Protection Cluster Yemen

National Protection Cluster - Yemen
Protection Strategy
September 2015

1. Political and humanitarian context

A. Situation Analysis

In its recent history, Yemen's political and security environment has been characterized by tribal conflict, the north-south divide, an ever increasing presence of Al Qaeda, and since 2004, the revolt of the Al Houthi, claiming autonomy for their stronghold in the north. Pro-reform demonstrations in 2011 led to a change of power from Ali Abdullah Saleh to Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, inaugurated in February 2012. The Al Houthi revolt took a major turn in 2014 when they advanced southwards and took control of the capital city Sana'a in September 2014. The Al Houthi announced in February 2015 that they seized control of the country. A major escalation of the conflict occurred in March 2015 when the Saudi led coalition (of 5 Gulf Arab states and Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and Sudan) commenced an air and ground offensive aimed at re-instating the President and driving out the Al Houthi forces.

Chronic political instability and the economic crisis in Yemen had already created an environment where the majority of the population saw their coping capacity greatly diminished. Water and electricity are a scarce and expensive commodity, availability of fuel unpredictable, the price of basic food commodities increasingly and prohibitively expensive, and medical and social services seriously challenged. The conflict, and especially its escalation since March 2015, has created a humanitarian and protection emergency of immense proportions. The conflict between the Al Houthi and forces and tribes associated with them, and the Yemen armed forces, Popular Resistance Committees and local tribesmen loyal to President Hadi, backed by the Saudi led coalition, is fought on the ground, with heavy artillery and battles fought in towns with high concentration of civilians, as well as from the air, with constant air strikes on entirely unpredictable targets. Mines and IEDs have been laid in unknown areas and quantities. Although data is still being gathered, preliminary information has identified Bab-el-Mandeb and Al Hudaydah (crossing point to Saudi Arabia), and Aden and Lahj governorates as hotspots for the new wave of contamination.

The most immediate impact of the conflict consists of the direct threat of loss of life or injury due to the widespread and consistent lack of respect by all sides of the conflict of principles of humanitarian law. This includes direct attacks on civilians and civilian residential areas, attacks on hospital and schools, indiscriminate military attacks, and attacks expected to cause incidental loss of life/injury to civilians, half of whom are children. In addition, the reduction

of freedom of movement due to the conflict and consequent security risks has put serious restrictions on commercial imports and traffic, greatly reduced the mobility of civilians in turn affecting their means to ensure their livelihoods, and at the same time hampering the ability of humanitarian and charity organizations to have access to the people and communities most in need. The parties to the conflict do not do enough to facilitate access of basic commodities and in certain circumstances deliberately block access of both commercial and humanitarian goods to reach the civilian population.

Yemen's human rights record has been rather poor, and the situation has worsened during the conflict. There are numerous reports of arbitrary and unlawful killings, disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention. Freedom of speech and freedom of assembly and association are restricted. Access to justice and access to a fair trial is also seriously hampered. Children have been subjected to the same extreme violence as many adults, including arbitrary detention, torture, injury and/or killing. Women and girls in Yemen face severe discrimination in law and in practice. Corruption and political interference undermine the independence of the judiciary. Often the tribal conflict resolution processes are the preferred option to deal with crimes. Many crimes are committed with impunity, so that the judicial system provides little to no deterrent.

The number of persons internally displaced as a result of the conflict is estimated at 2,3 million (as at 15 October 2015). The majority of IDPs reside in rented accommodation or are hosted with local communities, while a minority lives in schools, collective centres or other alternative forms of shelter. Many people who may have wanted to flee have not been able to due to a number of physical, economic and social obstacles. According to UNHCR, a total of around 100,000 persons have fled Yemen due to the crisis, a combination of Yemeni nationals and persons of other nationalities habitually residing in Yemen.

B. Likely scenario and contingencies

In the absence of any credible indications that the parties to the conflict are ready to cease hostilities, the most likely scenario is that the current situation will persist. The conflict will continue, and worsen in the foreseeable future. As a direct consequence, there will be a deterioration of the security situation exposing civilians to direct and collateral threats of airstrikes, area bombardments, ground-to-air missiles as well as ground fighting in close proximity of civilian areas. Continued disrespect of principles of humanitarian law will expose the civilian population to the consequences of the conflict, with loss of life, serious injuries, destruction of civilian infrastructure, including health facilities and schools. Consequent limitations on freedom of movement will further degrade the humanitarian situation with very limited commercial traffic, lack of provision of water, electricity and fuel. Full and unimpeded humanitarian access will be hampered to the most affected areas. The ability for people to flee to safety will be equally limited or blocked.

