



Coordination Meeting with Somalia Protection Cluster, Thursday, 12th July 2012

Participation

The Global Cluster Coordinator chaired the meeting.

In attendance were: OCHA, ProCap, UNMAS and Mine Action AoR, GBV Working Group IRC, GPC Support Cell, By telecon: Somalia: CP AoR, GBV AoR, WFP, UNHCR sub-national cluster coordinators from Bossaso, Hargesisa, Galkayo, Mogadishu, NPA., Global Level: GBV AoR

Context and Protection Environment:

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<p>Weak Transitional Federal Government (TFG) formed in 2004, supported by AMISOM with a mandate to protect the TFG and its institutions, but no mandate on protection of civilians. Military operations against Al Shabaab are conducted by TFG and AMISOM troops. Most of the country is governed by various self-styled local administrations with generally limited capacity to provide law and order and social services to its population with the exception of Somaliland and Puntland respectively, which are the oldest and most established administrations. There is a reasonable possibility that Al Shabaab will lose administrative and military control over all the major towns it currently holds this year. However, it is anticipated that the conflict will continue in an asymmetric manner, particularly as Al Shabaab has so far refused to be part of any peace or political processes. There are roughly 1.3 million IDP and another 1 million people residing in refugee camps in neighboring countries as a result of the decade long conflict, and recurrent environmental shocks.</p>
<p><u>Mogadishu</u>: Current estimates place the IDP population in Mogadishu at around 200,000 living in over 300 'settlements', of which many have existed since the mid 1990's. Mogadishu is a city in population flux as a consequence of a recent famine in parts of the country and among the IDP population, lack of livelihoods, continued violence (assassinations, skirmishes, random shelling, crossfire etc.), misconduct by TFG troops, and evictions from public and private land.</p>
<p><u>Centre and South Somalia</u>: War - landmines and cross-fire (small arms and shells), suicide attacks, accusations of spying – arrests and/or executions, clan clashes, targeted assassinations, etc.</p>
<p><u>Northeast & Northwest</u>: Fear of arbitrary arrest (based on alleged affiliation with Al Shabaab), Cross-fire – clan clashes and check-points, piracy, targeted assassinations, "deportations" and evictions;</p>
<p><u>ON-GOING significant Protection Issues</u>: GBV - preoccupying protection risks to IDP girls and women: Sexual violence in IDP settlements is common throughout the country: Sexual violence / exploitation by TFG & AMISOM troops is reported though unconfirmed; Child Protection: Recruitment remains a serious concern, , as does the transfer of prisoners (minors) in newly recovered areas, arbitrary detention, child smuggling/trafficking and landmines;</p>
<p><u>EMERGING Protection Issues</u>: Arbitrary arrest and detention of young men by TFG forces: Looting during house to house searches conducted by TFG forces: Looting and arbitrary arrests at checkpoints: Evictions of IDPs from Public buildings and private land</p>

Working Together for Protection

Support Cell: gpc@unhcr.org
globalprotectioncluster.org



Agenda Minutes

1. Protection Cluster Coordination

Somalia Protection Cluster: Is composed of 130 organizations (Nairobi and Somalia based, majority of which are national organizations) – partners operate in all regions of Somaliland, Puntland, and South-Central

Somalia Technical Committee (Strategic Advisory Group) - 8 Member organizations (4 NGOs & 4 UN) plus Chair and Co-Chair [established May 2012]

National Level: One cluster coordinator (UNHCR) and Co-Lead (DRC) and two sub-cluster / working groups coordinators based in Nairobi: GBV – lead by UNFPA and CP, led by UNICEF. The CP WG chair ends her assignment as of 13th July, 2012.

Sub-National Level: Five clusters at sub-national level led by UNHCR in Hargeisa, Bossasso, Garowe, Galkayo, Mogadishu.

In addition the PC has a Population Monitoring Network and Population Movement Tracking (PMN/PMT) Steering Committee; as well as a Mixed Migration Task Force the latter, however, only notionally reported to the PC. Each of these groups are either chaired or co-chaired by UNHCR,

Constraints and Challenges

- Sub-cluster / specialty areas have a weak presence in the country which needs urgent strengthening;
- Urgent need for dedicated GBV and CP coordinators/chairs, including an enhanced participation by UNMAS. This includes having funds available to hire full-time dedicated coordinators.
- Training (requested for GBV by UNFPA)
- Urgent need for a full-time job to go beyond information sharing and ensure true coordination
- Information management is an area needing support
- Previous lack of strategic direction (due to previous absence of a SAG) also implied weak protection engagement in HCT or UNCT decision-making processes and documents – which should now be addressed through a revised protection cluster strategy;
- Disconnect between national and sub-national level clusters;
- Lack of access and reliance on “remote management” and IP arrangements;
- The PC is one of the least funded clusters possibly because protection is not considered by the HCT or during CAP discussions as a life-saving priority.. In addition to unmet needs, limited funding does impact on the eagerness of cluster members to report, share information, and conduct assessments;
- Need for further engagement by key new actors in Somalia who have broader access to persons of concern, notably the Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

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2. Protection Cluster Strategy:

The Somalia Field Protection Cluster Coordinator underlined that there has been no commonly agreed to concrete Protection Cluster Strategy since 2005, which in turn has implied a lack of a coherent approach towards the main protection issues that manifest themselves; Issues related to durable solutions, protection in protracted situation and in urban areas, and protection of civilians, are foreseen as important elements for the 2nd draft, which the GPC can offer further advice on the strategy in this respect; Request for research on global experience vis-à-vis “Gate Keepers” in other countries and how to engage, in addition to global experience on innovative protection projects is requested.

3. Summary of Action Points		
Agenda Item	Action Point	Deadline/Status
1. Protection Cluster Coordination	<u>Strengthening AoRs</u> : With any needed GPC support, the GBV AoR to advocate to secure possible resource mobilization both for dedicated chairs/coordinators for the AoRs and funding for projects and relay the same request to CP AoR. In addition, Global GBV AoR to follow-up with the NBO-based GBV Working Group on training support needs.	On-going
	<u>Mine Action</u> : Somalia PC Coordinator to liaise with UNMAS in-country as a follow-up to directive by UNMAS Geneva to get a stronger mine action representation in the PC, including an enhanced participation by UNMAS	16-19 July (Action from UNMAS Geneva has been taken)
	<u>Coordination Support</u> : ProCap / GPC Support Cell to further follow consultative process with Field Protection Cluster on possibility / viability of a ProCap/GenCap deployment to support sub-clusters	25th July
	<u>IM Support</u> : GPC Support Cell to share RPAT tool with Somalia Field Cluster, OCHA to follow up with GPC Help Desk/Rapid Deployments and UNMAS to give further details on potential support by UNISAT. GPC Support Cell to consult FICS	19th July (RPAT Sent by GPC Support Cell)
	<u>Protection Mainstreaming with key stakeholders</u> : GPC Support Cell to send Protection Mainstreaming tools to Somalia Field Cluster, and translated into Turkish language for onward dissemination and engagement with key players on the ground	25th July (Main streaming package sent by GPC Support Cell)
2. Protection Cluster Strategy	<u>Finalization of 2nd Draft of the PC Strategy</u> : Somalia Protection Cluster to share 2nd draft of strategy and solicit feedback from GPC, in particular with respect to Protection of Civilians	26th July
	GPC Support Cell to research on innovative protection projects in protracted situations:	On-going
	GPC is working on guidance note on protection of civilians which will be shared upon the completion. Proposal for the GPC to look at the Somalia Cluster Strategy from the perspective of the protection of civilians and to reflect on it	To be determined