

**Global Protection Cluster Mission
11-15 November 2010**

Afghanistan

1. SUMMARY

This report highlights the outcomes of what was a collaborative and productive mission to support the Protection Cluster in Afghanistan. The team consisted of representatives from the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and three GPC Areas of Responsibility (AORs), including GBV, Child Protection and Mine Action.

Despite operating in an extremely challenging and constantly evolving environment, the Afghanistan Protection Cluster (APC) has achieved a number of considerable successes. The Mission particularly noted a high level of understanding of humanitarian protection issues among the APC members. It is the Mission's opinion that the sound analysis of the context and protection issues the population is faced with has had a positive impact on the quality of the interventions that have been made.

The observations and recommendations contained in this report centre around 5 main areas:

1. Strategic Direction of the Cluster;
2. Engagement of Protection Actors;
3. Linkages within the Protection Cluster—between Regional Clusters, Task Forces, Sub-clusters, etc.;
4. Access;
5. Funding;
6. Sub-cluster technical areas—GBV, Child Protection (CP), Housing, Land and Property Rights (HLP), Mine Action.

Recommendations are laid out for both the Afghanistan Protection Cluster and for the Global Protection Cluster and AOR members.

2. BACKGROUND

The Global Protection Cluster work plan for 2010 prioritised support to selected country protection clusters with the objective of enhancing and supporting inter-linkages between the global and field level processes and to facilitate the exchange of information between field operations. As part of this process, the GPC undertook missions to Nepal and Yemen to hold discussions with the Protection Cluster actors in-country and identify areas where support from the global level is needed.

Early in 2010 the Afghanistan Protection Cluster (APC) expressed interest in receiving a GPC mission to look at its overall functioning and structure and provide advice on how to strengthen the APC and its different AORs and working groups on a number of key issues, including national level engagement with the regional protection clusters; development of joint monitoring

tools; linkages between APC Sub-clusters/working groups and remote protection programming and monitoring.

3. PARTICIPATION

The Mission Team consisted of Robyn Yaker, Coordinator of Gender-based Violence AOR (UNICEF/UNFPA); Chris Clark, Mine AOR (UNMAS); Ayda Eke, Child Protection AOR (UNICEF); Rebecca Skovbye, Global Protection Cluster Support Cell (UNHCR).

4. METHODOLOGY

The members of the GPC mission held a series of key meetings and consultations during the brief mission to gain the best possible understanding of protection programming and coordination within the operational context of Afghanistan. Meetings were confined to Kabul, due to security incidents in Jalalabad at the time of the mission. However, teleconferences and a few face-to-face meetings were held with three of the regional Protection Clusters, including the Eastern Region (Jalalabad), Western Region (Herat), and the South Eastern Region (Gardez).

Meetings were held with the following actors:

- The Protection Cluster Coordinator, Sub-cluster Coordinators and Co-chairs including GBV, Child Protection, Mine Action and HLP;
- Representatives from the Jalalabad Protection Cluster (NRC, UNICEF);
- The Protection Cluster Coordinator for the Herat Protection Cluster;
- The Protection Cluster Coordinator for the South Eastern Region;
- UNHCR Central Region Head of Office;
- UNHCR Representative, Deputy Representative and Senior Protection Officers;
- The Humanitarian Reform Officer for Afghanistan;
- UNFPA Deputy Representative;
- UNMAS senior management;
- MACCA senior management;
- UNICEF Representative, and UNICEF Child Protection Specialists;
- APC NGO members, including NRC, IRC, Oxfam, Care, DACAAR;
- Global level Protection Cluster actors;
- OCHA.

In addition, Mission Team members participated in

- A regular meeting of the Afghanistan national Protection Cluster meeting;
- A regular meeting of GBV Sub-cluster meeting;
- A meeting of Child Protection actors (including NGOs, CPAN representatives, and UN agencies/mission child protection representatives).

5. OBSERVATIONS

Strategic Coordination

National level coordination

The APC has come very far in terms of establishing the structure and processes for the Protection Cluster. Monthly meetings are held regularly and are well attended. A number of Sub-clusters/taskforces covering specific thematic issues have been set up under the Protection Cluster at the national level and are relatively well-functioning. A number of achievements have furthermore been made on tackling specific protection challenges, such as the advocacy on compensation schemes for civilian casualties of armed conflict and the enhanced inter-agency engagement on responses to internal displacement.

The APC, however, still needs to place greater emphasis on strategic coordination during meetings. Information sharing and updates by the different Sub-clusters and task forces still dominate meetings, which takes time away from the more strategic action oriented discussions around key protection issues that are also included in the agenda.

This problem also extends to the limited interaction between the various Sub-clusters and task forces, with little or no coordination between these on key strategic issues that pertain to two or more Sub-clusters/taskforces.

Regional coordination mechanism

The Mission noted the considerable achievement of rolling out and maintaining Regional Protection Cluster Coordination Mechanisms that are currently present in 4 locations. In many of the areas where regional Protection Clusters are present, actors' movement is severely restricted due to insecurity and access to the population a considerable challenge. Despite this, regional coordination mechanisms continue to function.

Collaboration, support and coordination between the national and regional level protection clusters need strengthening. Possibilities for exchange of experiences between the regions need to be further explored and utilised. National level support to the regional protection clusters is hampered by the relatively low capacity of many members at the national level and the difficulties in setting up regular communication mechanisms between the regional and national level. Although the Protection Cluster Coordinator in Kabul has frequent and regular contact with the Coordinators of the regional protection clusters, there is very limited interaction between the national level Sub-clusters/taskforces and the regional protection clusters.

Currently, most Sub-clusters/taskforces either do not exist at regional level or are not an integrated part of the Regional Protection Cluster Coordination Mechanism, with the only exception being the IDP Taskforce which is present in all regions. It is therefore of particular importance that national level Sub-clusters/task forces support regional clusters to either set up sub-clusters in the various regions (if the establishment of a separate Sub-cluster/Taskforce is locally deemed to be necessary) or to ensure the effective inclusion of thematic AORs within the Protection Cluster, with responsibility for themes to be undertaken by the relevant Sub-cluster/thematic lead agency or its assignee.

Engagement of Protection Actors

The degree to which the Protection Cluster is able to ensure strong coordination is closely linked to the level of active participation and ownership of the members. There is a high degree of strong and committed leadership of the Protection Cluster, both at the national and regional level. This

has driven many of the achievements the APC has made since its inception. It is however important to realize strong leadership in and of itself is not sufficient to move the Protection Cluster forward. Active engagement and commitment on the part of the Co-chairs and members at large is likewise essential elements to ensuring the strategic worth of the Protection Cluster.

