Global Protection Cluster
Human Rights Engagment
Task Team

GPC Human Rights Engagement Task Team

Newsletter

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GPC Coordinator Letter on Human Rights

The Global Protection Cluster coordination issued a letter for field protection clusters to highlight the importance of and call for stronger human rights engagement for the protection clusters and its members.

Every day, we see across many of your operations how protection issues, you are trying to tackle, need humanitarian, human rights, development, peace and political actors to come together. While this is not new to us, the current crisis we are facing combined with strong momentum created through the Secretary General Call to Action for Human Rights presents an opportunity for a stronger and more visible drive to ensure that:

> (i) Human rights defenders and actors use the protection cluster space to advance human rights work as per country specific context
>
> (ii) Protection Clusters and their members use strategically human right systems and mechanisms to address protection issues

The letter outlines our drive on this important matter including a number of concrete steps that protection clusters should consider taking in your operations.

2nd Anniversary of the Call to Action for Human Rights 2020

The HRETT used the GPC outreach capacities through social media to communicate key messages around the 2nd anniversary of the Call to Action for Human Rights, available here.

The Tweets published are available here and here.

Peer exchange webinar: Implementing SG's Call to Action on HR in inter-sectoral response and analysis

On 9th March, a peer-to-peer exchange webinar on effective ways to advance advocacy vis-à-vis protracted crises where communities are living under the control of non-state armed groups, was organized jointly between the GPC task teams on advocacy and human rights engagement.

The recording and summary are available here.

A webinar focusing on **collaboration with OHCHR** took place on **5th January 2022**. As per your request to have some events in Arabic, the whole event was undertaken **in Arabic.** We heard from Roueida Elhage, Regional Representative for OHCHR regional office in MENA and George Abualzulof, Senior Human Rights Advisor. In case you could not attend the webinar, you can access the recording here.

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The recording and summary are available here and here.

Peer-to-Peer Exchange Webinar: Collaboration with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

On 15 March 2022, a peer–to-peer exchange webinar on collaboration with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) took place. The webinar aimed at strengthening knowledge around the WGAD's mandate and functions and to support peer learning and exchange among colleagues in order to foster effective collaboration with the WGAD in support of the protection and rights of displaced persons and communities affected by the issue of arbitrary detention.

A recording of the webinar is available here

Advocacy messages were jointly prepared by the GPC Advocacy Task Team and Human Rights Engagement Task Team on situations in:

⇒ Afghanistan :

GPC_Afghanistan-Protection-Messages_Final-Feb-2022.pdf (globalprotectioncluster.org)

⇒ Central Sahel:

GPC-Protection-Messages_Central-Sahel_January-2022.pdf (globalprotectioncluster.org)

⇒ Ukraine:

GPC_Ukraine-Protection-Messages_8Mar22_Final.pdf (globalprotectioncluster.org)

Tools

UNHCR Human Rights Initiatives : 2-Page Document

The 2-page document provides a list of key human rights initiatives on which UNHCR is engaged, together with links to publicly available tools and guidance documents on human rights engagement. Many of the tools and guidance documents have been produced by UNHCR and/or the Global Protection Cluster's Human Rights Engagement Task Team (of which UNHCR is a co-lead). The 2-pager contains only those tools and guidance documents which are externally available and, therefore, it can be readily shared with partners and other stakeholders.

Summary Table on the Strategic Use of Human Rights Mechanisms

Following up on a recommendation from the recently completed Human Rights Engagement learning programme for field protection clusters, a summary table on strategic use of Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies, Universal Period Review and other national regional and international mechanisms was developed. It proposes ways on how each of the human rights mechanisms can be used for immediate, mid-term and long-term advocacy. You can access the mini tool here.

On 9th February, an event took place to celebrate the launch of "Protecting Internally Displaced Persons: a Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions", jointly produced by UNHCR, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs, GANHRI and UNDP. The Handbook analyses the role of NHRIs in promoting and protecting the human rights of internally displaced people and those at risk of displacement, and provides an overview of good practices and lessons learned in this area. The Handbook is available online in English, French and Spanish.

The recording can be accessed on https://youtu.be/WCDAWimWMyQ

Capacity Building

The GPC's Task Team on Human Rights Engagement (TT HRE) organized a second cohort of the "**Online training series on human rights engagement for protection clusters**", which took place from 11th to 14th January 2022. This cohort brough together 30 colleagues from 14 operations. The eight sessions, each of them lasting max. 2 hours, are designed in an interactive manner allowing discussion time and exchange of experiences. The aim of the modules is to strengthen human rights engagement in the by field protection clusters with focus on local actors. By joining the programme, participants had the opportunity to engage with a community of peers interested in human rights engagement and what it means practically for protection work and advocacy. Before the virtual workshop, participants completed the recently launched e-learning Engaging with Human Rights Systems eLearning that gives solid basis on human rights systems.

The "**Online training series on human rights engagement for protection clusters"** consists of 8 online sessions, covering the following topics:

Session 1: Basic concepts and human rights engagement as a process
Session 2: Human rights analysis as part of protection analysis
Session 3: Mapping of stakeholders for human rights engagement
Session 4: Engaging with affected populations and human rights education
Session 5: Integrating human rights in cluster work's cycle as per given context
Session 6: Implementing HRE
Session 7: Prevention of and response to racism, xenophobia and related intolerance
Session 8: Human rights engagement- make it happen

At the end of the program, participants presented their **mini strategies on human rights engagement**. HRE TT will provide them with support in the implementation, as useful and required. The learning programme participants are now part of the **community of practice on human rights engagement** and will be invited for upcoming webinars, peer exchanges and learning events.
The learning materials, including facilitators guide, are now being translated to French and Spanish.

GPC Human Rights Engagement training package (8 modules) is now available here

CONTACT US: