

HLP AOR Newsletter – June 2020



Dear members of the Housing, Land, and Property Area of Responsibility,

We hope you are all safe and healthy in these challenging times.

This has been an especially busy month for the HLP AOR. To begin, it is our pleasure to finally introduce the newly-recruited full-time Global HLP AOR Coordinator – Jim Robinson!

Here is a short introduction in his own words:

Hello, I'm Jim Robinson. I'm really excited to begin working with you and the Global Protection Cluster.

I join from emergency shelter NGO ShelterBox where much of my focus was on diplomacy and advocacy around access, protection and Housing Land and Property (HLP) in crisis contexts. Prior to that, I have spent 10 years working with NGOs, research institutions and international organisations on the connections between HLP rights, conflict, peacebuilding, corruption, shelter and land. This has included work with the Protection Cluster on the integration of HLP across humanitarian, transitional and development responses.

I am also a mediator practitioner/trainer and see a strong synergy with HLP challenges, where dialogue can offer possible ways to create outcomes acceptable to all affected communities. My PhD (Law and Sociology) examined mediation processes in response to land disputes in eastern D.R. Congo, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.

I am pleased to meet you and look forward to our collaboration.

-Jim

Alex will remain engaged as a technical resource for the AOR through his role as Global HLP Specialist for NRC. He will continue with the collaborations initiated over the past few months – these collaborations very much remain part of his work plan.

Also, please join us in thanking Julien for his diligent support to the HLP AOR over these many months of transition. We wish him good luck in his new role as Field Support Coordinator with the GPC Ops Cell!

In other AoR news, the HLP AOR hosted an extraordinary session for us to strategize internally about next steps for advocacy and programming response for evictions during the COVID crisis. One immediate product was [the launch of a Toolbox for Evictions and Relocations Response](#). This will be regularly

updated as new resources come in. Please share with us anything that you think might be relevant to colleagues working in other contexts.

The HLP AoR also co-hosted a series of webinars on HLP issues related to COVID-19. The recordings for the three events are provided below.

- [Women's Housing and Land Rights and COVID 19](#)
- [Eviction response during and after COVID 19](#)
- [Migration, Displacement, and De-urbanization in the Context of COVID-19](#)

The three webinars attracted a total of 760 individual registered participants! 263, 184 and 183 people ultimately participated in each webinar. Thank you to the AOR members who served as moderators or panelists and for those who listened in and asked questions!

Due to the high attendance, we were unable to answer all the questions asked – which is why **we will be hosting an [online discussion through June](#)** to examine the issues raised by these webinars in even more depth and to explore the multiple linkages between these themes. I hope you will check in from time to time and engage in this discussion! We will also be producing summary documents in the coming weeks on each of these themes – which we will share.

Finally, the work of several **[“Thematic Interest Teams”](#)** have been kicked off. The arrival of Jim will allow us to reach out to more groups over the coming weeks. Please let us know if you would like to participate!

Warm regards,

The Global HLP AOR team.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at (jim.robinson@nrc.no) and (alexandre.bourque@nrc.no).

(Other) Recent Events:

- [Extraordinary Session of HLP AOR on Evictions in COVID – Meeting Notes \(May 20th, 2020\)](#)

Featured resources:

HLP in COVID

- The HLP AOR “living document” for [resources and guidance on HLP in COVID -19](#) epidemic is still being consistently updated. **Please add any resources you think other colleagues could benefit.**
- UN-Habitat released a [Policy Statement on Evictions and Relocations During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- FAO prepared an [Advocacy note on Inequality in COVID](#)
- [The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing as issued a call for inputs on COVID 19 and the right to housing.](#) **Please contribute if you can.**

Several outlets also highlighted the unique HLP risks for women during this pandemic crisis - namely

- Reuters: [Coronavirus seen delaying justice for Iraqi women displaced by war](#)
- IFPRI: [Why Gender Matters in COVID-19 Response](#)

- World Bank: [Gender Dimensions of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Evictions & Relocations](#)

- NRC has just released an [information note on Eviction Programming](#)

If you would like your organization's or country-level AOR work to be shared/featured in next month's newsletter, please get in touch with Jim Robinson (jim.robinson@nrc.no).

Je vous encourage de aussi partager des ressources en français!

¡Te animo a que también compartas recursos en español!