APC meetings are well attended, but engagement in the work of the Protection Cluster beyond this is complicated largely by funding and staff resource restrictions and in a few cases limited commitment by the senior management of member organisations. Constraints in terms of staff and funding resources is particularly a problem for NGO members who do not always have the necessary staff nor allocated funding for participating in coordination activities beyond attendance at monthly meetings. At the time of the mission, members had not been able to take on sufficient ownership of the processes within the Protection Cluster to ensure its sustainability.

Deputy Chair functions

The APC has in the past had two deputy chairs –one UN and one NGO- but due to resource constraints on the part of both of the organisations filling these positions, one deputy chair was withdrawn and the other is only able to participate and lead at an ad hoc basis, placing undue pressure on the Protection Cluster Coordinator.

Local NGOs

Outreach has been undertaken to encourage the inclusion of local NGOs in the Protection Cluster, and some are actively involved in the Cluster's work. Obstacles, however, still remain for closer interaction of broader civil society where feasible (not just NGOs) and it is important to find solutions to overcome these. In the regional protection clusters the engagement of local NGOs is minimal and hampered by a combination of resource and capacity constraints as well as language barriers.

Funding

Problems of resource constraints also extend to the humanitarian community more broadly. The humanitarian agenda in Afghanistan suffers from overshadowing by the developmental and reconstruction priorities that many international donors are promoting. Much of what little funding that is allocated for humanitarian activities is channelled through the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) that are managed by troop contributing States. This has led to a somewhat forced focus on development initiatives by a number of key humanitarian protection actors, leaving a number of central humanitarian protection needs unmet. Although this impacts on almost all members of the Protection Cluster, this has been a particular challenge for child protection and GBV actors.

Access

The political agenda connected with funding and implementation of humanitarian activities also bears directly on problems related to access. Humanitarian access in Afghanistan is severely restricted and donor priorities, as mentioned, do not always favour humanitarian interventions. Security restrictions limit movement of international organisations, particularly UN agencies but also INGOs, in many of the areas where protection concerns are most pressing. Funding for humanitarian and development assistance is highly politicised and underpins the problem of access as it blurs perceptions of humanitarian actors as neutral and impartial.

In this context the creativity with which humanitarian protection organisations approach their work is commendable and has played a major part in the success achieved. The solutions that have been found to expand access should be further supported and developed. The Protection Cluster needs to continue to strengthen its partnerships with local actors who are present in these

areas, in a manner which does not put them at further risk, as an essential part of the protection response. Systems for inter-agency remote programming also need to be enhanced.

Linked to this, it would be worthwhile to explore how the Protection Cluster might more strategically work with mine action actors that have substantial access to beneficiaries across the country to capitalize on this in a way that helps to identify broader protection concerns.

Protection Mainstreaming

Protection mainstreaming is another tool that can be further explored and utilised to help mitigate some of the problems related to access. The APC is fairly proactive in pushing the protection mainstreaming agenda forward with the other clusters. A protection mainstreaming checklist and guidance note have been developed to assist the APC members, other stakeholders and clusters in undertaking mainstreaming and a workshop is planned for the beginning of 2011. Given the access constraints plaguing the humanitarian actors in Afghanistan, it is important to ensure as broad a reach as possible using all existing avenues. In this regard, the APC may consider using protection mainstreaming as a platform for enhancing the reach of protection by increasing the understanding of other humanitarian actors of what protection mainstreaming means in their operations and strengthening their ability to integrate protection mainstreaming in their activities. This should be done with due attention to capacities and risks that may be associated with this.

Sub-clusters and task forces

A significant achievement of the APC is the broad range of technical areas it covers in a structured manner. The APC has a number of Sub-clusters and taskforces including the IDP Task Force; Housing, Land and Property Rights Sub-cluster; and GBV Sub-cluster. In addition to these, at the national level, the Mine Action Coordination Centre Afghanistan (MACCA) is closely affiliated with the Protection Cluster although it does not sit formally within the Protection Cluster. Child Protection has been represented by the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Children and Armed Conflict (MRM CAAC), also at the national level. A number of achievements have been made by these various structures and in particular the IDP Task Force has been very active in coordinating activities in response to conflict induced displacement issues and engaging with the broader protection cluster on protection issues relating to the displaced. Gaps still remain with regard to addressing specific protection concerns emerging as a result of natural disaster, rather than conflict.

Gender-based Violence (GBV)

The GBV actors in Afghanistan face a number of challenges that impact the work of the Sub-cluster. Among these is the absence of coordination between projects and agencies representatives on national and provincial levels, difficulty in obtaining information from provincial GBV focal points and lack of staff dedicated to GBV issues.

Despite these challenges, the GBV Sub-cluster in Kabul was established in July 2010. The agencies involved have worked hard to establish the group in a participatory manner which promotes a sense of ownership amongst members. The Sub-cluster is led by UNFPA and co-chaired by the AIHRC and CARE. The result is a well-formed group of actors who meet regularly, share a common ToR, and exhibit a strong sense of enthusiasm towards improving the work on GBV in Afghanistan. Given the relatively recent establishment, the Sub-cluster has been focussing on structure and buy-in in 2010. In 2011 the focus must be on programmatic issues and impact in the field, as noted by members. It should be noted that as of yet there is no regional representation of the GBV Sub-cluster and concrete plans to enable that are essential. Representation of GBV issues at the Protection Clusters in the regions is also lacking.

In terms of the technical areas that are covered by the GBV Sub-cluster, there are a number of obstacles to obtaining a comprehensive picture of the availability, scope, and quality of GBV services available for women in Afghanistan, including the absence of referral systems in the country and programmes that are often of limited scale and duration. There are also several significant constraints to effective mapping of these services. Oftentimes in humanitarian contexts, non GBV-specific actors can have a lack of a common understanding about what constitutes a GBV-related service and “services for women” and this seems to also be a challenge in Afghanistan, especially for actors not engaged specifically on GBV. Security constraints for humanitarian actors and limited presence of agencies who work on GBV programming moreover means that there is very little access to beneficiary communities, particularly in remote areas. This in turn impacts the degree to which agencies are able to build strong relationships with communities, limiting their ability to develop a more genuine understanding of the situation.

Constraints around mapping were also noted by OCHA as a general problem within the humanitarian community. OCHA plans to conduct a thorough mapping exercise early next year and the GBV Sub-cluster should consider linking up with OCHA on this. The traditional “WWW” mapping tells little about programme quality or specifics about services provided, and thus the GBV Sub-cluster will need to work on an enhanced type of mapping.

