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HUMAN RIGHTS ENGAGEMENT

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Webinar on strategic engagement with the HRC

The HRE TT held a webinar on 16th March on **Strategic Engagement with the Human Rights Council (HRC)** to ensure the application of international human rights law in humanitarian situations. The **HRC resolution on Promoting, protecting and fulfilling women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations (2020)** was used as a case-study.

The full recording of the webinar can be accessed via the following [link](#).



Peer exchanges

Two Peer Exchange webinars were organized by the GPC Task Team on Human Rights Engagement in February and March respectively. Following up on recommendations shared during the in-depth discussions, the Human Rights Engagement Task Team initiated Peer Exchange sessions on advocacy and **human rights in the context of field protection clusters**. Those webinars aimed at creating a space for sharing experiences, good practices as well as challenging experiences, and further determine the support that the Task Team on Human Rights Engagement can provide in this regard. Discussions were held under Chatham House Rules.



Advocacy plan

The **advocacy plan for the Task Team** has been prepared so as to reinforce its advocacy efforts at country as well as global levels. It is a living document outlining advocacy-related activities for 2021.

Collaboration with other task teams is anticipated – particularly with the GPC TT on law and policy and the TT on advocacy.

Consultations with the field protection clusters

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC)'s Human Rights Engagement Task Team (HRE TT) published a **report and action plan** on consultations with field protection clusters on human rights engagement and related support needs.

The series of consultations took place between 30 December 2020 and 22 January 2021, aimed at finding precise information on areas, topics, and issues on which the Task Team can provide support and in what way. The following protection clusters participated in the exercise: Niger, Chad, Mali, Nigeria, Mozambique, Syria (Whole of Syria), Venezuela, Burkina Faso. The consultations took the form of a conversation and represented an opportunity for exchange. As a result of the discussions, an action plan was prepared outlining the support that the Task Team will provide in 2021 to the eight protection clusters.

Follow the link to access the full [report](#).

GPC HRE TT provided all field protection clusters with a calendar of **upcoming opportunities to contribute to human rights mechanisms** in 2021. It can be accessed on the following [link](#).

Protection analytical framework

The Task Team on Human Rights Engagement has been collaborating closely with the GPC Information and Analysis Working Group on ensuring a human rights focus within protection analysis. IRC and DRC have led on the development of the Protection Analytical Framework in close collaboration with members of the IAWG. In the early stages of developing the PAF there were several consultations with a range of different actors to help set parameters of the framework including discussion on how to ensure that certain themes, including human rights will be adequately reflected in the protection analysis that is guided by the PAF. Exchanges with OHCHR to see which human rights focused indicators should be incorporated within the PAF tools are ongoing.

The PAF encourages our analysis to look beyond immediate humanitarian need, to better understand protection risks and the factors that drive and exacerbate risk. This approach to analysis helps ensure that when identifying risk, and consequent humanitarian need, we are also considering the root causes and the role of perpetrators and duty bearers. An understanding of these factors should support the identification of structural/institutional gaps that result in potential failure to uphold human rights. This holistic approach to protection analysis can therefore better inform the work of human rights actors and development planning, in addition to humanitarian response planning.

PAF can be accessed via the following link: [https://unhcr365.sharepoint.com/teams/dip-gpc-IAWG-External/Shared%20Documents/IAWG-%20External/Protection%20Analysis%20Framework/FINAL%20PAF%20DRAFTS%20\(awaiting%20edit%20and%20design\)](https://unhcr365.sharepoint.com/teams/dip-gpc-IAWG-External/Shared%20Documents/IAWG-%20External/Protection%20Analysis%20Framework/FINAL%20PAF%20DRAFTS%20(awaiting%20edit%20and%20design))

BASELINE INDICATORS

The following **baseline indicators** were proposed to support the evaluation of progress in 2021 in regards to the Task Team's field support:

- # of protection clusters amongst pilot countries that had a strategic interaction with Special Procedure Mandate holders in the past year;
- # of protection clusters amongst pilot countries that shared information with human rights mechanisms (other than Special Procedures Mandate Holders) in the past year;
- # of protection clusters amongst pilot countries that have a consolidated and continuous engagement with national human rights institutions;
- # of protection clusters amongst pilot countries that have used practical tools developed by the HRE TT or received dedicated support.

UPCOMING: HNPW TT'S EVENT

The **GPC Human Rights Engagement TT's event** will be organized at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships week, which will take place on 6th May at 13h.

You can **register for the event through the link** inserted in the save the date or directly via **this link**. Feel free to share it through your networks too!

Results of the GPC HRE TT satisfaction survey

The satisfaction survey was opened from 15 December 2020 to 18 January 2021. Fourteen task team members responded anonymously to the survey.

Most of the members are overall satisfied with the TT and its functioning. There were some suggestions on how to improve the relevance of the TT and the ability to progress with the workplan. There was a general consensus that the TT is on a good track. All the respondents reaffirmed their commitment throughout 2021. Meetings are appreciated for the moderation, frequency, duration and format.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ⇒ Keep monthly meetings and share material in advance.
- ⇒ Ensure more space to engage and for dialogues in the meeting, for instance, by keeping the agenda with a fewer items.
- ⇒ Provide regularly workplan updates to members.
- ⇒ Continue prioritizing tailored field support over HQ level and generalized support.
- ⇒ Create space for field-to-field exchanges, for instance, through webinars.
- ⇒ Diversify and increase membership through nomination of organizations that have experience in the field, not with the goal of increasing membership per se, but rather to include different viewpoints, targeting specific organizations that do human rights and humanitarian work, considering quality and diversification aspect.
- ⇒ In the sphere of advocacy there is a need for guidance and exchange through following a common thread in how and when to integrate advocacy in fragile contexts.
- ⇒ Engagement with NHRIs needs to be strengthened.

All recommendations are being followed up on by the HRE TT.

SG's Call to Action on Human Rights

In February 2020, the Secretary General of the United Nations launched the [Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights](#), in an effort to bring about a transformational change in the way that the United Nations and its partners engage with human rights. The Call to Action sets out overarching principles to achieve this goal and identifies seven domains where urgent action is required. 'Times of Crisis' is one of these; the main focus here is on the development of an Agenda for Protection, to help bring about a common understanding of the centrality of protection across the UN system. The Agenda will contain a short vision statement that sets out the key principles and parameters for more protection-sensitive approaches, and an operational plan that will offer concrete guidance and resources on how to implement these.

Since the launch of the Call to Action, an inter-agency task force has been established, bringing together 15 Secretariat departments, agencies and programmes, to develop a draft operational plan for the Agenda for Protection. The Global Protection Cluster is part of this task force.

The Agenda for Protection is expected to be launched in September 2021 as part of the Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* report to the General Assembly.

The Task Team is collecting inputs around guiding questions - get in touch if you are interested in learning more!

Three trainings on UPR delivered to field protection clusters

HRE TT, in collaboration with UPR-Info, organized three information sessions for civil society dedicated to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Webinars were held in French, Spanish and English.

The UPR is a State-led, peer-review process whereby the human rights record of each UN Member State is examined. This unique mechanism offers an opportunity for civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), UN agencies and human rights defenders to give an input into the review of their country.

The one-and-a-half hour webinars provided participants with an introduction to the UPR mechanism and its modalities. Specifically, the sessions provided an overview of the different entry points in this process for various stakeholders and briefly highlighted the linkages and complementarity with other human rights mechanisms and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The recordings can be accessed via the [link](#).

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