

Adding to the voices of IDPs:

WHY OUR PROTECTION ADVOCACY MATTERS

Special contributions:

Humanitarian Coordinators on
Protection and Advocacy

Feature:

DISPLACEMENT IN THE 21st CENTURY - KEEPING IDPs ON THE AGENDA

Interview with Volker Turk,
Director of International Protection, UNHCR





LOUISE AUBIN

Global Protection
Cluster Coordinator

A WORD from the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator

Dear Colleagues,

So much has happened this past year in terms of protection advocacy that it seemed most appropriate to dedicate this newest edition of the DIGEST to share what these efforts have achieved. A particular focus of our collective advocacy has been to draw attention to the risks faced by internally displaced persons, and with reason: with a succession of humanitarian crises, notably inside Syria and the Central African Republic, and more recently in the Philippines, the number of forcefully displaced persons has never been greater. Responding to their critical protection and assistance needs is challenging enough, but to do this in a timely and appropriate manner particularly where IDPs are less visible in urban centers or in remote areas is increasingly challenging.

Protection funding has proven to be volatile, mostly because it is not always understood as life-saving. And yet, there is growing consensus of the role protection plays in articulating the purpose of humanitarian response strategies and in helping to prioritize critical interventions during emergencies. Our interview with the Director of International Protection at UNHCR, Volker Turk, is inspiring in this regard.

Much of this greater understanding of the life-saving value of protection and of the specific needs of displaced persons is due to the many efforts deployed by protection clusters in the field and by GPC partners. You will find in this edition a call for greater advocacy on internal displacement by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, as well as several examples of advocacy efforts for the respect of the rights of IDPs shared by Humanitarian Coordinators and protection clusters from various parts of the globe. Practical tips are provided and so I encourage you to read through the entire edition.

The many field testimonies have given the GPC and its participants inspiration for reaching out more broadly and speaking out on the need to better understand the critical nature of protection and to better enable protection outcomes for populations affected by crises, like IDPs. You will hopefully soon see the adoption of a Statement on the Centrality of Protection by IASC Principals, a statement collectively drafted by GPC participating agencies with the intention of better supporting our efforts in the field.

Finally, you will find in this edition of the Digest updates on the many activities carried out by the GPC and its Areas of Responsibility, and the support we can provide, including additional information management resources and technical field support missions.

The growing number of readers and contributors to the Digest have helped multiply the force of protection advocacy – continue to spread the word and to contact us, we love hearing from you.

Warm regards,
Louise



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Global Protection Cluster

Published by United
Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees

Global Protection Cluster,
Division of International
Protection

94 Rue de Montbrillant,
1202, Geneva,
Switzerland, 2013

Layout & design:
BakOS DESIGN

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Feature: Displacement in the 21st Century - Keeping IDPs on the Agenda

Interview with Volker Turk, Director of International Protection,
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
November 2013

Humanitarian crises are becoming more and more complex by the day. In today's world, what does the term protection of displaced populations actually mean and how does the notion of protection translate into concrete assistance to internally displaced persons on the ground? How do we continue improving our response to IDPs? And is there a need to advocate for IDPs to continue figuring on the agenda of the international community? These and other questions are discussed with UNHCR's Director of International Protection, Volker Türk.

Humanitarian crises have become ever more numerous and complex. What does "protection" in such a complex 21st century context mean?

Let me begin with putting the protection of internally displaced persons in context and give you some basic figures before we delve into the concept of protection.

At the end of 2012, it was estimated that 28.8 million people across the world were internally displaced. UNHCR has programmes for about 15.5 million of them. Those are staggering figures. I think it is important to keep these figures in mind in any discussion on internal displacement.

Now let's look at the broader question of what protection in today's world of complex humanitarian crises means. For UNHCR, protection covers all activities that aim to achieve full respect for the rights of the individual, meaning the rights as defined by international human rights law and international humanitarian law. So protecting the rights that each displaced person has is central to UNHCR's way of working, to its programming and also in its cooperation with humanitarian partners. It also requires that we recognize IDPs as rights-holders with legal entitlements to protection and assistance.

I would say that protection in a 21st century context is very much about strengthening this rights-based approach in all of our policies, programmes and activities. This means that we need to make sure that our programmes are not only based on international human rights instruments, but that they also reinforce the capacity that displaced persons themselves have to claim their rights.

So how do the rights of IDPs to participate in deciding and shaping their own lives come into play here?

That is a very good question. It is always important not to forget the tremendous capacity that displaced populations themselves have to develop and implement protection programmes within their own community. UNHCR has therefore adopted a so-called community-based approach to working with actually not just IDPs, but all people of its concern. Through community based protection, communities are actively involved in identifying and designing responses to the threats they face, recognising that this is key to avoiding unintended harmful impact of humanitarian projects, and ensuring that programmes do not leave communities worse off. We need to acknowledge that communities are well placed to identify their protection needs. It is vital that affected groups are involved at every stage of programming, including assessment, prioritization, design, implementation, and monitoring. Community based protection is also a key preparation tool to devise a strategy which holds as primordial the needs, including the needs for durable solutions, of displaced persons.

You mentioned before that UNHCR aims at ensuring that the protection of IDPs' human rights is incorporated into programmes and assistance delivery. Could you elaborate further on that?

Yes, of course. What I was referring to earlier is the notion of "protection mainstreaming". As we said, this basically means that protection principles are incorporated into all aid delivery and programming. The term "protection mainstreaming" also emphasizes the life-saving nature of our activities, such as our activities to prevent SGBV, working with vulnerable women, children or older persons at risk. When you look at the impact of this approach on the ground, we can point at very concrete results: UNHCR delivers crucial protection services to IDPs, such as prompt access to professional care for victims of sexual violence, legal assistance to ensure better and equitable access to justice, facilitation of the issuance of civil documentation to those who lost their documents or do not have documents, reunification of children with their parents or care-givers, and advocacy for respect of IDPs' human rights.

But protection mainstreaming is not just about making sure that a rights-based approach is central to UNHCR's own programmes. It also means that other humanitarian partners include protection principles in their assistance and programmes. This way, all humanitarian actors try to ensure that their activities protect the human rights of their beneficiaries without – unintendedly – contributing

to discrimination, violence or exploitation. So together we make sure that, for instance, programmes supplying water, sanitation, livelihoods and other services do not create protection risks as a side effect.

What would you say is currently an important challenge in the international community's response to IDPs' needs?

I think that challenge is both an institutional one, and one related to the importance of continuing to acknowledge the specific needs that IDPs face. Let me explain this further, and I'll start with the latter issue.

As you know, the international community provides humanitarian assistance not just to internally displaced persons, but generally to broad groups of populations in need of such aid. This includes, for instance, people whose livelihoods have been destroyed because of a storm or flood, or people whose community has been severely affected by a war or conflict and whose income generation means have suffered as a result. The term generally used for all those people that the humanitarian community assists, is "affected populations". And this term of course includes internally displaced persons. Now the issue is that many humanitarian and development programmes are simply not designed to respond to the specific needs that internally displaced persons have. For instance, internally displaced persons face a heightened risk of discrimination or they may have problems with respect to obtaining identity documents. Often, they also face housing, land and property issues and specific durable solution challenges.

What we've been seeing is that considering IDPs as merely a part of the broader concept of affected populations can result in the neglect of the specific needs that internally displaced persons have. The challenge thus lies in making sure that IDPs, as a group of people with specific needs and concerns, are kept on the international community's agenda and that we continue to dedicate staff with expertise in the protection of IDPs to international aid operations.

I am now coming back to the first challenge –which is the institutional issue. As you know, the international community's approach to humanitarian response was reviewed extensively in 2010 and 2011. In particular challenges in terms of leadership and coordination were looked at and a set of actions was designed to address these issues and brought together in what we refer to as the Transformative Agenda. This work was concluded in December 2011. However, an improved response to internal displacement per se was not an explicit point on the Transformative Agenda. I think it is extremely important, though, that we do continue to strengthen leadership and coordination mechanisms to improve our response to situations of internal displacement in particular. In my opinion, advocacy at the highest levels is needed to ensure that IDPs are kept on everyone's agendas. ●

Internal displacement: More advocacy, accountability and empowerment is required

Dr. Chaloka Beyani, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs



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The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is at a record high, causes of flight continue unabated and root causes, in particular poverty and inequality, remain a global challenge. Facing this stark picture, critics bemoan that internal displacement is no longer present on the international agenda. I partly share this. For example, durable solutions remain distant for millions of IDPs as the international humanitarian, development and peace building community struggles to join up efforts; IDPs out of camps, especially in urban areas, remain a formidable challenge requiring a collective strenuous effort; and in relevant humanitarian fora, IDPs are subsumed under the inexpressive term of “affected populations”, taking one step further away from accountability to the millions of IDPs and an impediment to effective advocacy as IDPs are mingled into invisibility. I sincerely thank the High Commissioner (for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) for dedicating his Dialogue 2013, to IDPs. This is a most welcome initiative to collect fresh thinking on these and many more persisting challenges in the protection of IDPs.

Yet, I would like to recognize important developments at regional and national levels. The entry into force of the AU Convention on the Protection and Assistance to IDPs in December 2012 was a milestone, as it reflects a continent-wide recognition of internal displacement as a common challenge and responsibility of States. The recognition of displacement as a cause of discrimination in the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance 2013 also deserves attention. The increasing number of states adopting laws and policies on internal displacement, for example Kenya in 2012 or Yemen in 2013, are very positive signals that States are assuming their primary responsibility to assist

and protect IDPs. These developments demonstrate a trend towards more accountability to IDPs by putting internal displacement firmly on the agenda of regional organizations, as well as States hosting significant numbers of IDPs.

These achievements would not have been possible without robust, joint and persistent advocacy of an array of national, regional and international organizations and a number of individual champions. IDPs are at the heart of such law and policy processes. In some countries, IDPs are empowered, speak out and formulate their positions. In others, IDPs’ voices are muted. I believe it is a joint responsibility to empower IDPs to voice their concerns so as to ensure that any such law or policy reflects the realities of internal displacement. In my experience, national processes of developing laws and policies also provide advocacy chances, to negotiate and find agreement over contentious and politically sensitive issues.

The High Commissioner’s Dialogue 2013 provides an opportunity to express more support to such national law and policy developments, which result in more accountability, provide advocacy opportunities and are a chance to empower IDP communities. ●

For further information on the Mandate of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs please visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IDPersons/Pages/IDPersonsIndex.aspx> and <http://www.brookings.edu/about/projects/idp>

What place for IDPs in humanitarian and other response agendas?

Lessons from Yemen

Erin Mooney, ProCap Senior Protection Officer deployed to UNHCR Yemen December 2011-June 2013

In a country where significant security concerns and political challenges dominate headlines, it can be a struggle to generate attention to the truly staggering humanitarian and development needs. In Yemen today, 10.5 million people suffer from food insecurity, 1 million children are acutely malnourished, 13.1 million people lack safe access to water and sanitation, and 6.4 million are without access to health care, and the country has one of the lowest global ranking on gender, etc. Add to this the challenge of ensuring that the specific protection and assistance concerns of particular groups, such as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), are addressed within the overall response.

In late 2011, amidst three separate IDP crises, including two entirely new IDP crises that year, the new Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Yemen, emphasized it was time to move “beyond the current focus primarily on IDPs and conflict-affected people”. A closer reading revealed that in terms of programming, there were no plans to cease humanitarian activities for IDPs but rather to expand upon them, to reach a greater number “non-displaced and non-conflict-affected populations in acute humanitarian need”. Even so, the appeal to move “beyond IDPs” too easily became misinterpreted within the humanitarian, development and donor community as suggesting shifting away from IDPs.



