

GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER | STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2016-19

CONSULTATIONS AT INTERACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C., 18 November 2015

1. The Senior Protection Coordinator took advantage of an InterAction meeting on results-based protection to hold a consultation with InterAction member agencies and others on their expectations of the GPC going forward. While the participants in the consultation represented a broad spectrum of agencies from their headquarters the focus of the consultation was very much on the support the GPC could and should provide to field colleagues.
2. It was felt that the on-line resources of the GPC are helpful but there are no reminders or encouragement to use the website. It was suggested that the GPC website can be used more as a means of exchange between operations and the on-line resources should be updated.
3. The annual retreat was an eye-opener to several. The field clusters are engaged in a very wide range of activities that is not widely known.
4. The GPC has come a very long way in support to the field. It is more visible and supportive: the field is the primary client. Are we completely supportive yet? No. More can be done.
5. There was a great deal of discussion about whether the GPC can be more directional towards the clusters in the field. Maybe the clusters can be directed more.
6. The relationship between the AORs and the GPC should be looked at, because at the field level there is some dysfunction. The sub-clusters and the cluster do not seem to be working together and there are more linkages between mine action and CP and GBV that should be explored.
7. A country protection strategy is not a tool for prioritisation when everyone is pushing their issues forward. Agency interests are a problem in taking things forward. In particular, there is lots of territorialism in sharing information.
8. The new strategic framework should hint towards what the action plans should contain for the future. There is a need to prevent silos forming when talking about responsibility to prevent problems from occurring. Clear guidance would be needed for non-protection agencies to refer problems to specialist providers. What the relationship is between specialists and non-specialists should be touched upon in the strategic framework.
9. The GPC needs to give bespoke guidance to the field without necessarily engaging multiple interlocutors. It would be useful to know how the HelpDesk is working.

10. The GPC needs to raise awareness about what it can offer. National actors are not being engaged enough and radical thought is needed about how meetings are structured and what language they are in.
11. The Task Teams could put more on the website, e.g. the materials collected by the TT-L.
12. There is a lack of consistency in the strengths of cluster coordinators in the field; where is there a mechanism to feed back about the coordinators? And where is the mechanism for the GPC to provide help to underperforming coordinators?
13. Is the GPC open to all participants at the country level? Or does it only relate to co-leads at the country level? This affects the role of the GPC as influencer or in being more directive. The accessibility of the GPC is not widely known, so the influence on country leadership is not used in order to address leadership problems.
14. The agenda of the GPC should be more field-driven and not just engaged on the global policy agenda. The amount of time devoted to engagement other than with the field needs to be looked at, i.e. in meetings in Geneva with little output.
15. The GBV AOR is lacking in skill sets although generally seems to be becoming more proactive in response to humanitarian issues.
16. The cross-cutting nature of protection and the spectrum from prevention to environment-building is a difficult issue which the GPC should focus more on.
17. Mainstreaming training, e.g. in Somalia has been very useful and made the cluster more accessible to other clusters.
18. The expectations on cluster leads at the country level are enormous. An audit of the operation, including the support given by the GPC during the year, would be helpful in looking at the leadership of the cluster in a non-threatening way. The cluster should be using more regularly the self-assessment.
19. ProCaps could be used more regularly to work on discrete issues, e.g. development of a HCT protection strategy.
20. What contributions different actors can make to protection needs explanation. Partners can also contribute to solving the lack of awareness of protection on the ground.
21. The GPC should be using social media more in order to communicate what protection is. What are the messages we need to communicate? Social media is a means to an end but what is the end we want to achieve? We need to say the same things over and over again and social media is useful in that endeavour.
22. The GPC has changed for the better in many ways, the annual retreat is a good opportunity to meet field colleagues. The retreat could be used for peer-to-peer learning. It would be interesting just to hear what some field clusters are doing. The acceptance of NGOs within the cluster has changed dramatically from five years ago but non-Geneva NGOs need to be engaged more and technology needs to be used more to reach out to the field. The field briefings are useful and interesting.
23. The field support function of the GPC is a *sine qua non* but the development of a community of practice and the round-tables are very

useful. The consolidation of the lessons learned is an important element, the exchange in a structured manner is useful. The GPC is a unique forum that brings together various actors and its strength should be used but there is room to grow into this effort.

24. There are many initiatives in protection globally but participants would like to see the GPC engage more, using the network power of the GPC better to engage a wider body in discussing protection policy. More substantive discussions are required at the GPC and less focus on process and the GPC leadership should take part in substantive discussions taking place around the world.