Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility (HLP AOR)

GLOBAL MEETING (online), Monday 6th December 2021

Participants from across the HLP AoR membership

1. Global update on the AoR – 2021 and 2022

Jim Robinson, global coordinator, HLP AoR presented an update on the AoR – looking back on 2021 and ahead to 2022:

Please note the [workplan](#) for the AoR covers 2021 and 2022.

Key strategic objectives (SO) for the HLP AoR remain:

1. Improved global support to HLP coordination and response
2. Enhanced global attention,
3. Improve HLP AoR Governance and resilience

**SO1: Improved global support to HLP coordination and response**

- Helpdesk function: requests for support from many country operations, many ongoing: support can be in different forms from responding to question on coordination or technical HLP related matters to funding projects. Please contact Jim to discuss support requirements [jim.robinson@nrc.no](mailto:jim.robinson@nrc.no).
- There are currently 20 active HLP country coordination groups with more in development. In 2021 we have seen new HLP coordination established in Mozambique and Sudan.
- Support is available beyond established HLP coordination eg colleagues in Libya working on evictions and creating a cross-cluster evictions task force. Have been discussing support in Colombia, Yemen, Burundi.
- Humanitarian Programme Cycle: The HLP AoR remains available to support though we acknowledge the limited capacity and resources. Have been working with the global protection cluster to develop a plan on how to improve support, and hopefully upcoming funding will enable to improve the info management and data support. The AOR acknowledges that there is more to be done to improve in this area.

- Update on HLP AoR and Francophone countries from [Tina Gewis, regional ICLA adviser, NRC](mailto:)
- The AoR is committed to increase French speaking forums for practitioners in Francophones countries.
• Meeting planned with Francophone country practitioners in Central and West Africa for the beginning of 2022, to be held in French.
• In 2021 the AoR has had several key HLP guidance documents translated from English into French. One of these - 'NOTE D’ORIENTATION: Intégrer les questions de logement, terre et propriété aux principaux processus de planification de l’action humanitaire, de la transition et du développement' - is now available on the website, with several more being finalised.
• The AoR in the region has identified a number of challenges/structural questions when activating or reactivating HLP working groups: where do HLP working groups fit best in cluster structures, what are first steps, how do you develop active membership etc. In 2022 we will pull together best practice guidance on establishing HLP structures – do get in contact if you would like to be involved.

Jim Robinson continued:
• We note the importance of making meetings more accessible – working on the issue in the coming year for languages and other accessibility requirements.

The AoR and its members have supported a number of new guidance documents in 2021, all available on the website:

• Assessing HLP and Natural Resource Tenure Issues for Displacement-Affected Women – A generic questionnaire
• HLP and Natural Resource Due Diligence in NRC – Guidance Note
• Demystifying Tenure for Humanitarian Practitioners

See also:
• Newsletter on Women’s HLP
• Key Messages on Women’s Land and Peace

Thematic Workstreams (see below – Shelter and CCCM)

• The Mine Action and HLP working group will be hosting a workshop on HLP for Mine Action practices, drawing on lessons from Iraq and Syria in January - how to best create workshop/spaces to bring together mine action practitioners and HLP

Aims and Plans for 2022
• Enhance the HLP AoR HelpDesk function:
  • more languages, wider sectoral availability, working more with development sector
  • More comprehensive and systematic inter-sectoral support throughout HPC technical and coordination, e.g. JIAF: Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework
  • Increase capacity by region through national/local partners 2022-2024
• Strengthen participation of national and local partners in leadership of national HLP coordination and at global level:
  • Proactively identify, coach, mentor national and local members -governance, info management etc.
  • Importance of making meetings more accessible, embed translation practices
• These activities supported by increased resources, to be confirmed early 2022.

