**The Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and Humanitarian Programme Cycle**

December 2021

In 2020, the Secretary-General (SG) launched the [Call to Action for Human Rights](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fsg%2Fsites%2Fwww.un.org.sg%2Ffiles%2Fatoms%2Ffiles%2FThe_Highest_Asperation_A_Call_To_Action_For_Human_Right_English.pdf&data=02%7C01%7Ctadjbakh%40unhcr.org%7Ca0c1a48cacda446543df08d7f65a7525%7Ce5c37981666441348a0c6543d2af80be%7C0%7C0%7C637248740872286561&sdata=FGnYd06eqpyPG9FbCcM8FpzwTryVtfz2Iud%2FlgcUWW4%3D&reserved=0). The Call to Action (C2A) reiterates that human rights must be at the heart of all UN action, including in times of crisis, and provides momentum to deepen and advance the centrality of protection in practice. The C2A implementation is a UN system-wide responsibility, and the Secretary-General has repeatedly underscored that human rights are the responsibility of each and every UN entity and staff member. The [HPC 2022 Facilitation Package](https://assessments.hpc.tools/content/hpc-2022-facilitation-package) highlights the C2A as a key reference point for needs assessments and response planning.

In line with the above, the purpose of this note is to encourage and support country-level efforts to more systematically use and leverage human rights analysis and information as part of the overall protection analysis, including in the HPC process. This first iteration focuses on Protection Cluster Protection Analysis Updates and the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). It is a living document that will be updated over the coming months by the Global Protection Cluster.[[1]](#footnote-1) It is not intended to serve as comprehensive guidance on this topic.

**What is the added value of the C2A for the Protection Analysis Updates and Humanitarian Programme Cycle?**

* More robust analysis, including of power structures, context, legal and policy framework and notably relevant international human rights obligations and commitments, underlying root causes of human rights violations and abuses
* A more holistic and nuanced understanding of the risks affected people face and capacities they can bring to bear to reduce risk themselves
* Enhanced understanding of State and non-State actors, including their roles and responsibilities in relation to human rights violations or abuses
* Broadening the basis for engagement with human rights, development and peace operations actors to work collectively and more consistently in analysing and addressing complex protection challenges
* Aligned with and reinforces the [2016 IASC Protection Policy](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-protection-priority-global-protection-cluster/iasc-policy-protection-humanitarian-action-2016) and [2013 IASC Principals Statement on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-principals-statement-centrality-protection-humanitarian-action-2013)

**What key elements of human rights analysis should be taken into account?**

* Linking analysis of protection concerns to the international human rights norms and standards at stake. Identify and link the relevant applicable legal frameworks to the identified protection concerns including:
  + Analysis from the perspective of actors involved, including State and non-state actors (primary duty-bearers) and of their obligations and commitments in relation to the protection concerns being examined.
  + Analysis from the perspective of rights holders (affected population) of the different ways in which their rights are violated and they are at risk of human rights violations and root causes - taking into account age, gender and diversity considerations
* Analysis of the impact of human rights violations on IDPs and other affected populations, and whether any individuals or groups were left behind and why
* Participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in the analysis and response

**It can help to have the following questions in mind:**

* Which rights are affected?
* Who is affected by the human rights concern?
* What and who is the source/root cause of the human rights threat?
* Does that threat relate to a gap in law or policy?
* Does that threat relate to an inadequate interpretation or application of the law or policy?
* Does that threat relate to ineffective institutions that cannot enforce the law?
* Are there particular State practices that are encouraging or failing to protect against threats?
* What is the link between the human rights threats and the human rights standards?

**Example:** Situation of discrimination against persons of concern with disabilities.

What do we need to understand about the situation of discrimination against IDPs with disabilities? We need to understand the causes of the different forms of exclusion and discrimination; to understand cultural perception of disability in the host community, or among communities of affected populations; to understand how persons of disability are treated depending on their age, gender and other diversity considerations; or to understand how disability is defined and addressed in the legal and policy frameworks. But can we also dig deeper? A human rights lens calls for a closer look at issues like what rights are impacted in this situation, what are the root causes, who are the perpetrators, what are the legal frameworks relevant at domestic, regional, and global levels etc.

**Key sources of human rights information and analysis to make use of:**

* National and regional human rights institutions
* UN Human Rights mechanisms and bodies, including reports of [independent human rights experts](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx)

**What support is available?**

We encourage that a discussion be held with Protection Cluster and OHCHR and/or Human Rights Advisors in country first. You can also [contact your respective agency FP on the Call to Action by email](https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/Call2ActionforHumanRights-Implementation/Lists/Focal%20Points%20for%20the%20Call%20to%20Action%20for%20Human%20Righ/Sorted.aspx) to ask questions or to discuss any aspects of C2A implementation. A non-exhaustive list of possible areas for support are noted below:

* **Information** - I would like more information about what the Call to Action is about and to brainstorm about what it means for my operation and how we can use it to advance our objectives
* **Capacity building:** I would like to know what training materials and resources on human rights exist (including e-learning, training modules, guides and availability in various languages), and what support is available to organize a training/workshop at country level on human rights related topics (for example with regards to supporting materials, facilitation etc.)?
* **Human rights analysis as part of the Protection Analytical Framework (PAF):**  I would like to receive support to strengthen my current human rights analysis system and on how to integrate HR analysis into the PAF
* **Strategy planning:** I am planning to design a strategy on human rights engagement, based on the implementation of the C2A at country level and complementing existing planning frameworks. I would like to receive more guidance, materials, support ahead or during the process
* **Advocacy on human rights related issues:** I would like to receive guidance/support on how to proceed around advocacy on some (sensitive) human rights topics at country level and/or support in drafting a country level advocacy strategy on human rights
* **Monitoring:** I would like to receive more guidance on how to monitor progress on C2A implementation and human rights engagement more generally at country level
* **Field support mission:** A field support mission would significantly help advance the C2A implementation process at country level. Please prepare key points indicating why such a mission would be important in your country context, whether it would be focused on your entity or at an interagency level and reach out to your respective organisation’s WG Focal Point.

**Further key tools and resources**

* [Protection Analytical Framework](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/2021/08/11/protection-analytical-framework/) developed through the Global Protection Cluster
* [Global Protection Cluster HPC Guidance](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/tools-and-guidance/hpc-guidance/)
* [Common Agenda](https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/) report of the Secretary-General
* [ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work, 2018](https://professionalstandards.icrc.org/), Chapter 2
* GPC HRE TT [video](https://www.canva.com/design/DAEZ5N_agU0/PRon0EkywKidioDJSoCnXw/view?utm_content=DAEZ5N_agU0&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=recording_view) on stakeholders analysis and [Factsheet](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/PAF-Human-Rights.pdf) on human rights aspects of protection analysis
* [GPC HRE TT website](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/human-rights-engagement/) with relevant resources and a training module on human rights analysis
* Call to Action for Human Rights [SharePoint](https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/Call2ActionforHumanRights-Implementation/SitePages/Home.aspx) site; [one-stop shop](https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/Call2ActionforHumanRights-Implementation/SitePages/One-stop-shop.aspx?Mode=Edit), [list of focal points](https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/Call2ActionforHumanRights-Implementation/Lists/Focal%20Points%20for%20the%20Call%20to%20Action%20for%20Human%20Righ/Sorted.aspx)

1. This will be done as part of a joint workstream of the Global Protection Cluster’s Human Rights Engagement Task Team and its Information and Analysis Working Group. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)