

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. Are best practices available on the GPC website? Is there a Community of Practice?**

There is the Global Protection Cluster [Community of Practice](#) which is a forum for discussing and sharing existing approaches, techniques, and ideas about our work. This space is for problem solving, seeking experience, coordination, discussions and lessons learnt. A guide is available to help you navigate the platform and make use of its feature. In addition, the Protection Mainstreaming Toolkit contains a series of example of good practice from Protection Clusters, other Clusters, ICCG, HCT, donors and operational organizations.

### **2. Remote management: Are there examples of how to make Protection Mainstreaming work?**

The Protection Cluster in Gaziantep (Turkey) worked with national actors to train focal points who had access to humanitarian actors in Syria. In addition to being focal points and carrying out Protection Trainings, they contextualized the generic GPC Protection Mainstreaming Tip-Sheets to their context. Such an approach does require coordination and follow-up, especially when focal points only have a percentage of their time dedicated to Protection Mainstreaming.

### **3. What do we do if there's no HLP sub-cluster lead in our country? Others put pressure on us as protection cluster lead to play this role.**

The GPC Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility (HLP AoR) is available to provide support and guidance on HLP issues and coordination. For further information, please refer to the dedicated page of the GPC website ([available here](#)) or contact the HLP AoR Coordinator ([shobha.rao@nrc.no](mailto:shobha.rao@nrc.no)).

### **4. What are we supposed to do with this cross-cutting document?**

The *GPC Infographic on Cross-Cutting Issues* and the *GPC Mapping of Cross-Cutting Issues Guidance and Tools* are two documents that can be used to improve the understanding and communication around cross-cutting issues and highlights the complementarities between concepts and approaches. Those documents can be disseminated to strengthen the capacity of staff to successfully promote and integrate cross-cutting issues within their programs. It can also be used as a reminder for the ICCG for who to have around the table when conducting coordinated assessments, or developing capacity building priorities and action plans.

### **5. Do you consider that ageing is really considered in the Protection Mainstreaming approach? I see a huge gap in seeing this as a concern. Is this being thought about?**

One early finding during the development of the GPC approach was that age is often equated with children, and that specific attention needs to be made to highlight the issue of ageing. The Protection Mainstreaming Training and Tip Sheets refer to the need to consider access for the elderly, and reference is made to resources such as the ADCAP Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion. HelpAge was a contributor towards the development of the Protection Mainstreaming Training Package and the Tip Sheets, however any gaps should be reported to the TTPM and can be included in future-regular updates of the materials.

### **6. Are we represented in the Grand Bargain discussion and designing a new way of working that puts protection as a top priority?**

The GPC is engaged in the WHS GB commitment on localization, and putting protection at the center of that process. Although not directly related to the GB, the Global Cluster Coordination Group has also established "Protection" as one of their work streams, which will contribute to promoting the Centrality of Protection (also beyond Mainstreaming).

**7. Why are we talking about mainstreaming GBV, child protection etc separately? Isn't this all protection mainstreaming? Are we creating more confusion and complication?**

Protection Mainstreaming can be seen as an umbrella comprising of the four key principles of prioritizing safety and dignity and avoid causing harm, ensuring meaningful access, accountability, and participation and empowerment. The application of these principles include GBV and child protection mainstreaming and those concept are not considered separately, they both contribute to mainstreaming protection with a specific focus.

**8. Protection and inclusion go hand in hand so why do we not strengthen this through our work?**

They do, and issues of inclusion are central to the Protection Mainstreaming approach, especially around participation and consultation of potentially vulnerable or marginalized groups. Specific recommendations on how to strengthen this are welcome.

**9. There seems to be a need to have better SADD data and analysis. Is this a common area to discuss in more depth?**

Probably. Perhaps this could be something to raise in the future GPC Task Team on Information Management.

**10. As practitioners, we all recognize the cross-cutting issues fatigue and the proliferation of tools and guidance: how can we address this in a meaningful way?**

This is the key question that these discussions around cross-cutting issues are trying to address. See points of discussion in the main report on this side-event.

**11. The accumulation of standards to promote is becoming difficult/impossible to manage.**

Protection Mainstreaming is not the only cross-cutting issue promoted globally at an inter-agency level. It is a crowded field with several initiatives operating in parallel to improve the quality of humanitarian responses. The "fatigue" and "proliferation of tools" is well-understood and captured at the global level leading to confusion about the multiple types of mainstreaming guidance that field actors receive through the GPC, AoRs and other sources. This issue was raised at the last GPC Task Team on Protection Mainstreaming Annual Retreat in December 2015 and was put as a priority item on the GPC TTPM 2016 and 2017 Work Plan. In 2016, the GPC TTPM developed a visual on Protection Mainstreaming and other cross-cutting issues that shows the links and complementarities between existing concepts (i.e. age, gender and diversity, child protection, disability, gender-based violence, mental health and psychosocial support, HIV, environment). The infographic represents a first step to improve the communication and understanding of mainstreaming concepts. The need to strengthen the coordination efforts around those issues is acknowledged. As such, the GPC TTPM proactively engage with other cross-cutting initiatives to develop a mapping of tools, guidance and support available at the global level to ensure a better coordination for field support. The workshop organized on the 21st June 2017 provided an opportunity to discuss the complementarities between cross-cutting issues and come up with some recommendations for this piece of work going forward.

