Protection Cluster | Digest

01

First Edition of The Digest

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Upcoming Events and Calendar • List of Trainings • and more...

Editorial

Louise Aubin

Global Protection
Cluster Coordinator

"Working Together for Protection"

I am pleased to share with you the first edition of the "Protection Cluster Digest", the Global Protection Cluster's premier communication tool with humanitarian workers implementing the Cluster Approach at the global and field levels. It is designed for protection and non-protection actors, with the primary aim of strengthening interaction and linkages between Protection Clusters and other Clusters, bringing to life our common objective of "working together for protection". I hope that it will be a useful information sharing platform that will go beyond protection actors and appeal to colleagues working in other clusters. As a product of the Protection Cluster, it naturally has a protection perspective which supports our protection mainstreaming efforts.

In this first edition, I thought it best to re-introduce the Global Protection Cluster, who we are and what we do, within the Cluster Approach System, underlining that the Global Protection Cluster is about ensuring high standards of leadership, predictability, accountability and partnership in the protection sector. A good description of the Global Protection Cluster's architecture, terms of reference and functions is given, in particular with regard to its action-oriented taskforces, highlighting one main deliverable, amongst others, that each grouping will produce this year.

There is also a piece on the exciting and challenging "Global Protection Cluster Visioning Process" which I am personally leading. Five years after the establishment of the Global Protection Cluster, the membership has embarked on a mission to craft a refocused vision and strategic priorities for 2012 and beyond. As we go along on this journey, I will be briefing colleagues around the world on tangible progress made and request experienced colleagues in the field to actively participate.

In each subsequent issue of "Protection Cluster Digest", I will look forward to hearing directly from colleagues working in Field Protection Clusters. During the design process of the "Digest", I requested for a section dedicated to field developments. I extend a standing invitation to colleagues in the field to contribute information on achievements to the "News from the Field" section for the benefit of other field practitioners. Another field oriented section of the "Digest" is dedicated to a technical briefing which shares relevant guidance on the implementation of the cluster approach based on field requests and needs. Rounding-up field specific sections, we have one that will highlight our action in emergencies. This year we are responding to two new emergency situations- Libya and Côte d'Ivoire in which the Global Protection Cluster has been very active in the protection response.

There are many more sections, which you can discover for yourselves, such as "AOR News" which gives each focal point Agency leading an Area of Responsibility a platform to customize contributions and information according to its own needs. We have made space for Cross-Cutting Issues and hope that the Focal Points ("cross-cutters") will be regular contributors to the "Digest". We also have sections to help you cope with your workload and unfamiliar terms – Event and Training Calendar, Funding Mechanisms and Glossary of Terms. In the next issue, I have requested that we include a "Frequently Asked Questions" section, the intention with this will be for me to personally respond to your questions, as I very much want to have direct interaction with field based colleagues in the "Digest".

Enjoy your reading and let me know what you think of the "Protection Cluster Digest" -the communication tool that gives a strong voice to the field.

Your messages can be sent to the Global Protection Cluster Support Cell staff: zulu@unhcr.org or skovbye@unhcr.org.

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Global Protection Cluster

Basic Information on the Protection Cluster

The aim of the **Cluster Approach** is to strengthen system-wide preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies by ensuring that there is a high standard of **leadership, predictability, accountability** and **partnership** in all sectors, including protection.

Established in September 2005, as part of the humanitarian reform and accountable to the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Global Protection Cluster is the main inter-agency forum at global-level for the collaboration and overall coordination of activities supporting protection in humanitarian action. The Global Protection Cluster is a broad based participatory forum comprising, on the basis of full respect of the principles of partnership, non-governmental organisations, United Nations humanitarian, human rights and development agencies, as well as other relevant international organisations; UNHCR is the global lead for the Protection Cluster.

The Global Protection Cluster presently has five (5) Areas of Responsibility which are led by Focal Point Agencies: Rule of Law and Justice (UNDP/OHCHR); Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence (UNFPA/UNICEF); Child Protection (UNICEF); Mine Action (UNMAS); and Land, Housing and Property Rights (UN HABITAT). To facilitate its work the Global Protection Cluster has established a Support Cell to undertake secretariat and liaison functions, and act as the main point of contact for information, advice and support from the Global Protection Cluster to Field Protection Clusters. The Focal Point Agencies for the five (5) Areas of Responsibility also provide information, advice and support from the Global Protection Cluster within their Areas of Responsibility.

Over the last five years, the Global Protection Cluster has made concrete efforts to ensure a predictable response to field based agencies seeking assistance, advice and support in activating protection clusters and implementing the cluster approach system. As part of the overall response capacity, technical experts on ageing and disabilities, as well as needs assessments, profiling and operational data management have been fielded to support the protection response and Protection Clusters in several country operations. Protection Clusters in new and on-going emergencies have also received UNHCR-led technical protection support missions in order to strengthen cluster coordination and protection services delivery. The demand for this assistance is increasing as demonstrated by the recent trend to deploy global level inter-cluster support missions and Global Protection Cluster Support missions to field operations. Field based Protection Clusters are encouraged to request, through the Global Protection Cluster Support Cell, support missions to their operation.

In 2010

The Global Protection Cluster undertook Support Missions to:

Afghanistan
Haiti
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Yemen

[1] The GPC is chaired by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Participants include: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Mine Action Service, United Nations Relief and Works Agency, World Food Programme, Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, International Organisation for Migration, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council, Human Rights Watch, Interaction, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Council of Voluntary Agencies, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Norwegian Refugee Council/Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Oxfam, Save the Children Alliance, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, Terre des Hommes, World Vision International. The International Committee of the Red Cross participates as an observer.

Terms of Reference of the Global Protection Cluster

The Global Protection Cluster acts at both the **Global Level** and **Field Level**, in the latter case providing advice and support to clusters in the field.

Global Level

- **Setting and disseminating standards and policies:** The Global Protection Cluster coordinates the development of policy, standards and operational tools relating to protection in humanitarian action, including practical guidance on how to establish and manage protection coordination mechanisms.

- **Capacity Development:** The Global Protection Cluster builds the overall protection response capacity (in terms of human resources and expertise) as well as the capacity of individual members of the Global Protection Cluster, in particular through training at the local, national and international levels establishing and maintaining surge capacity and standby rosters.

