to stay with their families, and all humanitarian efforts that assist children and families; and enable families to stay together in safety, make an important contribution to children's protection.



Nonetheless, children also have specific protection needs that are not met by general humanitarian assistance. This is where focused child protection responses are required. Child protection in emergencies is [defined as the prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children](#). It involves diverse

and interconnected activities undertaken by community members, social workers, humanitarians and others to provide care and family tracing for separated children, alleviate the psychosocial distress experienced by children; and identify and mitigate the many risks boys and girls face as a result of the emergency. All these activities are underway right now in Nepal, and other humanitarian situations around the world.



The IASC's statement affirms that protection is everyone's responsibility – and this is certainly the case. In addition to this there are several other compelling reasons to ensure that all humanitarian efforts integrate child protection objectives, and that stand-alone child protection responses are also in place where necessary.

**HEAR IT FROM THE CHILDREN**  
Why education in emergencies is critical

"With education I think I will have a future that won't have to involve guns and fighting. This is my dream, that I can look into my future and see that I have options and choices. Without school you have no choices in life, you are just going to survive."

13 year old Ibrahim, Republic of Congo

Millions of children are affected by conflict every year. Worldwide, children represent half of the 42.5 million people who are refugees or who have become internally displaced in part as a result of conflict or violence in their countries. Almost 50 million primary and lower secondary age children who live in conflict-affected countries are not in school. Living in conflict, many of these children have experienced more crisis, violence and death in their few short years than most adults in peaceful countries will know in their lifetimes.

It is the responsibility of humanitarian actors and donors to listen to these children, their parents and their communities in order to understand their needs and respond with aid that is accountable and effective. With this principle in mind, Save the Children and the Norwegian Refugee Council have commissioned a study to capture the voices of internally displaced persons and refugees on their priorities in and after an emergency. This study reflects the voices of more than 250 children, parents, teachers and community representatives.

The findings of the study summarized here, highlight the remarkable contribution that education is making to the lives of these children, their families and communities on a daily basis. Not only is education a clear priority of those affected by conflict, who described the high intrinsic value of education, but it also appeared to provide many added benefits in the domains of protection, resilience, recovery, stability and economic progress.

**NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL** **Save the Children**

Evidence repeatedly shows that protecting children in emergencies saves lives, both now and in the long-term. **Opinion leaders** understand that child protection needs are urgent. **Children themselves** prioritize child protection, along with education, which has a strong protective element. Finally, strengthening child protection systems is one of the

most cost-effective ways to **build resilience and promote sustainable development.**

Furthermore, experience shows that when children are protected other humanitarian efforts are more successful. Using neuroscience, nutritionists have found that psychosocial wellbeing of children is a factor in nutrition outcomes – and this was a useful insight for the Sahel response in 2012. In the Ebola response an MSF study found that community engagement to reduce confusion and fear amongst affected families directly influenced transmission rates.

So if protecting children both a responsibility and an effective strategy for achieving other humanitarian objectives, how can we best do it? Many of the answers can be found in the Child Protection Minimum Standards, a Sphere companion which gives practical and accessible guidance on child protection for all humanitarians. For more information please go to cpwg.net. More wisdom can also be found by talking to parents in humanitarian situations, and to boys and girls themselves.

## THE GPC SUPPORT CELL AND PARTNERS


### GPC SIDE EVENT: STRENGTHENING PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS


The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) held a side event during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's ECOSOC HAS theme: *The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness.*

The side event was entitled “**Strengthening Protection in Humanitarian Settings**”. Given the fact that civilians often bear the brunt of armed violence and con-

Thursday  
**18**  
June 2015  
18:45 - 20:00

**Global Protection Cluster Side Event**  
Palais des Nations, Room XXIII





ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment 2015

# STRENGTHENING PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

*With an increasing need for humanitarian actors to provide protection and assistance, while keeping in mind the first responders of protection are often affected communities themselves, it is timely to examine humanitarians' contributions to and complementarity with local protection structures and capacity. The side event will focus on the importance of nurturing community-based approaches, supporting the local protection response and capitalizing on the diverse strengths and contributions of international actors.*

**Moderator**

**Mr. Volker Turk**  
Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, UNHCR

**Panelists:**

**Dr. Pauline Elaine Riak**  
Executive Director of the Sudd Institute, South Sudan

**Ms. Eva Svoboda**  
Research Fellow, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute

**Mr. Kevin Kennedy**  
Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis

flict, the first responders of protection are often affected communities themselves. The side event intended to explore the different and complementary protection by these actors, including the capacity and limits for communities to protect themselves. The event provided participants an opportunity to reflect on the importance of community-based approaches, supporting the local protection response, and capitalizing on the diverse strengths and contributions of international actors to enable protection outcomes.

The side event was moderated by **Mr. Volker Turk**. He opened the event by observing that this is one of the worst periods for humankind since World War II. He also acknowledged that humanitarian actors sometimes fall short of delivering protection and assistance and underlined on the need to support local capacities to respond effectively to humanitarian needs.

**Dr. Pauline Riak** one of the panelists gave a thoughtful and frank presentation, which served to remind participants about the role of affected communities in protection in the conflict in South Sudan.