**12. Are markers also supporting to capture impact, beyond tagging funds dedicated to a cross-cutting issue?**

N/A

**13. Are the Sphere Protection Principles different to the ones that Protection Mainstreaming promotes?**

The Protection Principles in the revised Sphere Handbook have been rewritten and offer clearer guidance for all practitioners. Sphere reaffirms that protection must be central to our preparedness efforts, as part of immediate and life-saving activities, and throughout the duration of humanitarian response and beyond to recovery. The Protection Principles make a strong link to the Professional Standards for Protection Work (led by the International

Committee of the Red Cross) which are designed for protection specialists and to the Protection Mainstreaming approach. Both sets of guidance are intended to be coherent and complementary.

The four Sphere Protection Principles can contribute to effective and principled action in three ways: mainstreaming, integration and specialization. Many similarities can be found with the Protection Mainstreaming principles as they refer to the safety and dignity, access and rights of people affected by disaster or conflict.

- Protection Principle 1: Enhance the safety, dignity and rights of affected people and avoid exposing people to further harm.
- Protection Principle 2: Ensure people's access to impartial assistance.
- Protection Principle 3: Help reduce the impact of physical and psychological harm arising from violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation.
- Protection Principle 4: Assist people to claim their rights and access available remedies.

#### **14. CHS: why (dis)ability and not disability?**

N/A

#### **15. What is the minimum knowledge required for protection mainstreaming trainer.**

It is recommended that a trainer be previously trained on Protection Mainstreaming. However the training itself is comprehensive and a complete facilitator's guide. Anybody with basic training skills should be able to deliver the training, though understanding the technical material, and having experience in Protection or Protection Mainstreaming programs will increase the quality of that training.

#### **16. There must be other ways, beyond toolkits and score cards?**

The Training and the Toolkit offers a variety of guidance, indicators, and tools. Very few are required. The focus should always be on how interventions can positively impact the Protection situation of affected populations. Any way to improve the safety and dignity of affected populations and their access to basic services is good.

#### **17. Does the Toolkit take gender into account - beyond GBV? Which agencies inputted into this?**

Yes, the Protection Mainstreaming Toolkit reflects gender as a key element within the methodology and the tools proposed in this document. The Tool #B3 - Project Design Assessment also provides a Gender Marker Code (for the old Gender Marker. Discussion are ongoing on how to reflect the new GAM). The GenCap Advisor provided inputs throughout the development of the Toolkit.

#### **18. I'm not clear on role of OCHA in protection mainstreaming vs. role of protection cluster lead. Who is responsible?**

The Protection Cluster has a leading role in conducting a Protection Risk Analysis identifying protection threats, vulnerable groups and coping mechanisms of affected populations. This Protection Risk Analysis informs joint analysis and joint planning of other Clusters' strategy to address risks that may occur in their specific sector. OCHA and the ICCG have a leading role in ensuring that there is a common understanding of protection risks among all clusters as well as ensuring that protection is mainstreamed within the response. The ICCG has the overall responsibility to monitor the process and impact of protection mainstreaming.

#### **19. How does the Protection Analysis Report template related to the HCT Protection Strategy Analysis?**

The template is not a template per se, but rather a reflection of key information that should be included in a Protection Analysis and made available to non-Protection actors with regards to Protection Mainstreaming. Any protection analysis conducted for an HCT Protection Strategy should include this information.

#### **20. What is the role of host community in implementing protection mainstreaming?**

A key element of Protection Mainstreaming is the participation of affected populations to identify Protection issues and solutions. Affected communities include displaced and host communities, and even if a program is specifically targeting one, all should be consulted for transparency's sake and to promote sustainability/good relations/avoid doing harm/etc.

**21. Where will the video on Protection Mainstreaming be translated to French?**

The video on Protection Mainstreaming is already available in English, Arabic and Spanish ([available here](#)). It is currently being translated in French and Burmese. It will be made available on the GPC website in the coming weeks. Stay connected.

**22. Was there any Mine Action AoR input to the toolkit design?**

The Protection Mainstreaming Toolkit was distributed to all GPC AoRs for inputs and comments. The Mine Action AoR did not provide any input.

**23. Do you have a library of tools available?**

All the Protection Mainstreaming Tools and Guidance are available on the dedicated page of the GPC website ([available here](#)). For additional support, please contact the GPC Task Team on Protection Mainstreaming:

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