The conflict affects the whole country, but each area in different ways. Cities with large population concentrations bear the brunt of the violent consequences of warfare, while more remote areas suffer from economic isolation. Each situation poses its particular protection challenges. In Aden, a lack of effective control by one central authority has created a power vacuum where several armed groups and tribal entities compete for control. This makes for an extremely volatile and unpredictable situation where it is unclear who is in charge and who

has or takes responsibility. Taizz is still entrapped in active conflict, with the immediate consequences for the civilian population related to the opposing parties engaged in ground and street fighting. Sana'a is mostly affected by airstrikes and anti-aircraft firing. The current Aden scenario is likely to be reproduced in Taizz, while Sana'a risks to see both the Taizz and subsequently the Aden scenario.

While we cannot give up hope that proposed peace talks may lead to an agreement, even if this becomes a reality, it will still take a very long time for this to lead to effective positive consequences for the affected population who stands to continue to suffer from the direct results of insecurity and lawlessness. What will follow is a long process towards peaceful coexistence and reconciliation, where protection concerns for the most vulnerable will remain extremely acute.

2. Protection Threats and Vulnerabilities

A. Methods for systematic, comprehensive, coordinated and recorded identification of protection threats and vulnerabilities

A first and essential part of any protection response is the systematic and consistent monitoring and assessment of protection threats and vulnerabilities. The results of these assessments need to be analysed and need to be translated into immediate and direct interventions aimed at addressing the identified needs. Where the assessments and monitoring identify violations of human rights and humanitarian law, the observations need to be recorded and fed into a strategic framework of advocacy aimed at addressing the perpetrators of these violations in order to prevent further violations or mitigate their consequences.
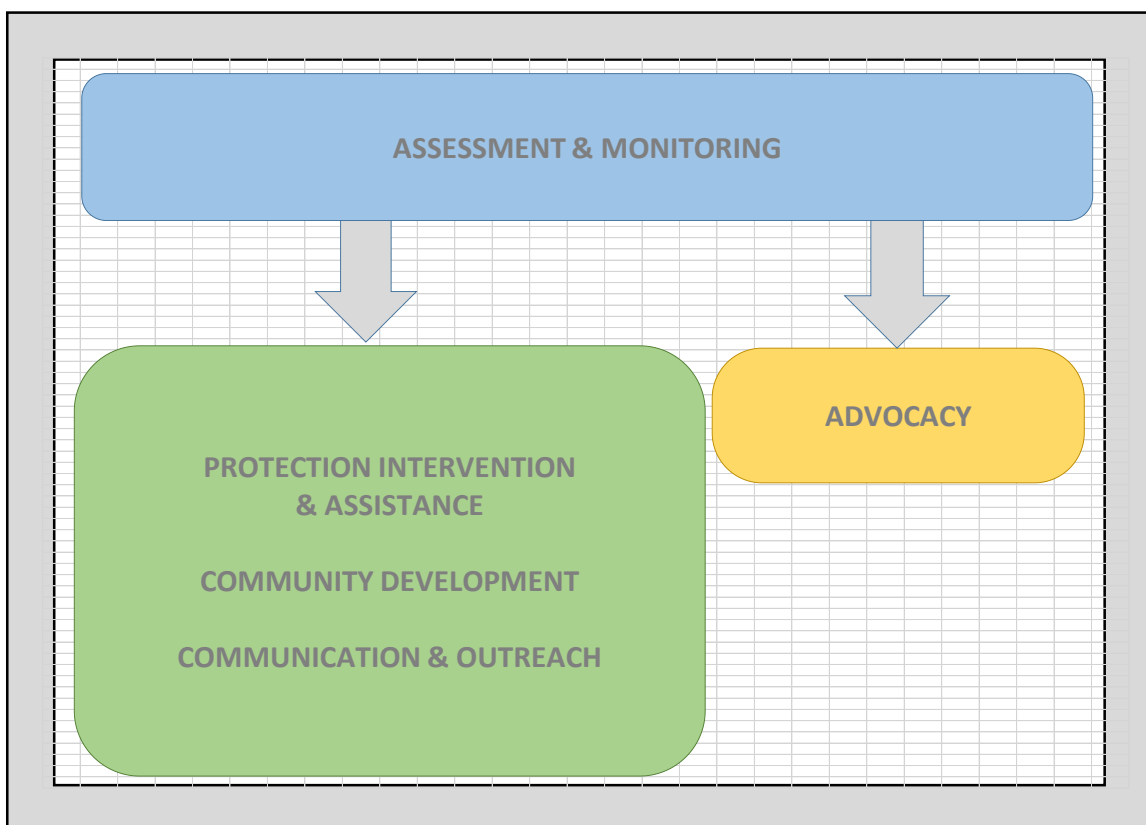
In order to be effective, all assessments and monitoring systems need to be supported by Information Management Systems that allow for a consistent and coherent management of the data.