In discussion with the GBV Sub-Cluster members, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to undertake assessment and situation analysis, including identifying risk factors, of GBV directly as it relates to the humanitarian context. GBV actors in Afghanistan have tended to focus on development programming related to women’s rights advocacy, legal reform, and other structural efforts aimed at addressing longer-term problems of gender inequity. Few actors have an understanding of GBV prevention and response specific to complex humanitarian emergencies, e.g. IASC guidelines for multi-sector GBV interventions, primary prevention. A better understanding of GBV in humanitarian settings would help to shape more targeted interventions to address specific risk factors, rather than generalizing GBV and women’s rights interventions. Therefore the GBV sub-cluster members welcome rolling out the ECHO project in Afghanistan as it will contribute to strengthening the capacity of GBV actors in prevention and response.

The members of the GBV Sub-cluster highlighted that the level of understanding and capacity of GBV in humanitarian settings, GBV responses and prevention activities, and relevant guidance is inconsistent amongst its members. The Sub-cluster emphasised that there is a need to increase general capacity on GBV coordination and programming and interest in building a common understanding of GBV issues within the Sub-cluster. Members requested access to global level resources, exchange forums, technical support and trainings in support of this goal.

It was also discussed that greater engagement of Afghan women in the GBV Sub-cluster should be encouraged, as well as representation of the local population. A similar need was noted with regards to engaging the Afghan government. Involvement of national NGOs is currently channelled through participation of one representative of the national network of women’s organizations at the Sub-cluster meeting. While this is a positive step forward, few agencies have direct contact with the women and communities they are serving. Local NGOs have limited staff, non-UN agencies have security concerns in accessing the UN compound and both international and national NGOs have competing priorities in terms of where to invest their time and effort. Furthermore, the sheer size of Afghanistan makes it difficult to ensure that a national level group encompasses the voices of such a diverse population.

Finally, at the time of the Mission, the GBV Coordinator for UNFPA completed her contract and posting for a full-time position had not yet started. Therefore, a lag-time of at least 3 months was

anticipated before a new Coordinator would be in place. The Deputy Coordinator agreed to step in as interim Coordinator however there is a clear need to expedite the return of the UNFPA GBV Coordinator. Members are concerned about losing the momentum, which they have built together. In addition, it is difficult for the CARE representative to commit the amount of time required for full-scale coordination in addition to her own full-time job responsibilities. For the long-term, discussions were held about how NGOs may be able to write into proposals the necessary time and resources needed for sub-cluster support.

Child Protection:

The existence and work of the Afghanistan Child Protection Action Network (CPAN), which currently reaches 51 districts in 28 provinces of Afghanistan, represents a significant achievement for Child Protection in the country. The network, led by Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD), is comprised of the key humanitarian and development child protection actors, including INGOs¹ and UN Agencies², as well as national NGOs and civil society. Humanitarian actors have undertaken steps towards building national capacity on child protection in Afghanistan. First established in 2003 at the provincial level, the objective of the CPAN was to address the gaps resulting from the lack of a formal social support services system in Afghanistan, and the related challenges of ensuring assistance for vulnerable families and children. At the provincial level, the network facilitates access to services for children in urgent need of protection, by identifying, referring and managing cases of violence, abuse and exploitation of children. The Provincial CPANS also monitor and report on child protection issues, including physical, domestic and sexual abuse and assault, early marriage, and children in contact with the law, with a view to informing programming at provincial level and contributing to the identification of priorities for the development of national level advocacy and policies. At the national level, the CPAN “aims to develop and promote a shared understanding of child protection issues, common strategies, programming principles and operational guidelines on child protection issues critical for effective and systematic responses.” National level successes included the adoption and endorsement of the Afghanistan National Strategy for Children at Risk (NSFCAR) in May 2006.

The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Children and Armed Conflict was established in Afghanistan, with the endorsement of President Karzai, in July 2008. At the time of reporting the Country-level Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict included UNICEF, UNAMA Child Protection (as co-chairs), OHCHR, UNODC, WHO, OCHA, UNHCR, MACCA, Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, two international NGOs, and the ICRC as observer. Regional Task Forces have been established in the northern (Mazar), western (Herat), eastern (Jalalabad), central (Kabul, and south-eastern (Gardez) regions of Afghanistan. While security constraints prevented the establishment of a formal MRM Task Force in the southern region, the recruitment and training of a dedicated MRM UNICEF Child Protection Officer in Kandahar meant that monitoring, reporting and verification of grave child rights violations in the southern region of the country significantly increased.

During 2010 significant efforts were made to improve the capacity of the MRM CAAC in order to inform evidence-based programming and advocacy initiatives to prevent and respond to grave violations against children in armed conflict. This included capacity building of members and partners of the MRM, reinforcing linkages between the MRM and the Child Protection Action Network and legal aid services, engagement with parties to the conflict, increased awareness

¹ Save the Children, WarChild, Child Fund

² UNICEF, UNAMA-Child Protection

raising on the risks faced by children affected by armed conflict, and a visit by the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to Afghanistan in February 2010 which resulted in a number of commitments secured by parties to the conflict in order to end and prevent grave violations against children.

In July 2010 the MRM CAAC supported the Government of Afghanistan in establishing a Government Steering Committee on Children and Armed Conflict (at Deputy Minister Level) with the objective to develop and implement Action Plans to prevent and respond to grave child rights violations committed in the context of the Conflict.

While at regional level the Regional MRM CAAC Task Forces were able to engage significantly with other protection forums (the attendees often being the same small group of people) such as the CPAN and the Protection Cluster with regards to providing response to violations, a systematic means of connecting the national-level MRM CAAC with other protection forums has been less successful.

A number of key advocacy issues, such as the use of schools as polling stations, and the occupation of schools by international military forces, were brought to the attention of the Protection Cluster by the MRM CAAC. However the MRM CAAC has yet to fully link up with the advocacy leverage the Protection Cluster may contribute.

While there has been significant progress on child protection systems strengthening work in Afghanistan, child protection in emergencies (CPiE)-specific advocacy and programming is a key gap throughout the country. The CPAN's Terms of Reference states that the "...CPAN will consider Child Protection concerns and issues particularly in the context of post-conflict rehabilitation and development"³. Similarly, the vast majority of child protection actors are also focused on longer-term recovery and development.⁴ As a result, other than implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 1612 and 1882 on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict, there are no significant child protection activities aimed specifically at addressing the impact of the ongoing conflict and humanitarian situation on the protection of children. The CPAN members have also identified response to natural disasters as a key weakness in child protection programming. As such, there is currently no systematic or predictable response to the impacts of emergency on child protection in Afghanistan.