To the extent the IDP issue did feature in broader discussions, it often was to decry, including in the HRP, IDPs “occupying schools” as being an emergency shelter concern. The IDPs (which represent less than five percent of the population), despite advocacy by the CCCM/ Shelter and Protection Clusters with the Government to find alternative decent shelter, simply had nowhere else to go. Particularly unsettling was that this IDP shelter issue was conflated, including in the HRP, with the distinct problem of schools being occupied by military forces.

Meanwhile, all indicators, including in the HRP, pointed to the fact that the 500 000 IDPs uprooted by conflict and violence, in addition to those uprooted by periodic natural disasters, continue to face serious protection and assistance concerns. Indeed, the Government’s *Transitional Plan for Stabilization and Development 2012-2014*, including in a section entitled “Some Groups Are More Vulnerable than Others”, emphasized the plight of IDPs, returnees and the communities hosting them. A socio-economic assessment, undertaken in 2012 jointly by the World Bank, the Government, and UNHCR amongst others, drew attention to the specific obstacles that IDPs faced regarding livelihoods, education, health, and social welfare.

Beyond humanitarian and development concerns, the case was made that supporting IDPs to find durable solutions is critically important for promoting stability in the country. Vigorous advocacy by UNHCR and the Protection Cluster focused on integrating IDPs into the work of other clusters and into the 2013 HRP; and supporting the Government to develop a national policy to address and resolve internal displacement; and mobilizing development actors to support the sustainability of IDP returns, notably the breakthrough in returns in 2012 for IDPs from Abyan; and integrating the views of IDPs into national peace-building efforts currently underway. Sustained attention on these issues is needed in Yemen.

In any country with IDPs, a humanitarian or development response that does not acknowledge and address IDPs’ specific concerns inevitably will be incomplete. A first step is to integrate IDPs’ concerns into humanitarian assessments and response plans, and across all clusters. The Protection Cluster, with its mainstreaming responsibilities, is to be expected to ensure this. A national policy to address and resolve internal displacement, adopted by the Government of Yemen in June 2013, is important for reinforcing national responsibility for IDPs. In addition, broader efforts are needed to integrate the IDP issue beyond the humanitarian response, including in national and international socio-economic assessments, national development and stabilization plans, and in peace-building.

Until taking such steps become automatic, leadership and proactive advocacy on IDPs by the Protection Cluster, established under Humanitarian Reform in 2005 in large part precisely to plug persistent gap in responding to IDPs’ particular concerns, will continue to be needed, both in the field and at the global level. ●

Challenges of keeping internal displacement on the international agenda

Elizabeth Ferris, Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement

Since the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were launched in 1998, remarkable progress has been achieved in putting the protection needs of IDPs on the international agenda. In addition to important developments at the national and regional levels, international humanitarian actors have developed new resources (handbooks, training materials, policies) and new ways of working (including the Clusters system) to respond to the challenges of internal displacement.

In November 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Chaloka Beyani, with the support of the Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, convened a two-day meeting in Geneva to take stock of past achievements and current trends in protecting IDPs and to chart future directions.

While participants were forthright in their acknowledgement of the many achievements on IDPs over the past two decades, concerns were expressed that at the international level that IDPs were perhaps being “mainstreamed into oblivion” and that specialized expertise and institutional capacity on IDPs was still needed. The decision by the UN Secretariat to change the position of Representative of the Secretary General to Special Rapporteur led to a perception that the position – and the issue of IDPs – was being downgraded in the UN system and that the visibility of IDPs at forums such as the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) had diminished.

Participants agreed on the need for a revitalized advocacy strategy to ensure that the important gains achieved on internal displacement are not lost and on the need to work further on the institutional architecture. More work is also needed to support governments to develop IDP laws and policies and to engage with civil society and NGO actors and much more emphasis is needed on finding durable solutions for IDPs.

Finally, two priorities were identified for collective advocacy by the international community, including: a) support for the African Union Convention and African governments to incorporate the standards into effective action at the national level and; b) support for a paradigm shift from seeing internal displacement solely as a humanitarian issue to viewing it also as a development challenge.

Much more work is needed to ensure that the issue of protecting IDPs continues to receive the attention it deserves but the stock-taking meeting provides a useful blueprint for the way forward.

The report is available at: <http://www.brookings.edu/events/2012/11/28-stocktaking-idp>



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Durable solutions and development agendas: implementing the Secretary-General's Decision on Durable Solutions

Megan Bradley, Fellow, Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement

IDPs belong on the international humanitarian agenda, but humanitarians alone cannot meet the challenge of supporting solutions to internal displacement. In countries facing large-scale internal displacement, from Colombia to South Sudan, durable solutions for IDPs merit a prime place on development and peace building agendas, and require cooperation between a wide range of grassroots, national and international actors.

One of the priority thematic areas being tackled by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs is the challenge of effectively engaging humanitarian, development and peace building actors in supporting durable solutions. Consultations and meetings convened in Geneva, New York and Washington to inform this theme highlighted the particularly important opportunities presented by the Secretary-General's 2011 Policy Committee Decision on Durable Solutions, and the piloting of its accompanying preliminary Framework on Ending Displacement in the Aftermath of Conflict in Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire and Kyrgyzstan. The SG's Decision/Framework identifies priorities and allocates responsibilities between key international stakeholders – humanitarian agencies as well as development and peace building actors – to support durable solutions for IDPs as well as returning refugees.

Participants in the consultation process emphasized the importance of implementing the SG's Decision/Frame-

work in tandem with the rights-based approach laid out in the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. They also made the following recommendations to support the application of these tools:

- Raise awareness of the IASC Framework and SG's Decision/Framework amongst humanitarian, development and peace building actors as complementary tools.
- Make the cross-sectoral, participatory development of rights-based durable solutions strategies a routine element of international responses to displacement crises. These strategies should be communicated in language that is comprehensible and meaningful across sectors.
- Ensure durable solutions strategies have clear medium and long-term goals, and are integrated into national, regional, and local development plans, policies and frameworks, as well as cluster objectives and transition plans. Robustly monitor their implementation.
- Actively engage all agencies identified in the "response matrix" accompanying the SG's Decision/Framework, identifying an appropriately resourced "solutions focal point" in each agency.
- Share lessons from the piloting process, and clarify the process for moving from the piloting of the SG's Decision/Framework to the refining and broader implementation stages. This process should consider the potential applicability of the SG's Decision/Framework to the pursuit of durable solutions after natural disasters, and in countries experiencing protracted conflicts.
- Strengthen the capacity of RC/HCs to bring together humanitarian, development and peace building actors in support of solutions, including by incorporating the IASC Framework and the SG's Decision/Framework into training and review processes. ●



Special Contribution: Humanitarian Coordinators Speak Up



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AFGHANISTAN

Centrality of protection advocacy to humanitarian response

Mark Bowden, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Afghanistan.

As the Humanitarian Coordinator in Afghanistan, a country that is undergoing a multifaceted transition including international military withdrawal, I cannot overstate the importance of strategic protection advocacy. Afghanistan ranks acutely low on the humanitarian indicators listing, has high exposure to recurrent natural hazards and over half a million people are displaced. Since 2002, it is estimated that 5.7 million Afghan refugees have returned and some 3 million registered refugees are still in exile in neighboring countries. It is my responsibility, and that of the Humanitarian Country Team, to keep Afghanistan on the international humanitarian agenda and to ensure that the international community continues to recognize the challenges that the country is facing in its quest to end four decades of unremitting conflict and its effect on the Afghan people.

Protection is perhaps the least visible of all humanitarian activities and yet it is probably the most fundamental to the wellbeing of persons of concern. Therefore, our

overarching strategic objective for the [CHAP 2013](#) is to reinforce protection of civilians as a core theme. Indeed, protection issues affecting the most vulnerable segments of society, such as women and children require sustained advocacy.

A robust advocacy strategy must be employed to raise awareness, effect change in underlying systems and thereby improve the lives of persons of concern. To this end, we are working with the Afghan government to implement a national IDP policy, designed to prevent and address displacement as well as to identify and implement durable solutions for IDPs.

As the security transition unfolds and the Afghan National Security Forces assume responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, we have set up a Quarterly Protection of Civilians Forum with the Government, the national and international senior military leadership and the humanitarian community to ensure that civilians' human rights are fully respected in accordance with International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. The Quarterly Forum also aims to ensure that humanitarianians are given access to distressed populations.

Humanitarian needs in Afghanistan are primarily caused by recurring conflict. Active hostilities expose civilians to death, injury and intimidation, deprive Afghans of basic services and drive them into protracted displacement. The human rights teams (OHCHR/UNAMA) continue to increase visibility of protection concerns through regular monitoring and reporting on civilian casualties. ●

Advocating for safe and voluntary return

David Gressly, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the UN Multidimensional integrated stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Mali.



A main focus of the humanitarians in Mali has over the last few months been on returns. The conflict that erupted in early 2012 led to the displacement of more than half a million people from northern Mali, 330 000 internally displaced and more than 170 000 refugees in neighbouring countries.

A dilemma that humanitarian and protection actors are faced with is that security conditions and basic social services in the areas of origin were not considered adequate to facilitate returns. Nevertheless, IDPs started to return and were in need of assistance. With the security situation now stabilizing, people are increasingly returning, the latest estimate is 137 000 people. Through a multi-sectorial Task Force on returns where the Protection Cluster played a crucial role, humanitarians adapted their approach. We are now advocating with the Malian Government for a careful evaluation of the different return areas, with clear benchmarks for what needs to be in place before we can facilitate any voluntary returns. It is also crucial to make sure returns do not fuel any existing tension between communities in the north.

On the response side, a humanitarian and early recovery Action Plan for the north is being finalized to address humanitarian requirements, facilitate returns and support the early recovery needs of both returnees and the people who stayed throughout the conflict. As the humanitarian appeal in Mali is only 35% funded, advocacy for funding is a priority.

It will also be important to ensure that the Protection Cluster has sufficient capacity to meet protection response challenges in Mali. The coordination between humanitarian and protection actors and the new UN Stabilization Mission in Mali is being established and fine-tuned with support from a recent Joint UN Humanitarian agency, DPKO and NGO mission on Protection. ●

Advocacy for protection

Philippe Lazzarini, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Somalia.

A climate of impunity pervades Somalia. Just a month ago, headlines were made after the most intrepid of NGOs, Médecins Sans Frontières, withdrew its operations from Somalia, citing the failure to bring to justice the man who brazenly shot and killed two of its staff in 2011, with a contractual dispute as one of the reasons for the killing. There are likely many more untold instances where impunity trumps rule of law. In such a climate, bringing perpetrators to justice is one of the most significant hurdles for protection actors to breach when supporting survivors of violence. In fairness, efforts are underway to address impunity and the most recent example of allegations of gang rape made against African Union and Government soldiers will be a test case on how far Somalia has come. If an accountable protection environment has found its roots and the allegations are found to be true, it will have been in a transparent and credible manner, and the perpetrators will be brought to justice.

How do we get there? Advocacy.

In an environment such as Somalia, an effective method to initiate change is consistent and methodical engagement, honing in on a singular issue with key stakeholders at all levels. A past example of such 'quiet action' was undertaken by the humanitarian community a few years ago when Government and African Union Soldiers were put under urged to stop what was described indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas in Mogadishu. The focus of this advocacy was to make the parties adhere to international norms and standards: the end goal being that the civilian populations were no longer caught in the crossfire. Ultimately, due to a combination of efforts including quiet diplomacy, high-level engagement with leaders, training of soldiers and shoring up AMISOM's communications capacity to the community, the behaviour shifted. Many civilian lives were saved.

