

HCT STRATEGY

CENTRALITY OF PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN UKRAINE

May to December 2022

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The humanitarian context in Ukraine is unique amongst today's crises. The launch in February 2022 by the Russian Federation of a full-scale military invasion, which has followed eight years of armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, has already affected millions of Ukrainians, many of them civilians, displaced millions of peoples, caused civilian deaths and injuries, and damage to civilian buildings, including hospitals, schools, and homes. The current situation remains directly tied to the impact of prolonged military operations, predominantly happening into urban environment where intense hostilities have been conducted with a critical lack of distinction between civilian and military objectives resulting into a wide impact on civilian casualties and exacerbating human suffering, separation of communities, internal displacement, damage on infrastructure, high levels of landmine and unexploded ordnance-contamination.

The nature of this crisis fundamentally challenges compliance and respect with International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law as well as normative principles related to the protection of civilians. The ongoing armed violence in Eastern Ukraine and rapidly deteriorating security environment in civilian living space is putting hundreds of thousands of people's lives at risk. The international armed conflict between the Federation of Russia and Ukraine must be governed by International Humanitarian Law, including the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I, which apply to all parties to the armed conflict, obligating them to always distinguish between civilians and combatants, and to take precautions to protect civilians and other non-combatants from the hazards of war.

A series of worrying developments has increased the level of humanitarian needs in Ukraine. Of particular concern are:

- Full-scale military operation in eastern Ukraine with excessive impact and threats to the physical security of civilians involving cluster munitions and the disproportionate use of explosive weapons in urban environment, including internationally banned weapons.
- Interference by the parties to the conflict of access to humanitarian assistance and limiting access to food, medicine, education, and adequate housing.
- The limited measures taken by the parties to the conflict in avoiding the recurrence of breaches of their obligations to prevent violations of the rights and unnecessary harm on civilians in accordance with the letter and the spirit of IHL and IHRL.
- The security constraints in areas directly affected by the conflict and in areas outside of Government control, combined with bureaucratic impediments on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.
- The lack or limited knowledge by the parties to the conflict, local authorities and relief providers about the nature and operating principles for humanitarian action context, which require a clear distinction from military action.
- The need to ensure a human rights-based approach in the provision of support to the Government of Ukraine in its efforts to assist affected populations and promote humanitarian principles with national counterparts for delivery of assistance to affected peoples.
- The scale of displacement, dynamic and underscoring complex protection issues to which humanitarian assistance to Internally Displaced Peoples must address their most urgent needs and identify opportunities for long-term durable solutions.

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Against this backdrop, the HCT Protection Strategy Working Group has developed this Protection Strategy to support the humanitarian response. It will strategically leverage the resources of the HCT to establish a system to address protection within assistance delivery, promote legal norms, advocacy, confidential representations, and humanitarian diplomacy to ensure a coherent protection approach that addresses the causes and consequences of violations and abuses of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, including those contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its protocols. The HCT's Protection Strategy

takes stock of the previous HCT Protection Strategic framework (2019 – 2021) that already captured some of those existing challenges, to allow the HCT, protection partners and other duty bearers to 1) strengthen evidence based advocacy support on the most critical protection risks, 2) promote accountability for obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law with the parties to the conflict and other humanitarian duty bearers, and 3) ensure that all collective actions assisting conflict affected peoples, including Internally Displaced Peoples and those remaining to address immediate and longer-term protection needs.

PRIORITY ISSUES

The below issues have been identified as the priorities for HCT strategic and policy leadership, including through coordination and advocacy means for the duration of the strategy:

The Humanitarian Community under the leadership of the Humanitarian Country Team and the Humanitarian Coordinator works toward ensuring verification of the violation of International Humanitarian Law in the conduct of hostilities, including treaties and conventions banning the use of cluster munitions, explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas and other internationally banned weapons, and promote accountability for compliance by the parties to the conflict.

through the provision of minimum-security measures for those displaced as result of the hostilities, and facilitating safe relocation from conflict-affected zones, while ensuring minimum humanitarian and protection assistance to those remaining in place.

