



## **GPC and AoR ANNUAL PROTECTION CONFERENCE**

### **23 -24 May 2019, Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand**

#### **Breakout Session - Coordination with Government in Conflict settings**

**23 & 24 May 2019, 14.00 – 15.30**

#### ***Background***

The IASC Operational Guidance for Cluster Lead Agencies on Working with National Authorities (2011) notes that the Cluster System should work collaboratively with national authorities wherever these authorities are able to lead or contribute to humanitarian responses. This collaboration should include joint planning, response and monitoring and should seek to build national capacity throughout. Where national authorities cannot, or will not, provide an equitable response or respect humanitarian principles, “Cluster Lead Agencies should continue to try and coordinate the response for their sector, to the extent that the security and political situation allows (p3).” However, in some contexts, local instances might be party to the conflict, therefore compromising their ability to fully adhere to core humanitarian principles.

There is currently limited guidance available for UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF as Cluster Lead Agencies and NGO co-leads on how to work more closely with national and local authorities, in conflict settings or contexts where the government is responsible for protection violations. On behalf of the Global Protection Cluster and the GBV AoR, the Child Protection AoR is now finalizing a guidance note on this issue, aiming to provide tools to the coordination bodies on engaging with national authorities and transition towards greater leadership and coordination.

#### ***Purpose of the session***

This session aims at identifying the different ways to engage with national and local authorities including when these are party to the conflict. Specificities of the different coordination groups, challenges faced by coordinators as well as lessons learned will be shared through a scenario-based exercise. The session will also be used to provide feedback on the current work done on the guidance to coordination with national and local authorities.

#### ***Intended outcome***

Improved understanding on how to engage with Government with highlights of the particularities of each coordination body will be reached. The information gathered from this session will feed into the finalization of the guidance and will be the opportunity to have an initial feedback on this work. In addition, the session will provide opportunities for sharing experiences, challenges and lessons learned.

#### ***Format***

1 speaker (consultant) to introduce the draft guidance and the scenario-based exercise (15 minutes); 45 minutes of discussion per group (max 10 person/group – depends on registration) supported by facilitators; 30 minutes for feedback in plenary on the group discussions.

#### ***Speakers***

Minimum of 2 speakers/moderators (Consultant + CP AoR RRT); ideally, one moderator per working group

#### ***Background reading***

To be confirmed