**Ms. Eva Svoboda**, spoke to Humanitarian Policy Group's recent research in Syria, outlining the effectiveness of support by Syrian diaspora to local responses. The diaspora, uniquely knowledgeable of the context and needs of the affected communities, made individual donations and rendered professional assistance in their respective fields. She emphasized the need for humanitarian actors to understand and adapt to the context of each situation and for organizations to make a long-





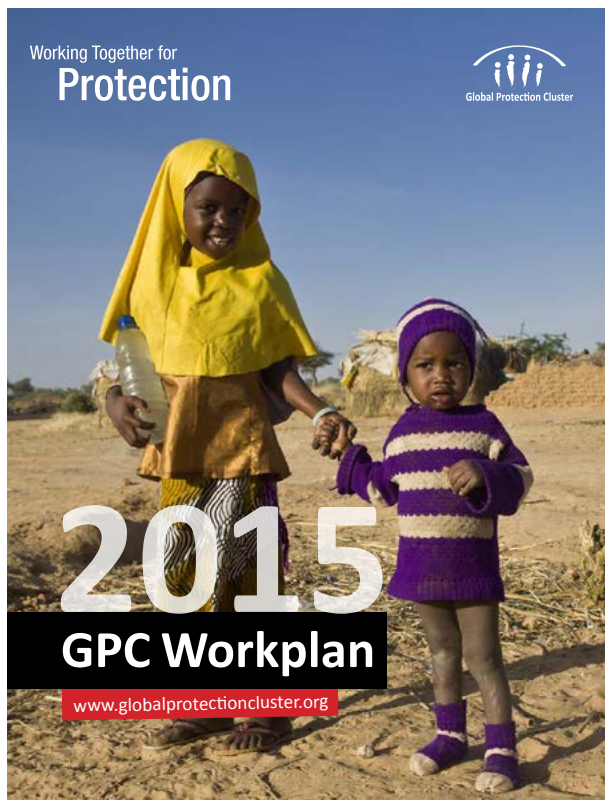
term commitment to bringing the right resources to address the identified needs.

**Mr. Kevin Kennedy**, he described the limits of humanitarian protection in Syria and outlined challenges faced by humanitarian workers in a very insecure environment. He explained how the lack of respect on the part of all parties to the conflict for international humanitarian law and human rights law continues to be problematic in Syria, and touched on how the lack of access to affected communities, particularly due to insecurity, is an obstacle to effective protection.

Volker Turk, in concluding, summarized the key ingredients in strengthening protection in a humanitarian setting, including: **community literacy**, reached through listening, hearing and understanding communities, from the beginning of a crisis to the end; humility, essential for humanitarian actors from outside the area, who need to understand what is going on in a particular context; and the **need for self-assessment of effectiveness of protection measures**, to establish whether and what is making a difference. Mr. Turk ended by echoing the words of the panelists about the importance of a bottom up approach to partnership with communities, with all its facets, diversity and richness, in order to provide effective protection. Understanding the context, language, culture, and needs of the affected communities is essential to helping people help themselves.

## GPC WORK PLAN 2015

The GPC Work Plan 2015 was issued on the basis of consultation with partners. To read the work plan visit <http://goo.gl/KyVXq>



## LAUNCHING OF THE TASK-TEAM LAW AND POLICY

In a context characterized by a sharp rise in the number of newly displaced persons coupled with an increase in the number of protracted displacement situations, the lack of national legal and policy frameworks for the protection of IDPs in many countries remains a major gap. The absence, or in some cases the non-compliance, of such normative or policy frameworks with international or regional standards on IDP protection has perpetuated conditions in which IDPs basic human rights are not respected and their specific protection needs resulting from their displacement are not adequately met. In this context, national law and policies that are specific for the protection of IDPs provide a legal framework that can help government authorities at all levels fulfill their responsibilities to ensure that the rights of IDPs are protected.

The importance of national law and policy development as an important tool for the protection of IDPs has been emphasized in various humanitarian fora and evaluations. UNHCR's December 2013 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection called for a concerted effort to strengthen support on law and policy development on internal displacement. According to the recent Brookings study 'Ten Years after humanitarian reform: How are IDPs Faring?', "changes in government and governmental policies can have more of an impact on IDPs than anything the international community does."

To respond to this growing need, various entities – including UNHCR, the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, the Brookings Institute-LSE Project on Internal Displacement and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC), to name a few – have effectively collaborated on interventions aimed at supporting a national framework on internal displacement. These included "the friends of the Kampala Convention" forum as well as the development and dissemination of tools such as the Global Protection Cluster Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons and UNHCR/IPU Handbook for Parliamentarians on Internal Displacement.

With a view to build on and scale up these initiatives, the Global Protection Cluster has recently established a Task Team on Law and Policy, which intends to bring together a broad range of actors from inside and outside the UN with experience in the protection of the internally displaced and expertise in the development and application of national and regional legal instruments and policies. The Task Team, which is co-led by UNHCR and IDMC, includes 20 organizations so far.

A priority of the Task Team will be to galvanize interest and commitment to enhanced coordination and partnership among key actors in reaching out to and strengthening the capacity of States, civil society and national protection clusters to develop and implement IDP policies and legislation, including domestication of the "Kampala Convention".

In achieving this aim, the Task Team plans to undertake the following activities in 2015:

- 1 Map national and regional-level development in relation to IDP law and policy so as to identify trends as well as best practices and lessons learned.
- 2 Organize learning and technical support opportunities to strengthen national-level capacity to promote international standards including the Guiding Principles and the 'Kampala Convention' and to strengthen national-level capacity to develop and implement national IDP legal framework.
- 3 Serve as a forum of experts on IDP law and policy.

If you or your organization would like to join the Task Team on Law and Policy or if you have any questions with regard to the Task Team, please contact Jacopo Giorgi ([jacopo.giorgi@nrc.ch](mailto:jacopo.giorgi@nrc.ch)) and Emad Aziz ([azize@unhcr.org](mailto:azize@unhcr.org)).

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## PROTECTION COORDINATION WORKSHOP IN UKRAINE

A four days training workshop was conducted in Kiev during the period from 30 March to 2 April 2015. The training was attended by 33 participants from UN agencies, INGOs, Local NGOs and government representatives (Ombudsman office); as well as three observers and two coordinators from the protection cluster in Ukraine. The training recorded high-level of participation and provided enough space for plenary discussions, exercises and activities and cross regional exchanges. The workshop objectives were:

- Strengthen the understanding the pillars of the humanitarian reform
- Enhance the understanding of the definition of Protection and the normative framework of it
- Enable the cluster members to actively use the Protection analytical tools to better understand the context and build their strategy towards protection integrated response
- Practice effective soft skills
- Provide opportunities for networking and enabling knowledge transform and learning among the participants, as well as strengthening the Protection Cluster team spirit.

