

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### PROTECTION THEMATIC WORKING GROUP FOR FLOOD RESPONSE (PTG) - PAKISTAN

#### Background

The Government of Pakistan declared an end to the emergency relief phase in the flood affected areas of Pakistan on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011, with the exception of the areas of five districts that remain water logged. This announcement also marked a full fledged transition from relief to Early Recovery (ER). With a view to put in place a coordination mechanism for early recovery, an Early Recovery Working Group was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in Islamabad, putting forth the plans to form similar ERWG mechanisms at the provincial and district levels. The ERWGs are co-chaired by the respective Disaster Management Authority and UNDP, as the lead UN agency for ER. Under the arrangement, eight Sectoral Working Groups (SWGs) have been formed as components of the ERWG around the eight prioritized ER sectors including: Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Water and Sanitation; Housing; Off-farm Livelihood; Community Physical Infrastructure; Governance, and, Education. Additionally, four Thematic Working Groups (TGs) on Protection, Environment, Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction have been formed to ensure the mainstreaming of these themes across all the sectors.

The Protection Thematic Working Group (PTG) was launched on 1 March 2011. While still responsible for coordinating protection activities and implementing stand alone protection responses the PTG is also designed to ensure Protection as a cross-cutting theme is mainstreamed throughout the Early Recovery response across sectors.

#### PTG Overall Objective

The overall objective of the PTG is to support the establishment of a protection conducive environment for the flood affected populations and build the capacity of the Government and other concerned stakeholders to identify protection concerns and design, implement and coordinate protection activities and services with a particular emphasis on early recovery mechanisms.

#### Main Activities

- Identify, report and respond to continuing and arising protection needs in the Early Recovery phase of the flood response
- Coordinate protection activities and actors within the PTG and across the other SWGs and TGs
- Mainstream protection within the overall Early Recovery response and give technical support to policy and strategy development across sectors
- Build the Capacity of the Government and other concerned stakeholders to create a stronger protection environment and to prepare for future disaster responses

#### Roles and Responsibilities of the PTG

1. Establishment and maintenance of appropriate coordination structures
  - Explore and implement options for creating inter-sectoral and inter-thematic harmony for protection interventions by working closely with other TG and SWG members active at the same geographical/ administrative level
  - Establish linkages and coordination with national and local coordination mechanisms, Government authorities and state institutions

- Support the coordination of activities and service delivery among all stakeholders to improve standards, prevent duplication, identify gaps and seek solutions to fill those gaps.
  - Resource mobilization through coordination and advocacy with donors and SWGs to identify funds for priority protection activities
2. Mainstreaming Protection and Application of Standards
    - Develop guidelines for mainstreaming Protection across each sector
    - Carry out an analytical review of all the Sectoral Strategies and Programmes
    - Develop and frame minimum standards, theme-specific guiding principles and technical specifications as well as a system of monitoring their compliance and applicability in close coordination with the local communities
    - Support SWGs to understand and follow existing protection policy guidelines, technical standards, principles and legal obligations
    - Advocate for and support the application of international and national protection standards, including utilization of participatory and community-based approaches, across all sectors and with all relevant stakeholders
  3. Needs Assessments and Information Management
    - Identification of financial and geographical gaps in the various activities under the Protection thematic area involving all relevant partners
    - Mapping of the needs and capacities, projects, finances, funding sources, relevance and scope of all the actors working on Protection at various geographical levels
  4. Capacity Building
    - Facilitate capacity building and advocacy programs for knowledge strengthening within the SWGs
    - Support TG and SWG to build on local capacities
    - Provide capacity building to national/local authorities, state institutions, local civil society and other relevant actors on protection response and application of standards.
  5. Planning and Strategy Development
    - Document the salient lessons learnt in ER process as an input to preparation for possible future calamities, especially with regard to constraints in each geographical area and recording proactive methodologies
    - Prepare and update strategic action plans, disaster preparedness and contingency planning and ensure that these are adequately reflected in overall country strategies.
    - Represent Protection concerns in country level discussions on strategy, policy, prioritization and resource mobilization
  6. Monitoring, Reporting and Communication
    - Put in place a system of timely and continual reporting on the progress of PTG activities for effective monitoring and evaluation
    - Develop and maintain effective communication and information sharing within the PTG and among other SWGs/TGs.

### **Membership**

The PTG will be co-chaired by NDMA and UNHCR. (UNHCR will be supported in co-chair

responsibilities by IRC within the framework of the existing MOU)The ultimate responsibility and accountability for the functioning of the group lies with the co-chairs.

The PTG will be composed of active international and national humanitarian, human rights and development actors working in the protection sector. It is the responsibility of the lead agencies to ensure inclusion of key humanitarian partners for the sector.

The PTG will engage with the Government of Pakistan Line Ministries, national institutions and civil society to ensure the necessary linkages and coordination.

## **Composition**

The PTG is composed of:

- Information Management, Advocacy and Communications Group
- Three Sub Groups - Child Protection, GBV, Land and Property Rights
- One Task force on Ageing and Disability

The **Child Protection Sub-Group** is chaired by UNICEF and works in close cooperation with NDMA Women and Child Cell. The Child Protection Sub-group is present at the National and Provincial level and has a number of Working Groups that deal with specific technical issues (see separate ToR).

The **GBV Sub Group** The Gender Based Violence Sub Group is present at the National, Provincial and District level. In Sindh, Punjab and KPK the GBV Sub-group is chaired by UNFPA while in Balochistan the GBV sub-group is chaired by UNHCR with technical guidance from UNFPA; the GBV Sub-group works in close cooperation with NDMA Women and Child Cell. There are two Working Groups falling under the GBV Sub-Group that deal with specific technical issues (see separate ToR).

The **Land and Property Rights Sub Group** is based in Islamabad and covers the national response more broadly; it is chaired by UN Habitat (see separate ToR).

The **Ageing and Disability Task Force** is operational at Islamabad level and its members include like-minded local and international civil society organizations that include mainstreaming of disability and/or ageing issues in their mandate. The Task Force is led by five secretariat members - HelpAge International, Handicap International, CBM, Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP) and Leonard Cheshire Disability. Although feeding into the overall Protection structures, maintains its independence as a national Task Force designed to have a much long lasting and more far reaching presence than the humanitarian and early recovery flood response (see separate TOR).

Members of the PTG will act as **Protection Focal Points** to support the mainstreaming efforts of Protection through the 8 SWGs and 3 TGs at the Islamabad level. The role requires attendance at meetings and information and coordination support (see separate TOR). Approaches to mainstreaming will be addressed separately at the Provincial level.

The PTG may establish separate groups for specific topics, either on an ad hoc or more longer-term basis, to deal with specific areas requiring technical expertise and increased capacity.

## **Coordination Structure**

Regular coordination meetings will be facilitated by the PTG Chairs. Coordination of the Protection TG and its cross-cutting mandate will take place at the District, Provincial and Federal level. Focus will be on the 29 severely affected districts without losing sight of the protection needs of all those affected by the floods.

## **Transition**

The PTG will work towards a smooth transition from Early Recovery to recovery and Development by developing best practices, supporting government coordination mechanisms and mainstreaming protection through all sectors.

## **Confidentiality**

The partners attending the PTG will seek to preserve confidentiality regarding the identity of victims/survivors of protection incidents and otherwise observe “do no harm” principles whenever sharing protection related information, reporting on such information, and when following up on reported protection issues.

The PTG will establish referral mechanisms to allow for responses to individual cases, but no names or other identifying features are to be mentioned or discussed by the Thematic Working Group or its sub-groups.