I see tackling impunity in a similar way remembering that improving the lives of people in need of protection should always be the end-goal. ●



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Voices from the Field: News from Clusters

AFGHANISTAN PROTECTION CLUSTER

Protecting IDPs from risk of mines & ERW

Since its inception in 1989, the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan (MAPA) has cleared 19 640 hazardous areas covering an area of 1 640km², and destroyed 17.4 million mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). A total of 122 Districts and 2 345 communities are now free from known hazards, and the number of casualties has decreased by 80%. However, there are still 1 644 impacted communities and 954 529 Afghans live within 500 meters of a hazardous area.

One of the most vulnerable population groups in the country are IDPs, who mostly leave their homes due to poor security, natural disasters, unemployment and economic constraints. They often become casualties to mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as they move across the country, and also whilst collecting wood and scrap metal.

There are currently almost half a million registered IDPs in Afghanistan spread across 123 districts, from which 74 are contaminated by 890 known mine and ERW hazards. These known IDP locations are an important part of the planning process for the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA). Information gathered through strong partnerships within the Protection Cluster has resulted in priorities being set and 105 hazards impacting IDPs incorporated into the plan for clearance for this year. In addition, MACCA conducts Mine and ERW Risk Education training for IDPs. ●



The Elimination of Violence against Women Law

In May 2013, the Gender Base Violence (GBV) Sub-Cluster became aware that the Women’s Status Commission (WSC) of the Afghan Parliament had tabled the Elimination of Violence against Women Law (the “EVAW Law”) on the parliamentary agenda. The purported aim of tabling the EVAW Law was to gain parliamentary endorsement, although there were doubts whether such a step was prescribed by the Afghan constitution.

The landmark EVAW law had been enacted in 2009 by a Presidential Decree, and criminalizes 20 acts of violence against women, including harmful traditional practices. The Law is widely upheld by GBV practitioners as an extremely useful tool in addressing various forms of violence against Afghan women and girls, albeit acknowledging that there are several shortcomings with respect to its implementation, which still need to be overcome.

Members of the GBV Sub-Cluster unanimously felt that tabling the Law for discussion in the Parliament presented a number of risks that were not outweighed by the ostensible gain that would be made by obtaining parliamentary endorsement. In particular, there were fears that some of the more contentious provisions would be watered down or removed, negatively impacting the efficacy and usefulness of the Law.

Feeling something had to be done urgently, the protection community, including the Protection Cluster Coordinator and the GBV Sub-Cluster drafted a letter to the Humanitarian Coordinator, presenting cogent arguments against the tabling of the Law, and requesting the Humanitarian Coordinator to speak with the Speaker of the Parliament to delay the tabling. The team of drafters subsequently met with the Humanitarian Coordinator to



2023 Afghanistan Mine Free

For further information on the Mine Action Program in Afghanistan please contact, Gustavo Laurie, UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), glaurie@unog.ch



explain the significance of the issue. At the same time, UN Women and UNAMA issued a statement through the SRSG, while the Afghan Women's Network issued a statement on behalf of its 200 members. A working group was established to take the issue forward in a more coherent manner.

Despite the mobilization and advocacy efforts, the EAW law was tabled for discussion at the Parliament. The discussions were heated, with some of the more conservative MPs labeling the Law as 'against Sharia' (Islamic law), ultimately forcing the Speaker to put a halt to the debate and send the EAW Law back to the Joint Commission of the Parliament for more detailed study, with civil society and religious scholars as participants. For the moment, the 'crisis' has been averted. ●

COLOMBIA PROTECTION CLUSTER

Gold mining and conflict

Due to increasing massive displacements, threats and homicides related to gold mining between 2011 and 2013, the Protection Cluster decided to develop an incidence document to highlight the situation and promote a common position from the HCT.

To this effect a *petit committee*, including, NRC, Solidaridad Internacional, OXFAM, UNDSS, OCHA and UNHCR was formed. On 23 July 2013, a final advocacy document was presented to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), as well as an advocacy plan that included targeting key government entities, donors and embassies and international NGOs who permanently advocate in Canada and the United States on these issues.



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In its advocacy, the Protection Cluster noted that there is a direct relationship between gold mining and armed conflict and high-lighted the following aspects: (i) Illegal armed groups are fighting over control of gold mines in several regions of the country such as Nariño in the frontier with Ecuador, Antioquia and Chocó. (ii) Gold mining has become an economic alternative for illegal armed groups affected by fumigation of illicit crops. (iii) Regions where communities have based their livelihoods in gold mining have shown in the past three years, increased levels of forced displacement, as well as threats

and homicides as reported in the Costa Cauca region (Cauca), Baudo, Atrato and San Juan rivers in Chocó, and Bajo Cauca in Antioquia. (iv) Movement of communities in these areas of the country have also been confined due to the use of Mines and ERW placed by illegal armed groups in their fight against the police etc.

Communities are facing strong social and territorial threats and existing public policy does not take into account the role that illegal armed groups play in this mining economy. This is the main reason why the Protection Cluster will maintain incidence monitoring and advocacy activities and will continue to engage with key actors and stakeholders. ●

DRC PROTECTION CLUSTER

Supporting IDPs through mine action coordination

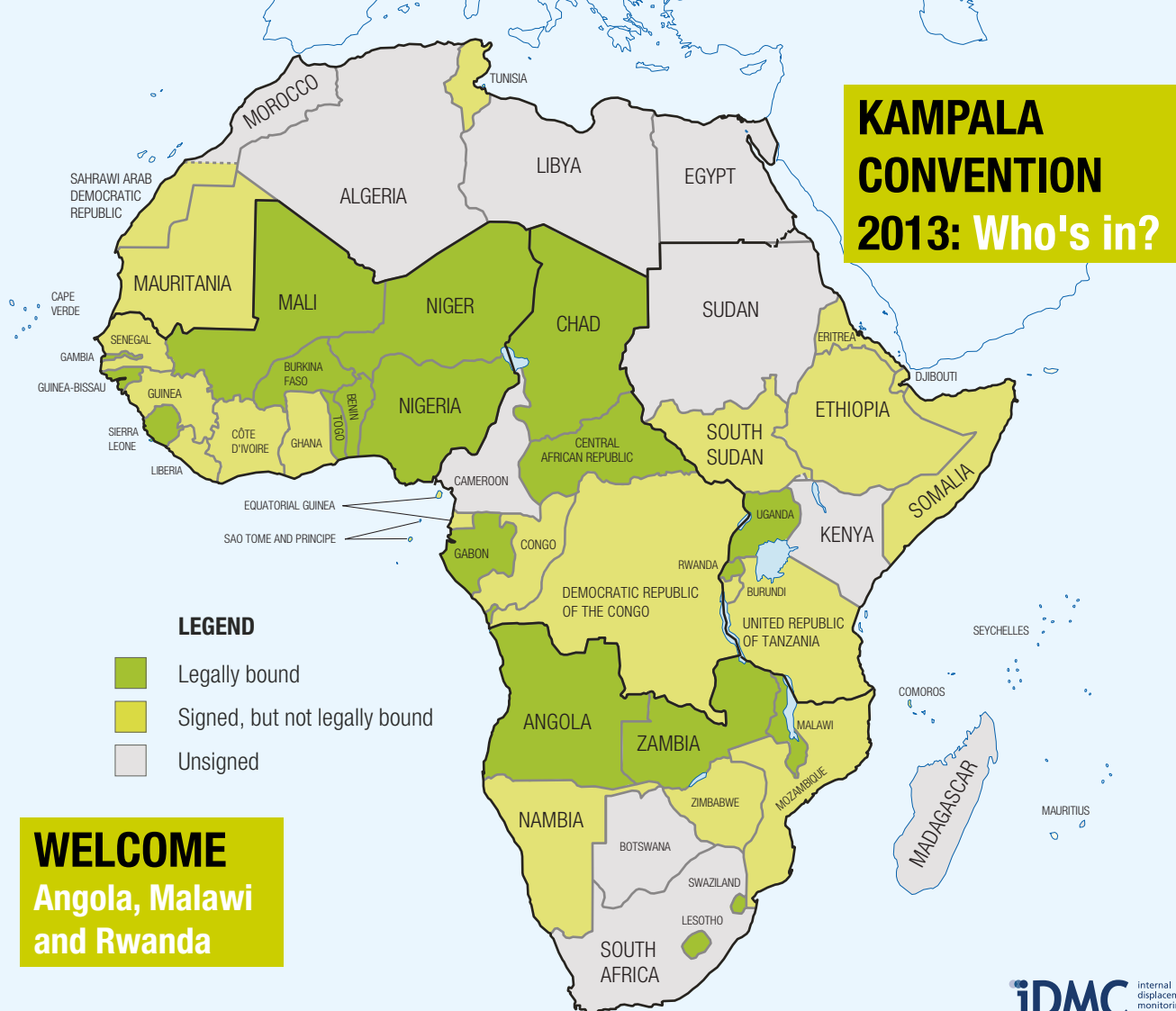
Since 1996, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has played witness to intense fighting involving Government armed forces and numerous armed groups, causing the death of millions of people and significant movement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and refugees, along with Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and landmine contamination.

As at September 2013, the security situation in DRC remains unstable and unpredictable. Recently, Eastern DRC has faced further contamination following intensive fighting between the DRC Armed Forces (FARDC) and the March 23 Movement (M23) since 2012. UNMAS has cleared more than 30,000 items of UXO from North Kivu in 2013. The M23 shelled Goma town in late August 2013, damaging IDP camps. North Kivu currently hosts nearly one million IDPs. Currently there are 2.6 million IDPs in DRC, mostly located in East DRC, of which 87 per cent are displaced due to conflict.

IDPs are particularly vulnerable to the threat posed by contamination as they move through areas where the conflict history is unknown to them, and often, they return to areas that were recently affected by conflict, and thus likely to be contaminated.

With the context of the Security Council Resolution 2098 (2013) MONUSCO has been requested to transfer humanitarian 'demining' activities to the UN Country Team. UNMAS is now facing a funding gap in 2014 to support UXO clearance, Risk Education and Victim Assistance for the most vulnerable conflict affected populations in DRC, notably IDPs. As the Mine Action sub-cluster lead, UNMAS is working with the Protection Cluster, to advocate that the needs of IDPs, and conflict affected populations in DRC are prioritized, in order to mitigate the impact of conflict. ●

For further information on the Mine Action Program in Democratic Republic of Congo please contact, Gustavo Laurie, UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), glaurie@unog.ch



Source: iDMC / www.internal-displacement.org/kampala-convention



ETHIOPIA PROTECTION CLUSTER

Advocating for the Kampala Convention

The Ethiopian Protection Cluster has since its activation in 2007 worked to nurture a wider understanding of protection issues in Ethiopia through awareness raising initiatives targeting relevant stakeholders such as key Government focal points and humanitarian actors. It also supports the protection and assistance of affected populations by bringing together the humanitarian community and by coordinating agencies.

The Protection Cluster executes its responsibilities based on its recently developed 2013-2014 Work Plan. The Work Plan identifies several key activities, including the need to develop an advocacy strategy at different levels in order for the UN to engage with the Government of Ethiopia on IDP issues. The Cluster is also striving to ensure that a communication approach for IDP protection issues is developed and transmitted to the HC and HCT.

