



**FINAL: 9 April 2019**

**Global HLP AoR meeting - Wednesday, 27 March 2019  
NRC Geneva Office, 14:00 – 15:30 (Geneva time)  
Minutes of meeting, prepared by NRC**

**Present at the meeting**

- Dalia Aranki, Global HLP AoR Coordinator, NRC
- Julien Marneffe, Humanitarian Policy and Protection Adviser, NRC

**Calling in via Zoom**

- Jamila El Abdellaoui, Roving HLP Adviser, UNHCR
- Evelyn Aero, ICLA Regional Adviser, East Africa and Yemen, NRC
- Peter Bwala, Coordinator, HLP Sub-Working Group, Nigeria, NRC
- Martina Caterina, Legal Adviser to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, UNHCR
- Richard Evans, Global Shelter & Settlements Manager, NRC
- Kirstie Farmer, Global HLP Adviser, NRC
- Krissie Hayes, Protection Advisor, Ethiopia, NRC
- Maryam Jaji, ICLA, NRC Nigeria
- Jim Kennedy, Independent
- Megan Kammerer, ICLA Specialist, Ethiopia, NRC
- Volodymyr Khorbaladze, ICLA HLP Coordinator/HLP Technical Working Group Coordinator, Ukraine, NRC
- Steve Ndikumwenayo, ICLA Programme Development Manager, Cameroun, NRC
- Muslim Qazimi, HLP Sub-Cluster, Iraq, UN-Habitat
- Katrien Ringele, ICLA Global Advisor, NRC
- Dagnachew Shibru, Protection Officer, Ethiopia, IOM
- Martin Strutton, Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator, ShelterBox
- Ombretta Tempra, GLTN/UN-Habitat

**1. Introduction, welcome and updates**

**HLP AoR**

- HLP AoR Strategy Meeting on 3 and 4 December 2018 in Geneva – updated 2019 strategy and workplan.
- Security of tenure webinar in February 2019 – recording still available: [Security of Tenure in Practice Webinar](#)
- Updated mapping of field HLP coordination mechanisms. Nine countries currently have HLP coordination mechanisms - Afghanistan; Cameroon; CAR; Nigeria; Somalia; South Sudan; Iraq; Syria and Ukraine. South Sudan most recently established – end of 2018. Ethiopia will be setting up a HLP coordination group this week. Circulated email to colleagues involved in HLP coordination at country level to have an initial informal meeting on how best to connect, share experiences and follow-up directly with each other.
- HLP AoR Retreat and GPC conference will take place 20-24 May. 20-22 May will be the HLP AoR Retreat and 23-24 May plenary with all AoRs and other protection colleagues. Focus on activities in HLP AoR workplan – security of tenure, HLP in assessments,



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women's HLP and a day on the GLTN/UNHabitat Social Tenure Doman Model (STDM) training.

### **Nigeria**

- Been working on providing lost title documentation for returning communities. Piloting a new project – HLP dispute resolution centres.
- Checklist for Shelter colleagues on land regularisation to address challenges regarding access to land with government and traditional institutions. There are high levels of return with minimal access to land. Cases of eviction – need to review procedures regarding cash for rent because landlords are often trying to evict tenants even though rent has been paid.

### **Ethiopia**

- Launching HLP working group in Ethiopia – UNCHR and NRC leading process to agree on participation, TOR and workplan in one day workshop. Colleagues will update on progress after the meeting.

### **UN-Habitat/GLTN**

- After four years of work, the [SG Guidance Note on Land and Conflict](#) was endorsed on 15 March 2019, providing guidance to UN agencies regarding focus and improved coordination, advocacy and programming on land issues, including HLP across human rights, humanitarian and development pillars. Complements [Guidance Note](#) launched last year on including HLP at all phases of response.

### **UNHCR**

- Focus on refugee-related HLP work, including in Iraq. Also conducted Somalia mission to focus on evictions of IDPs.

### **ShelterBox**

- Based in UK. Looking at practical ways to engage in HLP.

### **Ukraine**

- Global HLP AoR Coordinator visited on mission in February and supported coordination work and provided recommendations. Currently finalising [HLP TWG](#) 2019 strategy and workplan with HLP colleagues. Areas of priority include security of tenure in collective centres, restitution/compensation for destroyed and damaged property, prevention/response for civilian property being used by military. Established informal expert group with organisations working on compensation to start discussing and working together more closely.

### **Iraq**

- Endorsed HLP Sub-Cluster workplan for 2019. Issued guidelines on HLP due diligence, compensation scheme in Iraq and advocacy paper on compensation to advocate and mainstream efforts on supporting compensation for HLP in Iraq. Pending notes on HLP and Mine Action guidelines and HLP and GBV guidance on women's HLP rights in Iraq. Reviewing ownership and security of tenure-related laws to identify more practical approach to ownership issues. HLP documentation restoration and verification



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mechanisms and launched new approach to dispute resolution with communities. Providing trainings to non-HLP specialised partners on how to deal with/refer HLP issues.

