



Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Working Group

Terms of Reference

As of 24th February 2020

Scope of the HLP Working Group (WG)

Given the emerging prominence of housing, land and property (HLP) issues throughout Ethiopia, a group of protection and shelter actors agreed on the need for a HLP Working Group.

With its activation, it has been agreed by involved actors (UN agencies and inter-/national NGOs) that the working group shall focus primarily on HLP issues that are emerging as critical challenges for the immediate realisation of programs and projects under the Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Reflective of the cross-cutting nature of HLP issues, the HLP WG will be an inter-sectoral working group, with a dedicated advisory role to the Protection and ES/NFI clusters, while the group will also provide an advisory role and technical expertise – as requested – to other UN and NGO coordination structures, such as the Durable Solution Initiative.

Mission Statement

To facilitate and provide technical support on HLP rights, issues and concerns of immediate relevance to the realisation of current humanitarian programming in Ethiopia, enabling a more informed, predictable, accountable and efficient humanitarian response to HLP issues, arising in the context of the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the HLP WG is to facilitate a more systematic approach to identifying, understanding and addressing HLP issues affecting persons of concern and directly impacting the work of the sectors at national and sub-national levels.

This will be done by promoting collaboration and complementarity of efforts amongst government entities and agencies undertaking HLP activities and by addressing identified gaps in technical areas. The HLP WG recognizes that the Government of Ethiopia has the primary responsibility to protect and promote the HLP rights of all individuals within its jurisdiction, in accordance with its international and national legal obligations.

Participation and Principles of Partnership

The HLP WG is a technical and participatory forum which is comprised of UN Agencies, international and national non-governmental and humanitarian organisations, research and academic institutions and development agencies and representatives of relevant sectors operating inside Ethiopia. Attendance is expected to be at the senior technical level. Each member nominates one regular representative and one alternate representative that will attend at the WG's regular meetings. By participating in the WG, each member commits to work towards the realisation of its objectives and to make time and human resources available to carry out tasks agreed by the participants.

For membership roles, the voting threshold to confirm participation of new members is 51% of all votes received during the relevant meeting. The contact list is considered the list of members and their representatives in the HLP WG.



Functions

The work of the HLP WG will be guided by relevant national laws, policy guidelines in the field of HLP (such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs, and the Pinheiro Principles), relevant technical standards, as well as other principles of international law (international human rights law and– where applicable – International Humanitarian Law).

The HLP WG will facilitate effective preventive, responsive and remedial action on HLP matters through:

- a) Strengthen the capacity of government, other stakeholders (traditional leaders, religious leaders, members of civil society) and humanitarian actors to identify and address HLP issues;
- b) Analysing the national HLP framework and relevant legislative and administrative provisions (foundation work);
- c) Contributing to the identification and to the resolution of HLP issues in Ethiopia, with initial particular reference to those issues stemming directly from the implementation of the HLP sector plans and projects;
- d) Providing technical guidance and expert advice on HLP matters to national and international actors in Ethiopia;
- e) Enhance awareness on specific issues related to HLP to different stakeholders and advocate for the realisation of HLP rights towards the country;
- f) Enhancing the monitoring and upholding, predictability and effectiveness of HLP-related activities, including HLP specific outputs within the Protection Cluster strategy and HRP;
- g) Increase access to security of tenure for affected populations;
- h) Harmonize HLP tools and ensure the mainstreaming of HLP into multisectoral assessments.

Specifically, the WG shall endorse a yearly work plan as an integral part of the Terms of Reference.

Coordination

NRC and UNHCR Protection Cluster co-chair the working group. As issues relating to HLP cuts across several ministries, the involvement of other ministries and local authorities is crucial for purpose of coordination and response.

HLP Working Group Convener Responsibilities

The convener of the HLP WG will:

- Convene the meeting (venue, contact with participants, obtaining suggestions and preparing the agenda).
- Ensure adequate preparation and dissemination of material and information.
- Ensure the follow-up and tracking of relevant actions under the work plan.
- Compile the minutes of meetings and follow up on agreed action points.

The HLP WG will be convened on a rotational basis by NRC and UNHCR and any other member(s) of the group with a permanent representation in Addis.

Frequency of Meetings

The HLP WG shall be convened on a monthly basis, unless otherwise called for by at least three members. Informal technical sub-groups may be created to facilitate the work on specific issues.

Revision of Terms of Reference and Work Plan of the HLP WG

The Terms of Reference and work plan of the HLP WG may be reviewed on an annual basis or as requested by the majority (51%) of the members of the WG.