Additionally, the promotion of the ratification and domestication of Kampala Convention is also a priority in the Cluster's Work Plan. However, the absence of an official

Government counterpart for the Cluster has been a challenge and a substantial barrier to implementing activities in a coordinated manner. Furthermore, the Cluster faces budgetary difficulties, which hinder the Cluster's capacities and potential.

As part of its advocacy strategy, the Protection Cluster organized a workshop on November 27-28, 2012 on the Kampala Convention in which relevant government counterparts and Humanitarian Agencies took part. This had the objective of building knowledge on content and status of relevant regional legal framework and policies for the protection of IDPs. A follow up workshop was later conducted by UNHCR on April 30, 2013 with the objective of bringing together key government organizations and members of the Protection Cluster to discuss on the way forwards for Ethiopia's possible ratification of the Kampala Convention to pave the ground for the development of a national policy. Through this process the cluster is trying to identify and engage a government counterpart for itself, in order to have a common IDP protection response strategy for the country.

The cluster has also ensured that as per its work plan, there is a communication strategy designed for IDP protection issues to reach the HC and HCT. ●

Advocating for protection in contingency planning

A number of actions were taken in the Guinea cluster system and by the protection cluster to develop contingency planning: At the national level, the Protection Cluster in Guinea achieved a revision of the inter-agencies contingency plan with particular attention being paid to the update of all protection activities, including protection cross cutting issues by every partner. OCHA facilitated an inter-cluster Multi Sectorial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) training session, followed by a simulation. Monthly meetings of the Protection Cluster and regular inter-cluster meetings presented a solid basis for the successful coordination in an emergency.

These systems were tested in the humanitarian response to the violent clashes during July 2013 in the Forest Region. A team directed by the Guinean Government was immediately authorized and reached the site a few days after the events began. On this sub-regional level, the presence of most United Nations Agencies and a Regional Coordinator in charge of humanitarian issues enabled the establishment of a crisis committee, assistance in medication, food and non-food items which were delivered within 48 hours. The increasing leadership of the Guinean Government which managed to contain the violence while respecting the different clusters is an important step to be noticed. This was enabled by the regular advocacy by the clusters and the authorities' regular coordination within humanitarian crisis management. The commitment and regular intervention of authorities in the management of the humanitarian crisis allowed the Guinean government to establish leadership in an emergency outbreak in coordination with various clusters. ●

HAITI CCCM CLUSTER

From Websites to Soap Operas: the many forms of advocacy in Haiti

As the point of direct and frequent contact with beneficiaries, camp managers continually strive to communicate IDP concerns to different sectors. In Haiti, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) used social mobilization, grievance mechanism, and media initiatives to track and voice IDP issues while empowering IDPs to hold humanitarian and government actors accountable for the level of assistance received.

While registration of camp residents took place at night to avoid fraudulent claims, genuine residents may have been absent for legitimate reasons. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster therefore established grievance mechanisms where families could appeal registration decisions or lodge complaints in front of camp committees, with national authorities, commit-

tee members, and IOM staff determining a claim's validity. IOM coordinated with Noula, a local online platform, to post complaints and comments on the Noula website, transparently tracking need and response.

To enhance two-way communication, IOM held small group meetings of 25-35 heads of households to answer questions and receive feedback. Additionally, with the support of local and municipal authorities and development agencies, Community Platforms gave camp residents and host communities an opportunity to contribute to the process of neighborhood-level urban planning, empowering both groups to engage in the decision-making process.

Radio Tap Tap distributed CDs of entertaining public information messages to public buses (Tap Taps), and the cartoon-based newspaper Chimen Lakay (The Road Home) engaged individuals with limited literacy. Short and Haitian-written, acted, and directed films also became a popular vehicle for public information. This led to the comedic soap opera "Tap Tap", which aired on Haitian National Television and aimed to change negative preconceptions of camp residents. IOM thus sought not only to inform IDPs of their rights, but to also change attitudes toward IDPs in the broader community.

Through these methods, IOM empowered IDPs to voice their presence and needs with government officials, surrounding communities, and humanitarians, holding them accountable for assistance and the search for durable solutions. ●

Adapted from "Helping Families, Closing Camps: Using Rental Support Cash Grants and Other Housing Solutions to End Displacement in Camps". Full report is available at <http://www.eshelter-cccmhaiti.info>



IDPs and forced evictions

Three and a half years after the devastating Haitian earthquake of January 2010, 278 945 individuals are still displaced and living in 352 camps and provisional sites, according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (June 2013). Most are located in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Compared to 2010, this represents a decrease of about 82% in overall population of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). 74% of these sites reportedly occupy private lands.

The impatience of owners to recover their lands is growing and the living conditions of IDPs remain a concern with illegal forced evictions occurring in waves. As a paper by OHCHR circulated widely to partners explained, the current legislative framework pertaining to illegal occupation of private properties is not adapted to the range and scale of the situations emanating from the earthquake. Both national and local authorities face a dilemma: how to protect people in the camps and at the same time, respect the rights of private owners. Illegal forced evictions often involve police forces or other state agents and have led to serious violence on several occasions. In April 2013, IDPs residing in Acra Sud Camp received forced eviction threats and one IDP died while another was injured in custody of the Haitian National Police after demonstrations.

OHCHR, as the lead agency on Protection in Haiti, coordinates and leads the Strategic Advisory Group on Protection, formerly the Protection Cluster, advising and supporting national authorities including the Civil Protection Directorate and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The sub-clusters on Child Protection and SGVB have largely completed transition. It also coordinates and works closely with the OHCHR's Regional Office for Port-au-Prince, UN Police (UNPOL), and the International

Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Camp Coordination Camp Management/Shelter Cluster (CCCM/S), to foster coherence and to ensure harmonization of actions pertaining to IDP protection, including activities to prevent and respond to evictions of IDPs from camps.

UNPOL has set up a unit entirely dedicated to IDPs, with some members trained to respond to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. This unit carries out regular patrols to camps exposed to a high risk of eviction, and maintains frequent contacts with representatives of camp committees. It also facilitates the communication between judicial actors and security forces and acts as a deterrent to evictions, constituting a reassuring presence for IDPs. UNPOL receives daily information on camps and immediately reports to partners (IOM and Human Rights Section) any potential eviction threat for immediate follow-up.

CCCM/S Cluster supports government efforts to help IDPs relocate through, primarily, provision of rental subsidies. To safeguard IDPs right to appeal against administrative decisions affecting them, municipalities implement a "grievances" mechanism with the support of IOM and several NGOs. This mechanism allows households that were not considered eligible for rental subsidy to appeal and see their case

The 2010 earthquake has exacerbated a pre-existing structural problem in Haiti: lack of access to adequate urban housing by the majority of Haiti's population that lives in extreme poverty. A comprehensive long-term strategy and vision, combined with considerable funding and mobilization, is needed to address the global situation of people living in the camps as well as other types of precarious housing. ●

For further information please contact Haiti Protection Cluster Coordinator Elodie Cantier-Aristide, cantier-aristide@un.org

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PAKISTAN PROTECTION CLUSTER

Two way advocacy in a cluster operating in a natural disaster and conflict

As both in a natural disaster response and a complex emergency, the Protection Cluster in Pakistan along with its respective Sub-Clusters and Task Forces, tries to responsibly fulfil the core functions set forth by the Cluster Approach and the recently refined by the Transformative Agenda. Amongst those functions, Clusters are called to “Identify advocacy concerns to contribute to HC and HCT messaging and action” and to “Undertake advocacy activities on behalf of cluster participants and the affected population”. The advocacy efforts of the Protection Cluster in Pakistan to induce positive change have so far followed these two paths: internally, they have targeted the humanitarian community to reinforce a principled action along humanitarian protection values; externally they have addressed the authorities at different levels, often with informal and flexible approaches, to raise awareness on protection standards and on the primary responsibility of the authorities to protect and assist disaster-affected populations.

Examples of internal advocacy with the humanitarian community

Between April and June 2013, inter-tribal conflict and counter-insurgency operations in Khyber Agency (Tirah Valley) and in Kurram Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) caused the displacement of more than 30,000 families. The Cluster embarked in a series of consultations and assessments with the newly displaced population and produced five thematic Briefing Notes, including a dedicated one on the situation of newly displaced women and girls. Each Briefing Note included a series of recommendations directed to inform the principled response of the humanitarian community and were instrumental in the decision for a more robust CERF emergency allocation for protection activities. Aside those recommendations, the Cluster produced a series of advocacy points on the assistance policy to be adopted for the newly displaced population, calling for the respect of the basic humanitarian principle to assist needs wherever they arise, to support key Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) representatives in their dialogue with the Government.

In the context of the FATA displacement, HCT-endorsed Standard Operating Procedures establish a series of steps to be undertaken and conditions to be fulfilled for the humanitarian community when requested by the Government to support the return of groups of IDPs to areas declared safe. The Protection Cluster has repeatedly advocated for a full respect of these SOPs, as a guarantee for a voluntary, dignified and safe return. This included conducting qualitative and quantitative “Return Intention Surveys”; advocating for “Go and See visits” for IDPs to enhance their level of information on areas



© oPt Protection Cluster

OPT PROTECTION CLUSTER

Advocating for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law

The Protection Cluster in the occupied Palestinian territory (Opt), led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), has maintained a strong focus on accountability for international humanitarian and human rights law in its advocacy.

In relation to settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Protection Cluster members have consistently advocated for effective law enforcement and accountability by Israeli authorities. This has been communicated through briefings for the media, diplomats and donors, in their engagement with UN mechanisms (including the international Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli settlements in the oPt), and in Humanitarian Country Team advocacy. The Quartet and the EU Foreign Affairs Council have also echoed calls for Israel to bring perpetrators of settler violence to justice.

Following the November 2012 Israeli military operation and escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel, Protection Cluster members provided legal assistance to victims, funded through CERF, to seek criminal accountability and an effective remedy for reported violations of international law. Based on this work, the Protection Cluster issued an update six months after the end of hostilities, highlighting concerns regarding the lack of progress towards ensuring accountability and access to an effective remedy for victims. This and other advocacy updates issued by the Protection Cluster are accessible at <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/field-support/field-protection-clusters/countries/occupied-palestinian-territory.html>

The importance of promoting respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, and of ensuring accountability for violations, is recognised in the Consolidated Appeals Process for the oPt and in the Humanitarian Country Team strategic advocacy messages. ●



of return; highlighting the necessity for the authorities to guarantee adequate humanitarian access for assistance and monitoring; requesting articulated Action Plans from the authorities covering the situations in areas of return and the foreseen assistance and rehabilitation initiatives of the Government. The Protection Cluster highlights these points in various coordination fora at sub-national level and in the HCT, whenever the support to the Government in IDP return is debated.

Examples of external advocacy with the authorities

Substantial direct advocacy has been exercised on the importance to adopt protection-sensitive approaches in the Government emergency response. The Cluster has invested considerable time in sensitising the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to maintain and expand the protection section in Government-approved joint needs assessments (e.g. MIRA Pakistan) and in adequately mainstreaming gender/ age/ diversity in the assessment process (e.g. choice of the respondents, gender disaggregated analysis).

The same bilateral advocacy has been adopted with NDMA in planning the Inter-agency orientation programme on disaster preparedness for District authorities. The Cluster has successfully affirmed the inclusion of protection topics in the curriculum and expanded it to Child Protection in Emergencies and Gender topics. In this endeavour, the Protection Cluster received an appreciated support from the NDMA Gender and Child Cell.