Despite its focus on post-conflict rehabilitation and development, upon the activation of the Cluster mechanism in Afghanistan it was decided that the CPAN would act as the Child Protection Sub-cluster, with members providing inputs to the Protection Cluster through UNICEF at the national level and various members at the provincial levels. This lack of a coordination mechanism with a specific focus on emergency, technical expertise and mandate to address the child protection impacts of man-made and natural disasters in Afghanistan is a significant constraint in ensuring sound understanding and prioritization of response to key CPiE issues, including psychosocial distress, recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, identification and family tracing and reunification for separated and unaccompanied children, and the impacts of displacement on children amongst others.

³ToR – UNICEF support for Afghanistan National Child Protection Action Network

⁴ Review of Child Protection Sub-Cluster in Afghanistan, Child Frontiers, 2010, pp. 5

The child protection actors in Afghanistan also have very low levels of familiarity with humanitarian reform and the cluster approach and the specific purposes and objectives of Clusters.⁵ This has resulted in difficulties in distinguishing the difference between the existing work and objectives of the CPAN, and the specific role and activities that would fall under the responsibilities of a Child Protection Sub-cluster.

Additionally, the allocation of dedicated human resources for the development of a Child Protection in Emergencies Sub-cluster and identification of possible Co-chairs to support this process is a significant impediment to the establishment and active growth of this Sub-cluster.

Mine Action

The Mine Action Coordination Centre Afghanistan (MACCA) has been active in Afghanistan for almost 20 years and is extremely well established and able to effectively address the mine/UXO contamination problem in Afghanistan. It has been successfully doing so for many years and continually finds ways to adapt to the changing environment and seek alternative and innovative solutions to access and security blockages in Afghanistan. As MACCA predates the implementation of the cluster system in Afghanistan and effectively operates independently of the Protection Cluster, the strategic linkages between MACCA, the APC and other Sub-clusters and Taskforces under the Protection Cluster needs more strategic direction. Coordination needs to move beyond mere participation in APC meetings and linkages with other actors within the Protection Cluster actively need to be identified and acted upon. As part of this process mutual knowledge and understanding of mandates and activities between MACCA and other APC members and fora should be strengthened.

HLP (Housing, Land and Property) Task Force

Decades of political violence and conflict, different waves of forced population displacements within and outside the country, different ideological principles governing housing, land and property (HLP) rights, in addition to a vulnerable situation vis-à-vis natural disasters and a pluralistic and complex legal system (often based on customary and/or traditional practices and legal interpretation) have all contributed to the current complex and weakened regime of land tenure and property rights in Afghanistan. Besides these existing complexities, the ongoing armed conflict in Afghanistan continues to cause forced displacement, foster the deprivation of property and pose obstacles for the restitution of HLP rights for hundreds of thousands of returning refugees and new conflict-induced internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The HLP Sub-cluster currently consists of four agencies, USAid, UNHabitat, NRC and UNHCR. Attempts have been made in the past to increase participation in this group, but with limited success. Despite the small membership, the Sub-cluster continues to function and has been able to make a number of important progresses, including organising a virtual repository of documents consisting of legislation, research, practices and policy recommendations and re-publishing of a revised and updated version of the Guide to Property Law in Afghanistan in both English and Dari.

HLP rights have often been deemed to be too complex, politically sensitive and outside the traditional mandates of humanitarian agencies in Afghanistan. The current responses of humanitarian actors must further engage on a more effective oversight of HLP rights, with particular attention to displacement situations emerging out of the ongoing armed conflict and other forms of violence. Hence, the HLP Sub-cluster is keen to obtain directional focus from the

⁵Ibid, pp. 5

GPC in terms of strengthening the humanitarian focus in a complex HLP context such as Afghanistan.

OCHA

In addition to the dynamics within the Protection Cluster and its Sub-clusters/taskforces and the external elements directly affecting the functionality of these, OCHA also plays a central role in supporting humanitarian actors in their coordination efforts. The Protection Cluster identified substantive challenges presented by the role and relationship with OCHA in the past. However, the OCHA office in Kabul has recently enacted an almost complete change in its international staff and the direction of the new team will be seen over the coming weeks and months. A number of positive developments have already been noted by protection clusters members and the foundations for a close relationship between the OCHA office and the APC are currently being laid.

As this process is ongoing, it is important to underline the central areas where strong support from the OCHA office is needed to move the activities of APC members forward. Most important are critical coordination initiatives, including mainstreaming of protection in other clusters, mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues within the APC, and information management. It is moreover important that close coordination and collaboration with the APC is maintained on key developments and processes that OCHA is leading, such as the standard multi-cluster Rapid Assessment Framework.

One of the most significant issues raised in relation to OCHA, was the need for greater clarity of their role in supporting and advocating on behalf of the humanitarian community in promoting principles of neutrality and impartiality and ensuring humanitarian space. This will be of particular relevance in the context of the implementation of the Integrated Strategic Framework. OCHA support is furthermore needed in underlining the continuing need for funding of humanitarian projects in Afghanistan with donors.

6. GLOBAL LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

i. Recommendations for the Global Protection Cluster

1. Provide guidance to the APC on areas of overlapping activities between the work of the Sub-clusters/taskforces in Afghanistan and for how collaboration on these can be taken forward.

Linkages between AORs at the global level, in particular between the GBV and CP AORs, IDP TF and Mine Action; and between the HLP and Mine Action AORs, have been identified. The AORs will share relevant work on common issues with the sub-clusters/taskforces in Afghanistan and provide guidance for how collaboration on these can be taken forward

Action: GBV, HLP, Mine Action and CP AORs

2. Establish contact with the relevant Afghanistan Sub-clusters/taskforces and provide ongoing support as needed

Specifically, the global AORs will:

- Include the Afghanistan sub-cluster representatives in their mailing lists;

- Invite Afghanistan sub-cluster representatives to relevant consultations, international meetings, community of practice fora, etc.;
- Support efforts to carry out capacity-building plans by sharing resources, helping to identify external experts as appropriate, etc.;
- Engage in ongoing communication with the relevant sub-cluster as needed;
- Assist in global level advocacy as needed;
- Connect colleagues from different offices by sharing contact information, facilitating email introductions, etc.
- Support the identification of dedicated Human Resource capacity that can be deployed to support sub-cluster coordination at country level as per needs and request.

Action: GBV AOR, CP AOR, HLP AOR, Mine Action AOR

3. Provide support for the development of TORs for Protection Clusters at the sub-regional level as needed.

Action: Facilitation by GPC Support Cell with input from the global AORs

4. Share available documented experiences on remote programming and monitoring from other operations with the APC.

Action: GPC Task Force on Good Practices

5. Provide guidance on the possibility and modality of using non-protection indicators to extract reliable protection information from data collected by other clusters in connection with their own programmes.

Action: UNHCR data management expert

6. Undertake advocacy with OCHA Geneva to support and promote the disaggregation of data that is collected by OCHA offices in the field, as well as for the inclusion of protection issues into the Afghanistan multi-cluster Rapid Assessment tool.

