



GPC HLP AoR Meeting, Wednesday, 20th April 2016 held at NRC, Geneva

Present: NRC (co-chair), IFRC (co-chair), UNHCR, FAO, UN-Habitat and the GPC Support Cell

Apologies: OHCHR, IOM, CARE, Habitat for Humanity

Agenda:

Partners' Updates

Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Habitat III

AOB

Next meeting: Wednesday June 22nd at 3.30pm at NRC, Geneva

1 – Partners' Update

UNHCR has undertaken missions to the Republic of Congo (looking into access to land for refugees), Myanmar (South-East, Rakhine and Kachin) (HLP in the context of voluntary repatriation, relocation and statelessness) and Iraq (restitution and compensation initiatives and several other issues). This was for internal UNHCR purposes but if something can be shared that will be of interest to the HLP AoR they will look to do this.

IASC Protracted Displacement/Durable Solutions inaugural meeting was held in April with a second meeting to be held in the second week of May. Contact Jackie Keegan at UNHCR for further details.

FAO has recently undertaken a 'stock take' of what work they are doing on HLP. Overall, it is important to note that in FAO's interventions, all immediate and mid-term corrective, preventive and retentive land and property related measures which are envisaged to facilitate the conflict transformation process are streamlined with an overall developmental vision and policy. Together with direct field activities, the aim of FAO's proposed intervention is to work on policy and legislation, in order to promote more structural changes that should tackle the root causes of the problem. In particular FAO is focusing on the following:

- An early assessment to include land and property issues in peace negotiations and in consequential peace agreements: a recently started project in Abyei Box, South Sudan, is undertaking this type of assessment in 2016, following the successful case of Sudan.
- Promoting dialogue and livelihood improvements at local level and starting to prepare a national team to be available when the final peace agreement is signed in Nariño Department, in Colombia.
- Awareness creation and information dissemination on land rights for IDPs and refugees; a model for legal aid and counselling for displaced people and returnees.
- Research into customary law and its legitimacy and role (Mozambique to be the case study).
- Inventory, assessment and research on statutory law, land issues, and the nature and dimension of land disputes (Somaliland as a case).



- In particularly challenging circumstances, such as DRC-Goma, initial support has been provided to get concerned stakeholders agreeing on rules of access and use of small pieces of land.
- Development of transparent and coherent measures and procedures to provide secure temporary access to land for returnees.
- Mechanisms to expedite land dispute resolutions (such as the 'Negotiation and mediation techniques for natural resource management', and the 'Land Tenure Alternative Conflict Management').
- Provision of direct support to women-headed households to provide access to land (various examples in francophone countries).

FAO stated that in their experience in unfinished conflicts, making land policy reform part of the different peace agreements has ensured that it at least stays on the agenda. Should you wish to know more detail please contact Raquel Santos Garcia directly (RSANTOSGARCIA@unog.ch)

NRC and **IFRC** have published a new joint report on the Importance of Addressing HLP Challenges to Humanitarian Response. This report can be found on the HLP AoR website: <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/tools-and-guidance/essential-protection-guidance-and-tools/hlp-essential-guidance-and-tools.html>.

It is a follow up to the Roundtable held in Geneva on March 2nd and outlines eight reasons why it is important to address HLP issues from the outset of a humanitarian response, comprising:

- Saving lives, preventing further displacement and human rights violations
- Adapting humanitarian response to complex urban environments
- Ensuring equal access to humanitarian assistance
- Promoting access to justice in crises contexts and contributing towards durable solutions
- Addressing loss of land and inability to return to land and homes after disasters
- Supporting women's recovery through the protection of their HLP rights
- HLP as a tool for conflict prevention and peace building
- Supporting local systems and bridging transition / development gap

The paper also explains how the international human rights framework can inform both disaster and conflict response, enhancing protection for those affected.

Additionally **NRC** has finalised a new report on 'Displaced Women and Homelessness' and has an upcoming report on women's HLP in Somalia – findings of the report were presented at the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in New York.

Finally **NRC** have recruited a new dedicated HLP Working Group Coordinator for the Iraq response – he will be working closely with the Shelter and Protection Clusters.

IFRC in addition to the new joint report with **NRC**, is undergoing a restructuring and a new role has been created around Social Inclusion and Protection, work is ongoing in the development of a new strategy around **IFRC's** engagement/approach to Protection and the more transformative social inclusion work. Additionally the recently published Rapid Tenure Assessment Guidelines http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/Shelter/1301300_Rapid%20Tenure%20Assessm



[ent%20Guidelines En LR.PDF](#) and Minimum Elements to Community Land Mapping in Post Disaster Contexts

http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/Shelter/1301400_Community%20Land%20Mapping_En_LR.PDF are being translated and published in French, Spanish and Arabic. Finally with support from the Australian Red Cross, IFRC is developing its own HLP training for National Societies, to raise awareness of the challenges of HLP and associated regulatory barriers.