- **Providing Operational Support:** The Global Protection Cluster assists field operations assess needs in terms of human, financial and institutional response capacity. Concretely, helping field protection clusters establish staffing benchmarks relevant to the scale of the emergency; reviewing project submissions and strategies in funding documents, elaborating response strategies together with the field; improving preparedness levels; and supporting protection advocacy.

- **Promoting the Integration of Cross-Cutting Issues:** The Global Protection Cluster advocates for the integration of cross cutting issues into protection work in humanitarian action. It also ensures the adoption of a human rights based approach in the working methods of the Protection Cluster and promotes age, gender and diversity mainstreaming and community-based and participatory approaches in its work.

- **General Protection Oversight:** The Global Protection Cluster exercises its "droit de regard" in the work of the other Clusters through advocating and supporting the mainstreaming of protection in all their activities.

Field Level

- **Global Protection Cluster Support Missions:** The Global Protection Cluster undertakes support missions to assist field-based Protection Clusters with identifying protection gaps and needs as well as developing appropriate prevention and response strategies, including for the integration of cross-cutting issues such as age, disabilities, gender and HIV/AIDS. Global Protection Cluster support missions, working together with colleagues in the field, review and make concrete recommendations on the implementation of the cluster approach, coordination mechanisms, processes and structures. The missions also support the updating of protection strategies and terms of reference, and help assess the impact of protection activities and coordination in field operations. This is a unique technical and non-intrusive support capacity that field operations are encouraged to request. Thus far Global Protection Cluster Support Missions have been undertaken to **Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines** and **Yemen**. Every year at least three Global Protection Cluster support missions are planned. This year, the Global Protection Cluster deployed a Senior Protection Officer to assist the Protection Cluster in Côte d'Ivoire prepare its response to the emergency situation.

- **Protection Advocacy Messages:** The Global Protection Cluster assists field-based Protection Clusters to elaborate protection advocacy messages on specific protection issues by actors such as the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the High Commissioner for Refugees and the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons.

- **Provision of Policy Advice and Guidance:** The Global Protection Cluster receives and responds to *ad hoc* requests from the field for the provision of technical and policy advice on specific protection issues such as camp closures, relocation, support to host communities and the development of durable solutions strategies. It also provides guidance on the proper implementation of the cluster approach.

- **Training Delivery:** The Global Protection Cluster undertakes capacity building of humanitarian actors and other stakeholders (national and local authorities, etc.) through inter-agency training initiatives. The Global Protection Cluster is presently revising the Protection Coordination Training it developed in 2008-2009.

- **Advice on Challenges:** The Global Protection Cluster receives concerns from individual cluster members relating to the protection response in a given country and seeks constructive solutions to the identified challenges.

- **Resource Mobilisation:** The Global Protection Cluster supports the drafting of protection components of funding appeals and reviews funding appeal documents submitted by field Protection Clusters to ensure that the content reflects the proper implementation of the cluster approach. The Global Protection Cluster may also approach donors in support of efforts to mobilise resources for field-based protection activities.

Types of Responses of the GPC in Support of the Field

Different methods are suitable for different thematic needs.

Type of Response	Examples	Suitable When
1. Tools	Data management tools, results frameworks, suggested SOPs, needs assessment tools	Field has people and knowledge but no means
2. Training and Guidance	Workshops, guidelines and handbooks, hotlines, training in specific and general issues, advice	Field has people but not always knowledge on how to proceed
3. Technical Missions	Specialists travel to field operations to provide technical advice in field operations and possibly assist with catalytic implementation	Field has people and resources, but needs short-term help from technical experts
4. Provide Staff (e.g. ProCap, GenCap, Surge)	Staff deployments	Field doesn't have enough people (human resources capacity)
5. Advocacy	Delivery of protection advocacy messages to key actors such as the ERC or High Commissioners	Field has people, training/knowledge and tools but there is not enough humanitarian space

Global Protection Cluster Support Cell

CONTACTS:

Leonard Zulu: zulu@unhcr.org   Rebecca Skovbye: skovbye@unhcr.org

The Support Cell undertakes essential secretariat work to ensure that the Global Protection Cluster remains action-orientated and able to implement its annual workplan. The Support Cell is hosted by UNHCR and located in the Internal Displaced Persons/ Protection Cluster Unit of the Division of International Protection (DIP). It is staffed by one regular UNHCR staff member and one NGO secondee. The activities of the Support Cell are directed by the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, who is also a UNHCR Deputy Director (DIP).

Concretely, the Support Cell has the responsibility to set the agenda, organise and minute the bi-monthly co-ordination meetings and other ad hoc meetings or debriefings of the Global Protection Cluster. It also provides authoritative advice to Protection Cluster members worldwide and serves as a "one stop window" for the channelling of referrals and the provision of guidance to field Protection Cluster Coordinators. The Support Cell has significantly improved the management of information on field Protection Clusters at the global level. It has also put together the Foundation Support Package ("Starter Kit"), for newly established country level Protection Clusters, which contains fundamental protection and coordination material necessary for their effective management. The Support Cell prepares and participates in Global Protection Cluster field missions and undertakes follow-up activities as was the case with **Pakistan** and **Sudan (Darfur)** in 2009, and **Afghanistan, Haiti**, **Nepal**, **Pakistan**, **Philippines** and **Yemen** in 2010. In addition, it provides technical in-put, and coordinates the in-put of other protection actors to inter-agency policies and documents on coordination, funding and programming, such as Guidance Notes on Humanitarian Country Teams, Working with National Authorities, Terms of Reference for Cluster Coordinators, CAPs, CERF Life-Saving Criteria, etc.

Terms of Reference of the Support Cell

Key areas of work for the Support Cell include the following:

1. Maintaining links with the Field (Act as focal point for the field):

- Ensuring effective communications between field protection coordination mechanisms and Global Protection Cluster.
- Disseminating of information/tools to the field.
- Receiving requests of support from the field and forward to appropriate cluster members for their action, follow-up to ensure appropriate action is taken.
- Facilitating Global Protection Cluster missions to the field.

2. Mainstreaming Protection: Act as focal point for links with other global clusters:

- Participating in meetings of other clusters.
- Ensuring timely and accurate sharing of information from the GPC.

3. Donor Liaison and Resource Mobilisation:

- Supporting Global Cluster Coordinator in liaison with donors and other stakeholders.
- Assisting in the drafting of funding appeals and project submissions, and participating in funding appeal processes and reviews.

