

 Housing, Land and Property

Area of Responsibility (HLP AOR)

GLOBAL MEETING (online), Tuesday 1st March 2022

*Participants from across the HLP AoR membership, including representatives from donor and member states; global and national clusters - protection, shelter and CCCM clusters; NRC, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, IOM, academic institutions and independent HLP experts.*

1. Update on Mine Action and HLP collaboration

**Roxana Bobolicu, International Policy Manager, Mine Advisory Group (MAG), presented the Mine Action/HLP workshop that was held in January 2022.**

A summary report on this workshop will soon be circulated. If you are interested to be part of this ongoing collaboration between MA and HLP you can express your interest via this [very short form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOcSz7MGuj_GYfCj0vTzmvWieBn6sv55zoMKIbZ8vAcjsS3g/viewform).

**Summary of workshop**

* A workshop with over 50 MA and HLP practitioners was held in January
* The goal was to enable MA AoR members to learn about HLP and potential areas for collaboration with HLP actors, exchange best practises, identify challenges and propose solutions
* The Workshop included a presentation by Jim Robinson on key HLP concepts and their relevance for mine action, a discussion on the example of the NRC-MAC partnership in Iraq that had the goal of systematically integrating HLP considerations in MA, and an exchange on various other examples of cross-over between MA and HLP.

**Key findings**

* Tasking and prioritisation of mine clearance operations should be informed by HLP considerations – decisions are usually made by national authorities, so there is a need to raise awareness with national authorities to ensure that HLP is taken into consideration.
* Practical integration of additional HLP questions and community engagement needs further thought – how can we integrate HLP without making to whole process too overwhelming for communities?
* Long term impact assessments are an important tool to verify if any HLP issues have arisen after clearance – currently impact assessments are limited to 6-12 months.
* Limited and short-term nature of funding discourages qualitative improvements to operations.
* MA actors can help identify issues regarding women’s property rights and refer them to HLP specialists.

**Recommendations**

* Continue to raise awareness at international, regional, and national level with HLP and MA practitioners, national authorities, and donors. Donors should include qualitative aspects of MA in proposals, consider HLP aspects.
* Improve collaboration between MA and HLP stakeholders.
* Set up a community of practise.
* Develop a repository of resources on MA and HLP.
* Expand partnerships with academia.
* Advocate for an International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) technical note on integrating HLP in MA

**Question from audience**: Do you have a general idea on what land was used for before it was contaminated with mines?

**Roxana:** There is no general answer. One of the challenges that came up during the discussion was that there isn’t a one size fits all solution. In general, some of the most fertile land is contaminated with mines, either due to strategic considerations or because cluster munitions are less likely to explode on impact on more fertile soil.

**Gabriel Sostein Bathuel (NRC ICLA Project Manager, South Sudan)**: In an example from South Sudan, when land was cleared, rightful owners tried to reclaim to land but were denied by the government. The key lessons we learned was that it is important to work closely with HLP to handle issues that arise after land is cleared. The report on this work will be shared with the HLP AoR for use in the Mine Action and HLP resource library.

1. Libya – Evictions Task Force

**Anna Geller (DRC) - Libya Protection Sector co-ordinator and Richard Evans (UNHCR), SNFI coordinator Libya, presented an update on the progress of the Libya Evictions Task Force.**

**What is the Eviction Task Force (ETF)?** [**Information and Resources**](https://prod.sheltercluster.org/response/libya)on the ETF.

* Established in January 2021
* Protection and SNFI partners: CESVi, DRC, IOM, NRC, UN HABITAT, UNHCR
* 3 main types of outputs: advocacy, operational guidance, eviction tracking and risk monitoring

**Context**

* HLP concerns related to stabilization processes, returns of IDPs and refugees
* Specific situation of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers: many are renting property, living in abandoned buildings. mass expulsions of non-Libyans
* Operational: No HLP AoR in Libya, response spread across protection, SNFI, CMWG and Area Coordination Groups
* Remote coordination of ETF due to visa suspensions

**5 ETF products**

1. **Key advocacy messages**
2. **Informal Settlement Info Sheets and Eviction Threat Index –** index used to prioritize which areas are most threatened by eviction and should be focus of intervention.
3. **Eviction Tracker –** International and local partners were asked to provide information on concrete evictions, helpline available to report evictions. The goal of the tracker is to gain a broader picture on evictions – when, where and under what circumstances are they happening?
4. **Forced Eviction Response Guidelines –** a tool library for (1) gathering information, (2) advocacy and negotiation, (3) response, (4) monitoring and follow up
5. **Eviction Monitoring Checklists –** when evictions are happening, this checklist is used by observers.