Particularly at sub-national level, where the participation of the authorities in the Cluster allows for more immediate and frequent contacts, the Protection Cluster has been able to trigger action and change. In February 2013, the Child Protection sub-Cluster – together with the Education Cluster – managed to promote the adoption of a Notification from the Education Department of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Administration to improve access to school for IDP Children, by lifting the requirement for “Leave Certificates”, traditionally difficult to obtain for the displaced families. Seemingly, during the floods of fall 2012, the Protection Cluster in Sindh, through monitoring and presence on the ground, managed to sensitise the District authorities on the importance of humanitarian demining and MRE activities in some flood-affected districts in Sindh and Balochistan.

On two occasions, the Protection Cluster contributed to high level formal advocacy interventions. In 2012, the Cluster was asked to prepare an analysis of State practice and a series of advocacy points for the HC/RC in its dialogue with the national authorities to find a mutual understanding on the existence of conflict-induced internal displacement in Pakistan. In 2013, the Protection Cluster cooperated with the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs to issue a Statement on the respect of the civilian character of the IDP Camps, in the aftermath of the bombing in Jalozei Camp in March 2013.

Common Challenges

Gathering solid information through monitoring and consultations with persons of concern; choosing the right level of intervention; building alliances with some governmental stakeholders; maintaining perseverance and coordination within the Cluster have been key enabling factors in most of these initiatives. However, challenges remain for the Protection Cluster to successfully carry out protection advocacy in Pakistan. ●

SOMALIA PROTECTION CLUSTER

Keeping IDPs on the agenda

Somalia has been in a humanitarian crisis since the early 1990s. While over the past twenty years the number of IDPs has fluctuated, there are roughly 1 million people internally displaced and another 1 million people who live as refugees in the region today. With this magnitude of displacement, one would expect that protection issues are at the forefront of the humanitarian agenda, but this is not the case. General fatigue about hearing stories of women being victims of sexual violence or children being pressed into a combatant role only to be killed or maimed, coupled with little evidence that protection activities positively impact on the plight of such people, may have a lot to do with a sense of powerlessness. This reflection may be peculiar to Somalia, but may just as likely apply to other contexts where a long-term crisis exists with a limited or no immediate prospect of visible improvements.

It is precisely because it is much easier to focus on the provision of humanitarian assistance and successes in improving the protection environment are difficult to quantify, ensuring that people know their rights and more importantly, have access to enjoy those rights must remain a priori in humanitarian action.

How to ensure that protection is not left aside in protracted environments?

Two approaches are possible:

One, an organic shift away from a focus on public advocacy and awareness campaigns to targeted advocacy with stakeholders who control or can influence protection concerns. Such an approach is not mutually exclusive but rather it is a shift in emphasis. For example, that children are used as part of the conflict, or women sexually assaulted by men in uniform is already part of the public discourse; consequently, what needs to be done is to engage with those responsible, such as those in command of the military. In this case, it means advocating for a change in behavior and norms under domestic and international law. In this context, the emphasis is not automatically on wrong-doing but rather on prevention where “prevention” equates to stability and “stability” allows society the time to focus on rebuilding itself socially and economically. Public advocacy can operate in paral-

HOW TO ADVOCATE

Oxfam policy and campaigning: top tips for cluster advocacy

Protection advocacy in field Clusters usually either happens around a key visit of a top UN representative or diplomat for instance, or is an on-going activity, targeting local duty bearers who may be unable or unwilling to fulfil their obligations, or are part of the problem. In either case, the Cluster needs to know what the realistic and SMART change is they would like to see, and what specific, practical and realizable recommendations need to be made to bring that change about.

In the case of a visit, requests should be directed where this person can have meaningful influence. In the case of on-going advocacy, it is important to establish trust with the right interlocutors, and identify people who are open to dialogue, willing to listen, and can influence change. In both cases, facts, figures and detail to back up the argument are crucial.

Building relationships with national duty bearers is sensitive and takes time. It requires patience, rigor, and continuous risk assessment in order to make sure that advocacy does not make the situation worse for the population it is intended to support.

In the experience with different sub-clusters in the Democratic Republic of Congo, relationship building was shown to be important. Without a solid relationship behind an action such as letter writing, army commanders too often ignored these or notes or letters handed over with too much detail were reacted to defensively, ultimately counter-productive. However, where regular meetings were held with the same small group of people over a longer time period, and the atmosphere was about problem solving rather than listing issues, there was more chance of getting a result. Trust is key.

This is also true in the context of peace keeping missions, where the mission may be an ally or a target, and interlocutors may be military or civilian. This relationship can work best when there is a frank discussion and shared understanding about roles, responsibilities and constraints, and clear communication mechanisms in place. A safe space for regular dialogue outside the regular cluster meeting may be productive.

Building a constructive atmosphere may take time and patience. It is, however, worth it.

Top tips:

- Know your interlocutor, their agenda, priorities and potential sensitivities.
- Take time to build trust.
- Be clear about the change you want to see and how to achieve this.
- Make sure you have facts and figures to back up your argument.
- Be aware of risk, to civilian populations the advocacy is aiming to protect and organisations asking.

Keep talking. Follow up. Find out what is next.



lled with targeted approaches but in protracted situations does not need to be the pre-eminent method of raising awareness.

A second approach, and one specific to a Protection Cluster's involvement, is to have credible and timely contextual analysis at hand, devoid of jargon. This will allow stakeholders not familiar with protection issues to understand the significance of the need to improve a protection environment that ultimately leads to a degree of stability in a society. This requires a Protection Cluster not only to have good networks for information gathering but also access to the decision-makers within the humanitarian community who, themselves, engage with the influential stakeholders. ●

Get to know the GBV Rapid Response Team

Established in 2008, the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR) is the global level forum for coordinating prevention and response to GBV in humanitarian settings, and is one of four functional components of the Global Protection Cluster. Its coordinators are Cecile Charot (UNFPA) and Joanne Dunn (UNICEF)

Why have a GBV Rapid Response Team?

In 2011 the GBV AoR, together with the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) recognized the need for readily-deployable GBV technical expertise.

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) was established in early 2012 and is composed of GBV Advisors who are deployable at the onset of a humanitarian response, or at a critical juncture in a chronic emergency, to support GBV prevention and response in emergencies.

Who is the RRT?

- **Jessica Gorham** (UNFPA), is the Global Advisor, based in Geneva. Jessica is a GBV expert with more than 8 years in international development, management and GBV programming experience as well as US-based case management and research experience in child protection.
- **Devanna de la Puente Forte** (UNFPA), is based in Bangkok and covers Asia and the Pacific. Devanna is a specialist in GBV in humanitarian settings with experience in programme management and cluster coordination.
- **Simona Pari** (UNICEF), is based in Amman and has over 10 years of international experience in protection of civilians, child protection, prevention and response to GBV.
- **Lina Abirafeh** (UNICEF), is based in Dakar and has over 15 years of experience in various development and emergency contexts focusing on GBV as well as gender issues.
- **Christine Heckman** (UNICEF), is the GBV AoR RRT Information Management Specialist, based in New York. She has 7 years of experience in gender and human rights issues, including as part of UNFPA's GBV in Emergencies team. ●

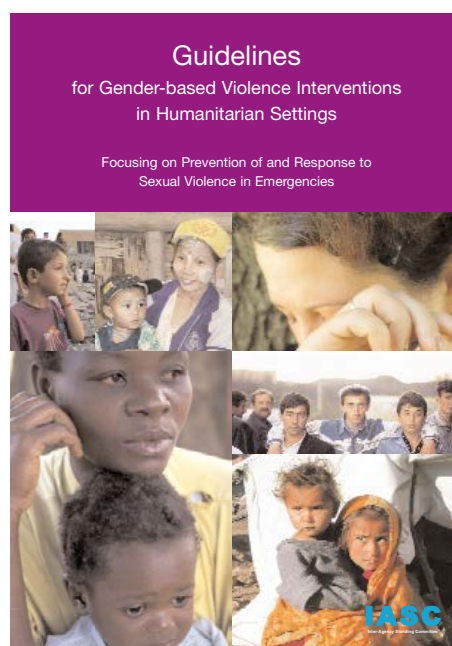
Learn more at: <http://gbvaor.net/rapid-response-team>

Revisions of the 2005 IASC Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings

In November 2012, the Global Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility Working Group (GBV AoR - <http://gbvaor.net>) initiated a two-year process for revising the 2005 IASC GBV Guidelines with funding from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM).

Facilitated by two consultants and overseen by an advisory group ("Task Team") within the GBV AoR, the revisions process began with broad-based consultation including direct dialogue with over 100 individuals representing all Clusters, AoRs, and cross-cutting areas; 26 INGOs; 11 UN agencies; and five donor agencies. Two surveys were also distributed globally resulting in 428 completed responses. The feedback received during the preliminary consultative process formed the basis of an outline for the revised Guidelines that was approved by the Task Team.

The consultants have drafted and received comments from global cluster and sector focal points on 13 "thematic areas" of the revised Guidelines and are currently leading field reviews of these drafts in Kenya, the Philippines, Pakistan, Jordan and El Salvador. The finalized GBV Guidelines will be piloted in 2014. ●



The GBV AoR would like to thank those that have supported the project to date. For further information or to provide input to the project, please contact Julie Lafrenière at julielafreniere03@gmail.com

Housing, Land & Property



An architect and urban planner with over thirty years of experience, Mrs. Raquel Rolnik was appointed as the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing in 2008. In fulfilling her mandate, Raquel carries out regular country visits, including in post-emergency settings. The Housing, Land & Property (HLP) Area of Responsibility in the GPC presents this exclusive interview with the Special Rapporteur to share with the humanitarian community her experience and recommendations on ways to uphold and protect the right to adequate housing in emergencies.

Q.1: In previous years, your mandate has focused specifically on the right to adequate housing in post-emergency contexts. In your view, are humanitarians generally aware of the right to adequate housing?

The answer is both yes and no – the right to adequate housing is not well known generally. Since I began to work on the right to adequate housing in post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction, I had more and more interaction with the humanitarian sector. This interaction is absolutely crucial for my mandate because the experience of humanitarian actors is invaluable in order to better understand the challenges that exist on the ground to ensure the right to adequate housing for all. Conflicts and disasters often exacerbate pre-existing inequalities, challenges and obstacles faced by the population with regards to housing. The emergency response can further deteriorate the situation if it does not take into account pre-existing issues. On the other hand, the emergency response can also contribute to enhancing the right to adequate housing overall, and specifically for the most vulnerable groups of the population. This dialogue with the humanitarian sector has been very important for my mandate and I see more and more humanitarians actively engaging in this issue.

One key challenge on the ground is that donors are increasingly asking humanitarian actors to invest in or build shelter or houses and provide assistance upon land that is undisputed and for which titles are registered. In some cases, these conditions can exclude from relief assistance 100% of those in most need of shelter as they lack, especially in urban settings, registered titles on the land that they occupy.

Another challenge arises with relief assistance for relocation and resettlement - which is the current hegemonic view of how to address those that do not have registered property titles. Relocation can lead to

a breach of human rights of the target beneficiaries, in many different ways, because adequate housing is not about owning a house. The right to adequate housing is articulated in international legislation as an entry point, a portal by which people can have other human rights satisfied; the right to education, to health, food, income generating work and other human rights. I have seen both humanitarian and development projects where people are relocated to beautiful houses; permanent structures with proper sanitation facilities and a kitchen, but in the middle of nowhere with no access to schools, health, transportation or jobs. Relocating people who are very deeply rooted to income generating activities that depend on their location can lead to a worsening of inequalities and vulnerabilities, rather than enhancing the right to adequate housing.

