



# **SUMMARY OF THE GPC ROUNDTABLE ON CONTRIBUTING TO COLLECTIVE PROTECTION OUTCOMES THROUGH THE NEXUS**



**Global Protection Cluster**

**September 2020**

## **BACKGROUND**

In line with the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) [Strategic Framework 2020-2024](#) and publication of the [UN-IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes](#) in June 2020, strengthening humanitarian-development-peace collaboration has been identified by the majority of stakeholders as a top priority. This also reflects the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), in which donors, NGOs, and crisis affected states emphasized the criticality of collective and more cohesive action. Moreover, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals set out not just to meet needs, but to reduce risk, vulnerability and overall levels of need providing a reference framework for humanitarian and development actors to contribute to the common vision of supporting the furthest behind first and a future in which no one is left behind. The New Way of Working can be described as working towards achieving collective outcomes that reduce needs, risks and vulnerability over multiple years, based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors.

## **AIM**

The aim of the Roundtable event was to provide an opportunity for national protection clusters and area of responsibility (AoR) coordinators and co-coordinators to engage with development and peacebuilding actors to enhance their common understanding of the respective processes, tools and frameworks applicable to development, human rights, and peace actors. Through the presentations and discussions, the organizers hoped to enable a more coherent integration and partnership among the humanitarian, development and peace communities.

## **SCOPE**

In 2020, the GPC and national protection clusters have worked to advocate for the rights of 191M people in need of assistance, of which 104M people were in need of protection services and assistance. The organizers from the GPC, IOM, Mine Action AoR, Oxfam and UNDP identified global humanitarian and development experts, field colleagues and donor experts working in the area of humanitarian, development, peace, and the nexus for a virtual two hour Roundtable event on 17 September 2020 with eighty participants of the national protection clusters and area of responsibility (AOR ) coordinators and co-coordinators.

## **I. Donor Perspective – An example from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

The Swedish donor focused on a few key issues to improve synergies between the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. The speaker recommended that there should be a linkage between community programming plans undertaken by humanitarian actors with local development plans instituted by national institutions. The speaker cited examples such as the accommodation of people with physical disabilities or ensuring the enrolment of students in language classes offered by local schools. One of the other key areas to consider, included the diversification of the funding base for protection activities to ensure that agencies do not only respond to short-term emergencies, but they collaborate closely with development actors to support local skills development, leadership and action. The donor expert recommended that collaborative efforts between humanitarian and development actors should include the integration of collective priorities into existing plans such as local development plans, the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) transition plans.

## **II. A Brief Overview of the UN-IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes**

An Oxfam speaker who is the IASC Results Group 4 co-chair presented the UN-IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes, published in July 2020, through the collaboration between the IASC Results Group 4 on humanitarian and development systems, UNHCR and WHO with the UN Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration (JSC). The IASC Light Guidance is a live document meant to ensure a common understanding of analysis, funding and financial strategies and effective coordination initiatives. The Guidance aims at senior management across the UN and Non-Governmental Agency Heads and donor representatives as well humanitarian, development peace community and their teams.<sup>1</sup> The A collective outcome is a jointly envisioned result with the aim of addressing and reducing needs, risks and vulnerabilities requiring the combined efforts of humanitarian, development and peace actors, as appropriate.<sup>2</sup> The Guidance highlights key steps and questions that should be answered during the process of creating and delivering context-specific collective outcomes. The focus of the IASC Light Guidance included several elements such as flexibility from stakeholders, efforts to mobilize bilateral donors and international financial institutions to engage new business models for collective and/or collaborative outcomes. In conclusion, the speaker flagged the need for quality funding as well as multi-year plans between the humanitarian and development agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> UN-IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes, June 2020, 1

<sup>2</sup> IBID, 2.



### **III. Collaboration in Somalia between the Protection Cluster and the Durable Solutions Unit of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office**

The Protection Cluster Coordinator and Durable Solutions Coordinator from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Somalia presented the collaboration between the protection cluster and the durable solutions unit in Somalia. The speakers stressed that their engagement with durable solutions is an important way to communicate as respectively humanitarian and development actors. The speakers highlighted the key areas of engagement between the protection cluster and the durable solutions unit that included: Active participation in durable solutions working groups; and capacity building of protection cluster members to better understand durable solutions. They stressed their joint work on guidance documents and strategies, missions, assessments, and analyses. The speakers cited their joint work in Somalia in the relocation processes of people who were at risk of eviction and insecurity in Barwaaqo and Bar Bulsho. In these two cases the protection cluster members and durable solutions experts applied the "Do No Harm" principle.

The speakers stated that the key elements of their collaboration included: i) voluntariness of the return/relocations/re-integration ii) organizations of returns/relocations; iii) safety and dignity of returns/ relocations iv) a participatory approach v) protection by presence and monitoring. Through these key elements, the speakers concluded that the displaced persons received appropriate information. They collaborated closely with local authorities and organized structured discussions with the displaced community. Finally, they ensured that they linked these elements with a wider community development strategy that considered the return and reintegration needs of the displaced people in the two locations.



#### **IV. Key Messages and Conclusions**

- 1) Humanitarian, peace and development agencies to work together to close the gap in reference to their respective processes and frameworks.
- 2) Increase the inclusion of issues of transitional justice, non-discrimination, equity, into development frameworks.
- 3) Ensure that collective outcomes build on existing national and local plans such as development plans and humanitarian plans (e.g. the HRP) for the benefit of crisis-affected populations in need of protection.
- 4) Undertake an area-based approach on identification of needs to bring together the different humanitarian, peace and development actors.
- 5) Humanitarian and development actors to mobilize bilateral donors and international financial institutions for collective or collaborative outcomes.
- 6) Development actors/agencies to collaborate more actively with humanitarian actors/agencies and ensure that they are part of the discussion and planning efforts.