This should include providing samples from other contexts where protection issues have been adequately integrated into overall multi-cluster assessment tools, or if these are not available, ensuring that the Information Management focal points for the Cluster and Sub-clusters at global level provide technical support for this integration in Afghanistan.

Action: Support Cell

7. Identify non-traditional donors for humanitarian protection activities as part of the broader Protection Cluster strategy for engaging donors.

The GPC is currently in the process of reviewing its engagement with donors. As part of this process, the possibility for engaging non-traditional donors for humanitarian protection activities should be evaluated.

Action: GPC

8. Provide input and support for the development of protection mainstreaming initiatives in Afghanistan and share examples from other protection clusters on protection mainstreaming tools developed by these.

Action: GPC Task Force on Protection Mainstreaming

9. Undertake global level advocacy with the NGO Protection Cluster Deputy Chair to have staff allocated to the Deputy Chair function.

Action: GPC Support Cell

ii. Recommendations for the GBV AOR

1. Support development of and links to GBV capacity-building opportunities.

The Global GBV AOR should support the GBV Sub-cluster in Afghanistan to access trainings and capacity building programmes. One of the main priorities identified by sub-cluster members on the ground was the need to enhance understanding and skill levels within the group around GBV programming specifically in humanitarian settings. Members would benefit greatly from training on the IASC Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, as well as GBV Core Concepts (specifics to be worked out with the group). The ECHO Project being implemented in the region will also be of use to the Afghanistan GBV Sub-cluster. This should include:

- i. The GBV AOR Coordinator to facilitate contact between the GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator (UNFPA) on the ground and UNICEF and UNFPA global program specialists, in order to initiate a dialogue about how best they can work with the country team to meet the relevant capacity-building needs. The country team may be asked to identify and prioritize the learning needs, assist in identifying resources (e.g. proposal writing, etc.) while global experts can help to identify existing resources;
- ii. The GBV AOR Coordinator to connect the GBV Sub-cluster directly with the ECHO Project Coordinator in Geneva (and Regional Coordinator in Bangkok);
- iii. The GBV AOR Coordinator to maintain communication with the GBV Sub-cluster and Deputy Sub-Cluster Coordinator on the ground, sharing information about relevant training opportunities as they arise and highlighting the needs identified in Afghanistan at relevant global fora;
- iv. The GBV AOR Coordinator to inform the GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator about surge capacity mechanisms such as GenCap, UNICEF Standby partners, etc.

Action: GBV AOR Coordinator, UNFPA Afghanistan Coordinator, UNICEF and UNFPA GBV Specialists, ECHO Project Coordinator and Regional Manager

2. Sharing of resources and connecting with GBV practitioners.

The Global GBV AOR should support the GBV sub-cluster in Afghanistan to access relevant tools and resources, and learn about discussions or events happening globally in the field of GBV. The Global GBV AOR Coordinator should maintain contact with the GBV sub-cluster lead to ensure sharing of relevant resources and opportunities, including the following specific actions:

- i. Ensure that the GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator have access to the online Community of Practice being developed by GBV AOR;

- ii. Advocate with UNFPA to send relevant resources by pouch to Afghanistan UNFPA office;
- iii. Circulate newly developed resources by email and posting to AOR website;
- iv. Share contact information of other GBV AOR members with the Afghanistan GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator;
- v. Include the Afghanistan GBV Sub-cluster and Deputy Sub-cluster Coordinator on mailing list.

Action: GBV AOR Coordinator, ECHO Project Manager and UNFPA GBV Specialist

3. Share key messages documents utilized in other settings.

Action: GBV AOR Coordinator and UNFPA GBV Specialist

4. Support for recruitment of a full-time GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator and interim GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator.

- i. The GBV AOR Coordinator to follow-up with UNFPA Geneva and New York on recruitment of a GBV sub-cluster Coordinator for Afghanistan, sharing with them the urgency of the need identified on the ground.
- ii. The GBV AOR Coordinator should engage in ongoing communication with the interim GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator (CARE), during the transition period.

Action: UNFPA Geneva and New York, GBV AOR Coordinator

5. Facilitate conversations with UNICEF regarding their role in the GBV Sub-cluster in Afghanistan.

Recognizing that UNICEF does not currently have the capacity to play a leadership role in the GBV AoR, their active participation in the GBV Sub-cluster on the ground would be very beneficial and strengthening this participation should be explored.

Action: GBV AOR Coordinator

6. Ensure inclusion of relevant advocacy points in the Advocacy and Communications Strategy of the Global GBV AOR.

The GBV Sub-cluster members raised clearly the difficulties they face in finding adequate funding for GBV activities and coordination. The Global GBV AOR will be developing an advocacy and communications strategy for 2011-12 and the specific challenges of the Afghanistan context, as noted above, should be included, in line with the Protection donor strategy as well.

Action: GBV AOR Advocacy Strategy Task Team

iii. Recommendations the Child Protection AOR

1. The global-level Child Protection AOR members active in Afghanistan should be mobilized to develop a joint plan for support to strengthened CPiE activities in the country.

This should include dialogue with the global Child Protection advisors of the Child Protection AOR members on the challenges that have resulted in weak CPiE programming in the country (whether due to lack of funding for humanitarian activities; access constraints, etc), strategies and practical advice for those on the ground on how these could be overcome, and global-level

commitment to participate and support CPiE coordination, rapid assessment, capacity building activities and the initiation of CPiE activities at the country level.

Action: Global Child Protection advisors of the Child Protection AOR

2. Identification of a Child Protection Sub-Cluster Coordinator through Standby Partner arrangements.

As mentioned, the UNICEF Country Office in Afghanistan currently lacks the human or financial resources to recruit a technically experienced and dedicated Coordinator to lead the Child Protection Sub-cluster. UNICEF, through the global Child Protection AOR coordinator working together with the UNICEF colleagues on the ground, should support the identification and deployment for 6 months (to start) of a Child Protection Sub-cluster coordinator through the existing Standby Partner arrangements.

Action: Child Protection AOR Coordinator

3. Support for the adaptation and implementation of a Child Protection Rapid Assessment.

It is recommended that the global Child Protection AOR Task-Force on assessment, if agreed by the Sub-cluster at country level, select Afghanistan as a Pilot country for the roll-out of the Child Protection Rapid Assessment Toolkit, which is expected to be ready for pilot by early 2011. Once a dedicated Child Protection Sub-Cluster coordinator is on board, this should be amongst their first activities. Support can include undertaking a global-level Child Protection AOR assessment support mission through the deployment of specific technical capacity on assessment adaptation and implementation.