4. Maintaining permanent links with AOR Focal Point Agencies:

- Ensuring appropriate communications/reporting between the Global Protection Cluster and the focal points agencies of the five Areas of Responsibility.
- Supporting focal point agencies of the five Areas of Responsibility in the administration of their working groups (as appropriate/requested).

5. Maintaining permanent links with task-oriented and time-bound sub-groups of the Global Protection Cluster, in particular task forces:

- Ensuring appropriate communications/reporting between the Global Protection Cluster and the various task-forces established under its auspices.

6. Implementation of the GPC Workplan:

- Monitoring implementation of the Annual Workplan.
- Undertaking tasks included in the Workplan at the request of the Global Protection Cluster.

7. Secretariat support:

- Providing administrative support for the effective operation of the Global Protection Cluster: agenda, minutes, invitations, contact lists, organisation of briefings, meetings and Global Protection Cluster coordination meetings.

The Support Cell plays an important role as the link between the Global Protection Cluster and Field Protection Clusters. The Support Cell provides the field with information, advice and support on the following issues:

- Channelling requests to access available support on protection information management and database tools (including advice/support on undertaking needs assessments and protection monitoring and reporting);

- Information on requesting for the deployment of an information management and database expert;

- Information on requesting for the deployment of a technical expert to assist with the assessment of the protection needs of older persons, persons with disabilities and other persons with special needs;

- Information on and requests for protection coordination training;

- Information on the deployment of a Senior Protection Officer through the Protection Standby Capacity Project;

- Information on the deployment of surge protection capacity or a Senior Gender Advisor;

- Requests for a Protection Cluster support mission to assist with elaborating a protection strategy; protection response plan, contingency planning and preparedness; reviewing the implementation of the protection strategy; addressing coordination challenges;

- Ad hoc advocacy requests for cluster related protection coordination issues to be brought up at the HQs level can also be received and channelled to the relevant colleagues for action;

- Ad hoc requests for advice on protection and protection coordination challenges that you think should be brought to the attention of the Global Protection Cluster;

- You may also make requests to the Global Protection Cluster to put you in contact with Focal Point Agencies responsible for any one of the five Areas of Responsibility.

Task Forces of the Global Protection Cluster (Taskforce Round-up)

To facilitate the work of the Global Protection Cluster, thematic task forces have been established. Currently there are five task forces to address priorities identified by the Global Protection Cluster. The task forces report to the Global Cluster Lead Agency and the overall membership on implementation of their respective work plans. The following are the task-forces of the Global Protection Cluster:

1. Task Force on Learning:

The Task Force on Learning aims to assist in building the protection capacity of members of the Global Protection Cluster as well as other stakeholders (governments, members of civil society) through learning initiatives. During the reporting period, the Task Force on Learning embarked on the revision of the Protection Coordination Training; the flagship training module for Protection Cluster Coordinators.

> ### Revised Protection Coordination Training
> Expected December 2011

The Lead of the Taskforce can be contacted at delfabro@unhcr.org

2. Information Management Task Force:

The Information Management Task Force aims to advance the development and standardization of tools and methodology for protection assessment, monitoring and reporting and increase support to the field in designing and setting up information management systems locally. During the period under review, the taskforce has continued development of the Rapid Protection Assessment Toolkit, the standard methodology of the Protection Cluster for rapid needs assessments in emergencies. An initial draft of a standard assessment tool that was produced in December 2010 has received substantial comments from Global Protection Cluster members and field-based clusters during the month of January. The draft was field-tested in Côte d'Ivoire in February 2011. The final Rapid Assessment Toolkit will consist of data collection tools, guidelines, a database and training modules.

> ### Rapid Protection Assessment Toolkit
> Expected November 2011

The Information Management Task Force has also been active in providing inputs from the Global Protection Cluster to inter-cluster processes.

Among them, the Task Force continues to provide substantial input to the Needs Assessment Task Force in particular for the development of the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), a standard tool for inter-cluster needs assessment in emergencies.

The Lead of the Taskforce can be contacted at zapater@unhcr.org

3. Task Force on Protection in Natural Disasters:

The Task Force on Protection in Natural Disasters aims to support a responsive, predictable and accountable protection capacity in situations of natural disaster. This task force is working to address guidance gaps in relation to protection in disaster situations.

The Task force is currently working on elaborating a natural disaster training module. The one-day protection in natural disaster training module will primarily focus on the response and the immediate recovery stage of a disaster while also acknowledging the importance of Disaster Risk Redcution, prevention and contingency planning. The module is aimed at humanitarian actors, with a protection background, working in the field, particularly in countries prone to natural disasters. Pilot testing of the module will be done in June 2011. Additional pilots will be undertaken later in the year.

The Task Force has also been working with the AORs and relevant organisations to finalise thematic fact sheets on protection in natural disasters (thematic areas include child protection, GBV, older persons, persons with disabilities, rule of law and mental health and psychosocial support). The Task Force is working with the HLP AOR to develop a fact sheet on HLP issues specific to natural disasters, in particular, relating to forced evacuations and/or relocations.

> ### Natural Disaster Training Module Development
> Expected June 2011

The Task Force, in collaboration with the ORSG on the human rights of IDPs, finalized the dissemination strategy for the revised version of the Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters. The strategy was handed over to the IASC to roll out the dissemination.

The Lead of the Taskforce can be contacted at eharper@idlo.int

4. Task Force on Protection Mainstreaming:

The Task Force on Protection Mainstreaming aims to mainstream protection in the humanitarian response, especially with regard to the work of other clusters.

The Global Protection Cluster Task Force on Protection Mainstreaming is working on developing tools to support field Protection Clusters to take the protection mainstreaming dialogue forward with other Clusters at country level. In this process, the Protection Mainstreaming Task Force will be working closely with Clusters at the global level to ensure coherence between guidance and tools developed by the Global Protection Cluster and those utilised by other Clusters. To this end, the task force has initiated a series of meetings with other Global Clusters to determine the current approach and status to protection mainstreaming that other Clusters employ.

The Protection Mainstreaming Task Force will undertake consultations with field-based Protection Clusters at various stages in this process to ensure that the tools and guidance developed address the needs on the ground.