When looking into the knowledge increase, in the pre-test, an average of the group was 4.2 correct answers out of 13 questions; while in the post test the average of the group was 10.9 correct answers out of 13 questions.

The workshop concluded with concrete recommendations on steps forward for the protection cluster in Ukraine that would be followed up in three months time through impact evaluation assessment.



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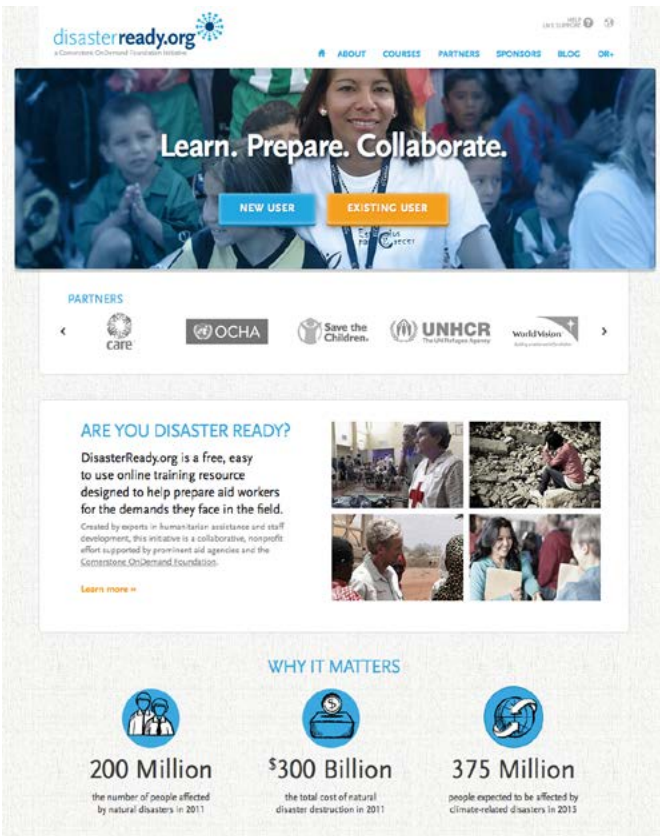
## TASK TEAM OF DONOR DIALOGUE

In the past 6 months the donor dialogue task team, held two meetings. It was agreed that the first donor dialogue should focus of one of the 11 areas highlighted in the Protection Funding Study, of which Clarity of the Protection Concept could be the first. The task team agreed that the donor dialogue should provide an opportunity for discussion on protection trends with several donors. All the chairs of the areas of responsibilities should automatically be invited and the SAG should be kept informed. The final date for the donor dialogue has not yet been agreed as it will also be depending on availability of key actors. However, the current aim is to hold the first donor dialogue, which will include introductory remarks from donors and agencies, and will be chaired by Louise Aubin, towards the end of September 2015.

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN EMERGENCY SETTINGS AND THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

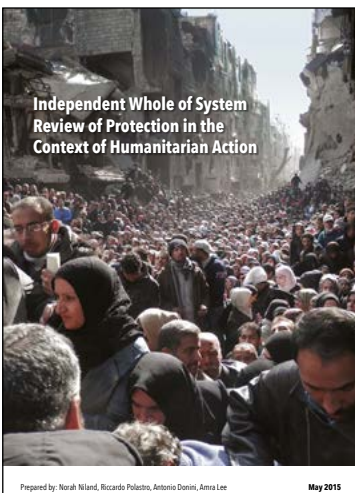
(IASC) Geneva, 3 June 2015: a panel composed of Sabine Rakotomalala, Guglielmo Schininà, Mark Van Ommeren and Margriet Blaauw, discussed how mental health and psychological support could contribute to the goal of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) "to commit to new ways of working together to save lives and reduce hardship around the globe" by relating back to the four themes of the WHS: humanitarian effectiveness, reducing vulnerability and managing risk, transformation through innovation; and serving the needs of people in conflict.



## DISASTERREADY.ORG

(IASC) Geneva, on 11 June 2015: Atish Gonsalves, Director of DisasterReady.org presented the growing library of advanced e-learning courses and other relevant resources. DisasterReady.org offers approximately 500 free e-learning modules on critical topics such as Humanitarianism, Program/Operations, Protection, Staff Welfare, Management and Leadership, Staff Safety and Security, and Soft Skills.

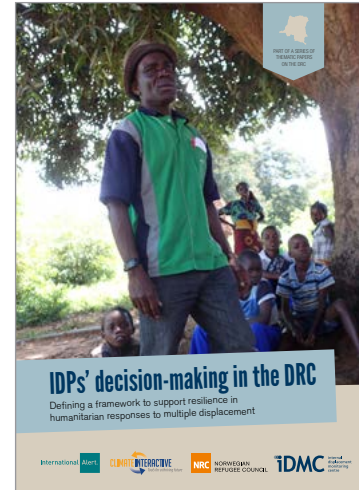
## (IASC) LAUNCH OF THE WHOLE OF SYSTEM REVIEW OF PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION



The independent Whole-of-System Protection review which was launched during ECOSOC's Humanitarian Affairs section on 19 June was commissioned to identify whether the humanitarian community is currently set up to fulfil the aspirations set out in the Centrality of Protection and, if not, how to strengthen its ability to achieve pro-

tection outcomes. This would also include enhanced compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights norms. The recommendations underscore the need for conceptual clarity on protection in practice, and to address systemic issues of leadership, partnership, coordination and accountability. Recommendations from the report will be taken forward by the Global Protection Cluster partners and many others and we will report on progress in the coming months.