Action: Child Protection AOR Task-Force on assessment

4. Support for the development and implementation of a Child Protection Capacity Building Strategy.

It is recommended that the global Child Protection AOR Task Force on training and capacity building, if agreed by the Sub-cluster at country level, provide support for the development and implementation of a Child Protection Capacity Building strategy for Afghanistan. This can include advocating for global level commitment on the part of Child Protection AOR members to support an inter-agency capacity building activities in-country, as well as helping with the adaptation of training modules (based on the findings of the Child Protection assessment) and identifying a strong CPiE trainer/facilitator that can undertake ToTs and mentor/support those trained in undertaking the roll-out CPiE trainings to the regional/provincial levels.

Action: Child Protection AOR Task Force on training and capacity building

iv. Recommendations the Mine Action AOR

1. Ensure a clear understanding of Mine Action issues, strengths and weaknesses across the entire Global Protection Cluster.

As UNMAS seeks to take up its role as global coordinator of the Mine Action AOR, within the Protection Cluster, it should also draw on the country level points noted below (see recommendations under II. Country Level Recommendations for the MACCA) and recognize that it will also need to ensure a clear understanding of Mine Action issues, strengths and weaknesses across the entire Global Protection Cluster. Additionally, it will also need to ensure a greater

understanding of the cluster system, the Protection Cluster and general protection issues throughout global mine action programmes.

Action: UNMAS

2. Ensure future engagement and support in further such GPC missions.

Recognizing the benefits of participating in this GPC Support Mission to Afghanistan, UNMAS should seek to ensure future engagement and support in further such GPC missions. In doing so it will increase its depth of knowledge of protection issues and so better fulfil its function as AOR coordinator.

Action: UNMAS

3. Advocate for the role of humanitarian organizations in the planning and set up of an integrated mission.

As one of the elements highlighted in the mission was the lack of clarity of humanitarian issues within the integrated mission and international military forces in Afghanistan, UNMAS should also seek to use its position within DPKO to advocate for the role of humanitarian organizations in the planning and set up of an integrated mission.

Action: UNMAS

8. COUNTRY LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS

i. Recommendations for the Afghanistan Protection Cluster

1. Refocus meeting agenda to include less time for information-sharing and more time for thematic issues and action points.

- i. Use alternative forums for information-sharing for general updates, such as circulating monthly updates via email;
- ii. Reduce information sharing during meetings to key issues of common importance, for example by scheduling only 15-20 min for updates, but not allocating a specific slot for each Sub-cluster/task force;
- iii. Consider providing summary updates specifically relevant to local NGOs.

Action: APC Coordinator, APC Deputy Chair

2. Focus on assessing and strategically responding to the humanitarian impact of protection interventions, especially in the Child Protection and GBV sub-clusters.

This should include expanding humanitarian impacts considerations beyond issues of displacement and attacks on civilians, especially in the CP and GBV Sub-clusters whose current focus is largely transition/development. This process could, for example, include: training on existing guidelines for humanitarian interventions in specific sectors such as GBV and CPiE; undertaking more in-depth assessment and analysis of the protection impacts of the ongoing humanitarian crises (conflict and natural disaster), including ensuring the more effective integration into APC's work of information and analysis gathered through the MRM; identifying and analysing how the existing projects and activities of the Protection Cluster and Sub-clusters/taskforces can serve to address humanitarian-specific issues, and identifying remaining

gaps in order to formulate additional priorities and activities aimed specifically at addressing protection risks resulting from or exacerbated by the ongoing humanitarian crises.

Action: GBV and CP Sub-cluster Coordinators

3. Organise a Protection Cluster retreat with the participation of the regional protection clusters and national level Sub-clusters/taskforces.

The objectives of the retreat would be to ensure that priority setting at the national level is sufficiently informed by realities at regional level, facilitate greater support from national level actors to the regional clusters and to facilitate exchange of experiences between regions. The retreat should include an opportunity for sub-clusters/taskforces to brief other participants on their activities to help facilitate the development of synergies between their different areas of work and establish linkages between regional Protection Clusters and the national level sub-clusters/task forces. Consideration should be given to also inviting other coordination mechanisms, such as CPAN.

The outcomes of the retreat should include:

- i. A clear communication plan for exchange of experiences and support between regions. According to what is feasible on the ground this may take the form of monthly phone calls, quarterly calls, or thematic exchanges a certain number of times per year;
- ii. A plan for interaction on common priority areas between sub-clusters/task forces;
- iii. A plan for sharing information between sub-clusters/task forces outside of updates in meetings. This might include a weekly update from the GPC Coordinator with 1 bullet point on each sub-cluster/taskforce and/or thematic discussions which bring together key points from various sub-clusters/taskforces;
- iv. Facilitate the integration of Sub-cluster and task force issues in the protection agenda overall.

Action: APC Coordinator, APC Deputy Chair, Sub-cluster Coordinators for GBV and Child Protection, MACCA

4. Expand cooperation with available actors in areas with limited access

The Protection Cluster members at national and regional levels, including the sub-clusters/task forces, are encouraged to identify and utilise actors that are present in areas that are otherwise inaccessible, such as local NGOs, to expand their reach in terms of basic protection monitoring and messaging. The analysis and discussion already ongoing in the Protection Cluster of the potential security and related risks that might emerge from this outreach is an important element of any such strategy.

Action: To be discussed in the APC who is best placed to move this forward

5. Work directly with the MACCA network to design collaborative efforts to better meet the protection needs of the population, which capitalizes on MACCA's high level of access to communities.

This might include inclusion of key protection messages in MACCA's work, organizing forums for women or children through Mine Action Education, etc.

Action: APC Coordinator, APC Deputy Chair, MACCA

6. Collaborate with OCHA on the Comprehensive Mapping and the Multi-Cluster Rapid Assessment Framework.

OCHA has reported that they will undertake a comprehensive mapping of humanitarian services in Afghanistan, which will include data collection in provinces throughout Afghanistan, as well as develop a Multi-Cluster Rapid Assessment Framework. The APC, including all Sub-clusters/taskforces, should actively engage with OCHA to take advantage of their investment in these activities, ensuring that key protection issues are reflected, including those specifically related to the sub-clusters/task forces. It is moreover strongly recommended that all collected data be disaggregated by sex and age.

Action: APC Coordinator, APC Deputy Chair, Sub-cluster/taskforce Coordinators

7. Inclusion of funding for the coordination functions of the implicated posts in funding proposals and TORs for Protection Cluster member organisations.

This is particularly important for Co-lead and Sub-cluster lead functions.

Action: APC NGO members

8. Undertake more proactive outreach to local NGOs and develop creative ways for their inclusion in the work of the Protection Cluster

This may fall outside of the focus on attending meetings, and include other forms of outreach such as bilateral or group visits, bringing summaries of key activities to local NGOs, assigning a liaison, etc.