The Task Force is eager to hear from Protection Clusters in the field on their experiences with protection mainstreaming. If you would like to share your views, please contact the Protection Mainstreaming Task Force Lead.

The Lead of the Taskforce can be contacted at skovbye@unhcr.org

5. Task Force on Good Practices:

The Task Force on Good Practices aims to collect examples of practices from the field that are then posted on the Protection Cluster's website www.OneResponse.info to help facilitate the exchange of experiences across operations. During the period under review, the task force is reviewing a number of good practices with one such being the protection work concerning birth registration and civil status documentation.

The Lead of the Taskforce can be contacted at skovbye@unhcr.org

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Good Practice from Colombia - Birth registration and civil status documentation mobile units

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

A study conducted in 1999 by Corporacion Opcion Legal showed that the lack of ID cards for displaced populations represented a persistent obstacle for them to have access to their rights. In addition, there was evidence that not having an ID card generated additional risks for the population in several areas affected by conflict across the country. In response to this, UNHCR, Opcion Legal and the National Registry initiated a programme to provide documentation to displaced people and persons at risk of displacement, giving priority to rural remote areas, Afro Colombian and indigenous communities affected by conflict.

The project offers personal identification documents to the displaced, those at risk of displacement in conflict affected areas and receiving communities. Under the coordination of the Registry's Unit of Assistance to Vulnerable Population, mobile teams carry out campaigns targeting these groups. Using boat or mule and carrying transportable equipment to reach remote areas, the mobile units connect via satellite to the data base of the National Registration Office and offer on-site delivery of identity documents, including birth certificates, personal IDs and identity cards for people under 18. The provision of personal identification in areas at risk of displacement has been essential, not only to ensure the right to identity, but also in terms of prevention and protection issues in areas affected by conflict.

The project has also contributed to the strengthening of the National Registration Office to ensure that attention to IDPs or persons at risk of displacement become an integral component of the services provided by the Registration Office.

For more information on this project, please see the fact sheet on the Protection Cluster website. A longer paper documenting the Registration Project is under development.

Global Protection Cluster:

What's Been Happening

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Adoption of 2011 Workplan

The 2011 Global Protection Cluster workplan, elaborated at the annual retreat of the cluster, has been endorsed by the global level cluster members. The workplan underwent rigorous revision and streamlining lasting several weeks before final endorsement. The workplan is available on the oneresponse website using the following hyperlink (www.oneresponse.info).

The Global Protection Cluster Visioning

Five years after the establishment of the Global Protection Cluster, the membership has launched, under the auspices of the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, a review process dubbed "the Global Protection Cluster Visioning" to denote the strategic and forward looking approach of the exercise. To steer the process, the Global Protection Cluster has set up a Reference Group that will play a key role in taking the "Visioning" forward. Broad consultation with all Global Protection Cluster members and Protection Clusters in the field are the driving force behind the process, while the smaller Reference Group will undertake the essential "heavy lifting" work to concretely move the process forward and ensure continuity throughout the exercise. The specific tasks of the Reference Group are the following:

❶ Conduct a desk review of priority areas identified by the field;

❷ Prepare and develop the agenda for each thematic discussion;

❸ Develop notes from the thematic discussions;

❹ Draft the outline of the multi-year workplan for the GPC for 2012 and beyond

The following organisations/agencies are participating in the Reference Group: IDMC; OCHA; GBV AOR; Child Protection AOR; DRC; OHCHR; UNICEF; InterAction and ICVA.

Field based colleagues are invited to proactively communicate their ideas in support of the visioning process. To do this please contact Rebecca Skovbye in the Global Protection Cluster Support Cell (skovbye@unhcr.org).

Areas of Responsibility

Over the last five years, the focal point agencies, which lead the five Areas of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster, have strengthened their working arrangements bringing key partners together in the areas of child protection; housing, land and property rights; prevention of, and response to gender based violence; rule of law and justice; and mine action. These actors have crafted terms of reference for their Areas of Responsibility, elaborated common strategies, designed and implemented workplans and made significant progress in building capacity and providing support to field operations within their Areas of Responsibility. This represents tremendous progress from the situation before 2005.

Child Protection Area of Responsibility

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The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (Child Protection AOR) revised its existing multi-year workplan in February 2011. The minutes of the meeting are attached as well as the latest version of the workplan.

QUICK LINKS

CPWG Call
28.02.2011

CPWG
Workplan

Advocacy

The Child Protection AOR will enhance its support to field operations on advocacy. To this end, the AOR will develop generic child protection messages/templates that can be used with children, parents and communities. A separate document will also be compiled containing top level child protection messages geared towards global level policy change. The aim is to have a first draft by mid-July and a final product developed in time for the September retreat of the Child Protection AOR. In the meantime, the AOR has also been assisting with the development of a series of messages for use in Libya and Côte d'Ivoire.

Advocacy on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Child Rights Violations (MRM) is also being undertaken. The three MRM related advocacy areas are:
- Raising awareness on the MRM in wider groups such as Child Protection AOR and others.
- Country specific MRM related advocacy: sharing of examples of advocacy initiatives done within the MRM to increase awareness of issues related to the 6 grave violations for a specific country.
- Global advocacy initiatives around the MRM for example on attacks on school.

The Child Protection AOR will also contribute to the development of the minimum standards for child protection in emergencies on advocacy. The Advocacy work in the Child Protection AOR is open to all, and it particularly welcomes field level participation.

Capacity Building

The Child Protection AOR is developing a certified course on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE). This will be a Child Protection Career Development Programme aimed at expanding the pool of international level technical staff employed in CPIE. To this end, the Child Protection AOR has decided to take forward the Advanced Diploma/Certificate in CPIE programme option presented in a study, a programme which is likely to include partnering with an academic institution to develop an accredited CPIE diploma.

If you are interested in finding out more on the CPIE programme please contact Katie Bisaro on: k.bisaro@savethechildren.org.uk.

Rapid Assessment Tool

The Child Protection AOR has finalised the development of the interagency rapid assessment tool for child protection. The first version is ready for field testing and is available in English, French and Arabic. A Spanish version is forthcoming. The Rapid Assessment toolkit has been developed at global level on the basis of lessons learned in many different contexts, and is complementary to the more comprehensive interagency child protection assessment tool that is already in existence.

Should you wish to use this tool in your context, please contact Catherine Barnett on cbarnett@unicef.org.

