

Protection Cluster Central African Republic

Key activities/projects/processes identified as supporting early recovery in the protection cluster 2009-2010

1. Early recovery in CAR

In CAR, the early recovery cluster is led by UNDP. During the mid-year review of the CAP 2009, it was agreed that early recovery cluster activities should no longer constitute one of the stand alone main objectives. However, in the CAP workshop 2010, the early recovery perspective was again included as one of the main objectives by the humanitarian community.

UNHCR as cluster lead participates in the meetings and workshops of the early recovery cluster. More importantly, UNDP is a key member of the protection cluster and works in close collaboration with UNHCR and the other protection cluster members to obtain the objectives of the clusters' protection strategy.

UNHCR CAR has not received nor asked for any support by the Global Protection Cluster to the implementation of early recovery activities and processes at country level during 2009.

2. Mainstreaming of early recovery activities in the protection cluster

The mainstreaming of early recovery activities in the protection strategy is a requirement given the wide range of grave violations, the failure of the justice system with widespread impunity, the lack of infrastructure and weak state presence and the operational context with various political and security developments. In fact, the protection strategy 2009- 2010 is based on two key dimensions:

- 1) *Emergency interventions aimed at safeguarding lives and bring violations to a halt; and*
- 2) *Prevention interventions and structural support on a medium and long term basis to achieve behavioral change, rule of law and a culture of respect for human rights.*

Strengthening of institutional capacity

The close collaboration between UNHCR and UNDP falls under the second dimension, in particular with regards to the implementation of interventions at the structural level to restore rule of law with a view to strengthen institutional capacity. Interventions are aimed to support, on the central and the decentralized level, the reestablishment and strengthening of state services, including the judicial system, infrastructure, community-based structures, administrative and municipal authorities and state security. UNDP's project to reinforce rule of law PRED (*Projet de Renforcement de l'Etat de Droit*) is coordinated in close collaboration with the protection cluster. In particular, within the framework of the protection cluster, UNHCR together with UNICEF (and soon the Human Rights Section of BONUCA), participates in a newly established UNDP-led technical working group in the area of justice.

Strengthening of community-based structures

On the community level, UNHCR and UNDP work in close collaboration to enhance capacity-building, which in practice at times results in joint project proposals. One of the

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joint projects is aimed at obtaining one of the cluster's strategic objectives, namely preventing violations and violence through 1) reinforcing local capacity (such as traditional structures and opinion leaders) by the strengthening of administration of justice; and 2) peace and reconciliation through actions strengthening social cohesion.

In addition, the protection cluster always works through community mobilization and a participatory approach in order for the persons of concern to be the driving force in the search for and the development of solutions to guarantee the protection of their rights.

Training

Moreover, UNDP is a member of the protection cluster's technical group on training, which coordinates and implements training sessions, workshops and seminars on the rights of persons of concern. To ensure the early recovery perspective, emphasis is placed on the integration of modules in national training programmes and training of national trainers.

Early warning system

The protection cluster also aims in 2010 to work towards the establishment of an early warning system and a rapid response mechanism building on previous experiences, in case of new displacement.

Durable solutions

Another aspect of the mainstreaming of early recovery activities is the support to the creation of durable solutions, which is one of the protection clusters' main objectives in 2010. Through sustainable economic recovery and rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, interventions are targeted at the establishment of a safe environment, property rehabilitation, and a favorable environment for sustainable return including access to basic services.

UNHCR Bangui
29 September 2009