Currently in Yemen there are three functioning Monitoring and Reporting systems: Monitoring and Reporting on grave violations of child rights in situations of conflict (UNICEF); Monitoring of violations of human rights and humanitarian law (OHCHR); and the Gender based Violence Information Management System (UNFPA). The Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework is a fourth system that is being established (OCHA). Discussions are ongoing for a possible mechanism of monitoring attacks on health services (WHO). Both Ministries of Health and Education monitor attacks on hospitals and schools respectively.

In addition, there are a number of protection needs assessment tools available. These include the Displacement tracking mechanism, Multi-cluster Initial Rapid Assessments (MIRA), rapid protection assessments (both general and more specifically targeting child protection or GBV issues), in-depth protection assessments at household level and protection monitoring activities.

The Displacement Tracking aims to cover all Governorates where there are initial indications that internal displacement has occurred. All other assessment and monitoring systems are focused on a specific geographic area, mostly a district. The Protection Cluster shall develop a list of Consolidated Assessment Triggers that will guide all members of the Protection Cluster to select, in a coordinated manner, the geographic areas where assessments are most needed, subject of course to access to these areas.

These triggers need to be based on existing information and include indicators on where protection needs are likely to be the most serious and urgent, and where assistance and capacity is likely to be the weakest. This should include: # of IDPs; level of poverty/available resources and livelihoods; Government structures capacity; availability of health and other basic services; # humanitarian actors present; # assessments conducted.

B. Analysis

The Protection Cluster maintains a list of Protection Threats and Vulnerabilities which is meant as a coordination tool that will on the one hand enable to have a comprehensive and consolidated overview of all protection problems, and on the other hand ensure a consistent focus by the Protection Cluster on addressing them. The list will serve as a means to generate greater visibility of protection issues, and to identify those issues that need to be addressed as a matter of priority.

What follows if a brief analysis of the main protection threats in Yemen.

- Violations of humanitarian law

The law of war is meant to protect civilians, meaning those who are not combatants, those who do not participate in the conflict, against the consequences of war. This principle of distinction, which is the foundation of international humanitarian law, is violated by all parties of the conflict on a daily basis. Fighting takes place on the ground including in heavily populated residential areas having resulted in hundreds of civilian deaths and injuries. Attacks

have been conducted on and from civilian areas and structures, such as hospitals and schools, exposing civilians to cross-fire and reprisal attacks. The indiscriminate nature of the attacks and the use of inaccurate weapons are clear violations of IHL. The random laying of landmines in areas frequented by civilians has also caused civilian death and injuries. There are several reports on the use of cluster munition in attacks on Sa'ada governorate. Continuous airstrikes by the coalition have also been unable to distinguish between military and civilian target. Airstrikes also target many political targets, such as homes of politicians and Government buildings, which are without exception in residential areas. Civilians have paid a very heavy toll as a result of indiscriminate bombardments on residential and public areas. IDPs who had fled from the violence and threats of airstrikes were not spared and are among the victims. There have been a number of attacks on the staff and premises of the International Committee of the Red Cross. In September 2015, two of their staff were assassinated on the road between Sa'ada and Sana'a. This has sent a shockwave among all humanitarian actors in Yemen.

The conflict and unpredictable security situation has severely reduced freedom of movement, including of commercial traffic. It is difficult to provide irrefutable evidence of deliberate denial of food or humanitarian assistance to the civilian population, something that if systematic could lead to starvation as a method of warfare. However, judging from the amount of obstacles (whether security related, physical or administrative) related to access to basic services that are necessary for survival, it is obvious that neither parties to the conflict make sufficient efforts to remove these obstacles and in certain circumstances deliberately block access of both commercial and humanitarian goods to reach the civilian population. A specific example is the port of Al Hudaydah which is the major hub for getting commercial goods into the north of the country and has been blocked by a combination of security and administrative related obstacles.

Details of many of these violations are narrated in numerous reports by Human Rights Watch, a report issued in August 2015 by Amnesty International and a joint Statement by the UN Special Advisors on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect respectively of August 2015, to name but a few. There have been no indications that measures have been taken by any party to the conflict to prevent or mitigate these violations.

- Threats to life, safety and freedom

Beyond the direct impact of the conflict on the civilian population, there are reports of numerous serious human rights violations. These violations are indicative of the heavily divided society, exacerbated by the conflict, and further aggravated by the malfunctioning of the judicial system fostering impunity. These incidents involve extra-judicial killings, and particularly incidents that appear to be revenge killings of persons who were accused/suspected to have worked for or aligned themselves with the opposite party to the conflict. There have been several disappearances, and many incidents of arbitrary arrest and detention, including of children. Several of these arrests appear to be politically motivated. Public figures and members of political parties have seen their houses attacked and destroyed. There are a number of ethnic and religious minorities in Yemen. One of the ethnic minorities is the Al Muhamashen (meaning "marginalized") who have traditionally suffered from exclusion and discrimination. They generally are involved in menial labour and have difficulty accessing services and rights at par with the rest of the population.

There has always been a divide between the north and south, but the current conflict has considerably heightened the mutual tension and suspicion. In both the north and the south there have been incidents of attacks, threats and arrests of persons, institutions or companies that are or are perceived to be affiliated with "the other side". Consequently, people from the north experience difficulties establishing themselves or finding work in the south and vice versa. As a consequence, people are restricted, or restrict themselves, from moving between the north and south.

Freedom of expression is being restricted. Peaceful protests have been denied or interrupted, and protesters arrested. Journalists have been arrested for publishing critical articles. A newspaper building has been raided, forcing it to stop printing.

- Sexual and Gender-based violence

Under any circumstance and in any society, sexual and gender based violence is a phenomenon characterized by cultural prejudice and considered a taboo, discussion of which is restricted to the private sphere. This is even more so for Yemen, which is a conservative and patriarchal society, and a country at war. This means that there is extreme reluctance to openly discuss gender-based violence, and consequently survivors of GBV will be very reluctant to speak about it, let alone report it outside the close family sphere.

Due to past experiences in certain countries of large scale gross violations, especially of rape as a weapon of war, special attention is paid to the issue of GBV in conflict situations. While it is clearly important to pay extreme attention to this phenomenon, in Yemen it is difficult to make a precise distinction between GBV related to the ongoing conflict or unrelated to the conflict. In Yemen it is clear that incidents of GBV are underreported, but there are indications of especially forced and early marriage, as well as domestic violence, psychological and emotional abuse, denial of resources, but also rape and sexual assault.

In the absence of indicative figures, it is important to monitor and evaluate indicators that may be conducive to GBV, including in a situation of conflict. In the context of Yemen, these include among others the amount of female-headed households, violence due to psychological pressure as a result of the war, the level of displacement, the lack of adequate housing and consequent lack of privacy, the level of poverty and consequent food insecurity, the total or partial collapse of law and order, abuse of power and/or military authority, the occurrence of forced recruitment and the proliferation of small arms. Despite the difficulties surrounding GBV, there is considerable capacity available especially among civil society that are very actively working with women and men, girls and boys to address the issue in all its aspects.

- Children

Children continue to be heavily affected by the conflict in Yemen. The most direct impact is the high number of death and injuries, more than 500 and more than 700 respectively, confirmed in the five months after the escalation of the conflict at the end of March 2015. What is most concerning is that this figure represents actual verified incidents, and the real number will be much higher.

The conflict has destroyed livelihoods, limited the access to the most basic services of water, electricity and food commodities, increased the prices, and severely restricted freedom of movement. This comes on top of already high levels of poverty, generating high risks of malnutrition. Apart from the direct physical and psychological scars of war on children, this situation also poses additional responsibilities on children to help families survive. This in turn exposes children even more to the effects of the fighting and bombing. There is ample evidence of wide spread distress among children, which in certain cases leads to mental disorders. This is revealed through conflicts with other children, difficulties in establishing trusting relationships, sleeping disorders, feelings of fear, anger and hatred, difficulty concentrating etc.

In October the school year is supposed to resume, and clearly the educational system is seriously affected by the conflict. There have been many attacks on schools, and school buildings have been used as shelter or bases by armed forces and armed groups. Moreover, many schools are being used as temporary residences for a large number of IDPs for whom for the time being no alternative accommodation has been identified.

The conflict including large scale internal displacement has generated the separation of families and there are many unaccompanied and separated minors, although the exact number is not available. Early marriage and early pregnancy has traditionally been a problem in Yemen, including through a phenomenon of "tourist marriages" whereby older men from abroad come to marry, often only temporarily, much younger Yemeni women and girls. In Yemen children are usually confronted at a very early age with weapons and are expected to participate in defending the tribal community. There are numerous reports of children recruited and used by armed groups and armed forces.

