

IASC Priority/Task Team Progress Report January 2014-April 2015: Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Task Team to Implement IASC Protection Priority Tasks

KEY OBJECTIVES:

The selection of protection in humanitarian crises as a priority will help the IASC to promote: (1) A clear vision of protection in humanitarian policy and practice; (2) An approach in humanitarian crises by UN, NGO and other partners that ensures human rights protection and equitable services and assistance for all persons affected by crises; (3) Strategic and operational interaction on protection between humanitarian actors and other relevant stakeholders; and (4) enhanced collective advocacy on protection, including by IASC Principals.

The GPC Task Team committed to undertake four main tasks, namely to **(1) Urgently adopt a statement on protection in humanitarian crises**, reaffirming the critical importance of protection and articulating expectations for the roles of different actors and their collaboration in this regard; **(2) Commission, through the GPC, and implement a Whole-of-System review of Protection in Humanitarian Crises** that aims to strengthen the roles of Protection Clusters and protection actors, and their strategic and operational interaction with Humanitarian Coordinators and other actors; **(3) Develop and implement an appropriate and comprehensive policy framework on protection**, including with a view to preventing and responding to violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law, in consultation with the GPC and building on the initial IASC Principals statement on protection and the findings of the Whole-of-System Protection Review, and **(4) Ensure that IASC Task Teams are aware of the findings of the 'whole-of-system' review and the relevant elements of the UN Human Rights Up Front Plan of Action.**

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE EARLY 2014:

Engagement with HCs, HCTs and Protection Clusters

- In March 2014, the ERC **circulated** the IASC Principals' endorsed statement on the '**Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Crises**' to all Humanitarian Coordinators.
- The GPC Coordinator, after **circulating the statement to all Protection Cluster Coordinators and GPC partners**, supports HCTs in developing protection strategies, together with partners.



Independent Whole-of-System Protection Review

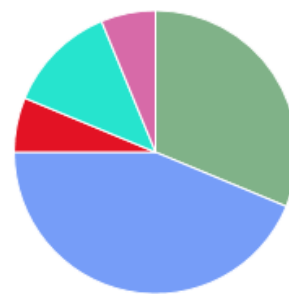
The objective of the Whole-of-System Protection Review is to review the performance of the humanitarian system in achieving protection outcomes, with a view to identifying measures to ensure the centrality of protection in humanitarian action. This includes the humanitarian system's ability to prevent and respond to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, inter alia by strengthening the roles of protection clusters and other humanitarian actors, and their strategic and operational interactions with each other and with other key actors.

- In 2014, the GPC Task Team raised funds and contracted a team of consultants to undertake the whole-of-system protection review.
- After extensive consultations and supported by the GPC Task Team, the consultants presented the draft report including findings and recommendations in April 2015.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE END OF 2015:

- Dissemination of the final report of the Whole-of-System Protection Review**, including through an official launch event.
- The **development of an IASC policy on protection**, informed by the independent whole-of-system review, including with a view to preventing and responding to violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. This will involve inter alia dedicated thematic discussions within relevant fora. Currently, the GPC Task Team is finalizing the concept note and timeline for the protection policy.
- Engagement with IASC Task Teams regarding the findings and recommendations of the independent Whole-of-System Protection review**, including its links to the UN Human Rights Up Front Plan of Action, and promote awareness of its relevant elements.

COMPOSITION:



NGO: 5 UN Agencies: 7
Red Cross / Red Crescent: 1
Inter Agency: 2
International Organizations: 1

Co-Chairs of GPC Task Team: Jenny McAvoy, InterAction and Patrick Rooney, OHCHR (replacing Rachel Rico, OHCHR while on maternity leave)
WG Sponsor: Arafat Jamal, UNHCR (Daniel Endres, UNHCR until April 2014)
Secretariat Support: GPC Support Cell
GPC Coordinator: Louise Aubin, UNHCR