Promote the respect of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law by armed non-state actors and the Russian Federation armed

forces when they exercise an unconsented-to effective control over the Ukrainian territory and its residing population. Ensure full and unhindered humanitarian access to civilians in all conflict-affected areas of Ukraine to promptly deliver humanitarian and protection assistance, notably for persons or groups exposed to specific risks, such as children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities and those displaced as the result of the hostilities.

Protect humanitarian operating space and ensure that all humanitarian actions are informed by a multidisciplinary protection risk analysis and targeted strategy for improving protection of civilians in its broadest sense in accordance with International Humanitarian Law and operating humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Ensure a human rights-based approach in all activities aiming at restoring family life and livelihood capacity of internally displaced peoples and returnees, and support access to essential services for those with special needs, such as women, children, elders, and those with disabilities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1. The expertise, mandates, and capacities of the HCT are mobilised to identify and respond to risks inherent to the protection of civilians in the armed conflict affecting Ukraine.

Guiding principles

Protection of civilians is the responsibility of all parties to the conflict. Ukraine and the Federation of Russia are state parties to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as to the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts of 1977, which prohibits indiscriminate attacks against civilians and objects indispensable to their survival. Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions requires that persons not taking an active part in hostilities be treated humanely and prohibits at any time and in any place violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilations, cruel treatment, and torture, the taking of hostages, and outrages upon personal dignity.

The parties to the conflict must ensure that all necessary precautions are taken to protect civilians and other protected persons, including those hors de combat. Furthermore, attacks against medical facilities and health workers, education facilities and officials, and the wounded and sick are also prohibited. The wounded and sick must be collected and cared for without discrimination.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol¹ aims to protect children from recruitment and use in hostilities.

Strategic approach

Protection of civilians affected by the hostilities is promoted in accordance with International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. The expertise, mandates, and capacities of the HCT are mobilised to document and respond to risks inherent to the protection of civilians in the armed conflict affecting Ukraine.

The HCT increases humanitarian engagement to influence the parties to the conflict, UN member states and all actors involved in acting to avoid unnecessary harm on civilians during the conduct of hostilities, ensuring respect for International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law,

and their domestic laws, including those regulating military operations.

- Efforts should be made in tandem with ongoing actions by the International Committee of the Red Cross and ensure the involvement of the United Nations agencies, International Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil society Organisations with specific protection mandates or responsibilities and should facilitate dialogue that raises awareness and enhance documentation of possible violations through harmonised reporting mechanisms increasing the understanding of protection risks faced at the hands of armed forces and associated groups.

Priority activities

The Protection Strategy Working Group in coordination with the HCT and the office of the Crisis Coordinator in Ukraine develops a comprehensive advocacy and negotiating approach on protection of civilian through:

- ➡ The conduct of a comprehensive stakeholders mapping of diplomatic, political, and other high-level fora, including human rights mechanisms.
- ➡ The development of evidence based key messages and legal definitions according to IHL and IHRL on key protection concerns, including those affecting women, children, and other affected populations.
- ➡ Regular analysis on national legal framework's conduciveness towards effective provision of protection and relief.
- ➡ The issuance of quarterly updates on protection of civilians.
- ➡ Together with the Humanitarian Access Working, advocacies and negotiations are enhanced for the effective provision of protection and relief to all civilians affected by the armed conflict.
- ➡ The promotion for the respect of IHRL and IHL wherever parties to the conflict's armed forces and their affiliates exercise control over territory and its residing population

¹ Ratified by Ukraine on the 2nd Sep 2016

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Goal 2. Protection is at the centre of response, including by ensuring that the response remains principled, avoids doing harm, and serves the most vulnerable and in need.

Guiding principles

In accordance with the [IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action](#), the Humanitarian Country Team must ensure that the Centrality of Protection is integrated in all Humanitarian Actions across inter-agency strategic planning and area-based response to the consequences of the conflict for affected persons or those at risk. Humanitarian actors in Ukraine thereby must privilege the special needs of vulnerable, higher-risk groups, including those directly affected by the conflict, internally displaced persons (IDPs), women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Humanitarian duty bearers and all parties involved in the response are held accountable for the respect of international legal obligations and centrality of protection that should drive the humanitarian response in Ukraine.