The contamination of civilian and residential areas by landmines affects children specifically as they are often less aware of the dangers and tend to roam and play in deserted homes or areas. The use of cluster munition is also of grave concern as it leaves behind a large number of smaller unexploded ordinances that may be seem to children as objects to play with.

The Monitoring and Reporting mechanism on the six grave violations of children rights in conflict has been operational in Yemen since 2009. It reports on killing and maiming; abductions; attacks on schools and hospitals; recruitment and use by armed groups and armed forces; sexual violence; and the denial of humanitarian aid.

- Women

In the highly patriarchal Yemen society women are generally expected to live under a male guardianship, hence single women, single mothers and widows can be subject to serious restrictions and abuses. Women and girls can be subject to sexual violence including early and forced marriages and domestic violence. In a crisis situation, women in general may be affected differently from men because of their social status, family responsibilities or reproductive role, but they are not necessarily vulnerable. Gender analysis can help to identify those women or girls, or men and boys, who may be vulnerable and in what way.

- Internally Displaced Persons

The number of persons internally displaced as a result of the conflict is estimated at 2,3 million (as at 15 October 2015). The majority of IDPs reside in rented accommodation or are hosted with local communities, while a minority lives in schools, collective centres or other alternative forms of shelter. Many people who may have wanted to flee have not been able to due to a number of physical, economic and social obstacles.

Economic and living conditions of most IDPs are dire. They have lost their means of livelihoods and many rely on charity or humanitarian assistance. Living conditions often do not allow for much privacy which causes a lot of tension and enhances the risk of physical abuse and sexual violence. Displacement has amplified the risk of family separation.

With the continuation of the conflict and prolongation of the displacement, there is an increased risk of conflictual situation between IDPs and hosting families, including the risk of exploitation. There are increasing reports of IDPs who have been compelled to return to their areas of origin, where conditions are still far from secure and services are lacking. IDPs accommodated in schools risk expulsion with consultation or the provision of adequate alternatives.

- Legal safety

Even independent from the conflicts that Yemen has suffered, there have traditionally been major issues related to free and equal access to justice and access to a fair trial. The judiciary is not well organized and badly resourced and due to widespread corruption and political interference is not perceived to be independent. Often the tribal conflict resolution processes are the preferred option to deal with crimes. Many crimes are committed with impunity, so that the judicial system provides little to no deterrent.

A complete breakdown of the rule of law is often a direct result of warfare. Also in the immediate aftermath of intense fighting, there is a great risk that a vacuum of power exists where different political and armed groups compete over control. This is the situation in Aden to date (September 2015), where it is very unclear who is in charge and the uncertainty and absence of rule of law creates considerable problems for the population. Such situations are not unlikely to be reproduced in similar scenarios such as Taizz, or even Sana'a.

There are issues of lack of freedom of movement, including as a result of the numerous check points established by all parties to the conflict. Lack of adequate documentation is also problematic for some, especially IDPs who without documentation risk losing out on services and humanitarian aid.

- Socio-economic safety

Yemen is one the poorest country in the Middle East and one of the poorest in the world. It is obvious that the lack of economic opportunities and livelihoods and chronic poverty are major contributing factors to the vulnerability of individuals. A heightened vulnerability will often mean that persons are more likely to suffer the consequences of a crisis, and the consequences are likely to be more damaging due to the person and their vulnerability. This means that poverty is likely to expose people more to the direct consequences of the conflict, because they have much less sturdy accommodation, because they need to be more mobile

and thus exposed in order to ensure a livelihood, including waiting for food, collecting water, etc.

Yemen had already a large population living in poverty, and the conflict has certainly increased this number. Many have lost their jobs and means of livelihood, and families have been affected by the damage and destruction of their homes.

Social services structures are under considerable pressure and many of the health structures do not or hardly function. This means that services to persons with specific needs who even under normal circumstances have problems accessing services, to date cannot rely on any of these services. This affects particularly persons with chronic diseases, survivors of violence or trauma, injured persons, elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

C. Identification of priority protection risks

As stated above, the first step in a strategic response to protection problems is the systematic and comprehensive assessment of protection threats and vulnerabilities. The next step is to determine the priority protection risks that need to be addressed. What is a priority? A priority protection risk is partly related to the seriousness of the harm that the risk is likely to cause. Even though certain protection risks can be regarded as objectively serious or severe, such a determination does have subjective elements. It is therefore imperative that there is constant feedback from the affected communities themselves on the protection threats they see as most urgent.

A priority also needs to be selected in accordance with the ability to have a positive impact for the persons affected. There are very serious protection threats that unfortunately we can do very little about. The most serious violations of humanitarian law for instance can and must be addressed, but this can often be done only through high political level advocacy.