GPC Operations Cell attended the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) workshop organised by OCHA. Proposed plan is to prepare a short guidance on how to incorporate protection throughout the HRP. The draft guidance will be shared with the AoRs for their feedback and input prior to sharing with OCHA.

Questions were raised as to how this would fit in with the Solutions Alliance/HLP AoR work on Mainstreaming.

A Community of Practice is being established for Protection Cluster Coordinators and other protection actors. There will be two groups – the first will be an open group where experience and guidance can be shared, including lessons learnt and bad practices. Consequently the GPC Operations Cell is looking for items that are useful to support the field, preferably with an inter-agency angle. There will also be a closed group which will involve protection cluster coordinators, co-facilitators, sub-cluster coordinators and co-facilitators as well as AoRs with a view to provide more targeted support to the field.

Training of Trainers for the GPC is to be updated. Following evaluations from the initial trainings materials need to be revised. Evaluations will be shared with the Co-Chairs so that revisions can be made accordingly to the HLP section.

UN Habitat will share the outcomes of the Forum on Land and Conflict held in March in Washington where amongst other agreements a work plan was agreed.

2 - Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Following on from the HLP Roundtable, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing has asked the HLP AoR to consider whether a thematic report on/or around the topic of the right to adequate housing in humanitarian crisis would be a useful way of advancing the topic through different channels and/or raising awareness. Discussions that were had with the Special Rapporteur, OHCHR and IFRC (as co-chair of the HLP AoR) acknowledged that two reports have been presented by the previous Special Rapporteur, specifically:

- a) Report A/HRC/16/42, dated 20 December 2010 and presented to the Human Rights Council which underlined the importance of integrating human rights standards (particularly the rights to adequate housing) in post disaster and post conflict reconstruction processes; and
- b) Report A/66/270, dated 5 August 2011 and presented to the UN General Assembly which focused on the realisation of the right to adequate housing in post-disaster settings



It was recognised that both of these reports are five years old and that awareness around HLP and the Right to Adequate Housing in general has increased amongst humanitarian practitioners. The following were seen as possible options:

- The Special Rapporteur said that she was not adverse to taking recommendations made by her predecessor and advancing them if work has yet to be carried out.
- Consider the broader aspects of how to better ensure the right to adequate housing is considered from the outset of a response, how to work more comprehensively with the different actors involved (humanitarian, human rights, development) and most importantly the State; possibly a more practical guidance about how we genuinely do this and what actors need to be engaged, how do we support local governments – more of an implementation guide/guiding principles.
- Or zooming out from the previous SR's Guiding Principles on Security of Tenure and look more at a settlements approach as a whole and the relevant actors involved etc. Which could also be considered as a follow up from the previous SR's work.

It was agreed that more analysis on the two reports needed to be undertaken for partners to decide on whether this is something that they can usefully contribute to. Agreed that IFRC will take the lead in reviewing and reporting back to the AoR.

With the SR's current trip to India in mind NRC asked whether it would be possible for details/dates of upcoming missions of the SR to be shared with the AoR so that if possible active agencies in those countries have the opportunity to contribute.

3. Habitat III

It was agreed that there are a number of different aspects of the New Urban Agenda which may be relevant to the HLP AoR – please see link to the Issue Papers (summary documents that address one or more research areas, highlight general findings, and identify research needs on topics relation to housing and sustainable urban development) <https://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/issue-papers> . Some agencies are heavily involved in the process, whilst others would like to be but are unsure of how best to engage. UN-Habitat were asked to let the AoR know how best it could engage collective, ie through key messages or a paper. Another consideration was perhaps for the AoR to agree on some key messages that agencies would then ensure were included in their own messages.

An Urban Breakfast on Habitat III is due to be held in Geneva on May 10th - further details will be circulated once known.

4. AOB?

IOM followed up after the meeting to say that the requisite funding had been secured for the Mainstreaming HLP project, thanks to UNHCR, NRC and IOM. An initial meeting to agree ToRs for the consultant will be called shortly.



It was agreed that HLP AoR meetings should be held bi-monthly with the next one being proposed for Wednesday 22nd June at 3.30pm at NRC's office.