Strategic approach

The HCT ensures that protection informs all humanitarian decision-making and that clear indicators measure the impact of all humanitarian actions alongside the protection needs of civilians in areas directly affected by the conflict or outside of government control through comprehensive conflict-sensitivity and protection risk analysis. The HCT ensures that protection is central to all response planning and operational management, as part of immediate and life-saving activities, and throughout the duration of humanitarian response and beyond.

Priority activities

The HCT strengthens protection across the inter-agency strategic planning and area-based response through:

- The provision by the PSWG of regular updates on key protection trends and priorities for follow-up strategic and policy recommendations, decisions, and actions, including on adapted measures to strengthen protection mainstreaming in the response.
- The provision of a compulsory basic training for all humanitarian partners on the Centrality of protection in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.

- Peer-to-peer sessions for senior humanitarian leadership on how to respond to critical protection challenges (e.g. humanitarian evacuation, delivering humanitarian and protection in hard to reach locations, etc.).
- Deployment of a protection advisory capacity within the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator, including a Senior Protection adviser to support the implementation of the protection strategy and possible expertise in the field of children in armed conflict and conflict related sexual violence.

The HCT develops tools and systems that integrate the centrality of protection and human rights-based approaches in the provision of all humanitarian assistance. This should include:

- Development of guidelines for protection risk and conflict-sensitivity analysis, and monitoring for the planning and delivery of life-saving assistance, including on issues specific to the needs of women, children, and other vulnerable groups.
- Effective monitoring of the application of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and humanitarian principles in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- Provision of protection expertise in all humanitarian actions in areas directly affected by the conflict or outside of government control through:
- Development of protection centred comprehensive area-based response plans in NGCA / Contested Areas.
- Provision of protection expertise in the conduct of multi-sectoral assessment and assistance to civilians remaining in conflict-affected areas, including on how to address specific needs of key vulnerable groups in Ukraine.
- Provision of technical support by PSWG to support HCT advocacy and negotiations for the safe passage of civilians out of conflict areas.

Goal 3. The HCT promote the access of peoples affected by the conflict to services, protection, and solutions

Guiding principles

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement issued by the Secretary General of the United Nations identify and recognise the human rights and guarantees of persons who have been forcibly displaced from their homes. They provide guidance to all relevant actors regarding protection against displacement, the rights of internally displaced peoples for humanitarian assistance, protection, and access to durable solutions.

The situation of those affected by displacement in Ukraine (internally displaced peoples, returnees and host communities) remains particularly precarious and requires an integrated response ensuring the provision of assistance for urgent needs according to the most critical vulnerabilities, including for those with limited access to services. Through the strengthening of an adapted coordination and planning approach, the HCT under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator and in close collaboration with the Emergency Crisis Coordinator commits to support this effort.

Strategic approach

The HCT must ensure that the protection needs of internally displaced people and host communities, including those of key vulnerable groups are well documented and that their vulnerabilities and socio-economic capacities establish the basis for the delivery of all responses to internal displacement.

The HCT promotes durable solutions for conflict affected peoples with national, regional and local authorities and provides support to the National Coordination Platform through strengthening of public institutions, service providers and strengthening registration and profiling of peoples affected by internal displacement (IDP, host communities and recent returnees), including the assessment of their protection needs, socioeconomic

status and intentions, and identification of existing obstacles and opportunities for durable solutions according to age and gender.

The HCT ensures that the situation and status of internally displaced people is well documented and that they are permanently engaged to represent their interests and concerns to influence and contribute to humanitarian and peace dialogues.

Priority activities

Protection needs analysis and socio-economic profiling establish the basis for the delivery of all responses to internal displacement (IDPs, host communities, returnees):

- ➡ The PSWG together with the Protection Cluster, sectoral clusters and the ICCG supports the HCT in strengthening the needs analysis and vulnerability criteria for the delivery of humanitarian services to IDPs.
- ➡ Development of a joint work plan with the National Coordination Platform for temporary solutions for people affected by internal displacement (IDPs and host communities).
- ➡ The HCT promotes the participation of people affected by internal displacement in humanitarian dialogues:
- ➡ The PSWG, together with the Protection Cluster, identifies and strengthens the capacity of internally displaced people to influence humanitarian dialogue, which includes women, children, and those with specific vulnerabilities.
- ➡ The PSWG together with the protection cluster supports a consultation with IDP community members to develop a list of priority issues for humanitarian dialogue.