Priority interventions also need to be determined in relation to the existing capacity of individuals and communities to address protection risks themselves. Capacity can mitigate and reduce the effects of vulnerability. Capacity consists of the resources available to individuals, and communities to cope with a crisis or to resist its impact. Due to the current context, there is a particular risk for persons with specific needs, such as persons living with disabilities, injured persons, persons suffering of chronic illnesses, elderly and other vulnerable groups, not to be able to access services or benefit from services to the same extent as other people. Identifying and addressing the needs of persons with specific needs must be fully integrated in all cluster response activities, ensuring equitable access for, inclusiveness of, and accountability to the affected communities.

Closely linked to the capacities of individuals, families and communities is the capacity of the Government and the role national and local Government, or those effectively in control, can have on the protection of its constituency. It is important to identify and map Government and non-government actors, and their capacities. Such an evaluation should focus on the (cap)ability and willingness of the institution rather than the individuals who constitute the institution. It is furthermore important to assess and address the awareness of Government on its responsibilities and response, and assess the possibilities and impact of capacity building.

Yemen has a National Emergency Response Plan and a National Policy for IDPs, which should be reviewed in light of the current situation but can serve as a basis for Government action in response to the crisis.

D. Scope of the Protection Cluster activities

Yemen is going through an unprecedented security and humanitarian crisis. Given the ongoing conflict, the serious and widespread violations of humanitarian and human rights law, the absence of rule of law, and the massive gaps in accessing the most basic services, the vast majority of the population of Yemen has protection needs. Considering the overwhelming nature of humanitarian and protection needs, the remit of the National Protection Cluster will be to focus on identifying and responding to the protection needs of those most vulnerable, as a direct or indirect result of the conflict, including specifically internally displaced persons, returnees and host families.

While this strategy shall be adapted as the situation evolves, it is meant to provide the basis of planning for the remainder of 2015 and for 2016. Given the emergency nature of interventions, planning assumptions and activities will cover an initial period of six months after which the strategy will be reviewed. Despite the immediate term focus of the protection interventions, there is a necessity to consider the sustainability of projects and activities, including these aimed at capacity building and empowerment.

The Strategy covers the entire country, while making every effort to adequately identify and address the specific challenges that are unique to each geographic area. Protection activities and interventions are conducted regardless of the authorities effectively in charge, and all Protection Cluster members shall uphold the principles of neutrality and impartiality.

Yemen hosts roughly 250,000 refugees of various nationalities, and despite the security situation continued to receive asylum-seekers. Yemen is also a country of transit for thousands of migrants, while Yemeni nationals are also part of the migratory movements. Often a mix of protection and economic motivations are behind these movements. Refugees and migrants face a series of protection problems and are subject to serious rights violations in Yemen, on top of the fact that they are foreigners without their national protection. While the Protection Cluster will stay abreast of the situation of refugees and migrants, the management of protection response to their plight will be done by the multi-sector working group co-lead by IOM and UNHCR.

3. Guiding Humanitarian Principles

The Protection Cluster and its members, shall fully respect the following humanitarian principles and aim to ensure respect by all humanitarian clusters and sectors:

- Respect the core humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence, and do no harm.
- Place the perspective of the affected populations at the centre, requiring their meaningful participation in assessments, strategic design and evaluation.
- Ensure the integration of specific needs related to age, gender and diversity in all stages of protection activities and interventions.
- Establish accountability to affected populations through the creation of appropriate mechanisms by which affected populations can measure the quality of interventions, and address concerns and complaints.
- Actively record, analyse and report on serious and large-scale violations of human rights and humanitarian law and bring such violations to the attention of national and non-national authorities and appropriate UN bodies.
- Empower affected populations through the development of self-protection capacities and facilitating obtaining the knowledge, resources, and capacities necessary to claim their rights.

4. Strategic Results Framework

A. Strategic Objectives

The most generally accepted definition of protection (as endorsed by the IASC) refers to activities that lead towards or cause the respect of individuals' rights. These activities can be directed towards those who have the responsibility to protect, which is usually the Government, but includes non-State actors and all parties to the conflict. The activities can also be focused on those most affected by the violations, by trying to prevent violations, mitigate their impact, and enhance the capacity of individuals and communities to cope, or remedial actions for survivors of violations. Whatever the activity selected to address the identified protection threat, the measure of success can only be demonstrated by the tangible protection output of the intervention. The question that needs to be asked at all times is how concretely our activities have a positive impact on the individuals' ability to enjoy their rights.