## IDMC



**IDPs' decision-making in the DRC (April 2015).** The first in a series of thematic papers that contributes to understanding resilience in the context of multiple displacement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The project, undertaken by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), IDMC, International Alert and Climate Interactive aims

to increase resilience of people in the face of repeated displacement. To read the report in full, you can visit <http://goo.gl/MEeUOw>

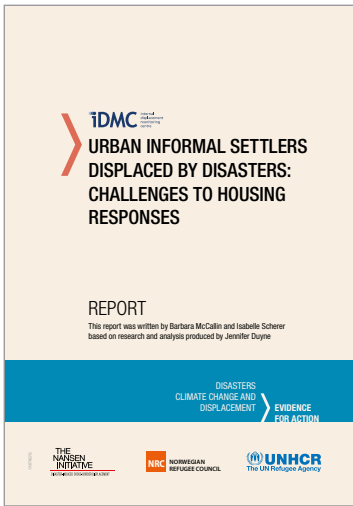
**The power of solidarity in displacement (April 2015).** On a recent research mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), IDMC analysts for Central Africa had the unique opportunity to gather data on internally displaced people who have suffered repeated displacement and to hear firsthand their stories of survival. For more information on IDMC's project in the DRC and to access the project paper, <http://goo.gl/GU85Nn>



**Update on IDPs.** IDMC recently held a press launch for its Global Overview 2015: People internally displaced by conflict and violence at the United Nations in Geneva, with Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council's and Volker Turk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. For the latest information on the IDP

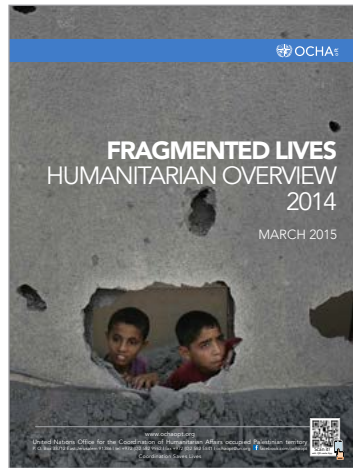
figures analysis, <http://goo.gl/znHBBu>

**IDMC presents its latest reports "Urban informal settlers displaced by disasters: challenges to housing responses".** The report explores the challenges in providing sustainable housing assistance to informal urban



settlors displaced by disasters. It shows how informal settlers are more exposed and vulnerable to displacement and are more likely to be relocated and excluded from the provision of durable housing assistance.

To download the pdf <http://goo.gl/me5NNO>



• OCHA has released the 2014 Humanitarian Overview entitled “Fragmented Lives” for the occupied Palestinian territories on 26 March 2015. The report concludes that humanitarian needs are driven by practices related to Israel’s prolonged occupation and recurrent escalations of armed conflict. To read the report in full, please visit <http://goo.gl/aQkXZY>

## DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

- The **Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA)** Programme of Development Initiatives launched the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015, which provides the most up-to-date and comprehensive picture of global humanitarian financing.
- In 2014, UNHCR and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) commissioned a **joint study on the responsibility to respond to internal displacement in the ECOWAS region**. This study seeks to shed light on how and to what extent the fundamental responsibility of governments toward IDPs is translated into effective response by three ECOWAS Member States, by using the twelve benchmarks of the Framework for National Responsibility as an assessment tool.
- On the 16 June, the **final report on the Independent High Level Panel on UN Peace Operations** was released. It analyses and makes recommendations on the work of the panel over the past six months, looking at the UN peace operations to ascertain their relevance and effectiveness for today and tomorrow’s world.
- The **Global Overview 2015** was issued by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the Norwegian Refugee Council. The report has never before reported such a high estimate for the number of newly displaced in a year in the year 2014; 38 million people around the world had been forced to flee their homes by conflict and violence.
- In June, ICVA launched the **#ICVAPoP campaign**. The campaign is calling on all humanitarian organizations to support the Principles of Partnership which were originally developed and endorsed by the **Global Humanitarian Platform** in 2007. ICVA encourages all organizations to join the #ICVAPoP. To find out more, visit the **#ICVAPoP** page

- ACAPS facilitated the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) report for Eastern Ukraine is now out, providing an overview of the humanitarian situation and needs in conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhia oblasts, where the concentration of IDPs is high. The full report is available at: <http://goo.gl/eUwjA>

### Ukraine Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) report

Ukraine NGO Forum – 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2015

# Training and Learning Achievements

## (UNHCR) RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT FROM COLONIZATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: THE PERENNIAL SOLUTION TO ‘DANGER ZONES’

A **Food for Thought** session was held on Friday 14 August 2015 at UNHCR. Jane McAdam, Professor of Law and Director of the Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at the University of New South Wales talked about “**Relocation and resettlement from colonization to climate change: the perennial solution to ‘danger zones’**”.

## PROTECTION COORDINATION WORKSHOP IN UKRAINE

The task team on learning conducted a four-day training workshop in Kiev during the period from 30th March to 2nd April 2015. The training was attended by 33 participants from UN agencies, INGO, Local NGOs and government representatives (Ombudsman office); as well as three observers and two coordinators from the protection cluster in Ukraine.

## AGE, GENDER AND DIVERSITY TOOL DESIGNED TO MAINSTREAM IT INTO LEARNING INITIATIVES

In order to institutionalize systematic application of the Age, Gender and Diversity Policy and incorporation of this approach as a working paradigm which strengthens protection capacity, the Protection Unit of UNHCR’s Global Learning Center devised a tool designed to ensure all thematic units at the GLC effectively mainstream AGD in all learning initiatives.

## LAUNCH OF THE PHAP ONLINE LEARNING SERIES ON HUMANITARIAN LAW AND POLICY

The Online Learning Series on Humanitarian Law and Policy will provide an opportunity for continuous learning for those working in the humanitarian sector, as well as those interacting with humanitarian actors, to strengthen their understanding of legal and policy issues and to engage on topical and timely issues.

- 1 Introduction to IHL and its relevance for humanitarian actors, 21 May 2015
- 2 IHL and Core Humanitarian Principles: humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, 3 June 2015
- 3 The Fundamental Principles of IHL Regulating Hostilities: military necessity, distinction, and proportionality, 17 June 2015
- 4 Qualification of Armed Conflict and Determining the Applicable Law, 8 July 2015
- 5 Qualification of Situations: case studies from recent practice, 22 July 2015

## PROTECTION STRATEGIES

### A Conversation About What We Know So Far – Analyzing what is needed to support results-based approaches to protection

On 18 May InterAction Results-Based Protection Program carried out several interviews with representatives from several NGOs and held a webinar to share preliminary findings coming out of the review. The objective of this discussion is to capture examples of good practice that demonstrate key elements of a protection strategy that can support a results-based approach to protection.



Professionals in  
Humanitarian Assistance  
and Protection

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## SUMMER SCHOOL

Oxfam organized a summer school with the University of Bilbao as part of the European Master in Humanitarian Studies (NOHA) from 29 June 2015 – 3 July 2015, Bilbao (Spain).

This unique five-day course on humanitarian protection offered an informed and practice oriented approach to the main challenges, current discussions and key issues around humanitarian protection. The course consisted of a combination of lectures, case studies and in-depth discussions. Participants were presented with concepts and tools to assess protection needs in order to develop programs in protection. For more information on this course, <http://goo.gl/PjAGZ4>

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## FUTURE OF HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment on the “Future of Humanitarian Coordination”

“ *Perfect humanitarian coordination will never exist, but instead the focus should be on increasing speed, efficiency, accuracy and transparency of humanitarian action and increasing accountability to beneficiaries.* ”

This was one of the main messages from the Friday 19 June passionate ECOSOC HAS panel discussion on humanitarian coordination. Jan Egeland (NRC), Lise Grande (UN Iraq), Faizal Perdaus (Mercy Malaysia, ICVA), Bruce Aylward (WHO) and Christoph Ehrhard (DHL) highlighted that the best way forward included being much more inclusive of affected populations and local partners without sacrificing efficiency and effectiveness by involving all actors.

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## AD HOC WORKING GROUP MEETING IN SOUTH SUDAN

**Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting on the Review of the 2008 IASC Gender Policy Statement and Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IHAE) in South Sudan**

The IASC Ad Hoc Working Group on 26 June 2015 discussed the review of the 2008 IASC Policy Statement on Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action and preliminary findings and conclusions of the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) in South Sudan.

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## WEBINARS

### RESULTS-BASED PROTECTION PROGRAM

**Protection Strategy Webinar Series and Discussion Forum.** Throughout May and June, the Inter-Action Results-Based Protection Program carried out several interviews, hosted an online discussion forum, and held a series of webinars with guest speakers on the development of protection strategies across different contexts. A background paper on the interview findings and recordings of the introductory webinar and guest speaker series is now available: <https://goo.gl/PYIJXI>

**Introductory Webinar: What We Know So Far: Jessica Lenz** – Senior Program Manager – Protection, leads on the Results-Based Protection Program, InterAction. <https://goo.gl/3fR9Do>

**Building From the Ground Up: Lea Krivchenia** – Program Manager at Nonviolent Peaceforce, South Sudan. <https://goo.gl/5q3q0m>

**Protection Strategies through the lens of GBV: Kate Rougvie** – Former Gender-based Violence & Protection Sector Advisor / GBV Sub-Cluster Co-Coordinator, Central African Republic. <https://goo.gl/qJEese>

**Content Matters: Exploring the Substance within a Protection Strategy: Caroline Masbounji** – Protection coordinator/ GBV specialist, Danish Refugee Council, Lebanon. <https://goo.gl/Hlsc4R>

**A Reflection on the Findings and Moving Beyond Obstacles: Louise Aubin** – Global Protection Cluster Coordinator. <https://goo.gl/sD0Clx>

### RELATED HUMANITARIAN RESOURCES

**Transformative Agenda Webinar Series.** Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (July 2015)

- Where is the money? Is your operation well-funded? Donor reflections on efficiency and results. A full description of the webinar, background documents and recording are available <https://goo.gl/srW308>
- Prioritization in humanitarian operations: How to prioritize when everything is a priority? A full description of the webinar is available <https://goo.gl/zNNqax>

## JIPS Tools



### ANALYSE DATA ON THE DART!



A user-friendly and dynamic tool that helps users explore, analyse and visualise profiling data.  
<http://goo.gl/SSOk3o>

### USE THE JET!

## JET

JIPS Essential Toolkit

A collection of adaptable tools and templates to support each stage of the profiling process.  
<http://goo.gl/BPFcIT>

### BROWSE THE PARK!



The field-to-field tool-sharing platform and guidance for profiling and assessment practitioners.  
<http://goo.gl/VFtyxm>

### UPDATES ON SPHERE TOOLS

We are pleased to circulate information on some new and exciting Sphere resources, including a training package and a M&E tool. Sphere has also launched a new strategy, which includes opening up the sectors within Sphere (the Sphere Network) and the possibilities to develop a Network 'Alliance' (word to be determined) together with us, the current Sphere companions. These thoughts will be further developed in the coming months, so more to follow. For more on the SPHERE project <http://goo.gl/p4L1Lo>

## Technical Briefings: New Protection Standards and Guidance



In March, IDMC, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Displacement Research Action Network (DRAN) launched a joint report, "Home sweet home: Housing practices and tools that support durable solutions for IDPs". The report provides an analysis of the wide range of approaches and case studies which have

successfully contributed to providing adequate housing to urban IDPs. To watch the introduction to the report, visit <http://goo.gl/cfz6kH>

**ACAPS just published two Briefing Notes on the floods in Myanmar and in India (July 2015) and on Burundi, Electoral violence, 6 May 2015.**

**Nigeria Considers new policy to cater for internally displaced persons (Wednesday, July 08, 2015)**

The Federal Government of Nigeria said on Tuesday that it will soon adopt a fresh policy for the rehabilitation and re-integration of Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country. The insurgency in the north eastern part of the country has displaced thousands of people in recent time. The Federal Commissioner for the National Commission for Refugees, migrants and Internally displaced persons, NCFRMI, Hadiza Sanni Kangiwa said at a post IDP conference advocacy mission in Abuja that the policy will ensure the prevention and protection of Nigerians and even non Nigerians from incidences of displacement and ensure their rehabilitation, resettlement, return or reintegration after displacement.



## JOINT IDP PROFILING SERVICE (JIPS)

JIPS has been supporting partners remotely conducting profiling exercises in 3 cities in Yemen.