Action: APC Coordinator, APC Deputy Chair, APC NGO members and Regional Protection Clusters and Sub-clusters

9. Inclusion of financial support for engaging local NGOs in funding proposals.

Costs related to providing support for local NGOs in arranging meetings, transportation costs etc. should be included in funding proposals.

Action: As relevant

ii. Recommendations for the GBV Sub-cluster

1. Create a task team to work on the mapping of existing services and to work with partners to verify the information at field level. Link with OCHA's comprehensive mapping exercise to capitalize on field presence they will already be providing.

It is important to note that this should be an ongoing process, and that relying on basic email matrixes is not likely to be effective in this context. More information will be needed to verify the quality and scope of services and thus emphasis should be placed on those who can get out to the field and actually gather information first-hand. This is where the link with OCHA's mapping efforts would be critical. Additionally, Staff from member organizations, upon identifying a specific service provider (at field level or nationally), may ask targeted questions about how this service is accessed, what it entails, how follow-up is conducted, etc.

Action: GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator and Task Team.

2. Develop a GBV Capacity Building Strategy based on priorities identified by Sub-cluster members.

The GBV Sub-cluster should engage in a collective process, led by the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator, of identifying the key areas for capacity-building amongst member agencies which would be most critical in moving the work of the Sub-cluster forward. The group may wish to choose a focal point to assist in leading this process. Once priority areas are identified, the GBV

Sub-cluster Coordinator and Focal Point on Capacity Building should work with the Protection Cluster Coordinator, GBV Sub-cluster members, UNFPA, and UNICEF as co-lead agencies, the global GBV AOR Coordinator and the ECHO Capacity-Building Project regional manager to develop an appropriate capacity-building plan to meet these needs. This may include training for Sub-cluster members, as well as learning sessions, exchanges of resources, joining the Community of Practice, etc.

Action: GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator

3. Develop a plan for rolling out GBV Sub-cluster coordination at the regional level.

This should involve travel to the regions to involve relevant regional actors directly and allow them to help lead the process.

Action :GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator and NGO volunteer

4. GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator to maintain regular communication with the ECHO Project Regional Manager and global GBV AOR Coordinator. GBV Sub-cluster Deputy Coordinator (CARE) should represent Afghanistan GBV Sub-cluster at the GBV AOR Annual Retreat in New York in January 2011, with support from the GBV AOR.

Action: GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator, ECHO Project Regional Manager, GBV AOR Coordinator

5. UNFPA Afghanistan, with support from UNFPA Geneva and New York, to maintain a full-time GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator.

While there is a critical staffing gap, UNFPA has agreed to provide maximum support to CARE including continued use of UNFPA facilities for meetings, administrative support for the Sub-cluster from UNFPA admin staff, and other assistance as needed. It is critical that the post be filled as quickly possible.

For immediate action: UNFPA to undertake all steps necessary for the recruitment of this post ASAP and to support the Deputy GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator in her interim post with administrative and logistical support.

6. NGO Sub-cluster members should, to the extent possible, include “support to the GBV Sub-cluster” into ToRs for relevant staff and into grant agreements, to ensure protected time for supporting the work of the group.

Action: GBV Sub-cluster Members

7. Create a task team to work on creative approaches for ensuring that the voices of Afghans are well-represented within the Sub-cluster, including civil society.

GBV Sub-cluster members highlighted the ongoing need to make sure that the group is truly representing the needs of Afghans, particularly vulnerable women and girls. While this is part of the everyday work of many members, it may require some creative thinking as to how best to involve local NGOs and represent the views of the beneficiaries.

Action: Interested Task Team Leader (to sign up)

8. Maintain links with relevant government officials.

The GBV Sub-cluster has contact with Ministry representatives, who are sometimes present at meetings. Efforts should be made to further development their engagements, perhaps by offering more targeted briefings, maintaining ongoing contact, seeking their input into agenda items, etc.

Action: GBV Sub-cluster Coordinator

iii. Recommendations specific for Child Protection actors

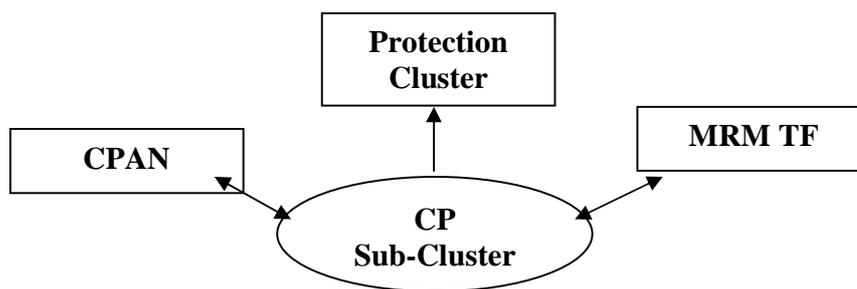
1. Consultation with child protection stakeholders on the findings and recommendations of the Child Frontiers Review of the Child Protection Sub-cluster in Afghanistan.

In mid-2010, Child Frontiers was contracted by UNICEF to undertake a review of Child Protection Sub-cluster coordination in Afghanistan. This review identified key findings as well as outlined key recommendations on how to strengthen coordinated CPIE activities in the country. A variety of stakeholders were consulted and participated in the review, with the final paper submitted to UNICEF in August 2010. This report was first shared with child protection stakeholders in the country at a meeting called during this mission. It is important that key child protection actors, especially those who participated in the review, be given an opportunity to consider and discuss the review findings, as well as agreeing on which recommendations to take forwarding in the shorter and longer-terms.

Action: UNICEF Afghanistan

2. Establishment of a Child Protection Sub-cluster, under the leadership or co-leadership of UNICEF, with a specific focus and mandate to assess and address CPIE issues in Afghanistan.

In addition to the lack of requisite technical capacity to lead the CPIE sector in Afghanistan, expanding the CPAN's current development-focused mandate to include emergencies is likely to significantly overstretch the network's capacity and have the negative impact of weakening existing strong and necessary case management, social protection and justice for children programming in the country. In addition, Government leadership of the Child Protection Sub-cluster could preclude its ability to form strong linkages with the MRM Taskforce and effectively assess, analyse and address more sensitive conflict-related child protection issues, such as the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups. It is therefore recommended that Child Protection Sub-cluster, with UNICEF as lead or co-lead with an INGO, be formed while maintaining linkages with both the CPAN and the MRM Task Force, as well as reporting to the Protection Cluster. Under the CPAN, this could take the form of a CPIE-specific working group.