This is one of the key issues, and it is why it is imperative to recognize the multiplicity of tenure arrangements which exist as being legitimate, and ensure the security of tenure of those arrangements in order to realize the mission of the right to adequate housing; the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, so that vulnerable people move from a bad situation to a better one, and from there to an even better one.

Q2. What would you tell to humanitarians who say there is no time in an emergency to really address pre-existing housing issues, in particular in relation to security of tenure?

Ensuring adequate housing in emergency is less about time than methodology. Rapid tenure assessments are required from day 2 of an emergency. If you have the right expertise in country to assess existing tenure arrangements, when the time comes to make strategic decisions on how best to provide for affected communities, humanitarian country teams will already have an idea of what the broader situation is and will plan for an appropriate response. Robust expertise and guidance exist.

There are several methodologies developed by organizations such as the World Bank, UNHABITAT, and Habitat for Humanity - and many others - on how best to map tenure arrangements. For instance, community mapping is an efficient way of carrying out such exercises, and most importantly to ensure that the affected communities are actively engaged in assessments, strategy development and planning. In post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction, mistakes with serious and lasting implications are directly resulting from top-down decision making process in which affected communities do not have a say in their own reconstruction, and if they are given a choice, it is usually a decision with regards to the type of shelter provided, they have no real say in the strategy of relocation and reconstruction.

Q3: Community participation in emergency response is also critical to enhance the resilience of communities affected by conflict or disaster. What links exist between the right to adequate housing and resilience to disasters?

This is a very important and contentious issue and I see two main approaches towards protecting communities.

The first is a ‘contractor driven’ approach which sees hard work, cement and stone as the means of protecting people. The second one is the ‘soft approach’ focused on finding ways for people to live in hazard-prone areas, and instead of seeing places as non-habitable, suggests that people can adapt to the environments in which they live. The whole issue of reducing disaster risk can however, be played with in different ways. In many places, forced evictions are carried out on the basis that people live in ‘risk-prone areas’. For example, in areas around rivers in urban centers generally perceived as risk-prone areas, such as in my home town, San Paulo, are occupied by the middle and upper classes, while the lower classes are forced to relocate. Of course, there are instances

where in order to ensure their safety, interventions are necessary and people will need to relocate.

We must also take into account the context in which the world is discussing these issues today. Great attention is given to climate change and its impacts, and at the same time land scarcity is becoming a reality, with fierce competition over land across the world in all contexts. The frontier of market-driven development is expanding, and land has been one of the pillars for both the expansion of rural agro-business and for real-estate in urban areas, which is linked to globalised financial investment in real estate. The context is not neutral – you cannot talk about resilience without taking into account the machinery that is pushing out poor people from their lands which they have been occupying sometimes for decades or centuries.

Q4: What are your priorities for the remaining period of your mandate and how will emergency situations feature?

The priority now is to further unpack the concept of tenure security and to develop guidelines on security of tenure for the urban poor. For this purpose, I am carrying out regional consultations, as well as dedicated consultations notably with humanitarian actors. Continuing the dialogue with the main actors working in humanitarian settings is imperative, as I think the guidelines should be useful for those that are operating in the field, in order for them to best serve those who need the most. My plan is to have this draft ready by the end of August and then again discuss this draft with different stakeholders, and the final version will be presented at the Human Rights Council in March 2014. ●

For more information please contact the HLP AoR Coordinator Szilard Fricska, fricska.unhabitat@unog.ch



The HLP AoR Coordination Toolkit will be updated on a regular basis according to the emergencies in the field and the needs of the country teams. Please share country examples and don't hesitate to provide feedback on existing tools. ➡ More at GPC Website

HLP Coordination Toolkit - List of Documents

1. Generic Terms of Reference for HLP coordination mechanism
2. Example of Terms of Reference (HLP Task Force in Afghanistan)
3. Matrix Template for Meeting Decisions and Actions
4. Template for Contact List and Meeting Attendance
5. List of HLP Needs and Response Monitoring Indicators
6. Template of Matrix for Mapping of Activities (5W)
7. Matrix Template for HLP Response & Funding Tracking
8. Examples of HLP Funding Appeal Project Sheets (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan)
9. Examples of HLP Advocacy Materials (Pakistan & Syria)
10. One-pager introducing the global HLP AoR HeLP-Desk
11. Generic Terms of Reference for recruitment/deployment of HLP Advisor
12. Request Form for HLP support from Norwegian Capacity roster



Child Protection



Child Protection Minimum Standards

at <http://cpwg.net/cpms-handbook>. Arabic and Spanish versions are expected to be available by the end of the year. ●

After finalising the Minimum Standards and the global launch in 2012, this year's activities are focused on awareness raising and support for practical application. A number of regional launches have taken place in East Africa, Somalia and Sudan with additional launches planned in over 15 countries. Details of future launches will be made available at <http://cpwg.net/minimum-standards>.



Guidance for the development of Contextualisation Workshops is currently being finalised. The workshops will allow countries to take priority Standards and make them context specific to have a practical understanding and work-plan to apply the Standards. A pilot Contextualisation Workshop will take place from the 10 - 12 September in Amman, Jordan.

Institutionalising the Minimum Standards and systematically integrating and applying them within policies, procedures and practice, is a current priority and checklists are being finalised to support agencies in this process. Institutionalisation directly supports implementation of the Minimum Standards by making them a systematic requirement. It is hoped that once they are institutionalised, using the Minimum Standards are not an added responsibility but become part of all Child Protection personnel's individual and organizational work.

For further information please contact:
Minja Peuschel Minja.Peuschel@rb.se or Susan Wisniewski susan.wisniewski@tdh.ch

The French translation of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action is now available

What's Been Happening

Placing protection at the centre of Humanitarian Action – Study on Protection Funding in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

The big picture of trends in protection funding is mixed. On the plus side, the total amount of funding (including ICRC and UNHCR) to protection has remained fairly steady, despite a decline in overall humanitarian funding since 2010. However, when we examine protection funding in appeals, it is always funded to a lesser extent than sectors perceived to be more life-saving. There are two general funding strategies available to the protection community at this juncture: (a) increase the supply by advocating for more funding for protection, and (b) increase the demand by improving the standing of protection within the overall humanitarian response and the quality of protection work. We are convinced that the best approach is to combine both: advocacy to increase the quantity of protection funding with action to improve the quality of protection work.

In the short term, there is room to advocate more within protection organisations for a greater share of un-earmarked or privately-raised funding. In the medium term, donors might increase their funding for protection, on the basis of results. When donors see better proposals from quality organisations achieving demonstrated outcome-level results, then funding for the protection should increase. Finally, in the long term there are good prospects for protection actors to access development funding for some aspects of protection, although to do so will require culture change within the humanitarian community, and in particular on the part of donor agencies. ●

Top tips for protection funding can be found on the GPC Website or here: http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/news_and_publications/GPC_funding_study_online_EN.pdf

Transformative Agenda Updates and Developments

Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) Reference Module

An inter-agency simulation of a 'Level 3' emergency was held in Switzerland in June 2013. The simulation was intended to test the Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism (IARRM) and other Transformative Agenda protocols and Guidance in the context of a Level 3

emergency, including the draft IASC HPC Reference Module. This module had been developed with input from all of the IASC subsidiary bodies working on different parts of the HPC. The simulation was an invaluable exercise as it allowed the guidance to be tested in a 'safe' environment and highlighted all the areas requiring further policy development and revision. The draft HPC Reference Module is now being revised in light of the simulation's key findings and recommendations and it is hoped to be completed by the end of September 2013. Other TA protocols will also be amended to take into account of the learning from the simulation.

IASC Reference Module for Cluster Coordinators at the Country Level

The CRM is about the basics of cluster coordination in non-refugee situations. It was compiled in 2012, in response to a request by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) as a reference guide for practitioners to facilitate the work through which humanitarian outcomes can be improved and is included as one of the Transformative Agenda (TA) Protocols. This module covers key issues related to Cluster Coordination identified in the TA, outlining key concepts and drawing attention to existing guidance, wherever relevant.

The first revision of this module with field and global inputs has just been completed and a final version is expected to come out at the end of August 2013, with two new chapters added, namely, Clusters and Sectors, and Role of Clusters in Preparedness while the chapters on Transition and De-activation of Clusters and Inter-cluster Coordination have significantly been updated. This module is planned to gather learning and good practice related to the components of the CRM from the field and will be made available at on the Humanitarian Response website, under the following link later this year: <http://clusters.humanitarianresponse.info> ●

ICRC – Health Care in Danger: moving to solutions

In 2011, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement launched the Health Care in Danger project, a global initiative led by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It has the ambitious objective to make health-care delivery safer by mobilizing experts to develop practical measures for decision-makers, military, humanitarian organizations and health professionals. The project is a response to a pressing humanitarian issue affecting thousands in armed conflicts or other emergencies: the violence against patients, health-care personnel and facilities.

An ICRC report, published in 2013, counted some 1 000 violent incidents against health-care gathered only within a year in 22 countries. Around 90% of the affected health-care workers were local staff or volunteers, which showed the importance to look for solutions in the field



and engage with, but also beyond the international community.

Considering that, the project has been gathering recommendations and best practices from Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, international and NGOs, states and researchers. Collaborating on this issue with the World Medical Association, the Doctors without borders and the WHO has been a particularly inspiring experience.

The outcome of the expert consultations, now entering in their final stage, is several tools, such as the already published guide for health-care workers in armed violence. A few more are coming in the next months, tackling the ambulance transport, the security of the medical facilities, the military practices and the national legal framework. In parallel, context-specific initiatives have been taking place on national level, for instance a joint campaign between the Red Cross and the authorities around a national medical emblem in Colombia.

The project also created an online community, where organisations and individuals working on the issue can find resources, exchanges experience and discuss solutions. Whether you are a practitioner, a researcher or an international staff, you are most welcome to join the Health Care in Danger community of concern. ●

For more information about the project:

www.healthcareindanger.org

To join the Health Care in Danger Online community:

www.healthcareindanger.ning.com

Help Age - Older people and forced displacement

At all phases of the displacement cycle – flight, displacement and return – older people are exposed to specific challenges and risks which are not sufficiently taken into account.

Being left behind... At the onset of a crisis, older people are often left behind when the rest of their community is displaced. One major reason is the physical incapacity of many older persons to move, whether real or perceived by their family. Older people may also feel particularly tied to their home and lands, or they may have ‘ridden out’ previous disasters. Moreover, the prospect of starting over again elsewhere may be too overwhelming for them. Lastly, older persons or their family may decide that it is important for someone to remain at home to secure their assets, which exposes older people to a range of additional risks.

During displacement... Humanitarian assistance is often not adapted for and/or is inaccessible to older people. For instance, an almost exclusive focus on communicable diseases overlooks the fact that much of the excess morbidity and mortality among older people results from non-infectious conditions such as

hypertension, diabetes and cancer. Similarly, the bulk distribution of undifferentiated dry food rations may suit the needs of aid organisations better than the needs of older people, who often have as much problems with the way the food rations are distributed as with the nature of the food itself. Furthermore, displacement often brings about a devastating loss of social status for older people, with the large contribution they normally make to society being ignored.

Returning home... Return can be a big challenge for older people who are often without family support or who are themselves caring for dependent children whom they are reluctant to take away from where they can receive basic services. The prospect of having to (re-)build housing can also be a great obstacle to older people’s return after displacement, as any older people are physically unable to rebuild their houses. ●

Geneva Call - Engaging Armed Non-State Actors (ANSAs) to Protect Displaced People

With financial support from Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Geneva Call has commissioned a new research on Armed non-State Actors (ANSAs) and displaced people in armed conflict. Building on an international conference co-organised by Geneva Call and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) in 2011, the research further explores the dynamics at play between ANSAs and the phenomenon of displacement, both internal and trans-border. It also provides an overview of the legal and normative frameworks applicable to ANSAs in displacement contexts and a mapping of current engagement efforts with ANSAs to protect displaced people.

