Somalia Protection Cluster

Somalia Protection Cluster Strategy 2022-2023

Endorsed by the Protection Cluster on 06 December 2021

Endorsed by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD)

Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development
Federal Republic of Somalia

Contents

Acronyms

AoR	Area of Responsibility
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
PRMN	Protection Return Monitoring Network
SPMS	Somalia Protection Monitoring System.
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
PLWD	Person Living with Disabilities
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
SAG	Strategic Advisory Group
PC	Protection Cluster
HLP AoR	Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility
CP AoR	Child Protection Area of Responsibility
GBV AoR	Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility
EH AoR	Explosive Hazard Area of Responsibility
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MoWHRD	Ministry of Women and Human Rights and Development
PMI	Protection Mainstreaming Index
MHPSS WG	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group
CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Introduction

As the Protection Cluster and AoRs, our vision is that people are protected in humanitarian crises and their rights respected and solutions found in accordance with international law. Our mission is to ensure a well-coordinated, effective, and principled protection preparedness and response, and that protection is at the core of all humanitarian actions and is recognized as essential in any nexus with development and peace.

The Protection Cluster comprises over 140 organizations (of which 70% are national NGOs)and four Areas of Responsibility, including: Child Protection, Gender Based Violence, Explosive Hazards and Housing, Land and Property. This strategy forms the basis of the cluster's coordinated response to the complex protection crisis in Somalia. It provides direction to the membership of the protection cluster and the wider humanitarian community and complements the strategies of the Areas of Responsibility.

The cluster is guided by international law, the [Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#), the [2013 IASC Statement on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action](#), the [2015 IASC GBV Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action](#) and the [2016 IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) and the objectives listed in the Humanitarian Response Plan.

Protection Context

In Somalia, drivers of the complex protection crisis are inter-connected and acute as well as protracted as a result of conflict, natural disasters, weak protective institutions and frameworks, large-scale displacement, eroded resilience of communities and wide-spread economic vulnerabilities. According to the UNHCR-led Protection Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) data, a total of 494,000 persons were displaced during the period of January to June 2021 and the main driving factors are conflict, drought, and floods, with conflict induced displacement accounting for almost 75% in 2021 .

The protection concerns in Somalia stem from acts of violence, exploitation, abuse, coercion, and deprivation, especially in situations of conflict, humanitarian crisis, displacement and through violations of International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. Pervasive features of the conflict in Somalia include targeted and indiscriminate physical attacks on civilians and on property, widespread sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), grave violations against children, including child recruitment, arbitrary arrest, forced displacement, evictions, land-grabbing, clan conflicts and contamination of landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The impact of the conflict is aggravated by a protection environment characterized by impediments to access for humanitarian workers and for people in need of assistance, limited - as well as unequal-service provision, weak or missing protection systems, low awareness of basic rights and discriminatory and harmful socio-cultural norms relating to gender and practices which disadvantage minority clans and marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities and impact most upon women, children and older person. Ongoing conflict, drought and flooding has devastated livelihoods of millions of people and exacerbated the acute food insecurity and malnutrition rates and induced large-scale displacement.

Priority Affected Groups

The Protection Cluster prioritises the following categories of people as those most at risk of protection violations and in need of humanitarian protection. This categorization mirrors the analysis provided for the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan for 2022. The priority affected groups include: Internally Displaced People (IDPs), especially newly displaced, due to their disruption of livelihoods, social protection networks and access to essential services/goods as well as their status as IDPs, children in adversity (under 18), women and adolescent girls (aged 12-19), people living with disabilities (PLWDs), persons with minority clan affiliations and/or other marginalised groups, and older persons.

Protection Objectives

The strategy asserts that a response or activity is considered to have a protection outcome when the risk to affected persons is reduced. The reduction of risks, meanwhile, occurs when threats and vulnerability are minimized and, at the same time, the capacity of affected persons is enhanced. Protection outcomes are the result of changes in behaviour, attitudes, policies, knowledge, and practices on the part of relevant stakeholders and affected people.

The cluster prioritised objectives against the following criteria: issues most appropriate/realistic for the protection cluster to address, the protection cluster is best placed to address the issues, the gravity or need, realism of the outcomes, cluster and its members' own capacity/funding/mandate, the context in Somalia (at the time of writing the strategy), and whether progress towards the outcomes is measurable. Three over-arching objectives are selected and focus on collective and collaborative activities and approaches across the Protection Cluster and AoRs. The Protection Cluster strategy is complementary to existing AoR strategies and designed to influence the clusters contribution to the Humanitarian Programme Cycles 2022-23.

