

GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER | STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-19

CONSULTATIONS WITH

THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF IDPs

London School of Economics, 3 December 2015

1. The Global Protection Cluster Coordinator and Senior Protection Coordinator travelled to London for consultations with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Dr Chaloka Beyani, on his priorities for the GPC going forward.
2. The lack of earmarked funding for IDP operations is a priority; funding for IDPs is the first to be cut and there needs to be more advocacy towards donors. This problem also touches on the humanitarian-development continuum.
3. The recent debate about mandates and the status of beneficiaries is disappointing when it has been characterised by the levelling down of services. The role of Humanitarian Response Plans in setting a cap on the level of funding that can be requested means that comprehensive needs assessments are not being addressed.
4. There is a link between internal movement and external movement, where lack of attention to the needs of IDPs can lead them to seek asylum in other countries. It is for this reason that the Guiding Principles refer to the right to seek asylum. Choices to move are based on calculations of a wide range of risks and possibilities, e.g. money, where minorities might be accepted, the existence of smuggling networks.
5. This continuum between internal and external movement means that the debate about mandates and status of beneficiaries should not turn into playing one group off against another.
6. The GPC needs to focus more on training and capacity development on IDPs and refugees towards development actors. The World Humanitarian Summit focus on legal frameworks could be an entry point for further capacity development for development actors. Another entry point would be the fleshing out of concrete indicators on durable solutions.
7. The IASC already has an IDP protection policy; there is a question about where the forthcoming IASC protection policy is going to go. The point of

the policy is not to put words on paper but to make a difference to the way that Humanitarian Country Teams approach protection, including the protection of IDPs. It is important for HCTs to develop protection strategies as a frame for action, developing a programmatic approach and setting outcomes for the humanitarian effort as a whole. A comprehensive and coherent approach is also capable of attracting funding.

8. There is a link between advocacy at the global level and situations in country, e.g. in Syria. Humanitarians can have limitations placed on their ability to act because of advocacy in country. The GPC can assist country operations but the key is effective advocacy, with impact and outcomes measured.
9. The WHS synthesis report has highlighted the nature of displacement in the MENA region and the overlap between Islamic notions of hospitality and refugee protection. A legal regime on displacement in the Middle East- like the Kampala Convention- may be possible. This could be an entry point to bring in non-OECD donors into the discourse on humanitarian protection, which at current is trapped in the politics of the Middle East and concerns about national security.