

Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action

Terms of Reference

April 2020

1. Background

Trafficking in persons¹ is a crime and grave human rights violation perpetrated in ordinary times and in crisis. Crisis affected populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, are at risk of being trafficked.² Despite this, preventing and responding to trafficking, and assisting victims, have either remained unaddressed within the humanitarian cluster system, or have not been addressed in a comprehensive manner, nor been perceived, in certain instances, as a life-saving intervention.

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) established the Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action in mid-2017 as a time-bound entity to take stock of existing anti-trafficking work done through the clusters; to gather good practices; and to develop guidance on addressing trafficking in humanitarian responses in IDP settings.

During 2017-2018, the GPC Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action conducted an initial stock taking assessment with Protection Cluster Coordinators, and where possible, with Child Protection (CP) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) Areas of Responsibility (AoR) Coordinators in 29 humanitarian responses to better understand if and how trafficking is addressed in cluster coordination mechanisms. The report provided an early overview of anti-trafficking efforts within the clusters, gaps and recurring challenges faced, and hurdles to embedding anti-trafficking in the humanitarian IDP response architecture. It also highlighted a willingness of practitioners to undertake anti-trafficking actions, despite capacity and knowledge gaps.

In 2018 - 2019, the GPC Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action has responded to these identified needs and gaps through the development and delivery of trainings and webinars, the drafting of guidance materials and further in-depth consultations with humanitarian actors at field level.

While important foundational work has been undertaken by the Task Team, it is found that further work is needed to address the challenges identified in the initial stock taking assessment,

¹ Also called human trafficking, “trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”, Article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000.

² Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action Reducing Risk, Promoting Resilience and Aiding Recovery, IASC, 2015.

and to embed anti-trafficking into the humanitarian IDP response architecture. The mandate of the Task Team has therefore been extended until the end of 2020, with the possibility of further extension as needed to reach its objectives.

2. Objectives and Tasks

Objective of the Task Team: To inform the GPC position on anti-trafficking interventions in humanitarian responses in IDP settings, and to provide recommendations on how best to integrate them systematically in existing cluster mechanisms.

To attain this objective, the work of the Task Team will include³:

1. **Developing guidance and building capacity.** The Task Team will develop guidance and tools, strategies, trainings and learning programmes, aiming to embed these within existing initiatives of the GPC and its AORs. These will be informed by field consultations, piloting of initiatives, and feedback from members of the Task Team and GPC.
2. **Developing an advocacy strategy.** In coordination with the GPC Advocacy Strategy focal point, the Task Team will develop an advocacy strategy on anti-trafficking, to be tailored to four different audiences: Donors (to secure resources); host governments (to work with the GPC and improve trafficking prevention and responses); protection coordinators (to integrate anti-trafficking programming into existing protection work); and IDP and host communities (to raise awareness for prevention of trafficking).
3. **Developing a Community of Practice.** The Task Team will cultivate a more inclusive and diverse community of anti-trafficking practitioners to share experiences and best practices, position and guidance, discuss challenges and priorities, initiatives that worked or did not work, and innovative ways to make interventions more effective. The aim will be to establish a strong network of anti-trafficking practitioners and to mainstream anti-trafficking approaches within the existing GPC Community of Practice.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

a. Co-Leading Agencies

The Task Team will operate under the direction of three Co-Leads, comprising both UN System Organisations and NGO representation. The Co-Leading Agencies are: IOM, UNHCR and Heartland Alliance International.

³ A detailed workplan will be developed for each year of the TT's existence, to be read in conjunction with these ToRs

The Co-Leading Agencies will be jointly responsible and accountable for achieving the objectives and tasks of the Task Team. As such, their responsibilities will include:

- Preparing Task Team meeting agenda and chairing meetings;
- Ensuring ongoing information sharing with and encouraging active participation of all Task Team members;
- Leading the Task Team in gathering and consolidating best practices, including when feasible, through commissioning research or arranging consultations;
- Leading on the drafting of guidance and tools, and the development of Task Team positions, ensuring consultation with and validation of Task Team members in the process;
- Leading Task Team development of training and learning materials, and carrying out trainings at field level, collaborating and in coordination with Task Team members;
- Liaising with the GPC on an ongoing basis to ensure the Task Team builds synergies and avoids duplication with other GPC activity, Task Teams, Areas of Responsibility, and Reference groups; and ensuring Task Team outputs are compliant with GPC workplans, standards and guidelines;
- Providing or facilitating support to field operations through the GPC, and working with the GPC to mainstream anti-trafficking approaches in the existing Community of Practice;
- Monitoring and reporting on implementation of the Task Team ToRs and work plan to the GPC Coordinator;
- Representing the Task Team in liaising with other actors at global and field level.

b. Secretariat/Coordinator

The Task Team co-leading agencies may collectively choose to have a secretariat.

