



# Protect!

Protection Cluster Response Plan Highlights for 2016



# 2015 ... Protection needs surged!

130'000 forcibly evicted. 9'582 GBV incidents recorded affecting to three quarters IDPs. 903 children forcibly recruited. 703 children killed and maimed. 90'000 displaced due to conflict in Galkaacyo in December 2015. 508 individuals injured or killed by explosive hazards and thousands exposed to risks at checkpoints. 42'000 internally displaced by the military offensive in July/August 2015 and thousands trapped in areas recovered during military offensives in 2014 and 2015. 60'000 displaced by El Nino rains and flooding. 1.1 million human beings living in protracted internal displacement facing daily risks, marginalization and discrimination ...

## Protection is lifesaving!

A word from the Somalia Protection Cluster



Protection is about the rights of human beings in times of humanitarian crisis and beyond: A woman raped; a child abducted or forcibly recruited; a family forced to flee; a young boy injured by an explosive; a father lost his property while in displacement; a family involuntarily separated or forcibly evicted; a community stuck in long-term protracted displacement. They all need protection. Protection is lifesaving!

In 2015, the Somalia Protection Cluster not only shifted to Somalia, it also restructured itself to be more field focused and in particular expanded its scope of work with an emphasis on the protection of housing, land and property rights and protection against explosive hazards, in addition to GBV and child protection. 2015 was also the year protection needs started to drastically increase and the protective environment to deteriorate. The outlook for 2016 is not rosy and we have to prepare ourselves to protect people to the best of our abilities. I count on the continued support by all members of the Cluster, the donor community and the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Caroline van Buren, UNHCR Representative Somalia

## Somalia's IDPs face a protection crisis!

A message by the Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator

10% of the population live unprotected and in extremely dire humanitarian conditions in informal settlements and destroyed public buildings in many of Somalia's cities. IDPs are the very visible sign of the gravity and protracted nature of the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. And every day, they face risks to their lives, to their integrity. IDPs in Somalia face a protection crisis.

Without addressing their basic human rights, it will become impossible for them to gradually achieve a durable solution. In Mogadishu, 400'000 people live in congested, overcrowded and inhumane conditions in over 480 informal settlements in a town that has an estimated 2 million inhabitants. This is almost a quarter of the urban population living in marginalization, faced with social exclusion and de facto without rights.

Only a strategic approach towards durable solutions that considers rights up front and marries catalytic humanitarian action with longer term development interventions will be able to put an end to this vicious trend. As Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, I have a responsibility to put protection central to the humanitarian response and this means to prioritize solutions for Somalia's IDPs with their rights at the center.

Peter de Clercq,  
Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for Somalia

## ... 2016: Response needs!



People in Need: 1.1 million



People Targeted: 959,200 men, women, boys and girls



Requirements (US \$): 90 Mio

**Protection objective 1:** To improve the prevention of protection risks, response and access to protective services for IDPs and other civilians affected by conflict, violence, human rights violations or disaster

**Protection objective 2:** To strengthen the protective environment for IDPs and other vulnerable groups in particular through enhanced protection interventions to support durable solutions for IDPs

**Protection objective 3:** To increase the operational response capacity through capacity development, strategic advocacy and humanitarian dialogues

**Why is the requirement so high?** In 2015, the Somalia Protection Cluster activated its two additional areas of responsibility: Protection of housing, land and property rights and protection against explosive hazards. This is in addition to protection against GBV and child protection. With this achievement of a wider protection scope, more people can be reached. Also, based on decision by the Humanitarian Coordinator in 2015, returns for both IDPs and refugee returnees were integrated in the Cluster system and the Protection Cluster included respective projects of its members in the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan.



# The Six Priorities for 2016



## Protection against and prevention of GBV and child rights violations and effective protection service delivery in humanitarian crisis

Gender-based violence, in particular rape and physical assault, involuntary family separations, forced recruitments and other grave violations of children’s rights remain central to the humanitarian protection response in Somalia. Both,

### Highlight: 1 stop centers!

Such centers provide comprehensive support to GBV survivors: immediate medical assistance, psychosocial counselling, material support and legal aid service. Such a response is safest and least distressing for a traumatized survivor. Currently, there are only 17 one stop centers across Somalia.

preventive and responsive action is needed and access to protection services further must expand. Policy and legislative advocacy and work are ongoing towards enactment of the Sexual Offenses and Zero Tolerance FGM Bills and

### Highlight: Fast IDTR!

Identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR) needs to be fast. Funding must therefore be available at the onset of an emergency.

translation of the Child Rights Convention into national legislation. The family is a main provider of protection for children. Yet, the risks of involuntary family separation are manifold in Somalia. Involuntary family separations are dangerous and can cost lives of children.

## Improving the safe freedom of movement of IDPs and other civilians

Explosive hazards remain a key obstacle to the safe freedom of movement of IDPs and other civilians. Survey, marking and

### Highlight: Cleared!

Several high risk landmine and other explosive remnants of war contaminated areas along the Somali-Ethiopian border will be cleared through community-based work by local residents. Risk education will be integral part of this project.

clearance of explosive hazards, as well as the provision of risk education and IED awareness are critical activities in 2016. Community involvement is an important component in this. Advocacy, dialogue with armed forces and capacity building on humanitarian negotiations will complement this priority.



## Being a catalyst on durable solutions for IDP

1.1 million IDPs live in protracted displacement, mostly in Somalia’s towns. Durable solution are a priority to gradually improve their appalling living conditions and address their marginalization and discrimination. In 2015, the Cluster was a key driver for the RC/HC’s Somalia IDP Solutions Initiative and will continue to catalyze this process. The 2015 concluded IDP profilings in Hargeisa and Mogadishu feed into this initiative.

### Highlight: innovative urban solutions!

The aim of this project is to create enabling conditions for durable and sustainable housing occupancy, protection mechanisms for tenure and housing rights as well as enhanced living standards and productivity by integrating a livelihood component into the rental subsidy conditional cash grant. Up for pilot!



## Strengthening prevention and response to housing, land and property rights violations and access to effective restoration mechanisms

Violations of housing, land and property rights remain one the most prevalent protection concerns in Somalia. Forced evictions have reached a staggering scale in 2015. Forced evictions monitoring is key for preventive and responsive interventions. Additionally, in 2016, efforts will be pursued to working with municipal authorities on lawful eviction processes. Rights awareness raising, advocacy and capacity building are integral part of this priority.

### Highlight: Evictions monitored and tracked!

Forced evictions monitoring and tracking allows for timely preventive interventions and response. Expanding this mechanism to all main towns populated by IDPs will allow to enforce the protection response to one of the most prevalent violations in Somalia.



## Building up community protection capacity

The outlook for 2016 points at a deterioration of the protective environment. In such a persistently insecure and volatile situation, the role of communities in protection is essential and will further be enhanced through community-based protection mechanisms. The Cluster will work to streamline efforts by members and ensure sustained support for these structures.



## Strengthening the capacity of civil society, formal and informal authorities

Capacity building of partners and stakeholders remains a priority for the Protection Cluster, building up its capacity building curriculum.





# Protection Cluster Humanitarian Response Plan 2016