Strategic Objective 1		
The systematic identification and analysis of protection risks and rights violations, while ensuring that the specific perspectives of gender, age and diversity are integrated in all stages of protection programming (identification, collection and analysis, implementation, evaluation)		
Activities	Partners	Areas
Systematic monitoring, verification and reporting of violations of human rights and humanitarian law		
Implementation of Displacement tracking system		
Conducting Multi-cluster Initial Rapid Assessments (MIRA)		
Conducting rapid protection assessments (general, CP or GBV)		
Conducting (In-depth) protection assessments at household level		
Conducting protection monitoring in priority areas		
Preparation of general and/or specific protection reports and analysis		
Implementations of the Monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) for child rights violations		
Administration of the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS)		
Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) mechanism for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)		

Strategic Objective 2		
The delivery of direct response to individuals with protection needs		
Activities	Partners	Areas
Referral mechanisms to specific services (medical, social, legal, etc.)		

Financial and material assistance for survivors of rights violations		
Financial and material assistance for persons with specific needs		
Provision of legal support		
Establishment of community spaces and the management of psycho-social and social activities (child friendly spaces, women friendly spaces, community centres, youth centres, recreational activities		
Support to unaccompanied and separated children		
Release and re-integration of children recruited and used by armed forces and armed groups		
Mine risk education		
Provision of services for survivors of GBV		
Distribution of dignity kits		

Strategic Objective 3 **Building the capacity and awareness of affected communities to enhance individual and community coping strategies**		
Activities	Partners	Areas
The establishment of community-based protection networks		
The establishment of community-based child protection committees		
The establishments of community centres and clubs (children, youth, women)		
Sensitization and capacity building on protection issues (communities, civil society, Government, de facto authorities) through training and related activities		

Organization of focus group discussions on a regular and systematic basis		
Ensure protection mainstreaming in all sectors through training and awareness raising, emphasizing the community-based approach		
Capacity building on prevention of and response to GBV		

Strategic Objective 4 Outreach to and communication with affected communities to ensure effective participation and accountability in response		
Activities	Partners	Areas
Assess information needs of the affected population and the most appropriate format of information dissemination, taking into account especially the level of illiteracy		
Provide accessible and timely information to affected populations on organizational procedures, structures and processes		
The promotion of community dialogue to give a voice to communities		
Provide information on rights and entitlements, including selection criteria for the provision of assistance		
Actively seek the views of affected populations applying an AGD approach through focus group discussions and community reach-out, training of community informants		
Establish effective feedback and complaints mechanisms		
Establish call centres and hotlines		
Assess the feasibility of using mobile phone technology to enhance reach out to affected communities		

Communication for Development (C4D) for children and their key duty bearers on child rights including child protection		

Strategic Objective 5 The preparation of reports and analysis of violations of human rights and IHL for the purpose of advocacy for change		
Activities	Partners	Areas
Improve the existing M&R mechanisms and ensure compliance with minimum standards, including corresponding IM systems		
Support the HC and HCT in the implementation of the HRuF Framework		
Mapping of relevant actors and influential stakeholders as the target audience for advocacy. At Government level this should include the parties to the conflict, countries with regional interest or influence, Regional Organizations, donor countries. At non-Government level this includes civil society, non-governmental organizations, the media and the public at large, both within Yemen and outside		
Mapping of and establishment of strong collaboration with the Security Council, Special Representatives of the Secretary General, Human Rights Council, and relevant Human Rights Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs		
Assist the HC and HCT in the selection of priority issues to address through advocacy		
Prepare at regular interval Thematic Protection Analysis papers for the submission to HCT and HCT with a particular focus on priority issues including PoC, Child rights, GBV, IDPs etc.		

Plan strategic advocacy events around special occasions such as visits of Special Rapporteurs, Human Rights Council sessions, Security Council briefs, "16 Days" advocacy campaign on GBV etc.		
Enhance the visibility of protection threats and response through the production of protection briefs and other public products		
Preparation of the Global Horizontal Notes (GHNs) and the annual reports on grave child rights violations to the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG)		

B. Monitoring and Reporting of Activities and Results

Monitoring is an essential part of the implementation of protection activities. It serves the purpose of a continuous evaluation of the project implementation, and allows for an assessment of the delivery of protection and its impact, helps identify obstacles and allows for corrections. Monitoring should allow to verify effectiveness, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and timeliness of protection interventions.

Monitoring should be participatory. This means that the affected and targeted communities need to be actively and intimately involved in monitoring of protection activities. This is done through soliciting frequent feedback from and engaging in a dialogue with the beneficiaries. This can be done through focus group discussions, community centres, the call centre etc. It is only through these mechanisms that we can verify that not only we do things right, but that we do the right thing.