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AREAS OF INTERVENTION

In working towards the above goals, the HCT will conduct its activities during the period through the following methodology:

1. Influencing parties to the conflict, national and international humanitarian duty bearers and other public or private service providers (at area-based, national, and global levels) to promote respect for International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, by promoting the centrality of protection in humanitarian action with all duty bearers.
2. Raising awareness about the complexity of protection risks in Ukraine and the costs of inaction to elicit humanitarian and rights-based action and strategize outreach with media, to better influence discussions, decisions, and public opinion on the benefit of protection-centred humanitarian action
3. Strengthening coordination among humanitarian duty bearers vis-à-vis national and area-based levels of response and advocacy, including through national and international networking and advocacy.
4. Engaging with actors outside of the humanitarian sphere (incl. diplomatic, development, political and affected communities) to coordinate response and advocacy initiatives, humanitarian diplomacy and support for ensuring complementarity between action aiming at strengthening the national response capacity and the conduct of objective, impartial and neutral humanitarian response whereas civilian populations are exposed to protection risks.
5. Listening to affected men, women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities and ensuring that all humanitarian planning integrate their respective views and expectations from response strategies, activities, policy actions and advocacy messages.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

This strategy particularly emphasises the need to strengthen monitoring, evaluation and learning from the humanitarian response in its progress toward protection goals. It considers the existing humanitarian programme cycle (Flash Appeal) as a starting point and will cover a period of six months, subsequently it will benefit from an effective review based on the monitoring of the implementation of its activities, periodic review of its objectives on a

quarterly basis and evaluation of its achievements.

An action plan to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the collective protection outcomes of the HCT Protection Strategy has been developed to support this framework and shall inform the progress toward the achievable objectives together with existing protection responses and mainstreaming initiatives supported by the Protection Cluster.

COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP

The Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine was appointed by the UN Secretary General to scale-up the humanitarian operations across lines and from outside into areas impacted by the conflict. The UN Crisis Coordinator supports the efforts in enhancing coordination with the Government of Ukraine in ensuring the co-chair of the National Coordination Platform together with the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator (HC/RC) is responsible for ensuring the collective leadership upon the Humanitarian

Country Team and should promote the respect of international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to the conflict, humanitarian, and human rights duty bearers, by coordinating the advocacy efforts of relevant organisations and using private and/or public advocacy as appropriate. Whilst the HC/HCT decision making with regards to protection should be guided by the analysis of the Protection Cluster, as the top strategic body within an interagency response they have responsibilities that cannot be delegated to the cluster or a single agency. Each agency and sectoral cluster have a responsibility to

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integrate the centrality of protection into its work and support its implementation into humanitarian action. In October 2011 the UN Secretary-General adopted a Decision on Durable Solutions that affirmed the primary responsibility of national authorities to provide protection and assistance to peoples affected by forced displacement, the HC/RC will lead the development of a strategy for initiating and

leading the process of durable solutions for those displaced by the armed conflict. The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for operation is responsible to assist the Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine in ensuring front-line operational coordination for the emergency response and shall ensure that centrality of protection is always considered in all responses.

Coordination forums

The Humanitarian Country Team in Ukraine is composed of organisations that undertake humanitarian action in-country and that commit to participate in coordination arrangements. It should include UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and, subject to their individual mandates, components of the International Red Cross Movement. The IASC Standard Terms of Reference, establishes that the size of the HCT must be limited, to allow for effective decision-making and ensure representation at the highest level (Country Representative or equivalent). The main criterion is operational relevance.

The Protection Strategy Working Group (PSWG) has been established since 2018 within the HCT with its previous role focusing on the provision of support to the HCT in developing principled advocacy approaches on critical protection issues. Considering the developments in Ukraine and the need to scale-up the protection response, the PSWG will play a more critical role in ensuring the implementation of this strategy, in close coordination with the forums listed below.