Rapid Response Team

The Child Protection AOR, as part of its efforts to improve standby capacity for CPIE, and in particular the capacity on coordination, has established a rapid response team. During the reporting period, one member of the team was seconded from Danish Refugee Council and two more will be seconded by Norwegian Refugee Council.

Guidelines for Child Friendly Spaces in Emergencies

The Child Protection AOR, the Global Education Cluster, and the IASC Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings have in close cooperation developed Guidelines for Child Friendly Spaces in Emergencies. The purpose of these guidelines is to give practical advice to field teams that establish child friendly spaces in different types of emergencies and contexts. They are also intended to guide advocacy efforts and donor practices in emergency settings where protection and well-being ought to be high priorities.

QUICK LINKS

PDF
Adobe

CFS Guidelines
(for field testing)

Mine Action Area of Responsibility

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The first quarter of 2011 witnessed the process of revitalization of the Global Protection Cluster Mine Action Area of Responsibility (Mine Action AOR). UNMAS, focal point for mine action within the UN System, assigned the UNMAS Senior Liaison Officer in Geneva the role of Coordinator of the Mine Action AOR. In addition, the recently established UNMAS Standing Mine Action Capacity (S-MAC) is ensuring that the AOR has an early deployment capacity and leading role in emergency situations. An information meeting was held on 2 March 2011 inviting relevant UN agencies and NGOs to join the AOR. The Mine Action AOR is now functional and has facilitated the operationalization of the mine action response to the current Libya crisis.

Housing Land and Property Rights Area of Responsibility

pont.unhabitat@unog.ch

The HLP AOR is working to compile information of activities undertaken by agencies or/and partners to ensure better coordination among HLP members and to inform of current activities being undertaken at global and country level. The first version of the 5Ws will be completed as soon as possible and uploaded onto the One Response website and regularly updated.
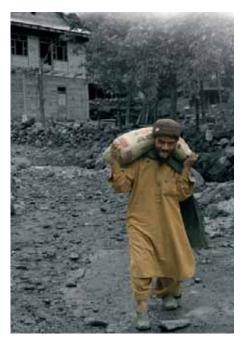
Events and Calendar

11-13.01.2011

The GBV AOR Annual Meeting

The GBV AOR undertook its annual meeting in January. The meeting was held in New York in January 2011.

26-27.05.2011

HLP Training

The Norwegian Refugee Council is holding Housing, Land and Property (HLP AOR) training from 26-27 May 2011, in Geneva. Extensive discussions were held in the HLP meeting on how to use this training as an opportunity to also represent the work and membership of HLP AOR.

12-14.09.2011

Child Protection AOR Annual Meeting

The next annual meeting is planned for the 12th – 14th of September 2011. It will take place in Geneva. The annual meeting brings together global level Child Protection AOR members, and representatives from field based Child Protection coordination groups to review progress on the workplan and discuss other priorities to the CPIE community. Representatives from all field based Child Protection coordination mechanisms are invited. Should you wish to come, please include participation in the meeting in your travel plans and budgets.

19-20.01.2012

2011 Global Protection Cluster Retreat

The Global Protection Cluster retreat will be held at the Palais de Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland, on the 19th and 20th of January 2012. The Support Cell will send out invitations to members around the world, especially colleagues working in field based Protection Clusters.

Should you wish to attend, please include this in your travel plans and budgets.

16.06.2011

GPCluster Visioning Meeting

Global Protection Cluster Visioning Meeting to develop a vision statement and focus areas for the cluster. Geneva, Switzerland.

Training Opportunities and Events

Five years after the humanitarian reforms were initiated it has become clear that measures have to be undertaken to systematically support the knowledge and skills of humanitarian workers engaged in cluster coordination at both the global and field levels. There is a need to not only strengthen cluster coordination knowledge and skills, but also assist colleagues to change attitudes and engrained specific organisational cultures towards an inter-agency orientation and approach, so as to ensure that the overall humanitarian response is effective. In this respect, it is essential to professionalize cluster coordination. The Global Protection Cluster and individual member agencies have developed a number of training and learning initiatives which are available to relevant staff of participating agencies. The following calender will regularly be updated:

The following training has been undertaken:

- 23-25 February UNHCR organised the third Tri-Cluster Knowledge and Skills Training Workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia. Participants were trained in order to prepare them for critical roles and responsibilities on Protection Clusters, Emergency Shelter Clusters and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters led by UNHCR. The UNHCR staff members from Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, were joined by government and NGO counterparts.
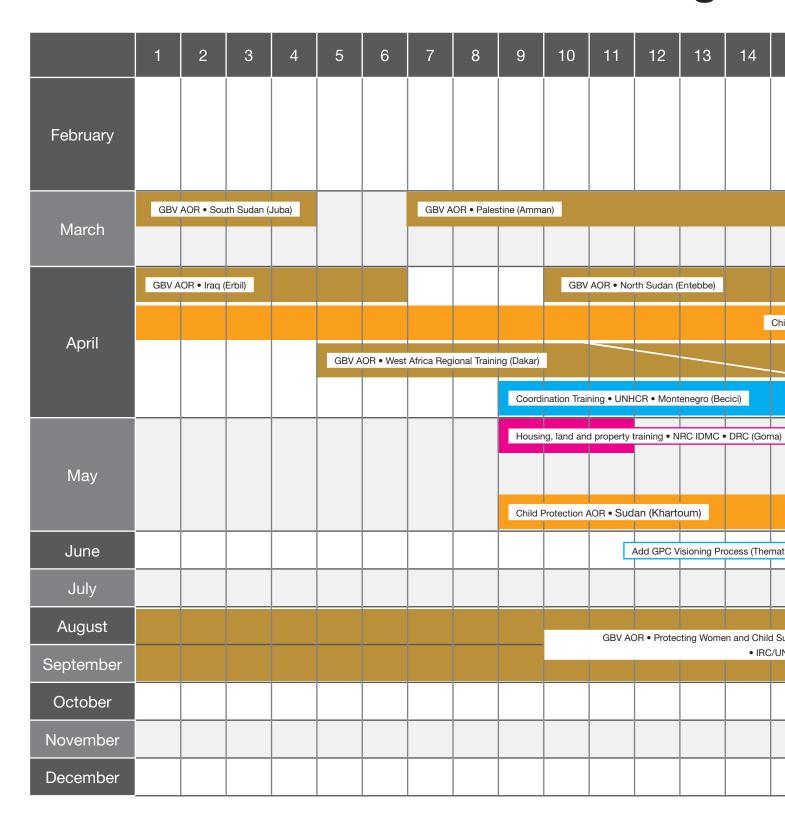
Funding Mechanisms

