

GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER | Strategic Framework 2016-19

Consultations in Nigeria, 5-13 August 2015

The Senior Protection Coordinator undertook a mission to support the Nigeria Protection Sector Working Group and to gather issues for the development of the next GPC Strategic Framework. Consistent themes emerged in the shape of the need for information management, expanding the scope of the response beyond IDPs, defining priorities and balancing the development of national capacity with the need to maintain neutrality in a conflict setting.

Working Groups in Abuja, Yola and Maiduguri were consulted over four days and the following issues of relevance for the strategic framework were raised:

1. In an operation with profound and complex protection issues, the question of what humanitarian actors can achieve is very real. Breaking down the concept of protection and prioritising certain actions over others can be a practical approach to working on the achievable.
2. Where there is an insurgency and counter-insurgency and the humanitarian response is led by a strong government, and is part of counter-insurgency measures, how should humanitarian actors interact with government partners? Where the insurgency creates problems of access, how can the protection sector obtain the information required to provide sound analysis to the HCT?
3. The importance of sub-national coordination to ensure the humanitarian response is holistic, based on need and not supply-driven
4. The complexity of expanding humanitarian response, while making sure it remains led by national government and non-government agencies
5. Protection activities are not just about meeting basic needs but also ensuring the dignity of affected people, including by providing aspects of a return to normality
6. The paramount need for information management, which is the foundation of good analysis and evidence-based response