The Humanitarian Access Working Group is a coordination body that reports to the HCT/Access Task Force to ensure liaison and support to the Humanitarian Operations Planning Cell (HOPC) inter-agency humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach areas.

The Accountability for Affected Peoples Working Group informs humanitarian leadership to demonstrate collective commitment to accountability by ensuring feedback and liability mechanisms into country strategies, programmes, and active monitoring

and evaluations ensuring that affected populations play an active role in the decision-making processes.

The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Task Force was established in Ukraine to guide and support the HCT in leading joint actions to protect beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and enhance the collective capacity of the agencies and affected populations to prevent and respond to reports of SEA committed by aid workers in Ukraine. The PSEA Task Force reports directly to the RC/HC and the HCT and is co-chaired by UN-OCHA and UNFPA.

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group ensures the technical coordination of all sectoral activities and clusters established in Ukraine. The ICCG is responsible together with the Protection Cluster to provide guidance on mainstreaming protection in all humanitarian programmes, including in documenting, and reporting on those response activity's results against protection outcomes.

The Protection Cluster plays a crucial role in supporting humanitarian actors to develop protection strategies, including mainstream protection throughout all sectors and to coordinate specialised protection services for affected populations. The Protection Cluster is coordinated by UNHCR and includes sub-clusters such as Child Protection (led by UNICEF), GBV (led by UNFPA) and Mine Action (led by UNDP), in addition to an Age and Disability Technical Working Group (chaired by HelpAge) and a Housing, Land and Property Rights Technical Working Group (chaired by

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NRC), under the umbrella of the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters.

The Sectoral Clusters in Ukraine have the responsibility to ensure the centrality of protection in the conduct of all operational and programme activities. This encompasses protection mainstreaming to ensure a protection lens into the planning and operationalization of their programme as well as protection integration to incorporate protection objectives into their sectoral-specific responses (i.e. beyond the protection sector response) to achieve protection outcomes.

The National Coordination Platform (NCP-U) is a joint and strategic-level platform of the Government of Ukraine and the United Nations to enhance coordination and cooperation through a nexus approach to address the current humanitarian crisis affecting Ukraine, including in looking at durable solutions for IDPs. It is co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the UN Crisis Coordinator and Assistant Secretary General with participation from key line ministries, UN agencies and NGO representatives.

HCT Protection Strategy Action Plan

This Action Plan lists the core activities that will be undertaken by the HCT and relevant humanitarian actors to fulfil the protection vision and achieve the objectives that are presented in the Protection Strategy, under the supervision of the HC. The HC will ensure the monitoring of progress under the Action Plan. The HCT will review this document on a quarterly basis, or as required.

This strategy particularly emphasises the need to strengthen monitoring, evaluation and learning from the humanitarian response in its progress toward protection goals. It considers the existing humanitarian programme cycle (Flash Appeal) as a starting point and will cover a period of six months, subsequently it will benefit from an effective review based on the monitoring of the implementation of its activities, periodic review of its objectives on a quarterly basis and evaluation of its achievements.

An action plan to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the collective protection outcomes of the HCT Protection Strategy has been developed to support this framework and shall inform the progress toward the achievable objectives together with existing protection responses and mainstreaming initiatives supported by the Protection Cluster.

Protection Goals:

1. The expertise, mandates, and capacities of the HCT are mobilised to identify and respond to risks inherent to the protection of civilians in the armed conflict affecting Ukraine.
2. Protection is at the centre of response, including by ensuring that the response remains principled, avoids doing harm, and serves the most vulnerable and in need.
3. The HCT promotes the access of peoples affected by internal displacement to protection and solutions

GOAL 1. THE EXPERTISE, MANDATES, AND CAPACITIES OF THE HCT ARE MOBILISED TO IDENTIFY AND RESPOND TO RISKS INHERENT TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN THE ARMED CONFLICT AFFECTING UKRAINE.