The ETF covers all eviction cases, including singles, multiples, and mass – mainly IDPs, refugees and migrants. Products need continuous maintenance and upgrading.

**Questions for discussion**

* What would be the best place for the ETF in the current coordination mechanism in Libya?
* What advocacy experiences do participants have and are these applicable in a remote management context?
* Could some of the products be applicable to other contexts, if so, which?

**Comments and questions from the participants:**

**John Unruh, McGill University**

* Evictions often take place to sell/rent property to another party
* Increasing visibility of eviction issues make it harder for owners to sell properties again, as potential purchasers might be hesitant to risk being evicted themselves.
* The Eviction Tracker could be used to make past evictions visible and deter potential purchasers. Moreover, the ECT should elicit the support of other international actors to create visibility for specific evictions

**Richard Evans:** There are plans to make the Eviction Tracker more publicly available, first with other humanitarian actors and later with the general public in Libya.

**Deiliany Lazara de Souza, co-chair of HLP AoR in Mozambique:** How can the data collected in this tracker be used to prevent evictions?

**Richard Evans**: In 23% of the events, the ECT got the report on time and partners were able to step in to try to prevent the eviction. In 18% of those cases, the resolution attempt was successful.

**Fathi Egal, Land and Conflict Analysist, UN Habitat:**

* There are lots of forced evictions in Somalia. What worked best is getting local authorities involved, as well as working with communities to directly to raise awareness on their rights and options in case of threat of eviction.
* One of the main issues is determining who owns the properties in question.

**Anna Geller:** We would like to learn more about how to interact with local authorities, especially since most international staff is working remotely.

**Laura Cunial, NRC Syria ICLA Advisor:** Suggestion to re-consider establishing an HLP AoR/TWG to deal with HLP issues in Libya more holistically

**Richard Evans:** So far, our attempts to establish an HLP AoR in Libya have been turned down, we might try again.

**Ahmed Mansour Habitat International Coalition, Legal researcher, MENA region office:** As Libya is more controlled with the Clan System, is there a methodology to engage with the leaders of the trips to face the forced eviction for refugees and displaced persons?

**Richard Evans:** Indeed, interfacing with clan system is a key element of our tools/guidelines.

**Joseph Schechla, Housing and Land Rights Network - Habitat International Coalition**

* Reparations framework is key as a legal argument against illegal evictions, defined entitlements of victims of forced evictions.
* Is this or can this be a useful tool in local contexts?
1. Global update on the AoR

**Jamal Browne, new UNHCR HLP focal point**

* Appreciates that discussion is not academic or normative, but rather grounded in reality
* This is an important conversation that is an important mechanism to develop solutions, share best practises and coping mechanisms to merge the global normative and academic perspective with real experiences on the ground.

**Jim Robinson, global Coordinator HLP AoR, presented an update on the AoR.**

1. **Improved global support to HLP coordination and response**
* The AoR has improved data and information management and acts as a Helpdesk for technical or coordination issues, general questions on HLP.
* We have a growing roster of experts across clusters/sectors and are always looking for more experts to add to the list.
* There is a plan to increase capacity by region through national/ local partners in 2022-2024.
* Will share bi-monthly updates on the HLP AoR.
* Plan for better engagement with francophone colleagues:

**Tine Gewis, NRC Senegal, regional ICLA advisor**

* Series of meetings planned with Francophone country practitioners in Central and West Africa for the beginning of 2022
* First meeting to be held in French on 6 April 2022
1. **GPC and AOR Regional Technical Forum 2022**
* Technical forums will happen at a regional level in 2022
* The common parts will focus on 3 global priorities
1. GPC Field Coordination Package and key deliverables for field operations
2. Protection Analysis and Information Management
3. Collective Protection Advocacy

Schedule of Forums, conducted in hybrid format:

