Global Protection Cluster

Terms of Reference
GPC Task Team to Implement IASC Protection Priority Tasks

Background

In May 2013, OHCHR and UNHCR developed and submitted to the IASC Principals a background paper entitled "The Protection of Human Rights in Humanitarian Crises"[1]. Following a discussion on the paper and its recommendations, the IASC Principals then tasked the IASC Working Group to review the recommendations of the paper in light of their discussions and identify the changes that can be implemented quickly and those that will take more time. Recognizing the need to consider the OHCHR/UNHCR proposed action in light of the report "Rights Up Front: A Plan of Action to strengthen the UN's role in protecting people in crises" (UN Plan of Action), the IASC WG requested the GPC, in consultation with the wider IASC membership, "to review the implications of the OHCHR/UNHCR paper for the IASC, and to propose punctual, actionable recommendations."[2]

In October 2013, the GPC submitted a paper, "Strengthening System-wide Policy and Practice on Protection in Humanitarian Crises"[3] to the 85th meeting IASC Working Group. The WG endorsed protection as a priority, reviewed and endorsed the GPC's recommended actions and requested the GPC to undertake the tasks, involving interested IASC members, and with regular reporting to the WG.

Objectives and Tasks

The IASC WG agreed that the proposed work should be carried forward by the GPC. The GPC has constituted this Task Team to carry out the recommended actions, namely to:

- Develop a <u>statement on protection in humanitarian action</u> to be adopted by the IASC Principals
- Commission and implement <u>a 'whole-of-system' review of protection in humanitarian action, to be undertaken by independent consultant(s),</u> that aims to strengthen the roles of Protection Clusters and protection actors, and their strategic and operational interaction with Humanitarian Coordinators and other actors. The review will take into account existing IASC policy documents, tools and reference guides as well as relevant elements of the "Rights Up Front" Plan of Action.
- Building on the initial IASC Principals statement on protection and the findings of the 'whole-of-system' review, develop and implement <u>an appropriate and comprehensive policy</u>

---

[1] "The Protection of Human Rights in Humanitarian Crises", A Joint Background paper by OHCHR and UNHCR, 8 May 2013
[2] Inter-Agency Standing Committee Ad Hoc Working Group Meeting, *Final Summary and Action Points, 24 May 2013*, circulated: 5 July 2013
[3] **"**Strengthening System-wide Policy and Practice on Protection in Humanitarian Crises", circulated 17 October 2013

framework on protection, including with a view to preventing and responding to violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law.

This Task Team will be dissolved upon completion of this work.

Working methods
- The GPC Coordinator oversees the work of this Task Team, represents the GPC with the IASC and will liaise with the Protection Priority sponsor[4] and other members of the IASC WG as necessary. The GPC Coordinator will regularly report back to the IASC Working Group on progress regarding the implementation of the above tasks.

- The Task Team is co-chaired by one NGO and one UN agency or office and is currently co-chaired by OHCHR and InterAction. The role of the Task Team co-chairs is to facilitate the overall work of the Task Team, convening meetings as necessary, maintain transparent and inclusive information flow for participating organizations, ensure full participation and robust discussion by UN and non-UN Task Team participants, facilitate agreement on actionable steps and support their timely implementation. The Task Team co-chairs report to the GPC Coordinator on the work of this Task Team and keep the GPC SAG fully informed of progress in accordance its strategic oversight role.

- Participation in this Task Team is open to all GPC partners and interested members of the IASC. Participating organisations are encouraged to take up leadership of different activities and to contribute to the work of the Task Team through active collaboration with one another.

- The focal points serve as leads for the TT's individual activities or tasks, and in this sense will be responsible for developing work plans for the tasks involved, coordinating activities, developing and drafting materials, initiating and facilitating discussions on draft materials, briefing the Task Team on work progress in coordination with the Task Team co-chairs, in particular to ensure the necessary links to the other activities of the Task Team.

- The work of this Task Team will adhere to the Principles of Partnership, namely: equality, transparency, results-oriented approach, responsibility and complementarity.[5]

- The GPC Support Cell will support the work of the Task Team by working with the Task Team co-chairs and participating organisations in particular: to advise on engaging with and soliciting input from the GPC (SAG), AoRs and other GPC Task Teams; facilitate the referral of key documents for this purpose; maintain the GPC archive of all documentation and material related to the work of this Task Team; draft of action points and minutes and, as and if needed, arrange meetings/teleconferences.

---

[4] Daniel Endres, Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR
[5] These principles may be found in full here: http://www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org/pop.html

Key Activities of the Task Team
The team will undertake the following activities. Some activities will be conducted concurrently.

1. Develop a resourcing strategy
2. [Proposed leads: TBC]
   - Establish the main resource requirements to carry out the work of this Task Team
   - Develop a funding proposal as appropriate and work with the GPC Support Cell and GPC Coordinator to approach potential donors and secure the necessary resources

3. Commission an independent 'whole-of-system' review of protection in humanitarian action
   [Proposed Leads: UNHCR, the Office of the SR for Internal Displacement, an operational NGO]
   - Develop a Terms of Reference (ToR) which establishes the scope, method and timeline of the review, focused and realistic objectives, a means of transparent management and oversight while ensuring its independent character, and serves as a basis for commissioning the review by an independent consultant or consultants
   - Solicit input and obtain inputs from the GPC SAG and members of the IASC Working Group on the ToR
   - Commission and closely track the progress of the review
   - Facilitate field missions and meetings with relevant actors as necessary

4. Develop an appropriate and comprehensive policy framework on protection in humanitarian action
   [Proposed leads: TBC]
   - Identify the key elements of the policy as well as the relevant stakeholders and the process to be followed in developing the policy framework
   - Solicit and obtain inputs from all relevant stakeholders at the field and HQ level, including the GPC SAG, field Protection Clusters and members of the IASC Working Group, on the key elements, stakeholders, and the required process to be followed throughout the development and finalization of the policy framework.
   - Draft a policy framework building on the Principals statement and the findings of, inter alia, the review;

5. Keep the GPC SAG and the GPC Coordinator regularly informed of progress on the implementation of these tasks with a view to soliciting their advice, support and endorsement, and in order to inform the GPC Coordinator's report back to the IASC WG on progress.

Adoption of Terms of Reference
- Once this ToR is agreed by the Task Team, it will be referred to the GPC Coordinator for review and endorsement.

Date of adoption: 23 January 2014