Through closely adhering to the work plan, which is an essential part of programme implementation, and activity reporting all partners shall monitor their activities. The Protection Cluster has developed the online ActivityInfo system to facilitate reporting and coordination. This will allow the collection of required information in the context of the activities, performance and output indicators as agreed in the context of the humanitarian Programme cycle and the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan.

Activities	Performance indicator	Output indicator

5. Management and coordination arrangements

The Protection Cluster in Yemen is composed of the National Protection Cluster with two sub-Clusters: the Child Protection sub-Cluster and the SGBV sub-Cluster. The sub-Clusters report to the Protection Cluster. Both sub-Clusters develop their own specific strategies related to their respective focus areas, while maintaining a close link with the overall Protection Cluster Strategy.

The same structure of Cluster and sub-cluster coordination existed at sub-national level, in Sa'ada, Hajjah, Amran and Aden, but were suspended due to security restrictions. Security permitting these sub-national clusters shall be reinstated. The Protection Cluster, depending on prevailing protection needs, may decide to establish additional sub-national structures (for instance in Taizz, Ibb and/or Al Dhale). The sub-national coordination structures report to the Cluster and sub-clusters at national level respectively, while the latter support the sub-national structures. The Protection Cluster is led by UNHCR, the Child Protection sub-Cluster is led by UNICEF and the SGBV sub-Cluster is led by UNFPA.

Assessments, analysis of and response to protection issues and priorities at sub-national level will be reported to the structures at national level in a timely fashion allowing for a comprehensive analysis of protection gaps and challenges informing policy and coordinated corrective action at national and sub-national level.

The Protection Cluster has a designated Information Management team which will produce a number of coordination products on a periodic basis. These include the 3W, an overview of conducted and planned assessments, a dashboard of assessments and a consolidated report of Protection Cluster member activities. The Protection Cluster will also facilitate coordinated reporting through the Yemen HRP reporting tool.

The Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) is a technical working group of the Protection Cluster and reports to the National Protection Cluster Coordinator. It is co-led by IOM and UNHCR and its work is a vital component for the development and implementation of targeted protection action within the context of the Protection Cluster Strategy. The Early Recovery Cluster has prioritized Mine Action within the framework of the 2015 YHRP. This is an important activity with strong protection implications which will require close coordination between the two Clusters, including in the context of the Mine Action Technical Working Group established under the Early Recovery cluster.

Membership of and collaboration within the Clusters and sub-Clusters is open to all organizations active in the response to the humanitarian situation in Yemen with a specific focus on protection activities. Members are expected to engage with the Protection Cluster actively and in good faith and to abide by directives of the Protection Cluster that are agreed by its members in a consultative and inclusive manner. In particular members are obliged to provide reports and updates on activities at established intervals in the required format. A failure to meet this obligation will be viewed as an indicator of non-active membership.

Leadership of the Protection Cluster is assigned to the National Protection Cluster Coordinator (PCC), who is responsible and accountable for the effective coordination, planning, and strategy development of the activities of the Protection Cluster members. The PCC reports to the UNHCR Representative (as Protection Cluster Lead Agency). The PCC represents the Protection Cluster in inter-cluster coordination mechanisms, at the HCT, and in other relevant fora. The PCC impartially represents the interests of the members of the Protection Cluster.

ANNEXES

i.   Inventory of Protection Threats

ii.   Note on Vulnerability

iii. Briefing Note on Strategic Advocacy and list of Targets for Advocacy

iv.   Monitoring Gender Equality Measures in Project Implementation

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

i.   Minimum standards for age and disability inclusion in humanitarian action
      http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/Minimum_Standards_for_Age_and_Disability_Inclusion_in_Humanitarian_Action.pdf

ii.   Minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action
      http://www.unicef.org/iran/Minimum_standards_for_child_protection_in_humanitarian_action.pdf

iii. IASC Principles Statement on the Centrality of Protection
      https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/principals/content/centrality-protection-humanitarian-action

iv.   ICRC Brochure, Enhancing protection for Civilians in Armed Conflict and other Situations of Violence
      https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/icrc-002-0956.pdf

v.   ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work
      https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p0999.htm

vi.   Tools to assist in implementing the IASC Commitments for Accountability to Affected Persons
      https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-people/documents-public/accountability-affected-populations-tools-assist

vii. Matrix: Early warning indicators of conflict related sexual violence
      http://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/MatrixEarlyWarningIndicatorsCSV_UNAction2011.pdf