



GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2020 CONCEPT NOTE FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS

A Roundtable on preparedness for protection in the context of disaster and climate change

Monday, 5 October 2020 (11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Geneva time)

Link & connection information (zoom to be shared via calendar invitation)

Rationale/purpose

Climate change impacts and disasters exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities and protection concerns for people who are already marginalised and at risk, including displaced people, children, women, older people and people with disabilities. Every year, millions of people are forced to leave their homes because of their exposure and vulnerability to floods, tropical storms, droughts, earthquakes and other sudden and slow onset natural hazards. Such events triggered 24.9 million new displacements across 140 countries and territories in 2019, according to IDMC¹ - more than three times the number of new displacements caused by conflict and violence in the same period. While some cross-border displacement may occur in these contexts, particularly between neighbouring countries or within sub-regions, most of those affected remain within their national borders, where primary responsibility for their protection rests with the government.

These challenges are expected to increase. Over the next decade, climate projections suggest that some regions will see more frequent or more severe acute climatic hazards as a result of climate change, with less recovery time between events and greater depth of suffering during them (IPCC 1.5 degrees report). At the same time, climate impacts are being felt more gradually and indirectly — such as through sea level rise, coastal erosion and the salinization of the soil and water sources of coastal communities. Longer and harsher droughts, declines in agricultural productivity associated with warming, and the creep of desertification are also affecting communities in arid areas. Under all these scenarios, the most vulnerable communities and individuals are disproportionately at risk.

Last November's GPC/PHAP webinar on climate preparedness and community-based protection² clearly stressed the need for a greater involvement of the GPC, field clusters and AoRs in preparedness and risk reduction efforts. Recognizing potential risks, mitigating them where possible and ensuring that countries and communities are robustly prepared is necessary to mitigate risk and strengthen protection for the most vulnerable. In line with the IASC Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) approach³, all field protection clusters and Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) have an important role to play in ensuring that protection is central to all preparedness efforts and that disaster displacement is taken into account in system-wide risk analysis and planning processes. Stronger linkages to development actors are also needed to prevent the conditions for disaster displacement, to adapt to climate change and to support durable solutions. The GPC/PHAP webinar further highlighted the need for an overall shift in focus from humanitarian response to preparedness and anticipatory action, especially in light of the expected adverse effects of climate change, if we are to avoid response capacities becoming overwhelmed. It called for a clearer narrative on protection in preparedness and disaster risk reduction more widely, as well as the for specific guidance and understanding of the role of the field clusters.

¹ IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement 2020

² <https://phap.org/PHAP/Events/OEV2019/OEV191119.aspx>

³ IASC Emergency Response Preparedness https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/54228?lang=en_US



Through this roundtable, protection and field coordinators will have the opportunity to engage with colleagues bringing a range of experiences to inform how we may strengthen preparedness measures to anticipate and reduce protection risks in the context of disasters and climate change.

Expected Outcome

- This Roundtable aims to provide a platform for sharing (emerging) good practices and identifying gaps and challenges in implementing early action to mitigate protection risks in line with the 2018 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) global, regional and national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for earlier action ahead of El Niño Southern Oscillation(ENSO)-related extreme weather events (such as flooding, droughts, cyclones and extreme cold/heat).
- It will also aim to inform the development of specific guidance on the role of the protection clusters in preparedness and anticipatory action efforts and measures in their operations related to disaster displacement and other displacement in context of climate change. Through this guidance, field protection clusters, AoRs and respective operational partners:
 - Will be able to incorporate necessary preparedness measures in their protection strategies and respective operations as pertains to disasters. The protection cluster will also contribute to overall preparedness efforts by DRR/DRM/humanitarian systems.
 - Will ensure that affected and vulnerable populations have adequate information and are involved in the planning and preparedness phase related to disaster displacement or in the context of climate change.

Format/Content of the Event?

Format: The virtual roundtable session will feature a plenary session with experts and country examples/presentations on disaster and climate change and an overview of the climate/disaster displacement situation. This first public plenary session will set the scene for more focused regional consultations to discuss GPC's specific guidance on the role of the protection clusters and AoRs in preparedness efforts.

These regional consultations will take place at a later stage (date tbc) and with targeted participation.

Language and time zone English 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Geneva time

Interactive tools

Platform Zoom

Speakers/Moderator/ technical donor partner

Opening Speaker, William S. Chemaly, GPC Coordinator
Moderator, Michelle Yonetani, Senior Policy Officer, UNHCR
Overview (protection/climate), Paul White, Snr. ProCap Adviser
Speakers: Andrew McElroy, Head of UNDRR office in Suva, Fiji
Nelson Tivane, Mozambique presentation
Elisa Galos and Emmanuel Noel, Burundi presentation
Closing speaker, Cecilia Roselli, Director NRC Geneva

Donor (tbc -Germany)



Field Cluster/Operations

This is a thematic event so we are hoping that all field and AOR coordinators will attend

Pre-event questions /survey to be shared with participants (N/A)

Guiding questions:

What are the protection issues and gaps that we are least prepared to respond to in the context of disasters and climate change? Or what good practices can already be shared?

What anticipatory action or preparedness measures would make a difference?

What is the role of the protection clusters (including the AORs) in preparedness? What about countries/situations without a Protection cluster?

Background Reading

[Nansen initiative protection agenda](#) (link embedded)

[Words into Action: Words into Action guidelines - Disaster displacement: How to reduce risk, address impacts and strengthen resilience](#) (link embedded)

[IASC guidelines](#)

[Round table Climate Change](#)

[GPC Climate Change Info](#)