Action: CP Sub-cluster Coordinator

3. Assign dedicate Sub-cluster Coordinator for Child Protection.

The UNICEF Child Protection team in Afghanistan currently does not have the human resources/staff necessary to take on leadership of the Child Protection Sub-cluster.⁶ While the existing strong experience in leading and participating in child protection coordination mechanisms in the country is such that a dedicated Child Protection Sub-cluster coordinator may not be required in the longer-term, dedicated time and human resources are likely to be required in the shorter term (ex: for the first year) to mobilize Sub-cluster membership and lead the initiation of CPiE focused assessment and response activities in the country, including specific tasks recommended below.

Action: UNICEF Afghanistan with support from the global CP AOR

4. Undertake a country-wide⁷ CPiE Rapid Assessment.

Other than the recognition that child recruitment and use by armed groups has been a key impact of the ongoing conflict, there is very little understanding or analysis of the impacts of emergencies, whether protracted conflict or rapid onset natural disasters, on the protection of children in the country. While there is currently very limited technical or human resources capacity to undertake a comprehensive emergency child protection assessment and situation analysis, undertaking a more simplified rapid CPiE assessment will provide the Sub-cluster with a preliminary but sound evidence-based understanding of the impacts of emergencies on children in the country and enable the prioritization of capacity building and programme activities. The assessment should also seek to identify and map existing capacities. This activity could be organized and lead by the Sub-cluster coordinator.

Action: CP Sub-cluster Coordinator and Cluster Members

5. Integration of CPiE into ongoing Child Protection interventions.

While there is a need for specific and focused CPiE activities in Afghanistan, until the necessary resources and capacity are in place, mainstreaming CPiE issues into the existing strong child protection programmes can make a significant contribution to preventing and mitigating emergency-related child protection vulnerabilities in the country. This can include, for example, integrating messages on prevention of recruitment into community awareness raising and mobilization and activities for youth. The Sub-cluster coordinator could be tasked to facilitate a process of identifying key entry points for CPiE in ongoing child protection programmes.

Action: CP Sub-cluster Coordinator

6. Development and implementation of a country-wide⁸ CPiE Capacity Building Strategy.

The Child Frontiers review of CPiE coordination undertaken in 2010 found that “one of the most consistently raised concerns...was a lack of technical capacity on CPiE – including government bodies, NGOs, UN Agencies and other service providers”.⁹ This limited capacity on CPiE overall, and aforementioned gap in knowledge on humanitarian reform and the Cluster system, is a significant constraint to undertaking coordinated inter-agency prevention, mitigation and response to emergency-related violence, abuse and exploitation of children in the country. If undertaken, findings of Rapid Assessment, including the mapping of existing capacities and identification of priority CPiE issues, can be used for the development and implementation of a

⁶ Ibid, pp. 5

⁷ Access permitting

⁸ Access permitting

⁹ Op. Cit., Child Frontiers, 2010, pp. 13

country-wide CPiE capacity building strategy. This can be undertaken through the organization of CPiE training of trainers at the National level to train provincial and district level child protection stakeholders that can then, with accompaniment and support, facilitate the roll-out of CPiE trainings at the provincial and district levels.

Action: CP Sub-Cluster Coordinator, with support of the Global CP AOR Capacity Building Task-force

7. Initiation of CPiE activities in Afghanistan

Based on the findings and priorities identified through the Rapid Assessment, it is recommended that child protection actors in country begin to initiate focused activities to address the impacts of the humanitarian situation and natural disasters on children. While the existing CPAN case management system can be used to address specific risks and vulnerabilities of individual children affected by emergency, there will also be a need for activities that address the needs of children more widely. While political sensitivities and limited technical capacity may preclude undertaking specific technical programming on child recruitment, sexual violence, etc, the initiation of psychosocial and community-based CPiE programmes, such as Child Friendly Spaces, can serve as important first steps and entry-point to begin addressing CPiE issues more widely as knowledge and capacity on CPiE is built.

Action: CP Sub-Cluster actors

iv. Recommendations specific for MACCA

1. Develop stronger and more routine liaison and interaction with the APC.

Many of the problems that MACCA faces in terms of access and security are common to other members of the APC and it is therefore considered that stronger and more routine liaison and linkages, between MACCA and the APC, would benefit the various components of the APC as they seek to find their own solutions to these common problems. The MACCA has strong and functioning regional offices in almost every area of Afghanistan and an immediate benefit of local information and remote follow up may be achieved through greater connections.

Action: MACCA HQ

2. Arrange briefing to the regional MACCA managers on protection issues and linkages to enhance knowledge of the Protection Cluster throughout the MACCA regional personnel.

As a precursor to closer engagement between MACCA and the APC and as a means to also enhance knowledge of the APC throughout MACCA regional personnel (almost exclusively Afghan staff), it is recommended that MACCA HQ arranges, with the APC Coordinator, for a collective briefing, on protection issues and linkages, to be delivered to its regional managers. This may best be achieved by considering such a briefing at the next MACCA regional manager's conference in Kabul.

Action: MACCA HQ together with APC Coordinator

3. Arrange briefing on the MACCA operation during the APC retreat.

It was also apparent that there was limited understanding and awareness of the strengths and functioning of MACCA amongst the range of players within the spectrum of the APC. It is therefore recommended that the APC considers including a briefing for all members of the APC during the APC retreat, whereby the MACCA would be able to fully brief on its operation to much greater degree and depth of information than that currently delivered at the APC monthly meetings. This would also serve to strengthen individual relationships and create a common

platform of understanding of the role and functioning of all elements of the APC. It is felt that by first enhancing the APC general knowledge and understanding of MACCA regional presence and strong linkages with diverse elements of local communities that over time the APC may be able to effectively utilize MACCA's established presence throughout Afghanistan as a platform to support other protection issues.

Action: MACCA HQ

v. Recommendations for the HLP Sub-cluster

1. Proactive outreach to national and international actors to strengthen coordination on HLP issues through the HLP sub-cluster

Action: HLP Sub-cluster Coordinator

2. Initiate dialogue with the Regional Protection Clusters to widen knowledge of HLP issues in the regions and facilitate information sharing between regional and national level on HLP issues.

Action: HLP Sub-cluster Coordinator

vi. Recommendations for OCHA

1. Ensure close coordination and collaboration with the Protection Cluster, including Sub-clusters/taskforces, on key developments and processes that OCHA is leading

This includes the standard Multi-Cluster Rapid Assessment Framework and the mapping of actors and services. It is particularly recommended that all data collected through OCHA led processes be disaggregated by sex and age.

Action: OCHA Afghanistan

2. Greater support to the Protection Cluster in facilitating key inter-cluster activities, in particular protection mainstreaming efforts with other Clusters and integration of cross-cutting issues within the Protection Cluster.

Action: OCHA Afghanistan