

**CLUSTER WORKING GROUP ON  
PROTECTION**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Circulated: 8 September 2005**

Chaired by UNHCR, the Cluster Working Group (CWG) consisted of OCHA (IDD/PDSB), OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNRWA,<sup>1</sup> WFP, ICRC, IOM, ICVA, NRC, HRW, IFRC, InterAction and the RSG on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons.

The CWG focused for the most part of its work on the issue of primary managerial responsibility and accountability for the protection of the internally displaced persons. The principal outcome in this regard was agreement that with the exception of internal displacement situations exclusively caused by natural disasters, UNHCR should, as a rule, assume primary managerial responsibility and accountability for the protection of the internally displaced.

In line with the ongoing humanitarian reform process, the CWG also recognized that the broader dimension of protection response also needed to be addressed (not just with regard to the internally displaced). However, the group also acknowledged that, unlike the other sectors that are currently under review by the IASC-WG, protection is a more complex and cross-cutting area. A consensus emerged in the CWG that it would need to follow a more extended time-line to those other sectors.

The report of the CWG consists of three sections and four annexes:

- **Section A** provides an overview of the CWG's discussions in regard to the **protection of the internally displaced** and affected population and highlights outstanding issues which need to be further developed by the CWG.
  - ❖ Annex 1 outlines the CWG's agreed *Framework for UN Managerial Responsibility and Accountability for the Protection of the Internally Displaced and Affected Populations in Complex Emergencies*.
  - ❖ Annex 2 is a matrix on *Responsibility Sharing for enhancing the Protection of the Internally Displaced and Affected Populations*. Essentially, the document lists a number of areas of the protection response against which agencies can indicate their predisposition to become the focal point (i.e. undertake primary responsibility for supporting UNHCR in that particular area of protection), or to undertake specific activities as a participating agency. (*work in progress*)
  - ❖ Annex 3 contains a series of *Actionable Recommendations for Improving the Predictability, Speed and Effectiveness of the Response to the Protection of the Internally Displaced* (*work in progress*).
  - ❖ Annex 4 is a matrix of *Protection Response Capacity for the Internally Displaced and Affected Populations*. The purpose of this matrix is to allow agencies to identify their existing protection capacity with a view to identifying areas of weakness and gaps, which need to be strengthened accordingly. (*work in progress*).
- **Section B** provides an overview of the CWG's discussions on the **broader dimension of protection**.
- **Section C** provides an indication of the **next steps** for taking the process forward, both with regard to the protection of the internally displaced and the broader dimensions of the protection response.

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: UNRWA participated in the 16 August meeting from the OCHA conference room in New York.