Key Activities	Expected Results	Progress Indicators	Lead	In coordination/with	Technical support
<p>Objective A. Influence UN member states and all actors involved in the crisis for promoting the respect of legal obligation under International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, including those protecting children (CRC and OP 1) and principles enhancing the protection of civilians and concerns which undermine the access to essential needs and services, and principle-based humanitarian assistance.</p>					
Comprehensive stakeholder mapping of diplomatic, political and other high-level fora, including human rights mechanisms.	Stakeholder mapping informs adapted leverage and influence to achieve prioritised protection advocacy goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of stakeholder mapping (Quarterly update). 	HCT	Protection Cluster and sub-clusters/HAWG/AP WG/ PSEA TF/HRMMU/ ICCG	PSWG
Development and periodic review of advocacy messages for high level advocacy on critical protection priorities.	HCT mobilises and influences UN member states and donors, with government counterparts and other public authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of HCT Advocacy messages developed and updated on a quarterly basis ➤ # of quarterly briefing to targeted stakeholders on key PoC concerns and actions undertaken by the HCT. ➤ Comprehensive contribution to the annual Secretary General Report on Protection of Civilian. ➤ Comprehensive contribution to the Reporting mechanisms of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in conflict. ➤ Comprehensive contribution to the Reporting mechanisms of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict. 	HCT	Protection Cluster and sub-clusters/HAWG/AP WG/ PSEA TF/HRMMU/ ICCG	PSWG

Key Activities	Expected Results	Progress Indicators	Lead	In coordination/ with	Technical support
<p>Objective B. Influence the parties to the conflict, UN member states and all actors involved in acting to avoid unnecessary harm on civilians during the conduct of hostilities and ensuring respect for International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law and their domestic laws, including those protecting children in armed conflict (CRC and OP 1) and regulating military operations.</p>					
<p>The HCT leads advocacy and negotiation enhancing the effective provision of protection and relief to all civilians affected by the armed conflict.</p>	<p>The HCT raises awareness and promotes accountability with parties to the conflict in avoiding unnecessary harm to civilians during hostilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ # of targeted advocacy and negotiations using evidence-based protection of civilian analysis and recommendations. ➔ # of targeted advocacy and negotiations using guidance for the integration of CAAC issues. ➔ # of targeted advocacy and negotiations using guidance for the integration of CRSV issues. ➔ # of monthly legal analysis produced on national legal frameworks' conduciveness towards effective provision of protection services and relief 	<p>HRMMU /HCT</p>	<p>Protection Cluster and sub-clusters/HAWG/ICCG/ICRC</p>	<p>PSWG</p>
<p>The HCT advocates for the respect of IHRL and IHL wherever the Russian Federation armed forces and their affiliates exercise control over the Ukrainian territory and its residing population.</p>	<p>The HCT supports advocacy and front-line negotiations to promote respect of IHRL and IHL by Russian armed forces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ # of evidence-based thematic reports published. ➔ # of evidence-based protection advocacy and negotiation conducted, including on child protection and CRSV. 	<p>HRMMU /HCT</p>	<p>Protection Cluster and sub-clusters/HAWG/ICCG/ICRC</p>	<p>PSWG</p>

GOAL 2. PROTECTION IS AT THE CENTRE OF RESPONSE, INCLUDING BY ENSURING THAT THE RESPONSE REMAINS PRINCIPLED, AVOIDS DOING HARM, AND SERVES THE MOST VULNERABLE AND IN NEED.

Key Activities	Expected Results	Progress Indicators	Lead	In coordination/with	Technical support
Objective A. Centrality of Protection is strengthened across the inter-agency strategic planning and area-based response in accordance with the IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action.					
PSWG provides regular updates to the HCT on key protection trends and priorities for follow-up strategic and policy recommendations, decisions and actions.	Priority protection issues identified by the PSWG, in close coordination with the Protection Cluster and its sub-clusters, drive HCT strategic discussion and planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Protection is a standing agenda item of all HCT meetings: ➔ # of periodic protection update and discussion facilitated by PSWG co-chairs. ➔ # of periodic updates by HCT members on follow-up actions (based on PSWG recommendations). ➔ Monthly (and/or on demand) HCT Centrality of Protection reports, including on Protection of Civilian and other critical protection issues such as child protection and CRSV. 	HCT/HCO	Protection Cluster and sub-clusters/ HRMM / ICCG	PSWG/OCHA
Compulsory Basic Training on Conflict sensitivity and Centrality of Protection in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.	The HCT enhances understanding and adherence to centrality of protection, including on child protection in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ # of humanitarian staff trained per sectors and agencies. ➔ % of the # of trained staff reporting using protection principles in their operational duty. 	HCT/HCO	Protection Cluster and sub-clusters/ ICCG/ICRC	PSWG/HAWG/ AAP/PSEA