Almost twenty years since General Assembly Resolution 46/182 created the consolidated appeals process, the United Nations and its partners continue to make progress towards greater predictability and efficiency in humanitarian financing. Predictable humanitarian financing includes the availability of sufficient un-earmarked funds to allow a flexible and needs-based allocation of resources and rapid access to additional funds when necessary. Improvements have been achieved both in terms of the level and scope of funding and in the tools and mechanisms to mobilise, coordinate and allocate funding. These have included the development of flexible financing mechanisms including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and country-based pooled funds, namely Common Humanitarian Funds (CHFs) and Emergency Response Funds (ERFs), strengthening of the consolidated appeals process, and other initiatives such as Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD).

The Global Protection Cluster is systematically involved in the review of funding documents emanating from field Protection Clusters to ensure that essential elements of the cluster approach are duly reflected, especially including principles of partnership. During the reporting period the Global Protection Cluster, like other global clusters, was instrumental in the drafting of the protection components of the Libya flash appeal in the early stages of the emergency on account of the fact that the Libya Humanitarian Country Team had yet to be established.

Concerning Côte d'Ivoire the Global Protection Cluster provided crucial backstopping support during the review of the initial appeal document.

Increasingly, within the limits of its capacities, the Global Protection Cluster is providing value added support to field Protection Clusters in the area of resource mobilisation ensuring that the basic tenets of the cluster approach system are adhered to and reflected in appeals.

Global Protection Cluster Trainings

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
February														
March	GBV AOR • South Sudan (Juba)						GBV AOR • Palestine (Amman)							
April	GBV AOR • Iraq (Erbil)									GBV AOR • North Sudan (Entebbe)				Chi
April					GBV AOR • West Africa Regional Training (Dakar)					Coordination Training • UNHCR • Montenegro (Becici)				
May										Housing, land and property training • NRC IDMC • DRC (Goma)				
May										Child Protection AOR • Sudan (Khartoum)				
June										Add GPC Visioning Process (Themat				
July														
August														
September										GBV AOR • Protecting Women and Child Su • IRC/UN				
October														
November														
December														

Legend:

- ▣ GBV AOR
- ▣ Child Protection AOR
- ▣ Tri- Cluster • UNHCR
- ▣ Coordination Training • UNHCR
- ▣ Housing, land and property training

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Tri- Cluster • UNHCR • Indonesia (Jakarta)

Housing, land and property training • NRC • Afghanistan (Kabul)

GBV AOR • South Sudan (Juba)

GBV AOR • Iraq (Erbil)

Housing, land and property training • NRC • OPT (Ramalla and Gaza)

ld Protection AOR • Panama

GBV AOR • Asia Regional Training (Bangkok)

Coordination Training • UNHCR • South Africa

Housing, land and property training • NRC IDMC • Switzerland (Geneva)

Child Protection AOR • Senegal, (Dakar)

ic Discussion)

Tri- Cluster and Protection in Natural Disasters • UNHCR • Hungary (Budapest)

urvivors of Gender Based Violence in Emergencies Training
NICEF • Kenya (Nairobi)

Note: Valid Until 30 April 2011

Trainings Not Yet Scheduled:

TITLE	COORDINATOR	PLACE / STATUS
Protection Coodrination Training	TFL	Under Review
ND Training	TFL	Under Design
MHPSS Advocates Training	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group (MHPSS RG)	DRC
MHPSS Advocates Training	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group (MHPSS RG)	Pacific Region

2011 Emergencies

Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire was plunged into a deep political crisis in December 2010 following the refusal of incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo to concede after losing the second round of the presidential elections to opposition leader Alassane Quattara. The crisis triggered widespread conflict and unrest across the country and had a severe humanitarian impact: by late March, more than 460 people were reported killed and many more injured, up to one million people were internally displaced, and more than 100,000 people had fled to Liberia and other neighbouring countries. The humanitarian community provided temporary shelter, food and medicine to the refugees and IDP populations, but humanitarian access remained a serious concern, as well as the targeting of UN agencies and NGOs.

The security situation for the civilian population was extremely precarious with ethnic tensions rife in community relations causing widespread fear and despondency. In addition, human rights violations and violence caused many to flee and hide in the bush or seek sanctuary in facilities owned by faith based organisations. Over 27,000 people took shelter at the overcrowded Catholic mission in the western town of Duekoue, with another 1,000 at the town's Protestant Mission. IDPs faced high levels of insecurity. Traumatized displaced populations reported having significant fear of ethnic based violence due to threats from youths and other militias. IDP sites need to be secured from potential ethnic violence.

During the period under review, the Global Protection Cluster took the following concrete action in support of the emergency response in Côte d'Ivoire:

- Identified and facilitated the deployment of senior protection staff to coordinate the Protection Cluster in Man;
- Organised global level coordination platforms to bring together relevant Global Protection Cluster members and have a common understanding of the priority support needs of the Protection Cluster in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Deployed for two weeks a Senior Protection Officer to support the Cluster Lead Agency (UNHCR) to organise the rapid protection assessment and provide the methodology for strategic planning;
- Reviewed the project submissions during the revision of the funding appeal covering Côte d'Ivoire;
- Outlined an integrated response strategy for a protection centred response;
- The Child Protection AOR initiated the deployment of an emergency specialist from its Rapid Response Team.

Libya

In Libya fighting continues, mostly in the west where the government retains control but where the security situation is deteriorating. The clearest humanitarian needs to date stem from the outflow of people fleeing the conflict that began in mid-February. According to IOM, as of 29 March, at least 389,767 people had left Libya. They include at least 197,929 to Tunisia; 158,234 to Egypt; 17,617 to Niger; 9,987 to Algeria; 3,200 to Chad and 2,800 to Sudan. Almost 1,000 African migrants from Tripoli and Misrata in Libya arrived on the Italian Island of Linosa between 26-28 March. Some 9,150 people remained stranded at the Tunisian/Egyptian borders. Inside Libya, there were continued reports of IDPs east of Ajdabiya. Overall, there are serious concerns about the protection of civilians and respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The number of casualties from the conflict remains unclear.