The primary Secretariat functions will include:

- Managing the email list;
- Managing logistics in connection with Task Team meetings, including scheduling and sharing of the agenda, arranging venue and teleconference connections, taking and sharing minutes;
- Responding to enquiries from non-Task Team-member agencies on the work of the Task Team (in liaison with the co-leading agencies and the GPC for accountability purposes);
- Keeping abreast of developments in the anti-trafficking and humanitarian sectors, and sharing information in Task Team meetings;
- Attending GPC meetings and events as relevant to the work of the Task Team;

- Supporting the Task Team in moderation of anti-trafficking discussions in the GPC Community of Practice;
- Facilitating communication and coordination between Task Team Members and co-leading agencies;
- Providing logistical support to the activities carried out by the Task Team, including in arranging and carrying out field missions and trainings; arranging consultations, conferences, meetings or other events; etc.
- Leading on the managing of budgets and reporting of the Task Team, in collaboration with co-leading agencies
- Other tasks as agreed by Secretariat and co-leading agencies.

c. Task Team members

Participation in this GPC Task Team is open to interested humanitarian organizations involved in IDP response, including NGOs, UN entities, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, etc., with membership normally being at global/HQ level.

While the primary accountability rests with the co-leading agencies of the Task Team, the Task Team members are also expected to actively contribute to the work and objectives of the Task Team, including by:

- Identifying a designated focal point for the Task Team and communicating this to the Task Team secretariat
- Representing their organizations and ensuring that their directors are regularly briefed on the Task Team's work and progress;
- Sharing relevant information with the Task Team on initiatives and events of relevance to the work of the Task Team;
- Representing the agreed position of the Task Team in interactions with other actors and ensuring that relevant guidance and support is disseminated and implemented, and that relevant information is shared at field level;
- Reviewing and providing input to documents developed by the Task Team, including guidance, tools, learning materials, positions, and plans or strategies;
- Considering contributing, to the extent feasible and relevant, funding, human resources or other support in carrying out the activities of the Task Team, including contributing to drafting of joint materials, trainings, and consultations.

Experts, donors, and/or governments may be invited as observers to provide technical input or to discuss certain relevant issues, when needed.

4. Meeting schedule and frequency

Task Team meetings are held every quarter. Additional meetings may be called by the co-leads or upon request from a member to address particular issues or emergencies. Task Team meetings will be held in Geneva, with audio dial-in capacity provided for members in other locations. Agendas are determined by the Co-Leading agencies in consultation with Task Team members.

Meeting minutes are the responsibility of the Co-Leading agencies, supported by the Secretariat, and should be shared within two weeks of meetings' occurrence.

5. Decision-Making

All decision making of the Task Team is based on consensus. This includes agreement on accuracy of minutes, wording of documents, tools, positions, advocacy messages, training plans, piloting of initiatives, and reports on activities on a 'no objections' basis, with every effort made to ensure Task Team members have adequate time to respond. In case of issues that cannot be resolved by consensus, the TT co-leads reserve the right, in liaison with the GPC Coordinator, to take a final decision on the matter. All final products (guidelines, tools, positions, written materials) require clearance by the GPC Coordinator.

6. Funding and Resources

The Task Team may have a secretariat post attached to it. This will be resourced through donor support.

Some of the deliverables will be accomplished through donor support and in-kind contributions by Task Team member organizations. This remains however, without prejudice, to the requirement to obtain consensus on the respective product by the Task Team and the GPC.

7. Accountability and Communications

Co-Leading agencies are responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Task Team's Objectives and Tasks, and regularly reporting back to the GPC Strategic Advisory Group and the Global Protection Cluster Coordinator on progress and achievements.

8. Timeframe

The ToRs will be in effect from their endorsement until 31 December 2020, after which they will be reviewed and extended by the GPC Coordinator, if deemed necessary and appropriate.