### **Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs**

- Upcoming mission to CAR and will connect with HLP colleagues there. Preparing report to the General Assembly in October on protection of internally displaced children. Any information regarding HLP issues affecting children should be shared so that it can be included in the report.
- 2. Nigeria HLP Sub-Working Group – update on joint HLP/Food Security and Livelihoods workshop. Presentation by Peter Bwala, Coordinator, HLP Sub-Working Group, Nigeria, NRC**
- Relevance of new Sphere standard on Security of Tenure for range of activities, including food security and livelihoods.
  - Received number of referrals from FSL sector and so HLP Sub-WG conducted two-day workshop with FSL colleagues to address difficulties and challenges faced.
  - Number of reasons regarding challenges using and accessing land – plurality of laws, Land Use Act 1978, strained dispute resolution mechanisms, no specific law for IDPs, loss of HLP title documents. Difficult to determine rights in land to be used for FSL activities.
  - In some cases, the Government provides land to humanitarian actors and then actors face challenges using land.
  - Need to understand land tenure system to be able to plan FSL activities, including due diligence to understand better how potential FSL beneficiaries are able to use land.
  - Number of questions and follow-up points came up during the workshop:
    - Competing interests for limited land – e.g. fertile land used for shelter interventions instead of FSL interventions.
    - Land disputes in areas of return – often not clear who has rights in land.
    - FSL agencies have checklists to conduct due diligence prior to interventions but many of these are not sufficient as, in numerous cases, interventions are resulting in eviction.
    - Government often allocates private land for use by humanitarian actors. Difficult to ascertain who else has rights in land and private landowners are not provided with compensation or any incentive for land to be used for humanitarian interventions. Not always clear public interest for use of private land.
  - Need to include HLP in programming for durable solutions at much earlier stage.
  - Women's HLP in FSL interventions need to be understood better and addressed.
  - Next steps include HLP and FSL colleagues having an interactive session with institutions dealing with land – Ministry of Land and Ministry of Agriculture. Will address some of these key questions and issues. FSL agencies have shared due diligence checklists for HLP Sub-WG to review. Will also include interaction with traditional institutions who deal with land.
- 3. Women's HLP workstream – update on activities and next steps. Presentation by Kirstie Farmer, NRC HLP Adviser and co-lead of HLP AoR Women's HLP workstream.**
- Focus on women's security of tenure under the HLP AoR workstream. Co-led by NRC and UN-Habitat.



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- Considering the link between security of tenure and women's economic empowerment – initially discussed at the HLP AoR strategy meeting in December 2018. Connected to livelihoods, financial support and economic activities.
- What happens when women do not have security of tenure and how does this impact their economic opportunities, for instance farm land, when women cannot benefit from this despite owning it.
- Positive outcomes for women when they do have security of tenure. For instance, access to credit and finance can be contingent on having documentation on land tenure which women usually do not have. Limited access to inheritance rights – women often lose home, land, assets. In some countries, widows are evicted from their homes and land and this has a significant impact on their ability to cope, including for their children.
- Literature often focuses on households as a unit. As shown in Nigeria's example, within a household there are often different abilities between men and women to access economic benefits from land.
- Plans led by NRC and UN-Habitat will focus on women's security of tenure and economic empowerment link, especially in conflict-affected countries. Collate operational examples and lessons learned to share at the HLP AoR retreat in May. Understanding will come from practical and programme levels and not global theoretical level.
- Support in-country research to understand better the links and interventions that work. Can use this to then provide package of services for women to overcome barriers that they currently face.
- Based on these examples, research and increased understanding, the HLP AoR aims to lead preparation of a two-page summary about women's security of tenure and economic empowerment and what to consider in programming where security of tenure is an element.
- Using Slack as a forum to have a community of practice. Plan to use this as a daily place to work together.
- Will seek funding to implement programmes in partnership.
- Plan to have a webinar on women's security of tenure at the end of April 2018 and will have two sessions at the HLP AoR retreat in May. Will share operational experience, what interventions work and problem solving; and also invite other organisations who have different approaches to the topic which can be part of a discussion on how to support countries to strengthen women's security of tenure.
- During the meeting, Nigeria colleagues made a request for support on women's HLP challenges they are facing for returnees and so a follow up session will take place.
- Using new Sphere standard on security of tenure, including understanding context, due diligence, reality on the ground and other aspects set out in the key actions will provide a useful way to understand the situation faced by particular groups, including women in accessing security of tenure. Often we have the understanding but face a lot of challenges on how to tackle customary norms, tradition of land being in men's names only, joint titling on documentation.

### **Action points:**

- **SLACK** – HLP AoR community of practice. Join using this link: [HLP AoR on Slack](#)
- Contact Dalia or Kirstie if you have any challenges connecting to the community of practice, which includes a number of threads, including one on women's HLP ('wowsecten').



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- A webinar will be held on **Monday 29 April** to consider case studies submitted by HLP Working Groups (e.g. Nigeria) and to brainstorm operational responses, bringing in expertise from other countries and other sectors (e.g. shelter and camp management) depending on the cases. **Please send examples of challenges you face on women's security of tenure in advance for us to discuss and hear about how others have tackled them. Please share with colleagues who would be interested in joining.**

**4. AOB**

- **Updates from Shelter-HLP Advisor from Global Shelter Cluster who is unable to join the meeting.**
  - Currently on mission to DRC, supporting and conducting HLP workshops with Shelter partners to develop Shelter-HLP strategy for DRC.
  - Recent follow-up mission with Ethiopia supporting IOM HLP colleagues and discussions regarding setting up HLP Coordination.
  - Upcoming mission to Indonesia in connection with IFRC to support with tsunami response.
- **HLP and Security of tenure support**
  - Contact Ibere Lopes, Shelter-HLP Advisor ([ilopes@iom.int](mailto:ilopes@iom.int)) and Dalia Aranki, Global HLP AoR Coordinator ([dalia.aranki@nrc.no](mailto:dalia.aranki@nrc.no)) if any HLP support is required at country or global levels. Can be a mission or remote support depending on what is needed at any stage of programming.
- Request for update from Ethiopia colleagues about initial HLP coordination meeting and next steps.
- Monitoring and evaluation for HLP, for instance link between women's security of tenure and economic empowerment. Can engage with other colleagues using contact details from this meeting and also through the HLP AoR community of practice on Slack.