JIPS involvement in Yemen started with a request from CARE, in collaboration with UNHCR, DRC and OCHA, to support a profiling exercise of the Syrian refugee situation in urban areas of Yemen. The key objective of the exercise is to build a profile of the Syrian refugees in Yemen, focusing on their numbers, locations, status, humanitarian condition and other information to help the humanitarian community in Yemen to decide if, and what kind of, humanitarian assistance is appropriate.

To find out more on JIPS' involvement in Yemen, please <http://goo.gl/qQd2Oh>

## WOMEN AND AID: BEYOND BOX-TICKING

The tool was introduced in 2009, only looks at projects on paper, it doesn't monitor how well (or otherwise) they are rolled out or take into account their end results. In an effort to close this knowledge gap, academics from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex carried out four in-depth studies involving 2,000 crisis-affected households in Kenya (in Turkana and Dadaab), the Philippines and Nepal <http://goo.gl/40rxu2>.

## IDPS IN UKRAINE

**Right to Protection (R2P) is pleased to invite your attention to the latest article on the situation with IDPs in Ukraine prepared by R2P experts and published by Atlantic Council (USA) "Trapped in Conflict: Evaluating Scenarios to Assist At-Risk Civilians" (July 2015)**

In response to the increased risks facing civilian populations in several conflict contexts, InterAction and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), facilitated a roundtable discussion to evaluate scenarios including evacuations, safe havens, and no-fly zones. To download the PDF file <http://goo.gl/maKLQG>.

## IDMC PUBLICATION (JULY 2015)

### Time for a new approach: ending protracted displacement in Sri Lanka

IDMC's discussion paper provides an updated estimate of the number of IDPs in Sri Lanka, examines the dynamics of protracted displacement in the country and assesses current challenges and prospects for durable solutions.

It aims to inform discussions between the government and humanitarian and development actors on how to tackle protracted displacement, particularly in relation to a durable solutions strategy and return plan which are currently being drafted. Effective collaboration between humanitarian and development actors from the beginning of a humanitarian crisis, together with political will to facilitate durable solutions, are key to tackling protracted displacement.

### DISCUSSION PAPER

## Time for a new approach: Ending protracted displacement in Sri Lanka

1 JULY 2015

The election of a new Sri Lankan government in January 2015 has brought about a new openness in terms of political debate, including around issues key to resolving protracted displacement and promoting durable solutions for IDPs. Measures which contribute to improving their situation include a return to civilian governance in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and the release of some land belonging to IDPs which was previously occupied by the military.

More than six years after the end of the 26-year long conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan armed forces, up to 73,700 people remain internally displaced in the country's Northern and Eastern Provinces<sup>1</sup> (see Annex). The overwhelming majority belong to the Tamil and Muslim minorities. In addition, it is estimated that several tens of thousands among the more than 794,000<sup>2</sup> who are registered as having returned to their homes have still not achieved a durable solution to their displacement.<sup>3</sup>

This paper aims to inform ongoing discussions between the government and humanitarian and development actors on how to tackle protracted displacement, particularly in relation to a durable solutions strategy and return plan which are currently being drafted.

Findings in this paper are derived from a visit to Sri Lanka by IDMC in April 2015 during which interviews and group meetings were held with IDPs in camps, relocated IDPs, returned

and returning IDPs, as well as representatives of national and local government, local civil society organisations, international NGOs and UN and other international agencies in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and the capital, Colombo. IDMC thanks all those who helped facilitate the visit, to our informants for sharing their experiences, insights and analysis and to the anonymous reviewers for their comments.<sup>4</sup>

**Displacement: a development challenge**

Sri Lanka's experience of internal displacement illustrates how long-term displacement is often a development challenge that needs to be addressed first and foremost by governments and also by supporting development actors.<sup>5</sup> Effective collaboration between humanitarian and development actors from the beginning of a humanitarian crisis, together with political will to facilitate durable solutions, are key to tackling



Woman internally displaced since 1990. Her land in Jaffna district was released from military occupation in March 2015. © IDMC/Anne-Kathrin Glätz, April 2015



IDPs' makeshift shelters near Mullikulam in Mannar district, their home village which remains occupied by the Sri Lanka Navy. © IDMC/Anne-Kathrin Glätz, April 2015

1 The Northern Province consists of the districts of Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi (together making up the region known as the Vanni) and Jaffna; the Eastern Province of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara districts.  
2 Ministry of Resettlement, Reconstruction and Hindu Religious Affairs, *Resettlement Figures as of 31 March 2015*  
3 '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.' Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, *JASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*, April 2010, p.5.  
4 Unless otherwise noted, the sources for the information in this paper are informants who have requested to remain anonymous.  
5 On the linkages between displacement and development, see, for example, IDMC, *Internal displacement in Africa: A development challenge*, October 2010, p.4.