* 28 March – 1 April in **Istanbul** for Europe/Asia/MENA (English)
* 4-8 April in **Dakar** for West & Central Africa (French)
* 4-8 April in **Nairobi** for East & Southern Africa (English)
* 25-29 April in **Bogota** for Latin America (Spanish)
1. **Longer Term Research Projects**
* **Trust Law – Community Land Trusts and Humanitarian Response**
	+ Bangladesh, Colombia, Haiti, Uganda, …
	+ Research with law firms
* **Developing Better Practice on Climate Change, Disaster Displacement and HLP**
	+ Research on the links between climate change and HLP
	+ Focus on durable solutions, prevention and practical implementation
	+ Reach out if you think this would be relevant in your country
1. **Enhanced global attention to HLP through donor engagement, advocacy and HLP inclusion across clusters**
* [Launch](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GL4eeAyXuhY) of Key Messages on Women, Land and Peace with UN-Habitat, NRC, UNHCR – 16th Feb
1. **Ukraine**
* Many HLP issues around restitution, compensation, return and resettlement will arise in the upcoming months.

**Please add your name under** [**this link**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M1iGPjivqWAB6wTlGn86C_7_jgjPbTQlTe5G1avluRA/edit#gid=764835516) **in the areas of the HLP AoR Workplan that you are interested in engaging in**

[**Register interest**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOcSz7MGuj_GYfCj0vTzmvWieBn6sv55zoMKIbZ8vAcjsS3g/viewform) **in specific thematic interest groups, including climate change, eviction response and many others.**

1. Update on HLP and Shelter Cluster

**Patrice Aka, roving Shelter-HLP Adviser for the Global Shelter Cluster, provided an update on the cooperation between the HLP and Shelter Cluster.**

**Tools and Guidance**

* Worked on guidance for HLP due diligence for shelter cluster.
	+ Security of tenure, safe access to land and housing, how shelter advisors would include HLP actors in their activities
	+ First draft of guidance is completed
* Developing guidance on how land governance should contribute to HLP rights, tools about assessments and coordination.

**Support provided to Country Offices**

* Working closely with Filipino teams to include HLP components in shelter programmes.
* Working with Madagascar, Nigeria
1. Tour de Table – updates from members

**Evelyn Aero, NRC ICLA Regional Adviser East Africa and Yemen and Somalia HLP AoR acting Coordinator**

* Plan to update HLP strategy to include national disaster, access to justice and rule of law, Covid-19 response. We will move from eviction monitoring and response to more sustainable models.
* Our eviction tracker is now used by the government as public platform.
* We are working in collaboration with local authorities, the national durable solutions secretariat as well as the CCCM, shelter and protection clusters.
* We are developing a paper on HLP and durable solutions, implications of resilience for HLP, recommendations for legal and policy reforms
* We are producing an HLP Toolkit on natural disaster, prioritising floods and drought. The toolkit will include manuals for capacity building and can be contextualised for governments, organisations, and private sector.

**Laura Cunial, NRC Syria ICLA Advisor:** [Report](http://www.nrc.no/resources/reports/legal-identity-hlp-rights-syrian-refugees-from-durable-solutions-perspective/) was launched with UNHCR on HLP issues faced by Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries. Looking at documentation that has been lost, evictions, HLP violations

**Gabriel Sostein Bathuel, NRC ICLA Programme Manager, South Sudan**

* New land policy in South Sudan back on agenda since the new peace agreement
* AoR members are working with government to improve draft
* Advocating for Women’s HLP rights.

**Fathi Egal, Land and Conflict Analysist, UN Habitat:**

* UN Habitat is working on finalizing database on key contacts for HLP issues in specific countries.
* Available to organize capacity building, share resources on Women’s HLP specifically
* Contact via email: fathi.egal@un.org
1. Next steps
* Next meeting will be held in June 2022 – details to follow!
* Sign up for newsletter! [HLP AoR Mailing list](https://mailchi.mp/nrc.no/globalhlpaor)
* Join a thematic working group! [Link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOcSz7MGuj_GYfCj0vTzmvWieBn6sv55zoMKIbZ8vAcjsS3g/viewform)
* Declare your interest in specific areas of the [HLP AoR Workplan](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M1iGPjivqWAB6wTlGn86C_7_jgjPbTQlTe5G1avluRA/edit#gid=764835516) (column D)
* Get in touch with Jim - jim.robinson@nrc.no