SO2: Enhanced global attention through donor engagement, advocacy and HLP inclusion into other clusters:
• Work with the GPC, e.g. Training for coordinator with Sanremo, JIAF, example where the AoR can push for HLP indicators to be considered in assessments and used for frameworks; Involvement Forum
• Work with other clusters, e.g. GPCCC

**Evelyn Aero, ICLA Advisor EA& Yemen, HLP AoR coordinator Somali, NRC** on the engagement with GPC, presenting the [session on women’s HLP at the Global Protection Forum](#):

- Aimed at highlighting work with local partners on displaced women’s HLP rights
- Demonstrate capacity local partners have, elements of practice (beyond research and academia) e.g., access constraints for women HLP: Local partner might be able to reach local women where international actors cannot and provide counselling, makes analysis more concrete – e.g. women accessing al Shabaab courts for HLP violations
- Comparative analysis from UN Habitat and Syria
- First time in forum possible to bring local partner to speak on that topic
- Next year working with 12 local partners in Somalia in HLP AoR

**Jim:**

- [Newsletter on Women’s HLP](#): first thematic special edition focusing on one topic
- Upcoming Newsletter on conflict and HLP in next year
- Finalised [Key Messages on Women’s Land and Peace](#) – advocacy messages on women’s role in peace and stabilisation
- Continuing dialogue with donors at the global level, e.g. Swiss and US BHA joining at the forum, speaking with FCDO, UK: real momentum around understanding of and need to address HLP issues, particular intersectional issues
- Have been developing an [Advocacy note for donors](#) – not released yet – will be shared for comments

With other clusters and sectors:

- Part of global cluster coordinating groups (GCCG), to see how HLP fits into the discussion
- Continuing to work with clusters/within NRC/with Nexus to integrate HLP - due diligence and security of tenure, across core competencies.
- Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs: 2021 [report on HLP in the context of internal displacement](#)
  - HLP AoR able to contribute to the development: hosted a consultation to provide inputs to the report and to review
  - Hosted a side event at the Human Rights Council 47th session
  - Report compliments the wider AoR efforts to develop relationships with development, climate, peace actors as essential for durable solutions
- On Durable solutions, one example is the collaboration with Trust Law’s pro bono team on research into the use of Community Land Trusts in displacement contexts and land tenure

Please contact Jim, if you want to share anything and have it included in the Newsletter jim.robinson@nrc.no

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**SO3 – Improving HLP AoR Governance and resilience**

We head into 2022, with NRC committed to continue investing in the integration of HLP across programming practice which will be shared with the sector through NRC leadership in WGs etc and proactive exchange.
NRC also remain a committed NGO voice in the humanitarian architecture.

The AoR will improve its governance and resilience in 2022:

- Enhance the HLP AoR HelpDesk function, including strengthen capacity of national and local partners and their leadership nationally and globally
- Develop Strategic Advisory Group function around the core and key contributors. Also include other actors, for example development, environment, peace and conflict, and NGOs
- Increase and improve Francophone support and engagement
- Increase engagement with and support to central and southern America

Webinars/Workshops for 2022
A poll was conducted to identify which webinars participants would like to see in 2022. Of the 9 options presented, participants chose to prioritise in the following way:

1. Working with Peace, Conflict and Development
2. HLP due diligence as a common indicator across clusters and sectors
3. Localisation and HLP
4. Informal Land Markets and Informal Land Transactions During Conflicts
5. Restitution for Women
6. Climate Change, natural resources and assessment
7. Working with authorities (Closed session)
8. Compensation
9. Land for Burials

[please contact Jim – jim.robinson@nrc.no to express your preference]

2. HLP and Shelter Cluster update

Global Shelter Cluster HLP Advisers Ibere Lopes and Patrice Aka presented an update on the collaborative work between the Shelter Cluster and the HLP AoR.

In 2021

- Created series of HLP in Shelter Programmes mobile Guide ready & free to use in English, Arabic, French – including 2 videos on HLP on Secondary Occupants and HLP in Emergencies
- HLP country mapping: legal briefs made by int. law firms: covering all legal frameworks relevant for specific country - Done by different practitioners, but with same standard questions; for Burundi and Niger in French, DRC currently translating
- Starting with in-country support again, but also continuing with remote support to continues,
- Created second global focal point for HLP for Shelter cluster: Patrice Okou Aka

Patrice Okou Aka, presenting his working areas:
- Land rights and shelter due diligence
- Land tenure in different contexts – legal framework vs (!) practice
- Working on training materials for different contexts
- Making shelter cluster website more user friendly

For 2022:

- Land Rights and Shelter Due Diligence standard revision: reviewing and updating 2013 document; first round of consultations with AoR members, second round with shelter community
- HLP in Shelter Training Curriculum: trying to compile common HLP training materials and organise basic skills building curriculum for shelter practitioners on HLP
- Streamline and strengthen country support: want to bring more clarity on how HLP issues are addressed and which modalities are offered (outreach, modalities of assistance, template ToRs and country-support workplan
- Mapping on Shelter-HLP local capacity – mapping of existing capacities and gaps

3. HLP and CCCM update

Wan Sophonpanich Co-Coordinator of the global CCCM Cluster presented an update on the work of the HLP and CCCM working group, co-chaired with Jim and Ibere Lopes.

