

# IASC Priority/Task Team Progress Report January 2014-September 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) 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 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 Global Protection Cluster is undertaking work to increase the capacity of protection actors, other clusters, and HCs/HCTs among others to **operationalize the centrality of protection**. This includes the development of a package of communication materials to help promote a clear, common understanding of protection and support to HCTs and Protection clusters in developing HCT protection strategies.



## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

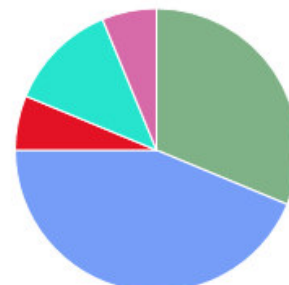
- The **development of an IASC policy on protection**, informed by the independent whole-of-system review, including with a view to preventing and responding to violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. This will involve *inter alia* dedicated thematic discussions within relevant fora.
- Engagement with IASC Task Teams regarding the UN Human Up Front Plan of Action (as relevant).

### Independent Whole of System Protection Review

*The Whole of System Review of Protection in the Context of Humanitarian Action examined the current humanitarian response system for protection, 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.*

The final **report was launched in June 2015**. The GPC Task Team on Protection Priority disseminated the report and **prepared suggestions to the GPC Coordinator and the IASC Working Group for the way forward**.

## COMPOSITION



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

**GPC Coordinator:** Louise Aubin, UNHCR  
**Co-Chairs of GPC Task Team:** Jenny McAvoy, InterAction and Patrick Rooney, OHCHR (since June 2015)  
**WG Sponsor:** Arafat Jamal, UNHCR (since April 2014)  
**Secretariat Support:** GPC Support Cell