During the reporting period, the Global Protection Cluster took the following concrete action in support of the emergency response in Libya:

- Pre-identified Protection Cluster human resources and placed them on stand-by in readiness for deployment to work in cluster approach platforms as soon as this system was formalised by the Emergency Relief Coordinator;
- Organised global level coordination platforms bringing together relevant Global Protection Cluster members to work on a preliminary protection strategy which was then shared with the emergency team that was preparing the protection response in the Libya emergency situation for further elaboration and implementation;
- Mine Action AOR convened an emergency coordination meeting to mobilise key AOR members who were planning to have mine action activities in Libya. In addition, an emergency technical expert from the Mine Action Standing Capacity was deployed into the operational area to coordinate the process leading to the establishment of a Libya Mine Action AOR;
- Drafted the protection strategy narrative of the Libya flash Appeal and reviewed the project submissions, including during the interim revision of the appeal.

Southern Africa

The regional flood and cyclone season began in Southern Africa with heavy rains resulting in the highest river levels in decades in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The President of the Republic of Namibia declared a state of emergency and requested the UNCT to support the national authorities in responding to the natural disaster situation. The Protection response is being led by UNFPA, supported by UNICEF, UNHCR and other agencies.

Technical Briefing

Cluster Approach Implementation

In 2005, the humanitarian community, as part of a larger reform process to improve the response in emergencies, established, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), an approach in humanitarian response which organises eleven (11) critical areas of humanitarian action into clusters with designated cluster lead agencies or co-lead agencies (cluster approach)[1]. The aim of the cluster approach is to strengthen system-wide preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies by ensuring that there is a high standard of leadership, predictability, accountability and partnership in all sectors of activity. The cluster approach operates at the global and country levels. It entails more effective management and coordination arrangements at these levels as well as significantly strengthened capacity to respond to humanitarian needs in a timely and effective manner.

At the global level, UNHCR is the Global Cluster Lead Agency for the Protection Cluster in both conflict induced and natural disaster emergencies. At the country level, UNHCR will lead the protection cluster in conflict induced emergencies. In natural disaster situations, the three IASC protection-mandated agencies, UNHCR, UNICEF and OHCHR, have consulted closely, under the overall leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator, and agreed which one among them would assume the role of Cluster Lead Agency for protection at the country level in a given operation. To strengthen predictability in leadership, UNHCR has offered its willingness to lead in situations of natural disaster.

Under a proposal agreed by the IASC in January 2011, that in natural disaster situations where there is an existing protection coordination mechanism established for humanitarian purposes, this arrangement should continue unless the Humanitarian Co-ordinator/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC), in consultation with the Humanitarian Country Team, designates an alternative arrangement. In instances where there is no existing protection coordination mechanism, UNHCR would, as a general rule, assume the protection coordination role, unless it does not have an existing presence or has a limited presence, local expertise and capacity to lead the protection response within the given context, and OHCHR is present with sufficient expertise and capacity to assume the protection coordination role.

At the country level the aim of the cluster approach is also to strengthen the humanitarian coordination framework and response capacity by mobilizing humanitarian, human rights and development organisations to respond in particular sectors. It is also intended to ensure that the involvement of national and local institutions is strengthened; available resources are fully utilized and, humanitarian action is well coordinated and does no

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[1] Clusters have been established in the following areas: Protection; Camp Coordination and Camp Management; Emergency Shelter; Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Education; Food Security; Early Recovery; Emergency Telecommunications; Logistics, Health.

News from the Field:

Field Based Protection Clusters

Once protection cluster leadership is assumed at the country level, the Protection Cluster Lead Agency is responsible for ensuring a well coordinated and effective response in the protection area of activity covering the identified needs of persons of concern. This does not mean that the cluster lead agency is expected to carry out all the necessary activities within protection, but that it is committed to being provider of last resort, which entails, inter alia, advocating for full coverage.

Clusters are invited to share information for publication in this column of the newsletter.

harm. To ensure that this happens in a manner that establishes predictability and accountability, a Cluster Lead Agency[3] is designated by the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator for a particular set of activities following consultations with the Humanitarian Country Team.

For purposes of clarity, a Cluster Lead Agency is an organization that formally commits to take on a leadership role within the international humanitarian community in a particular sector/area of activity, to ensure adequate response and high standards of leadership, predictability, accountability and partnership. A Cluster Lead Agency also takes on the commitment to act as the "provider of last resort" in that particular sector/area of activity, where this is necessary.[4]

A Cluster Lead Agency is responsible for: a) predictable action within its respective cluster for analysis of needs, addressing priorities, and identifying gaps in the area of activity, including development of a protection cluster strategy; b) securing and following-up on commitments from members of the cluster to contribute to the response; c) sustaining mechanisms through which the cluster as a whole assesses its performance, d) ensuring that activities within a cluster are carried out; and acting as the provider of last resort.[5] The provider of last resort concept is critical to the cluster approach, and without it the element of predictability is lost.[6]

The responsibility of being a provider of last resort represents the institutional commitment by a Cluster Lead Agency to do its utmost to ensure an adequate and appropriate response in humanitarian action for the cluster that it leads. The concept is circum-scribed by basic preconditions that affect any framework for humanitarian action, namely unimpeded access, security, and availability of funding.

Accordingly, once a Cluster Lead Agency has been designated, it assumes leadership with regard to responsibilities and accountability as contained in IASC Guidance Notes and Operational Guidances. In this respect, it is imperative that the assumption of leadership be for the entire range of activities addressed by a Protection Cluster, especially with regard to being provider of last resort, and not only for specific sectoral activities.

The provider of last resort concept is critical to the cluster approach, and without it the element of predictability is lost

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Furthermore, being the provider of last resort means that the Cluster Lead Agency commits itself to filling gaps in the humanitarian response. To this end, the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator is also obliged to fully support the Cluster Lead Agency. If finally, however, funds are not forthcoming for these activities, the Cluster Lead Agency is not expected to implement these activities by itself, but to continue working with the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator to mobilize the necessary resources[7] as well as spearhead advocacy efforts designed to communicate the constraints to key stakeholders, especially donor partners.