Strategic Objective 1: The rights of people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Somalia are respected and promoted through effective and collaborative protection monitoring services in order to generate evidence for advocacy, programming, and efficient response to needs

Effective, credible, and authoritative protection monitoring is the bedrock of protection efforts. In Somalia there are several protection monitoring mechanisms in place, ranging from trend and area based to incident-based systems. To reduce protection risks, the evidence being generated from these mechanisms and local networks can be strengthened by increasing data sharing and triangulation across humanitarian protection actors. Increased collaboration avoids duplication of effort, expands access, moves beyond a reliance on Key Informants, and can reduce operational risks to actors collecting data in the field. Authoritative evidence will facilitate the cluster, mandated agencies, the HCT as well as development and policy actors to increase advocacy efforts aimed at mobilising duty bearers. The Protection Cluster will promote and resource the sharing of information to allow humanitarian responders to adapt their programming to reduce identified and emerging protection risks. Cluster wide issues for increased monitoring, advocacy and collaboration across sectors will be (1) increasing access to justice, particularly for women and persons with minority clan affiliations, (2) increasing evidence on the protection of civilians and reducing indiscriminate attacks on civilians and their assets and (3) identifying exclusion through denial of assistance or enjoyment of equal rights. The Protection Cluster will also seek to ensure its evidence and advocacy efforts are targeted through sustained engagement across the humanitarian – peace – development *nexus*.

Strategic Objective 2: People are protected through fair and equal access to inclusive multi-sectoral responses that provide full and non-discriminatory access to essential services

The Protection Cluster and AoRs will identify or strengthen multi-sectoral programmatic approaches to increase access to essential services through strategic partnership with other clusters and key stakeholders, including UN agencies, State ministries, International Institutions, and affected communities. Multi-sectoral responses require that the Protection Cluster commits to strengthening Localization[1] efforts, including building institutional capacity across its membership. The cluster will investigate and promote multi-sector responses to increase the resilience of communities affected by climate shocks and identify and share best practices on reducing protection risks related to climate change. The cluster will support the Explosive Hazard AoR to promote appropriate national capacities to respond to explosive threats and coordinate assistance to victims of explosive hazards within the broader responses to disability. A rights-based approach to access to services means the protection cluster commits to strengthening community-based programming and approaches, conducting joint vulnerability assessments, and identifying *fit for purpose* individual assistance programs. The cluster will promote and implement the GBV AoR strategy 2021- 2023 to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. The cluster will also promote and implement the Child Protection AoR strategy 2021-24 to prevent and respond to protection concerns for children in adversity that include but are not limited to family separation, children associated with armed forces and armed groups, psychosocial distress, through strengthening of multi-sector responses.

Strategic Objective 3: Ensuring Protection is mainstreamed and humanitarian principles are upheld across the response

The Protection Cluster will sustain its efforts to ensure protection is mainstreamed across all clusters through the objectives listed in the Humanitarian Response Plan 2022 in order to mitigate risks for vulnerable groups as well as ensuring meaningful access and participation equitably. The Protection Cluster will train and promote clusters to use the Protection Monitoring Index, a tool for standardizing mainstreaming activities and tracking progress for clusters. The Protection Cluster will also seek to increase the reach of the humanitarian response across Somalia through increased collaboration with access efforts that are based on humanitarian principles.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This strategy is considered a *'living document'* and should be reviewed and returned to regularly. The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), which includes all four AoRs, UN agencies, INGO, and local partners, will meet on a quarterly basis to monitor progress, identify bottlenecks, and adapt approaches as necessary.

The strategy will be presented to all member of the Protection Cluster and progress against the objectives will be shared and open for discussion quarterly via the Protection Cluster monthly meeting. The SAG should conduct an evaluation of the strategy before the end of 2023.

---

[1]**Localisation**: local and national humanitarian actors increasingly empowered to take a greater role in the leadership, coordination and delivery of humanitarian preparedness and response in their countries.