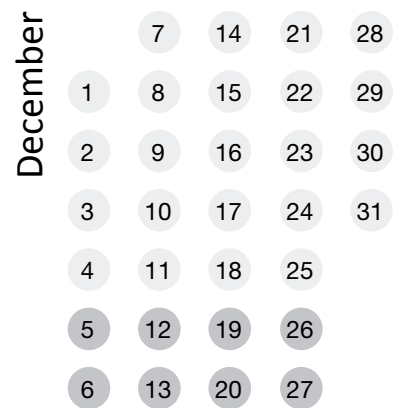
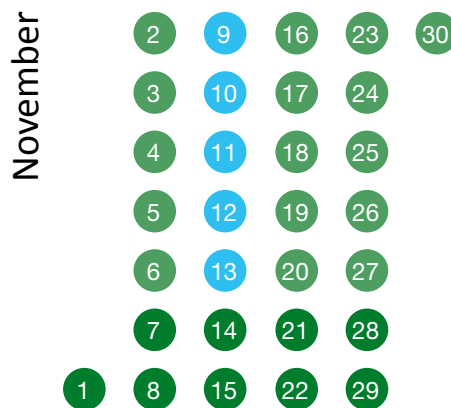
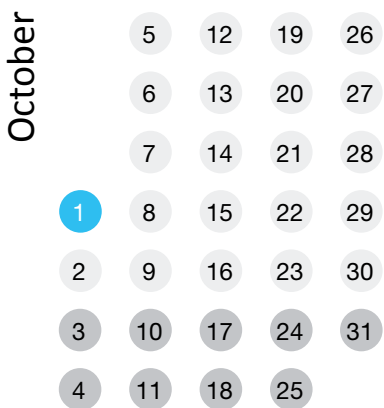
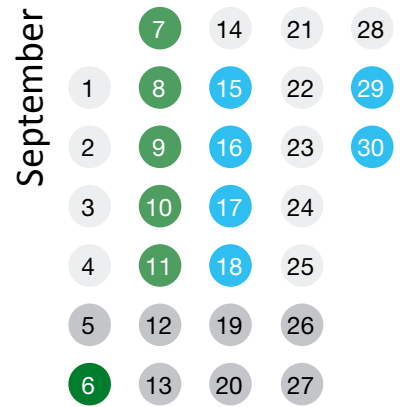
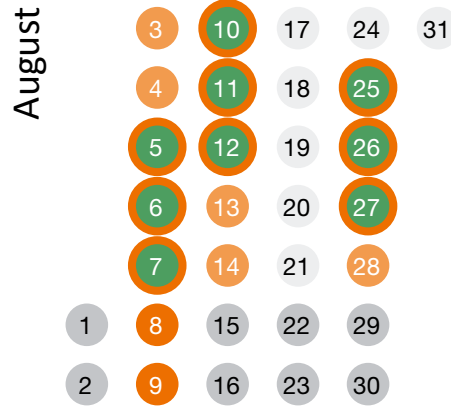
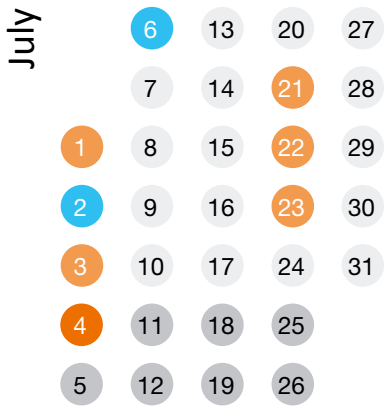
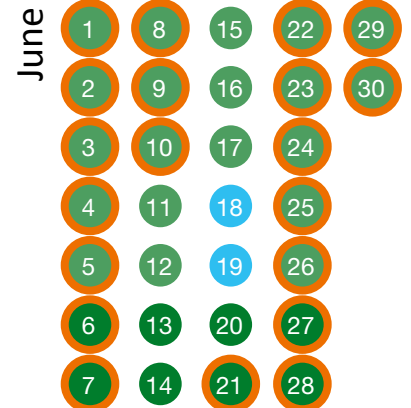
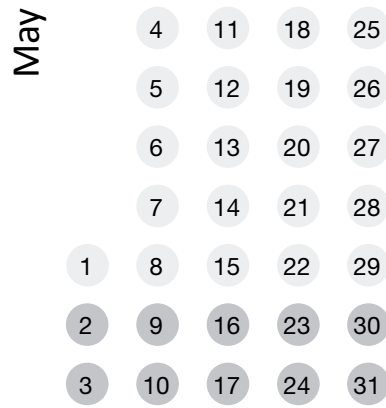
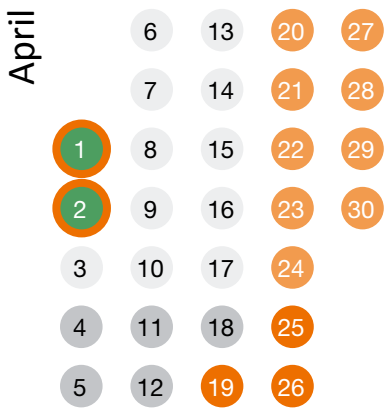
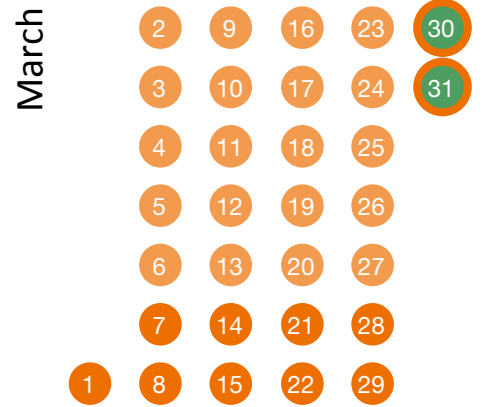
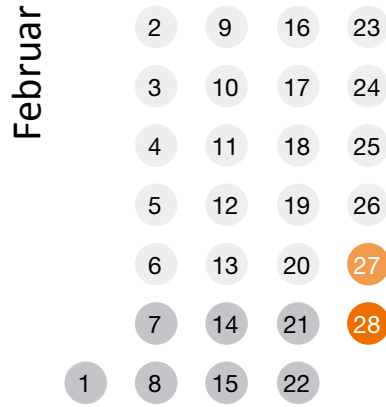
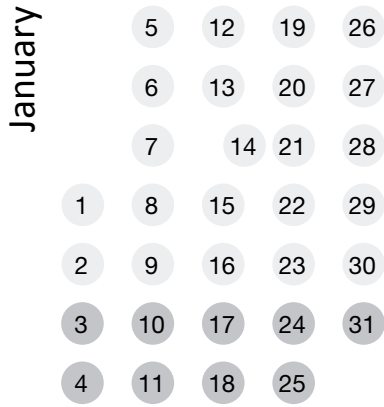
[www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)

NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL IDMC internal displacement monitoring centre