In 2021,
- compiling what tools and guidance already exist on local and global level – drew on 10 or so country examples
- Looking at guidance through different phases of displacement:
  - Identification of land for camp or displacement side
  - How to negotiate for land use in short, medium and long term
  - Assessment at eviction risks
  - Property market in camp settings
  - finding durable solutions

In 2022,
- Identifying gaps to work on in coming years: due diligence, negotiations, evictions, property markets in camp settings, how to better engage with development actors in countries to find durable solutions
- Toolbox for HLP and Natural Resources in Camp Coordination and Camp Management: Link
- HLP and CCCM – global Practitioners’ update, June 2021 - Link
- Meeting in Q1 to plan next steps.

4. Tour de Table - updates from members

Barbara McCallin, HLP consultant
- Working on handbook on property restitutions for refugees and IDPs in MENA region – update of 2007 handbook - integrating now last round of comments
- not many good examples from MENA region
- Also trying to explain possible solutions beyond restitutions
If anyone knows examples of restitution or other ways of securing access to tenure in the MENA region, please contact barbara.mccallin@gmail.com

Jim: potential webinar around restitutions – there will be probably good examples and comments

Evelyn Aero, NRC ICLA Regional Adviser East Africa and Yeme and Somalia HLP AoR acting Coordinator
- Producing an HLP Toolkit on natural disaster, prioritising floods and droughts – toolkits which can be contextualised for governments, organisations and private sectors
• Gender inclusion in HLP needs strengthening – enhancing engagement with gender actors e.g. GenCap – working on paper (options or position paper), more broad, will include elements of resilience and durable solutions.

Miriam Lopez, Global shelter WASH specialist NRC
• Quite strong security of tenure in rental market interventions
• Looking of more guidance on HLP outside of rental market interventions
• Looking for more guidance on Due diligence for collective sites in the context of conflict
• Need to establish a system to create accountability when engaging with informal rental marketing.

Fathi Egal, Land and Conflict Consultant at UN-Habitat/ GLTN (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)
• Key message on women land and peace, published, currently translated into Arabic
• Language inclusivity: trying to translate them in French and Spanish
• Key messages: launch a webinar in first quarter of next year – in partnership with HLP AoR
• Two animations as advocacy videos: 2min long, highlighting why it is important to protect women’s HLP and where are intersections to peace, also developing 15 min more detailed video to incorporate as tool in trainings etc. – will need support from the AOR in development

Vlodymyr Khorbaladze, NRC ICLA and lead of the HLP Technical Working Group, Ukraine
• focus on compensation – establishing a compensation procedure for conflict affected housing – disbursement has begun
• Comprehensive law covering protection issues related to conflict affected property, compensation, and restitution to housing, but also personal assets, still looking on how this might look
• Establishing legal procedures for housing destroyed and reconstructed by people without proper reconstruction permits
• Also looking at property in non-government controlled area
• Trying to map HLP issues by providing background of issue and providing potential advocacy pathways in first half of 2022.

Prof. Jon Unruh, McGill University, Canada
• Innovations in development!
  o Digital platform for evidence of claim where dislocated people can upload which can easily be put together into restitution claims–can be used in broad situations.
    Collaborating with a university form Montreal and British Colombia,
  o Variety of counter measures to the use of HLP rights as war financing commodities.

Christopher Wade:
• HLP AoR Mozambique established under protection cluster with NRC, and UNHCR co-leading
• Developing a tool to track HLP issues across relocation sides
• Continuing to conduct training with CCCM and shelter colleagues

5. Next steps Closing:

• Next meeting will be held in Feb 2022
• Sign up for newsletter!  [HLP AoR Mailing list](#)
• Join a thematic working group!  [Link](#)
• get in touch with Jim -  [jim.robinson@nrc.no](mailto:jim.robinson@nrc.no)