Summary of Activities and Approaches 2022-2023

Protection Objective	Specific Risks	Activity / Approach	Cluster/AoRs Involved
The rights of people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Somalia are respected and promoted through effective and collaborative Protection Monitoring to generate evidence for advocacy and programming and efficient response to needs.	Conflict affected people are denied access to justice	Protection Cluster will document the differential forms of exclusion of access to justice, in particular for women and minority clan members, including (1) mapping of the various justice mechanisms and legal services available (2) promoting the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution centres through inter-cluster information campaigns.	PC and HLP AoR
		Establish strategic partnerships and develop referral pathways (if not already in place) to existing justice mechanisms (ex: UNDP, ADRs) that are representative, fair, and accessible to the community, for women and persons with minority clan affiliations.	PC
	Information shared/evidence from Protection Monitoring is not utilized (repetitive) and no action taken on protection monitoring findings	Map Protection Monitoring mechanisms and systems and identify methods for triangulation, information sharing, and complementarity through the creation of an inter-agency data sharing and monitoring analysis group.	PC and all AoRs
		Conduct joint analysis sessions using consolidated data using the format of the SPMS Joint Analysis Workshop.	PC
	(Mine Action) Victims receive no response / assistance	Protection Cluster will incorporate response into protection monitoring though investigating and promoting standardised referral pathways for (Mine Action) victim assistance that integrates into existing AoR referral pathways.	PC
	Advocacy is not effective in reducing specific and imminent protection threats to individuals and communities.	Conduct joint advocacy briefings that represent the cluster as a whole but may be AoR specific issues to key stakeholders	PC and All AoRs
		Protection Cluster creates authoritative, joint advocacy based on evidence from protection monitoring, noting particularly effective targets should be local authorities, and develop a mechanism to monitor progress on key messages.	PC and All AoRs

Protection Objective	Specific Risks	Activity / Approach	Cluster/AoRs Involved
People are protected through inclusive multi-sectoral responses that provide full and non-discriminatory access to essential services	Vulnerable categories of people, particularly minorities, continue to be denied access to services due to discrimination	The cluster will provide guidance to clusters to take measures to increase minority clan inclusion (based on the evidence generated by an agency assessment) and promote strategic partnership with specialised local actors.	PC
	National actors are under-represented	Adopt a localization plan of action and conduct institutional capacity building for national and local actors and develop strategic partnerships with State actors, specifically the MoWHRD and the National Disability Actors	PC
		Protection Cluster strengthens coordination and collaboration with the MoWHRD through regular meetings, designated Protection Cluster SAG focal point from the MoWHRD, and joint projects.	PC
	Programming is not adaptive or flexible to reduce risks	Cluster will identify and advocate for multi-sector protection programming	PC and AoRs
	Boys and girls including adolescents facing protection risks cannot access to child protection service and are unprotected from abuse, neglect, violence	The Protection Cluster to support in the protection of children through the implementation of the CP AoR Strategy.	PC and CP AoR
	Women and girls at heightened risk of sexual or gender-based violence are denied access to protective services and access to justice	The Protection Cluster to support in the prevention and response to gender-based violence through the implementation of the GBV AoR Strategy.	PC and GBV AoR
	Vulnerable individuals and communities are not systematically	The Protection Cluster to identify referral gaps for protection services and develop referral pathways to address these identified gaps. Linkages will be made to referral pathways in place and efforts will be made to increase awareness on referral pathways.	PC and AoRs

Protection Objective	Specific Risks	Activity / Approach	Cluster/AoRs Involved
	catered for in the humanitarian response	Contextualizing the Protection Case Management Guidelines[2] to Somalia, in particular for General Protection, HLP and Mine Action, and establishing linkages to existing case management frameworks in Somalia such as for Child Protection and GBV.	PC and AoRs
		Protection Cluster and AoRs to promote community-based protection programming through provision of training, workshops, and contextualized guidance for Somalia.	PC and AoRs
Ensuring protection is mainstreamed and humanitarian principles are upheld across the response	Vulnerable groups are placed at heightened risk of protection violations due to insufficient protection mainstreaming efforts by clusters	The Protection Cluster will ensure commitments to mainstreaming are reflected in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle through the provision of training and mentoring on protection mainstreaming across all clusters.	PC and AoRs
		The Cluster will promote the Protection Mainstreaming Index (PMI) to the various clusters and partners; piloted in 2020-2021 to help partners/clusters measure their ability to mainstream protection.	PC
		Build linkages between the Protection Cluster and Health Cluster by co-facilitating the MHPSS WG, incorporating 5W reporting on MHPSS activities, and establishing linkages with other clusters (i.e. Education, CCCM, Nutrition).	PC and AoRs

---

[2]https://reliefweb.int/report/world/your-guide-protection-case-management-field-test-version