Peer to peer sessions on comprehensive protection approach in Ukraine, , including on child protection.	The HCT enhances the capacity of senior leadership in its effectiveness to address critical protection risks in delivering humanitarian assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of humanitarian leaders and agency's senior managers participating in peer to peer sessions. ➤ % of the # of critical humanitarian actions delivered in conflict affected areas using protection strategic and policy approaches. 	HCT/HCO	Protection Cluster and sub-clusters/ / ICCG/ICRC	PSWG
Deployment of a protection advisory capacity within the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator.	The office of the humanitarian coordinator enhances its capacity to advise the HCT on critical protection issues, including on child protection and CRSV.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of Senior Protection advisor supporting the HCT work. ➤ # of CRSV protection adviser supporting the HCT work. 	HCO	UNHCR/UNFPA/O ffile of the SRSG on SVC	

Objective B. Ensure the centrality of protection and protection-based approaches in the provision of all humanitarian assistance, including in the organisation and conduct of life-saving humanitarian convoys.

Development of Guidelines on Protection Risk Analysis / conflict-sensitivity for the planning and delivery of humanitarian assistance.	The HCT endorses PR guidelines and ensures that all humanitarian actors comply before engaging in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and convoy in conflict-affected areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of Guidance note for protection risk analysis, including on child protection and CRSV. ➤ % of the # of cluster and ICCG operational modalities and programmes informed by Protection Risk and conflict-sensitivity Analysis. <p>HCT (OCHA) monitors and reports on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ % of the # of humanitarian operations using protection risk and conflict-sensitivity analysis and monitoring. ➤ % of the # of interagency convoy/assessment organised through an effective consultation of protection experts and practitioners, including on child protection and CRSV. 	HCO/OCHA	sub-clusters/ ICCG	PSWG/Protection Cluster /HAWG
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<p>The HCT monitors the application of humanitarian principles in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.</p>	<p>The HCT with support from the HRMMU, the Protection Cluster and the AAP Task Force ensures that the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and humanitarian principles are applied and that breaches are adequately addressed and investigated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of cluster (by sector) and ICCG protection mainstreaming monitoring reports (quarterly), integrating vulnerable groups. 	<p>HCT/HCO</p>	<p>sub-clusters/ ICCG</p>	<p>PSWG/Protection Cluster/OCHA/HAWG</p>
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Objective C. Ensure that all humanitarian actions address the protection needs of civilians in areas directly affected by the conflict or outside of government control.

<p>Development of Guidelines on Protection consideration for operating in NGCA, including on child protection.</p>	<p>The HCT endorses the guidelines and ensures that all humanitarian actors comply before engaging in operating in NGCA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Guidance note developed. ➤ % of humanitarian partners reporting using the guidelines. 	<p>HCT/HCO</p>	<p>sub-clusters/ ICCG</p>	<p>PSWG/Protection Cluster/OCHA/HAWG</p>
<p>Development of a comprehensive area-based response plan in NGCA and /or Contested Areas, which ensures the centrality of protection in all negotiations for access and for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.</p>	<p>The HCT endorses the area-based operational plan and ensures that all humanitarian actions in NGCA integrate protection standards (AGD).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of inter-sectoral response plan in NGCA supported through evidence-based protection mainstreaming planning including on child protection and gender issues . ➤ % of the # of sectoral activities using protection standards along protection mainstreaming indicators, including on child protection and gender issues. 	<p>HCT/HCO</p>	<p>Protection Cluster and sub-clusters.</p>	<p>PSWG/HAWG/ ICCG</p>
<p>Provision of protection expertise in the conduct of multi-sectoral assistance to civilians remaining in conflict-affected areas, including on child protection.</p>	<p>The HCT ensures that all Civilians who exercise their right to remain in their areas of residence continue to be assisted and protected and should have access to humanitarian assistance and services in accordance with IHL and IHRL.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # and location of conflict affected-areas with high concentration of civilians identified and benefiting from multi-sectoral assessment. ➤ # of conflict affected-areas with high concentration of civilians benefiting from protection centred multi-sectoral assistance. 	<p>HCT/HCO</p>	<p>OCHA/ICCG/ICRC.</p>	<p>PSWG/HAWG</p>

