

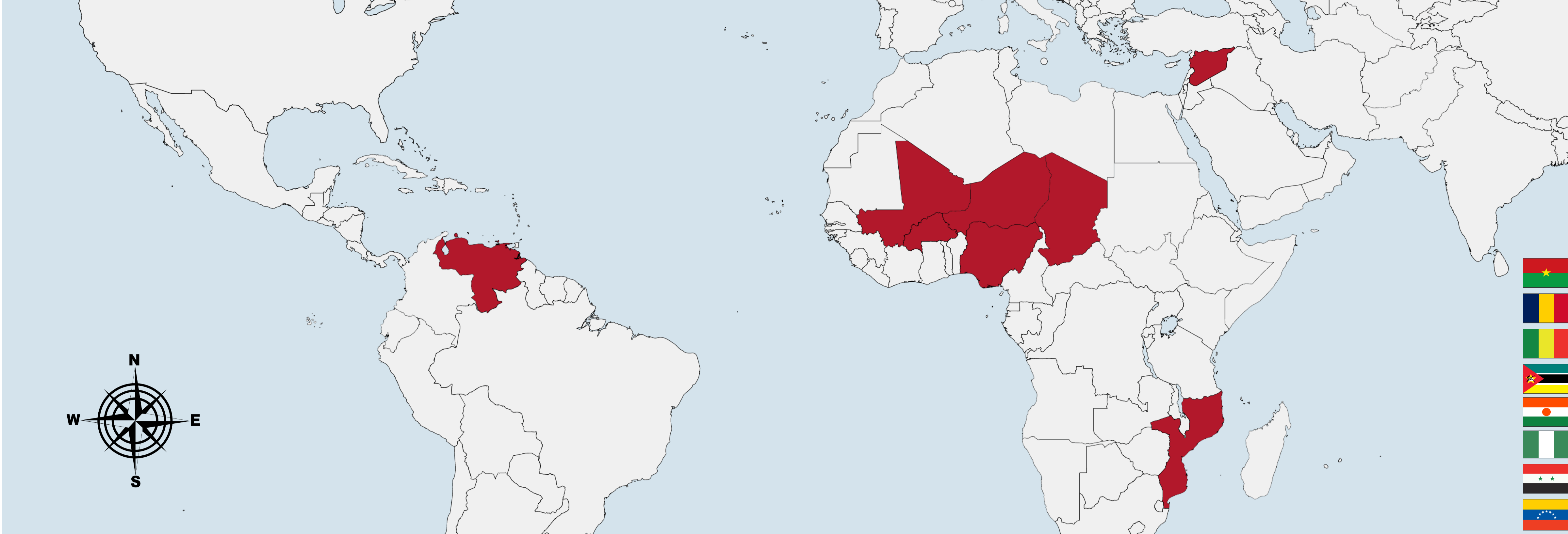
GPC Task Team on Human Rights Engagement

8 Pilot Countries in 2021

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Syria, Venezuela

Mid-Year Update

July 2021



Engagement with National Human Rights Institutions

NIGERIA

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was invited by the PC to deliver a presentation regarding their activities in PC's areas of operations.
- PC reports regarding unsafe returns were shared with the NHRC.
- The NHRC is an implementing partner of UNHCR's own protection unit and involved in protection monitoring. UNHCR protection monitoring reports were shared with the PC.

CHAD

The NHRI has been invited to participate in PC meetings, but does not participate on a systematic basis. The Protection Commissioner recommended that a meeting be set up with the heads of the CNDH, UNHCR and the protection cluster coordinator to formalise the collaboration,

NIGER

Good Practice Example

When the PC received reports of violations being committed against civilians by the Chadian military in Tera, it seized the NHRC and its involvement was substantial. The NHRC carried out an investigative mission and confirmed the reports. As a result, the G5 Sahel and the Chadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have launched press releases admitting the crimes had been committed and sanctions were issued against those responsible.

VENEZUELA

The NHRI is a member of the PC and regularly participates in PC meetings.

Engagement with International Human Rights Systems

MOZAMBIQUE

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW : The PC utilized its network of NGOs to bring issues that could be raised during Mozambique's review to diplomatic missions based in Maputo. As a result, reviewing countries raised issues related to access to humanitarian assistance for the IDPs.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES : The PC prepared key messages on relocation that were shared with the Special Rapporteur (SR) on IDPs through the local OHCHR office. These messages were included in a confidential communication to Mozambique prepared by the SR and 7 other mandate holders.

