



GPC and AoR ANNUAL PROTECTION CONFERENCE
23 -24 May 2019, Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Breakout Session: The Challenges of Assisting the HCT to draft, adopt and implement an HCT Protection Strategy – Lessons from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti and Somalia
24 May 2019, 14.00-15.30

Background

The Statement of the IASC Principals on the Centrality of Protection issued in December 2013 notes that “HCs, HCTs and Clusters need to develop and implement a comprehensive protection strategy to address these risks and to prevent and stop the recurrence of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.” Subsequently, the Global Protection Cluster developed a *Provisional Guidance Note* on the HCT Protection Strategy, which attempts to set out how it is distinct from – yet builds on and needs to be complementary with – the strategy of the Protection Cluster and the protection priorities captured in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), as well as being in sync with any UNCT’s country-level strategy developed to address potential or actual human rights violations under the Secretary-General’s Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) Action Plan.

Since 2015, a number of Procap SPO’s have been seconded to assist HC’s and HCT’s to develop such HCT Protection Strategies including in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Niger, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. In this panel, three SPO’s – Laurie Wiseberg, Paul White and Daniel Ladouceur -- will discuss the challenges they faced in helping to draft, adopt and implement such HCT Protection Strategies and lead a general discussion on the questions raised by the IASC request that all HCT’s adopt such protection strategies.

Purpose of the session

To share experiences on challenges faced, including, *inter alia*: reaching agreement on the different responsibilities of PC (and its AORs) and HCT; how to rise above agency mandates to agree common objectives; and how to ensure centrality of protection when political goals seem to dictate otherwise.

Intended outcome

Better understanding of obstacles faced and possible solutions.

Format

Panel discussion

Speakers

Laurie Wiseberg, Paul White, Daniel Ladouceur and Erin Mooney

Background reading

Global Protection Cluster, *Provisional Guidance Note on the HCT Protection Strategy* and one or more HCT strategies as posted on GPC website.