<p>PSWG supports HCT advocacy and negotiations for the safe passage of civilians out of conflict areas.</p>	<p>The HCT ensures that all facilitation of humanitarian evacuations is carried-out with safety and dignity, preserve family unity, and pay attention to those with specific needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of humanitarian evacuation of civilians from conflict-affected areas are facilitated through the use of protection standards as contained in the “Protection Cluster Recommendation Note on Humanitarian Evacuations”. ➤ # of safe passage and movement of civilians integrating protection safeguarding for preventing family separation and preserving family unity. 	<p>HCT/HCO</p>	<p>Protection Cluster/ICRC.</p>	<p>PSWG/HAWG/HC</p>
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GOAL 3. THE HCT PROMOTES THE ACCESS OF PEOPLES AFFECTED BY INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT TO PROTECTION AND SOLUTIONS

Key Activities	Expected Results	Progress Indicators	Lead	In coordination/with	Technical support
<p>Objective A. Ensures that protection needs, and socio-economic profiling according to their age and gender specificity establish the basis for the delivery of all responses to internal displacement.</p>					
<p>The PSWG together with the protection cluster and the ICCG supports the HCT in strengthening the needs analysis and vulnerability criteria for the delivery of humanitarian services to IDPs.</p>	<p>The HCT ensures that the provision of service to IDPs and host communities integrate protection mainstreaming standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # of sectoral programmes for IDPs using protection mainstreaming frameworks. ➤ # of sectoral programmes for IDPs using vulnerability criteria according to gender and age specificity (and relevant mitigation measures). ➤ % of the # of donor/funding streams using protection indicators in the selection of projects. 	<p>HCO/GHD</p>	<p>Protection Cluster/ICCG</p>	<p>PSWG</p>
<p>Development of a joint work plan with the National Coordination Platform to transition from temporary to durable solutions for displacement-affected population</p>	<p>The HCT provides support to the National Coordination Platform to initiate the search for durable solutions for peoples affected by displacement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ # Joint work plan (with periodic review). ➤ # of periodic exchange with the NCP on IDP issues. 	<p>HCT/HCO</p>	<p>Protection Cluster/ICCG/ECC</p>	<p>RCO/PSWG</p>

Objective B. The HCT ensures that protection needs of internally displaced peoples are well documented according to their age and gender specificity and that their interests and concerns are properly addressed into humanitarian dialogues.

<p>The PSWG together with the protection cluster identify and strengthen the capacity of IDP and returnees to influence humanitarian dialogue.</p>	<p>The HCT supports the inclusion where possible and appropriate of legitimate representatives of displaced populations in humanitarian dialogue, with particular attention in ensuring gender balance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # and periodicity of key meetings with participation of IDP representatives. ➡ % of the # humanitarian dialogues initiatives benefiting from the contribution from IDP representatives. 	<p>HCT/HCO</p>	<p>Protection Cluster/ECC</p>	<p>PSWG/HC</p>
<p>The PSWG together with the protection cluster supports a consultation with IDP and returnees community members to develop a list of priority issues for humanitarian dialogue.</p>	<p>Protection needs and priority issues for internally displaced informed humanitarian dialogue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ # of survey conducted with IDPs to identify priority issues in each sectors. ➡ # of humanitarian dialogue initiative using consultation results in each sectors. 	<p>HCT/HCO</p>	<p>Protection Cluster/ECC/RCO</p>	<p>PSWG/HC</p>