

## **Protection Working Group – Terms of Reference**

Dili, Timor-Leste, July 2007

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### **Context and Objective**

The Protection Working Group (PWG) has been convened in order to support the overall protection response to the humanitarian crisis in Timor-Leste. Primary responsible for the protection of IDPs, and for providing durable solution is the Government of Timor-Leste. The objective of the PWG is to support the Government in this regard, and to function as a steering body on matters pertaining to the protection of IDPs. The PWG shall act as an advisory group on the creation and monitoring of mechanisms for the prevention and response of protection issues, and discuss ways on how to prevent and address protection problems. Whereas some issues may be addressed by the participating organizations, other may need to be raised to a higher level including the Operational Task Force, the Interministerial Commission and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). In doing so, the PWG will work to promote a coordinated response to ensure streamlined action between protection actors; government, civil society and United Nations.

Protection, as it is widely accepted, is defined as “encompassing all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee laws).<sup>1</sup>

### **Duration**

The PWG will continue to meet on a regular basis, currently every week. The duration of the PWG and the frequency can be changed by discussing amongst PWG chair and members.

### **Mode and Principles of Operation:**

A Plan of Action specifying priority activities and areas of responsibility for the PWG will complement this Terms of Reference.

Principles for information sharing, including confidentiality, dignity, respect, impartiality and non-discrimination are included in this Plan.

### **Members of the FSWG**

The PWG will be chaired by senior representatives of the MTRC and co-chaired by the HRTJS/OHCHR<sup>2</sup>, with support from UNICEF. The HRTJS in coordination with the MTRC will take responsibility for organising meetings, preparing the agenda, minute taking and circulating the draft minutes. The Child Protection Working Group, the Gender Based Violence Referral Pathways working group and the Women’s Committees

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<sup>1</sup> Protection Cluster Working Group: Progress Report to the IASC Principals (December 2005)

<sup>2</sup> HRTJS is the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section of UNMIT, which also implements the mandate of the OHCHR.

will continue to report to the PWG on priority issues of concern, including advocacy, programmatic and policy matters.

The PGW comprises organisations GoTL/UN/International Organisations and NGOs (national and international) involved in the protection of IDPs. Key partners include the Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice, Office for the Promotion of Equality, PNTL/UNPOL, International Security Forces (ISF), the Site Liaison Support (SLS), IOM, UNFPA, UNIFEM, OCHA, ICRC, Rede de Monitorizasaun Direitos Umanus (RMDH), NRC, AUSTCARE, CARE INTERNATIONAL, OXFAM, PLAN INTERNATIONAL, FOKUPERS, PRADET, REDE FETO, ALOLA FOUNDATION, ETRCN.

### **Objectives of the PGW for 2007**

Following the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) mid-year review by a variety of protection actors, emphasis was placed in the need for: Increased field presence, monitoring and reporting systems, strengthened referral mechanisms for protection, a strategic framework for durable solutions for IDPs and advocacy.

Accordingly, the objectives for the PWG for 2007 are therefore to:

- Consolidate information to identify trends and key issues for advocacy, programmatic and other action relevant to the protection of IDPs, and ensure that protection problems are addressed.
- Formulate a protection response framework for IDPs in Dili and the Districts to harmonize systems for monitoring, reporting, analysis, advocacy and coordination.
- Ensure that the protection considerations of IDPs, including the special needs of the most vulnerable (children and women), are systematically incorporated into all forms of planning and implementation with particular reference and linkages to related Working Groups such as Shelter, Food security, SLS and others.
- Provide recommendations for a rights-based and operational strategic framework to provide durable solutions for IDPs.
- Support the appropriate working groups to strengthen field-level prevention and response systems for the protection of vulnerable groups, including referral pathways for victims of gender based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation in IDP camps and affected communities, psychosocial support activities for children and care-givers, registration of IDPs, etc.