NIGER

Collaboration between PC and OHCHR has positive impacts on the protection of IDPs in Niger. For example, during the Mangaizé crisis, the PC sent an advocacy brief to the authorities of the Tillabéri region arguing for the acceptance of IDPs in a secure environment and the non-refoulement of IDPs, resulting in IDPs being transferred to a safer site.

MALI

For the first time, the PC provided analysis and recommendations that fed into the Annual Report of the Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Mali.

The PC leveraged the IE's recommendations to conduct strong advocacy on grave human rights violations committed by Malian defense and security forces.

CHAD

The PC participated in consultations with the SR on IDPs related to her thematic report on arbitrary displacement in the context of armed conflict and generalized violence to be presented to the GA in October 2021.

Advocacy for Increased Protection of Affected Populations

MALI

The PC and AoRs is working on developing key harmonized advocacy messages, including human rights ones such as messages on the respect of IHRL and IHL. Human rights advocacy messages are regularly included in the recommendation section of the "Protection Monitoring" monthly reports.

BURKINA FASO

In June, the Protection Cluster, in collaboration with OHCHR, developed an Advocacy Note for the protection of civilians. This was done in the face of growing violence against civilians, which claimed the lives of more than 200 people in only a few weeks time.

MOZAMBIQUE

The PC has worked with its members to create key protection messages with respect to IDP relocation and how these relate to human rights. OHCHR has greatly supported this initiative.

NIGERIA

The PC responded or coordinated its members' response to calls for submissions by human rights mechanisms or UN processes concerning human rights and IHL:

- A confidential submission to High-Level Panel on IDPs
- A confidential submission to SR on IDPs
- A contribution to UNSG Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (through OCHA)
- Written submissions by HLP and Anti-Trafficking Task Force to SR on Adequate Housing; SR on Sale & Exploitation of Children Respectively.

CHAD

The PC's advocacy note in March 2021 used human rights references (access to protection, food, shelter etc. being about access to basic human rights). Key advocacy messages regarding relocation of IDPs due to climate were developed with reference to the SR on IDPs thematic report on internal displacement and climate change.

Protection strategies and the inclusion of human rights

BURKINA FASO

The Action Plan for the HCT Protection Strategy has been finalised and implementation is in the making. The Plan reflects the engagement of human rights in the work of the Cluster in a clear manner.

NIGER

At the HCT level, the protection cluster regularly updates and presents the dashboard of protection risks based on the human rights approach, and it advocates on important humanitarian issues as well as resource mobilization.

Capacity Building

"Some members of the cluster are enrolled in the HRE learning programme, which has sparked great interest/ideas of members vis-a-vis added value of engaging with HR mechanisms. The PC has been very satisfied with the proactive support offered by the HRE TT."

- Chad PC

"HRE TT was very supportive and we are satisfied with the engagement we had with them."

- Venezuela PC

PC protection monitoring activities and human rights information

CHAD

Protection monitoring in Chad integrates human rights aspects. The presentation of the PAF to cluster members in the June 2021 meeting resulted in decision by PC to establish a task team (OHCHR, UNHCR, CNDH, CNARR and UNDP) to conduct legal review of laws in Chad that protect IDPs/ highlighting strengths and gaps for enhanced rights-based advocacy initiatives.

NIGER

The cluster uses protection monitoring data to conduct human rights-based protection analyses. This feedback allows the cluster to have a solid protection analysis and to make various submissions.

Peer Exchange Sessions Between Field Protection Colleagues on Human Rights Related Topics

"Any exchange that focuses on 'lessons learnt' or 'good practices' from different operations are useful to us to reinforce our human rights engagement."

- Mali PC

"Very useful. They have been very educative for peer-learning, sharing experiences on challenges, good practices, and strategies."

- Syria PC

Monthly Thematic Webinars on Topics Related to Human Rights Engagement

"These exchanges are beneficial because they allow us to learn and know how to redirect our actions. For example, regarding Niger, there are no ways to carry out advocacy with non-state armed groups but through these exchanges we have directed our concerns on the protection of IDPs to the government, advocating for the State to, for example, provide sites, improve reception conditions and secure the areas of origin."

- Niger PC

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