# Calendar of Events

# 2015

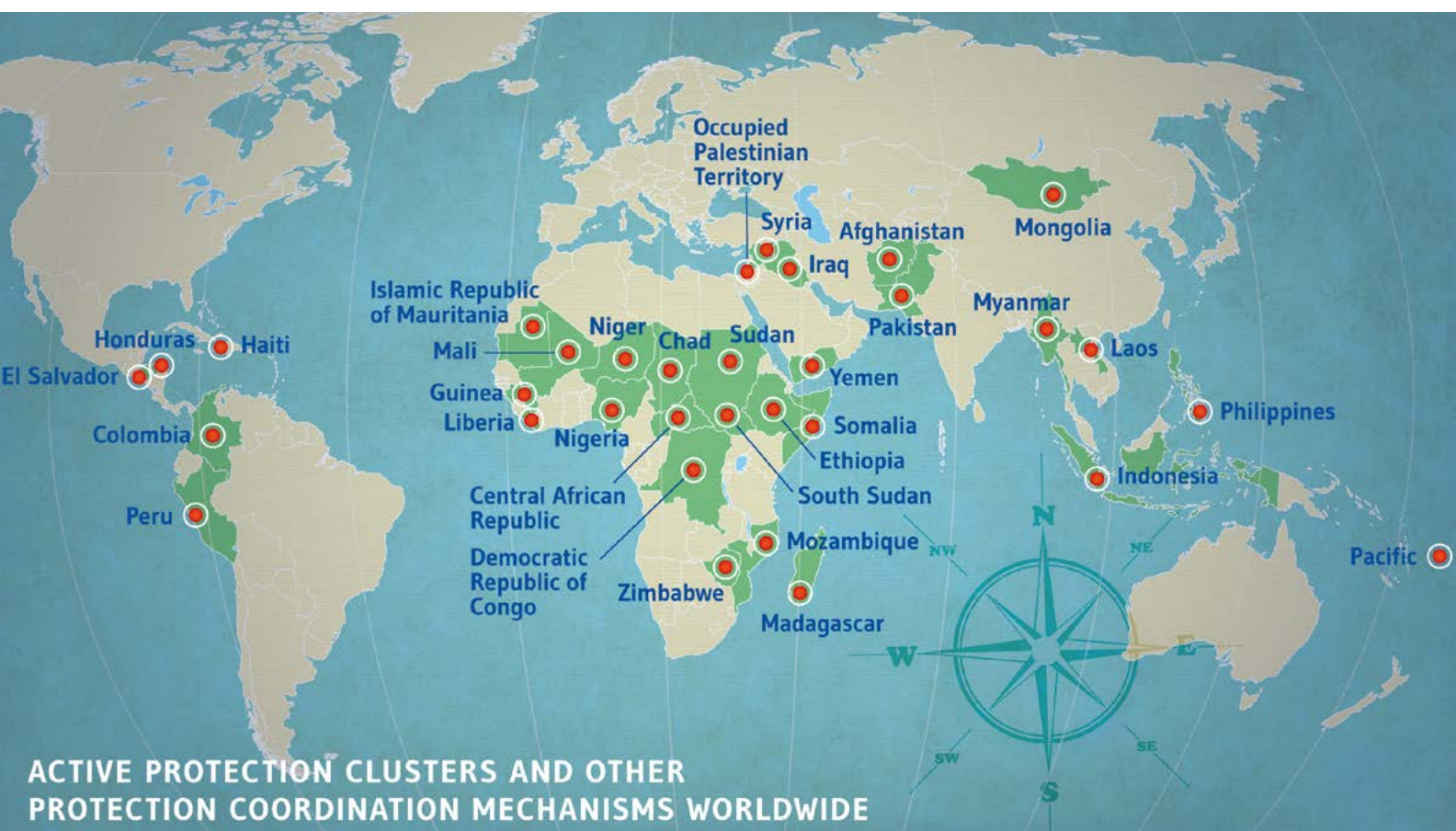
Event	Led by	Date / Place	
Mission to train IDP issues in the courts, Judicial High School Ukraine	GPC	27 February-1 March, Tblisi	
TRAININGS	Protection coordination workshop in Ukraine	DRC	30 March - 2 April
	Cluster co-lead training in Hungary	GPC	1-10 June, Budapest
	IDPs protection learning programme	DRC	June 2015, Budapest
			November 2015, Ukraine
	Workshop on Sexual Violence in Disasters and Conflicts	GBV	21-23 July, Singapore
	Protection in practice protection mainstreaming trainings are	DRC	5-7 August, Juba, South Sudan
		World Vision	10-12 August, Lankien
		IRC	25-27 August, Goma
4 day training on GBV in emergencies	GBV	August 2015, Gaza	
Protection in Practice Training of Trainers	DRC	6-11 September, Budapest	
MISSIONS	Support to Ukraine Protection Cluster	GPC	2 March-2 April, Kiev
	Support to Somalia Protection Cluster	GPC	19-30 April, Hargeisa
	Inter-agency GBV assessment focusing on the Syrian response	GBV	21 June - 4 July, Erbil, Iraq
	Support for the transition of the GBV sub-cluster to function again as a part of the Protection Cluster as it was coordinated pre-earthquake	GBV	3-6 August, Nepal
	Support to Nigeria Protection Working Group	GPC	4-14 August, Abuja, Yola, Maiduguri
	Support to Somalia Protection Cluster	GPC	25-28 August, Addis Ababa
	Strategic Framework Consultations	GPC	15-16 September, Amman
	Strategic Framework Consultations	GPC	17-18 September, Gaziantep
EVENTS	GPC held a Side event at ECOSOC HAS “strengthening protection in humanitarian settings”	GPC	18 June, 2015
	Launching of the Whole of System Review of Protection in the Context of Humanitarian Action	GPC	19 June, 2015
	UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs/ Session: Internal displacement: still waiting for solutions.	UNHCR	2 July
	Launch of the GPC Task Team on Law and Policy	GPC	6 July
	Launching of AoR Guidelines	AoR	16 September, South Africa
	GPC Annual Retreat	GPC	29-30 September, Geneva
	Discussion Forum Concept Note: Coherence in Protection / GPC Task Team on Donor Dialogue	GPC	1 October
Child Protection AoR Retreat	GPC	9-13 November, Bangkok, Thailand	



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**ACTIVE PROTECTION CLUSTERS AND OTHER PROTECTION COORDINATION MECHANISMS WORLDWIDE**