Having said this, it is also important to note that as protection is a cross-cutting issue, the concept of 'provider of last resort' is defined in a realistic manner as one agency, acting as Cluster Lead Agency, cannot be held accountable for all aspects of the protection response for a particular humanitarian situation. As a result, different agencies have been designated, at the global level, as focal point agencies for particular Areas of Responsibility and they have each agreed to be the 'provider of last resort' in their respective areas of expertise: UNICEF for Child Protection; UNICEF/UNFPA for Prevention of, and Response to, GBV; UNDP/OHCHR for Rule of Law and Justice; UNMAS for Mine Action, and UN-Habitat for Land, Housing and Property Rights.

The commitment of being provider of last resort is an integral part of being a Cluster Lead Agency and ensures the integrity of the cluster approach and the essence of having a predictable and accountable humanitarian response. For these reasons, the Cluster Lead Agency should not easily relinquish its leadership responsibility or elect to focus only on protection responses that are linked to its agency mandate and expertise to the exclusion of other broader protection concerns. Cluster leadership that does not respect the elements outlined above may cause the cluster approach system to unravel.

It is also important to note that the cluster approach, as a method, is to be used for contingency planning

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[3] A Cluster Lead Agency for the Protection Cluster at the country level need not necessarily be the same agency/organisation as the Global Cluster Lead Agency for the Cluster and can be selected from any one of the three protection mandated agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF or OHCHR depending on the exigencies of the operation and protection environment of the ground.

[4] Per operational guidance on designating sector/cluster leads in new emergencies. Prepared by the IASC Task Team on the Cluster Approach Geneva, 23 May 2007.

[5] *ibid.*, footnote, 9.

[6] The IASC Guidance Note on Using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen Humanitarian Response (November 2006).

[7] See IASC Guidance Note on Using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen the Humanitarian Response, 24 November 2006 and the IASC Operational Guidance on the Concept of "Provider of Last Resort" endorsed by the IASC Working Group on 20/06/2008).

and emergency preparedness activities for all large-scale humanitarian responses to complex and natural disaster emergencies. Refugee situations, which exclusively fall under UNHCR's mandate, are to be excluded from the cluster approach employed in these contingency plans and emergency preparedness activities. The response to a refugee situation must reflect a multi-sectoral approach which clearly demonstrates the primary lead role and responsibility of UNHCR.

"UNHCR has a mandate responsibility, unique under international law, for the provision of protection to refugees and the pursuit of solutions on their behalf. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee's accountability to the General Assembly for the discharge of this function cannot be transferred or delegated. The provision of humanitarian assistance, and the way in which it is provided, are an integral part of protection and have crucial implications for solutions. As such, the mandate requires UNHCR to exercise a leadership role, along with host governments, in the provision of assistance to refugees, and to maintain the capacity to act as direct provider where necessary. Partnerships are nonetheless a key tool through which the refugee mandate may often be most effectively delivered."[8] The incorporation of refugee protection (including assistance) within the cluster approach or other common coordination arrangements under the leadership of a Humanitarian and/or Resident Coordinator would be inconsistent with UNHCR's mandate."[9]

In the wake of an emergency, it is now standard practice for the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator, at the country level, to initiate consultations with the Humanitarian Country Team, including the United Nations Country Team, in particular the protection-mandated agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, and OHCHR), relevant agencies present and, as appropriate, national authorities before a decision is made to propose to the Emergency Relief Coordinator the activation of the cluster approach. It is recommended that the protection mandated agencies should, before this decision is taken, consult their respective headquarters to inform of the ongoing consultations. In this regard, communication with the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator is also advisable to ensure that the appropriate structure, necessary support and advice is provided in a timely manner to the agency that will be designated Cluster Lead Agency at the country level.

The Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator – with the support of OCHA – retains responsibility for ensuring the adequacy, coherence and effectiveness of the overall humanitarian response and is accountable to the Emergency Relief Coordinator. Cluster Lead Agencies, at the country level, are accountable to the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator. The Protection Cluster Coordinator is accountable to the country level Representative /Director and not directly to the Humanitarian Coordinator.

This briefing is to be read in conjunction with the **IASC Guidance Note on Using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen Humanitarian Response of November 2006**, especially with regard to its annex 1 which contains the detailed terms of reference of a Cluster Lead Agency. Reference should also be made to the generic Terms of Reference of Cluster Coordinators for further guidance.

Global Protection:

Integration of Cross-Cutting Issues

Update from Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group (MHPSS RG)

The MHPSS RG has been continuing its work in promoting mental health and psychosocial support as a cross cutting issue in humanitarian interventions, through ongoing collaboration with the Global Protection Cluster as well as through involvement in ongoing programmes, and collaboration with coordination mechanisms at field and country levels. In particular, the MHPSS RG is working with the Child Protection and GBV AOR on developing joint messages for promoting best practices.

In response to recent events in Libya and Japan, MHPSS coordination mechanisms are in place, and MHPSS was represented in joint assessment missions.

The IASC MHPSS Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency settings are now available in Arabic, as well as English, French and Spanish. A Japanese language edition is near completion, as well as other Languages currently in process.

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[8] Page 7 of the Humanitarian Reform and UNHCR's Refugee Mandate: A Policy Guidance Note, September 2008 (Internal).

[9] Ibid. Page 8

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Essential Contact List

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Global Protection Cluster
Architecture

5 Areas of Responsibility

Gender Based Violence

Child Protection

Rule of Law and Justice

Mine Action

Housing, Land and Property Rights

5 Task Forces

Task Force on Learning

Task Force on Good Practices

Task Force on Protection in Natural Disaster Situations

Task Force on Protection Mainstreaming

Task Force on Information Management

Global Protection Cluster Support Cell

Glossary of Terms

Global Cluster Lead Agency

An agency/organization at global level designated by the IASC as cluster lead agency for a particular sector.

Cluster Lead Agency at Country Level

An agency or organization designated by the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator as cluster lead agency for a particular sector at the country level, following consultations with the Humanitarian Country Team. (A cluster lead agency at the country level need not necessarily be the same agency/organization as the Global Cluster Lead Agency for that sector.).

Global Cluster Coordinator

A person designated as coordinator by the Global Cluster Lead Agency, with the responsibility for the day-to-day coordination and work of the global cluster.

Cluster Coordinator at country level

A person designated as cluster coordinator by the Cluster Lead Agency at the country level with the responsibility for the day-to-day coordination and work of the cluster.