The research highlights that in many conflict situations, displacement is not a deliberate strategy but a by-product of violations by parties to the conflict. The relationships between ANSAs and displaced people are complex and evolving. Framing them as ones of a “violators versus victims” nature only is too simplistic and ignores the potential protective role ANSAs can play. The research also found that engagement efforts by humanitarian actors focus generally on ensuring access and preserving the civilian character of displaced/refugee camps. There is very limited principled engagement with ANSAs on their responsibilities towards displaced people. The research concludes with a series of recommendations, including the need to develop further guidelines and strategies for engagement.

The research, conducted by Héloïse Ruaudel, Consultant for Geneva Call and Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law in Armed Conflict (ELAC), will be released shortly and made available on Geneva Call website: www.genevacall.org ●



News from your GPC Support Cell

GPC SUPPORT CELL

Information Management and Building capacities for coordination of protection responses in humanitarian emergencies through the Enhanced Response Capacity funding

Information management has increasingly become recognized as a crucial element in humanitarian settings, having far reaching consequences. Not only does it affect an operations ability to advocate and provide accurate information to governments and donors, but it also has profound repercussions on an operations ability to accurately program and thus make effective interventions for populations of concern.

In the last three years, emergency deployments in the area of information management to support cluster operations has increased three fold. The recognition of IM support in cluster operations and UNHCR's commitment to the provision of IM support in cluster emergencies has been institutionalized as can be seen through its activities within the ECHO funded "Building capacities for coordination of Protection responses in humanitarian emergencies through the Enhanced Response Capacity funding" project, which includes the adoption of a comprehensive IM strategy in the organization. Furthermore, this project has enabled UNHCR to put in place Information Management services guidance and tool support to field clusters in situations of internal displacement, while developing deployment readiness and surge capacity for emergencies to support country level clusters.

The Strategy Paper developed in 2011 sets out the key priorities to further strengthen the Information Management function at UNHCR, notably to fulfil its responsibilities as Global Protection Cluster Lead Agency. As indicated in the operational guidance from the Inter-Agency Committee (IASC) on using the cluster approach and more specifically on the responsibilities of cluster leads and OCHA in information management, the responsibility for ensuring appropriate information management needed for an effective and coordinated response rests with the Cluster Lead Agency.

To better fulfil its role, a dedicated protection IM officer is now based at the global level within the Global Protection

Cluster Support Cell in UNHCR's Headquarters in Geneva to consolidate lessons learned and provide strategic guidance to cluster members on IM issues. This will further strengthen its support on information management and analysis, which the Transformative Agenda identifies as key in strengthening response through predictability, accountability and partnership. The dedicated staff will be working, inter alia, on the rollout of protection information systems such as the Humanitarian Indicator Registry, as well as other important topics ranging from protection monitoring and needs assessment to specific field support. ●

GPC THEMATIC SEMINAR

Transitioning from Crisis to Recovery: the role of protection cluster

On 6 June 2013, the Global Protection Cluster organized a Thematic Seminar on Transitioning from Crisis to Recovery: The Role of Protection Cluster in order to identify a set of guidelines and recommendations to support Protection Clusters during the transition period. The Seminar was moderated by the GPC Coordinator and chaired by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, Dr Chaloka Beyani. The invitees included experienced practitioners from various UN, NGO and Academic Institutions who spoke under the Chatham House Rule.

The roundtable discussion drew on research, policies and experiences from the field to identify current challenges and perspectives to ensure a comprehensive transition of protection, from emergency response to development; while examining ways of improving Protection Clusters' and other actors' operational and coordination approaches for a responsible phasing-out.

Some key conclusions:

A crucial challenge identified was to continue engaging with the on-going humanitarian needs during transitions, and to avoid the exclusion of segments of the affected populations when engaging in development initiatives by leaving their specific needs unaddressed.

Core to transitions is the need for increased national ownership and a shift in objectives towards development. To this end, the Protection Cluster needs to lead from the front and consistently work with its members, in particular



GPC SUPPORT MISSIONS

national structures and the RC/HC in country, to inject a deeper understanding of existing structural needs and of existing competencies into initial humanitarian strategic planning.

A measured phase of transition by a protection cluster in country was also seen as a way for IDP Durable Solutions and their needs not to be dropped once the visible and politically unpopular urgent emergency phase ended.

The Protection Cluster's more effective engagement in strategic planning was seen as central. Suggestions of buying into a single plan while focusing on language and priorities that reflect government planning were made. Identifying where the Protection Cluster is most useful and humanitarian work essential, while clarifying the point at which the Protection Cluster needs to disengage, was seen as central to this strategic thinking. This would also require protection clusters and protection staff in humanitarian operations to be trained and supported to seek new approaches to achieve meaningful participation from communities, to move away from pro-forma role outs and to address complicated issues.

New opportunities were also seen in engaging with civil and political rights monitoring actors and engaging in advocacy on on-going violations, housing land and property issues (title documents, land reform, urban zoning, urban policy), Rule of Law (law and justice for impunity, transitional justice mechanisms, social cohesion), livelihoods as a protection tool; gender and diversity and inclusive policy development.

Alternative sources of funding were also perceived as being overlooked, notably peace building funds, while the more traditional donors were seen as needing structural changes in order for funding to be allocated outside of the country or core funding approach, to include non-life saving activities from the onset. This was seen as flowing from a mental block and a lack of understanding on how development and humanitarian action link up in the donor community, prohibiting cooperation and better coordination of both sectors.

At the global level, the need to draw on existing tools and to reinforce them, such as by lobbying and support the Secretary General's decision on Durable Solutions was seen as central to advocacy and sustained engagement with IDP issues. It was also noted that the Protection Cluster lead agency with its core interest partners, should mobilise itself more effectively as an advocacy platform to strengthen mainstreaming and inter-cluster roles to support the transition process in a country. There was consensus regarding the need to use a consistent human rights-based lexicon when addressing protection issues in order for protection to be built into all phases of the emergency, and beyond into development, translating population needs into rights. ●

As part of a longstanding partnership with the GPC, the ProCap project in order to "increase support to the field" as agreed in the GPC strategic framework 2012-2014, has deployed a roving ProCap Senior Protection Officer (SPO) to the GPC to undergo rapid support missions in cluster countries facing serious challenges and gaps to implement their core activities and respond to population needs.



Following missions to Mali, DRC, Chad and Somalia in 2012, the Central African Republic benefitted from two missions in 2013. The initial mission in February was instigated by direct dialogues with the field Protection Cluster. Central to this first visit were the consultations with HC/RC/ DSRSG, the inter-cluster, HCT members and BINUCA in order to identify the level of integration of protection within humanitarian policy and response in Central African Republic. The mission in July was arranged following the increasing protection concerns, especially with the members of the Séléka coalition that entered the capital city of Bangui and overthrew President François Bozizé in March 2013, which incurred a general situation of insecurity and violence impacting civilian population and humanitarian agencies.

With some 200 000 newly internally displaced peoples in South Sudan due to insecurity since December 2011 to date, protection risks raised from conflicts included lack of distinction between civilians and combatants by SPLA and armed non-state actors, dispossession, destruction, looting and forced recruitments. Subsequently, the Roving Procap SPO conducted a support mission to the Protection Cluster, notably in view to visit Jonglei state, where he specifically addressed capacity training needs on Protection Needs Assessments and M&E to the sub-Cluster. To date, recurrent inter-communal fighting and activities of armed non-state actors continue to destabilize communities in multiple locations.

Field Protection Clusters supported by the project recognized the benefit and added value of ProCap partnership with the GPC. ProCap experience in protection coordination and the interagency dimension of ProCap project contribute to the improvement of an inclusive approach by the GPC and field Protection Cluster. ●

For further information and mission reports from the GPC roving ProCap SPO, please visit the [GPC Support Missions' webpage](#) or contact the [GPC Support Cell](#).

JET

JIPS Essential Toolkit

It is simple. It works. Use it.
JET is the essential toolkit to
improve data collection

Disaggregated Data & Protection

Effective IDP protection must be well-informed. To better assist, protect and seek durable solutions for IDPs, we need to know who they are, where they are, what their needs and protection risks are, and what their desired solutions might be.

How does limited access to education impact girls and boys differently? What specific challenges do female headed households face? Are older IDPs receiving appropriate medical treatment? When trying to answer these types of questions with regards to a particular operation, it is undeniable that disaggregated data would be invaluable; collecting reliable information, disaggregated by sex, age, diversity and location, is crucial for targeted response, evidence-based programming, and effective advocacy and fundraising efforts.

How can the JET help you?

One way of collecting this data in IDP situations is profiling. Aimed at collecting “core data” (disaggregated population figures), profiling can also gather information on a whole range of protection and durable solutions-related subjects.

This year JIPS (Joint IDP Profiling Services) has launched the JIPS Essential Toolkit (JET) which is designed to improve the quality of the data you collect to have a better informed protection response. The toolkit is built on the background of JIPS’ growing field experience, and offers support to all stages of a profiling exercise: from the initial planning to the data collection and onto the report writing itself. The JET is designed in an innovative way whereby users can browse along a profiling timeline to identify the tools they need for each stage. The aim is to provide an alternative to starting from scratch each time field practitioners are embarking on a profiling exercise.

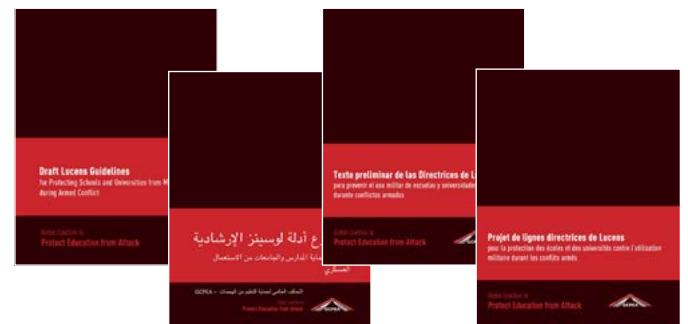


Discover the JET
at www.jet.jips.org

New Protection Standards, Guidance, and Resources

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) Releases Draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use

The GCPEA has just released the Draft Lucens Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict. These Guidelines have been drawn up with the aim of better protecting schools and universities from use by parties to armed conflict in support of their military effort, and to minimise the negative impact that armed conflict has on students’ safety and education. They are intended to serve as guidance for those involved in the planning and execution of military operations, in relation to decisions over the use and targeting of institutions dedicated to education. These Guidelines may also serve as a tool for inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations engaged in monitoring, programming, and advocacy related to the conduct of armed conflict. States and intergovernmental bodies are urged to encourage all parties to armed conflicts to act in accordance with these Guidelines, and help enable them to do so. The Draft Lucens Guidelines and accompanying preface, definitions, applicable international legal framework, and examples of good domestic law, guidance, and practice are available in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).



In the upcoming months and year, GCPEA will finalize and encourage support for and implementation of the Guidelines. For additional information, please refer to our Protect Schools and Universities From Military Use brochure available on our website, or contact gcpea@protectingeducation.org ●

An introduction to Inter-agency Gencap Advisor

The Gender Capacity Stand-by Project (GenCap) is a pool of gender advisers deployed on short notice to support the United Nations (UN) Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC), the humanitarian country teams (UNCT) and gender networks in the initial stages of humanitarian emergencies. Gencap Advisers' role is to facilitate and strengthen capacity and leadership of humanitarians in undertaking and promoting gender equality programming to ensure the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men of all ages, are taken into account in humanitarian action at global, regional, and country levels.

To fulfill their role, Gencap Advisers work closely with humanitarian actors, particularly with UN agencies, NGOs, cluster leads, and implementing partners to provide information, resources and training. They also conduct monitoring exercises to gauge, document and learn from effective gender programming while also identifying gaps where gender has not been well considered. Gencap Advisers provide technical advice and support project designers to plan and implement projects that integrate gender and age concerns, and to ensure that men and women have equal opportunities to access and benefit from assistance and support that cater to their different needs and experiences.

During Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal (CAP) season, Gencap Advisers assist Cluster Leads and partners with the review of their projects and provide technical advice about how gender and age dimensions of the projects may be improved. For the CAP season 2014, Gencap Advisers will continue to play a crucial role in supporting Clusters and Country Teams to enhance their capacity on gender equality programming. While Cluster Leads are responsible for ensuring that projects are gender and age responsive, the Gencap Adviser is available to assist in achieving this aim by helping to further the understanding of what gender analysis and gender equality programming may look like in a protection related activity. This may involve:

- 1 Undertaking a gender analysis of their cluster, identifying what the gender needs are and how the cluster may respond.
- 2 Supporting clusters to integrate gender into the needs overview, cluster response plans, strategic priorities.
- 3 Providing information and training to partners on gender equality programming, and the use of the Gender Marker.
- 4 Reviewing projects and verify coding for consistency and quality.

The Global Gencap Adviser supporting UNHCR led Cluster and co-led Clusters (including the Global Protection Cluster) will be reaching out to field Cluster Coordinators, offering one on one support in an effort to assist in the implementation of the IASC Gender Marker and to achieve UNHCR's goal of achieving 100% gender, age and diversity mainstreamed projects, i.e. Gender Marker code 2a/b. In addition to these consultations,

webinars, additional resources and technical guidance may follow depending on Cluster needs.

For further information on Gencap Advisers and the projects they undertake, do not hesitate to contact Mirjam E. Sorli (sorli@un.org) or visit the Global Protection Cluster website's dedicated page on [Gencap](#). To connect to the GenCap Supporting the Global Protection Cluster, please mail April Pham, pham@unhcr.org ●

ALNAP Urban Humanitarian Response Portal

The Urban Humanitarian Response Portal (<http://www.urban-response.org>) contains almost 1 200 resources, from guidelines to evaluations, on a wide range of topics including protection, IDPs, accountability, and security. The Portal was established in partnership with UN-Habitat following ALNAP's 27th Annual Meeting, Meeting the Urban Challenge: Adapting humanitarian efforts to an urban world to provide a central location for evaluations, research, tools and guidance about working in urban responses.

There are over 120 documents related to refugees and IDPs in the Portal, which include protection challenges, capacity development for displaced populations, guidance on, for instance, ensuring access to healthcare and education, risk identification tools, land and policy issues. There are also documents which cover urban responses in Nairobi, Yemen, Thailand and the current Syria crisis.

The Portal welcomes submissions of relevant documents and also hosts a webinar series (<http://www.alnap.org/ourwork/urban/webinars.aspx>) and the newly launched Urban Response Community of Practice (CoP) (<https://partnerplatform.org/urban-response>). The CoP is a place to share learning, ask questions, spread the word about new initiatives, highlight new documents and events, and identify others working in urban humanitarian response. The CoP already has over 150 members from over 43 countries across the globe with more joining every day.



ICRC: Professional Standards for Protection Work Update

As announced in a previous edition of the GPC newsletter, the revised edition of the Professional Standards for Protection Work has recently been published.

The Standards reflect **shared thinking** and **common agreement** among humanitarian and human rights protection actors. They were adopted through an ICRC-led consultation process.

This second edition takes account of changes in the environment in which protection activities are implemented providing standards and guidelines that meet the associated challenges, in particular regarding:

- Data management and new technologies.
- Interaction and dialogue with armed non-state actors, and with UN peacekeeping missions and other internationally-mandated military and police forces.
- Monitoring and evaluating the impact of protection activities.

Additional background information on the standards can be found on the ICRC website, in the Interviews Section.

The revised edition was officially launched during a one day seminar held in Geneva on April 11th 2013 that provided an opportunity to discuss current challenges amongst practitioners. Patrick Meier, from the Standby Taskforce, introduced the discussion with a keynote speech, available at <http://irevolution.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/meier-icrc-2013.pdf>. A post on his blog also provides useful perspective on the relevance of the Standards for Crisis mappers : <http://irevolution.net/2013/04/11/data-protection-for-crisis-mapping/> Further events have been organized to disseminate the document and promote discussion amongst concerned practitioners such as, Webinar with Crisis mappers ; Launch in Washington, DC with Interaction at USIP; Workshop in Washington, DC; Launch in London with ODI and ALNAP.

You can order copies of the document in English from the ICRC catalogue online, or download the PDF. The French version is now also available in on the same catalogue (as the Spanish and Arabic versions will soon be), in electronic format only: <http://www.icrc.org/fre/resources/documents/publication/p0999.htm>

An E-learning is also available on ICRC's LEARNING platform (English only for the moment), that should help all interested to familiarize themselves with the Standards: <https://learning.ext.icrc.org>

Training and Learning

ProCap's Inter-Agency Protection Capacity Trainings

Through one-week trainings, the Inter-Agency Protection Standby Capacity Project (ProCap) seeks to increase the number of qualified protection personnel and enhance the protection capacity within NGO standby rosters and UN agencies. The training focuses on skills, competencies and tools that allow for quick adaptation to different assignments with protection mandated agencies, including UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA and OHCHR. In 2013, ProCap has already held four Inter-Agency Protection Capacity Trainings in Dakar, Geneva, Oslo and Nairobi, in both French and English. The last ProCap training in 2013 was in Oslo from 24-29 November 2013 in English. In 2014, ProCap trainings will be held in: 12-17 January, Geneva (English) ; 06-11 April, Amman (focus on Syria crisis) and 15-20 June, Nairobi (English). ●

For further information on procap training opportunities contact, Mirjam E. Sorli (sorli@un.org) at the Protection Standby Capacity Project.

Protection Cluster Coordination Learning Program (GPC)

The Protection Cluster Coordination Learning Program was piloted in 2012 in the Philippines for the Mindanao Protection Cluster and then in Dakar as a regional workshop for West African Clusters (Mali, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire and Niger). A decision was taken by the Task Team on Learning (TTL) that country based learning programs have a stronger impact and will be the way forward. Towards the end of 2012, the TTL sent out an invitation to all Field Protection Clusters for an expression of interest in the Learning Program. Three clusters were then prioritized by the TTL membership for 2013, Afghanistan, Sudan and Pakistan.

The first five-day Protection Cluster Coordination Workshop for 2013 took place in Kabul with 30 participants from government, civil society and UN agencies from all seven regions of Afghanistan. The aim of the workshop was to support the Protection Clusters in the different regions by providing both technical as well as soft skills training during the first four days and creating the space for the cluster members to come together to use this knowledge to draft their strategy for the Protection Cluster on the fifth day. The training was facilitated in English by the GPC Learning Task Team (Head of Protection Unit of the Global Learning Centre and a Surge deployee) and the national UNHCR colleague based in Kabul.

The second workshop took place in Khartoum with 29 participants from civil society and UN agencies from different regions of Sudan. The aim of the workshop was to support the Protection Clusters/Sectors by providing both technical as well as soft skills training during the first four days and creating the space for the cluster/sector members to come together to use this knowledge to draft their strategy for the Protection Cluster/Sector on the fifth day and work on strengthening their coordination mechanism. The training was facilitated in English/Arabic by the GPC Learning Task Team and the UNHCR training colleague based in Khartoum.

The third workshop in 2013 took place in Islamabad with 29 participants from government from national and provincial levels, civil society and UN agencies from five regions of Pakistan. The aim of the workshop was to support the Protection Cluster at national and sub-national level in the different regions by providing both technical as well as soft skills training during the first four days and creating the space for the cluster members to come together to use this knowledge to draft their strategy for the Protection Cluster on the fifth day. The training was facilitated in English by the GPC Learning Task Team with the support of the national cluster coordinators and other colleagues based in Islamabad.

The fourth and last training in 2013 was held in Yemen in November and the first trainings in 2014 will be held in oPt. For more on the Protection Cluster Coordination Learning Programme please contact the co-leads of the GPC TTL GLC (Claudio J. Delfabro D., delfabro@unhcr.org/ Lobna Abdelhadi, abdelhad@unhcr.org) and iDMC (Kim Mancini, kim.mancini@nrc.ch). ●

Update from Protection Mainstreaming Task Team (GPC)

The Protection Mainstreaming Task team(PMTT) workplan for 2013-14 is structured around three strategic priorities; rolling out a pilot support package to at least four countries; developing an inter-agency training package based on lessons learned from the pilot rollout; and continuing global level outreach to the other clusters to assist them in meeting their protection mainstreaming targets. In February 2013, the PMTT learned of the success of the ECHO proposal which will greatly assist in achieving the above priorities in 2013-14.

A draft training package outline was developed and agreed between the PMTT members. The draft training package is intended to be a living document to be updated to incorporate lessons learned from each of the pilot support package rollouts. The PMTT aims to have a final endorsed inter-agency training package by early 2014.

In July 2013 the PMTT travelled to Niger to support the Protection Cluster lead the first pilot rollout. In addition the PMTT co-leads provided ad hoc technical assistance for the Syria response prior to the deployment of their Senior

Protection Officer. The PMTT very much welcomes these ad hoc requests for assistance. For those interested in making ad hoc requests we encourage you to visit our page on the GPC website that provides access to a range of resources and follow up with further direct requests to the GPC Helpdesk.

Protection Mainstreaming Workshop, 11-12 July 2013

The UNICEF-led Niger Protection Cluster, with the support of the Global Protection Cluster Protection Mainstreaming Task Team and IRC, had the privilege to host in July 2013 a two day workshop on “protection mainstreaming”. It was the first of this kind, with the new training outline being tested for the first time in Niamey. The event gathered humanitarian actors from various sectors, among which protection, as well as WASH, health, nutrition and food security specialists as well as government counterparts. The training also mainstreamed other cross-cutting themes, such as gender and communication. The involvement of government representatives across these various sectors contributed tremendously to strengthening the partnerships between government and non-governmental actors to facilitate the development of a sense of ownership and contributed towards ensuring the sustainability of protection mainstreaming.

The Protection Cluster was supported by OCHA and other cluster facilitators to advertise the training across the various sectors and an unexpected number of organizations and people had shown interest for the training, which eventually gathered 40 participants. Bringing together people from different sectors and backgrounds in the room had a real added value, as it allowed experience sharing in an atmosphere of trust and dialogue. This was key to the success of the training and people were enthusiastic about the opportunity to share with peers and colleagues.

Aimed at developing and reinforcing a more structured and systematic mainstreaming of protection by humanitarian actors at coordination and programmatic levels the training first provided the participants with an exposure to key concepts during the first day. It was also really practical and designed to support the various clusters to further develop their own action plans for protection mainstreaming.

Advocacy for protection mainstreaming is then grounded in specific actions to be taken by given actors and gets a more concrete dimension. Having such a working document as an outcome of the training is also valuable for the Protection Cluster lead that will follow up in the months to come and where needed provide support and technical guidance to other sectors and cluster leads. ●

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