



HLP Global Area of Responsibility Meeting

24 March, 2020

Zoom meeting: co-facilitated by: Julien Marneffe & Alexandre Corriveau-Bourque

Participant list :

- Alexandre Corriveau-Bourque- NRC Global
- Ben Flower – UN-Habitat Afghanistan
- Claire Merat – NRC Ethiopia
- Dania Khayyat – NRC Syria Regional Office
- Depika Sherchan - Bangladesh HLP Task Force
- Elias Jourdi – NRC Global
- Fernando De Medina Rosales – NRC Global
- Fethia Ismail – NRC Ethiopia
- Ibere Lopes - IOM
- Jamila El Abdellaoui – UNHCR Global
- Julien Marneffe – NRC Global
- Katherine Dunn - UNHCR
- Katrien Ringele - NRC Global
- Kavita Belani – UNHCR Protection Cluster South Sudan
- Maanasa Reddy – NRC Syrian Regional Office
- Michel Jaquet – IOM Burundi
- Muslim Qazimi - UN-Habitat
- Natacha Jaarim – NRC Libya
- Ombretta Tempa - GLTN/UN Habitat
- Peter Bwala – NRC Nigeria
- Peter (?)
- Sanne Boswijk – NRC Iraq
- Severine Lacroix – DRC Burundi
- Volodymyr Khorbadze – NRC Ukraine
- Notes:

I. Introduction, welcome and updates, HLP Global updates

- Introduction of Alex as acting GPC AoR Coordinator & distribution of roles and responsibilities while we recruit a full-time coordinator.
 - Julien will cover the relationship with the Protection Cluster and other coordination mechanisms
 - Alex will be the technical resource person for partners and country HLP AORs

- GPC annual conference postponed to February 2021
- Update from GPC meeting
 - GPC currently working on a global monitoring tool on the protection impact of COVID19, in which we can include some key questions related to HLP. Of course, HLP AoR should conduct its own monitoring of the impact of COVID19 on HLP programming addressing HLP issues pre-existing the outbreak, and those new HLP issues or case load resulting from the outbreak and the measures taken by the government in relations to the outbreak. It will be critical to identify those critical issues to ensure that HLP is taken into consideration in any global/field-level strategic preparedness and response planning.
 - Also working on strategic indicators on HLP for HNO 2021. More details on this soon.

II. HLP in COVID 19:

Prompt: What are the potential HLP dimensions of the COVID crisis? How can we respond as humanitarian actors to these issues?

- South Sudan (Kavita):
 - COVID hasn't hit SS yet, but there are preventive restrictions being put into place. No large gatherings for awareness raising.
 - Activities on HLP are being scaled down because courts are closed, traditional leaders are not gathering,
 - It is not clear whether HLP partners will continue to prioritize HLP issues in this context, still working on own HLP planning – concern that actors will take advantage of this crisis to further land grabbing and cattle rustling because attention is elsewhere.
 - **Would be good to have some guidance on salient HLP issues on activities and programming that should not be scaled down**
 - **Protection in the global appeal but not clear that HLP is highlighted**
- Afghanistan (Ben):
 - Lots of people move from Iran to Afghanistan due to Covid, with important HLP needs
 - Challenges to registration of IDPs and refugees are halted due to risk of transmission, as with any activity with large gathering
 - HLP partners are adjusting programming to focus on a case-by-case approach
- Iraq (Sanne & Muslim)
 - Stopped face to face contact with beneficiaries to avoid contagion, but able to reach beneficiaries by telephone, including for counseling
 - HLP activities/issued remain prioritized – the KRI seem to have suspended rent collection, and another region seems to have taken measures, but more information is needed
 - Anticipate that evictions to be a major issue
 - Looking at which HRP activities can be continued during outbreak (business continuity)
 - Developing document to be annexed to HRP 2020 on new/adapted programming
- Ethiopia (Claire):

- Contingency plan, not clear measures from Gov yet but communication that people will be asked to work from home starting tomorrow *25 March)
- Teams are doing counseling by phone
- Are monitoring for risk of eviction resulting from COVID but no known cases for now
- Are ready to deploy cash for rent as emergency response
- Next HLP AOR working group meeting next week

- Ukraine (Volodymyr):
 - Access to justice is reduced since hearing closed, state agencies or notaries are all closed
 - Legal services provided through hotline, messengers and Skype, and following up on open cases
 - Restriction on movement, which will result in additional barriers for affected population to access services
 - Compensation for damaged housing, final stages for adoption of the law but all on hold at the moment
 - Same with collective centers, registration of residents to work on durable solutions on hold
 - Some regulations to improve the situation – 2 laws: allowed to delay payment of mortgage, IDP status cannot be canceled, as well as some measures on tax regulations

- Nigeria (Peter):
 - Ban on camp visits and courts have been shut down
 - Most IDPs living in host communities – and are unable to challenge evictions even outside of pandemic
 - Trying to provide cash for rent measures for up to 6 months, and activated local focal points in traditional institutions, and IDPs for rapid response,
 - Doing information services through radio
 - Concern of further stigmatization of IDPs if IDPs get infected/affected by COVID 19

- Bangladesh (Depika):
 - Recently established HLP forum, but not enough partners/service providers (NRC + few legal aid agencies and UNHCR but not necessarily focusing on HLP issues)
 - Only lifesaving allowed (health, wash, food), some protection but HLP not considered as lifesaving right now
 - Camp densely populated leading to high risk of infection, refugees having to pay high rent to host communities
 - There used to be cash assistance, but that was shut down
 - Insecurity of tenure a chronic problem but likely to increase with COVID
 - Rumors going around about humanitarian actors spreading the disease
 - Health actors are mobilizing to build hospitals and quarantine units – but are not necessarily equipped to / have time to do HLP due diligence, especially with the restrictions on meetings.
 - Major issues for burial grounds, having to put several people in a grave, and sometimes buried next to their housing

- In context of COVID, burial and body disposal will be critical, ensuring dignified and safe burial practices
 - **If anybody has any similar examples of good practices from Ebola or cholera epidemics?**
- Burundi (Severine):
 - Government not letting Burundians to come back, particularly wave of returnees from Tanzania causing many issues at the border
 - IDPs (from natural disasters and political reasons), with new displaced due to torrential rains, with challenges for relocation due to lack of land available
 - Chronic issues related to women HLP rights who cannot inherit land, particularly for returnees (75% of HoH are women)
 - Several cases in courts but decisions are slow
 - It is difficult to make links with government actors on HLP, so there are a lot of ad-hoc solutions – a lot of mediation by development actors.
 - For COVID No case confirmed; anticipate that measures will be taken once cases are reported, but since country is in election period, the government does not want to stop political meetings
- Julien: The loss of attention on protection issues means that actors may feel emboldened to conduct abuses – land grabbing, evictions etc.
- Fernando: Would this be a good time to emphasize at other dimensions of HLP other than security of tenure – e.g. overcrowding (and link with public health), etc

Key themes emerging from discussion (ALEX):

- **HLP being deprioritized by governments and humanitarian actors which means there are major risks that may emerge without vigilance and ongoing-advocacy**
 - **Teams need some guidance on key points**
- **Teams are shifting to use of phone and other remote approaches – varying levels of experience and capacity – those with experience, please share!**
- **Because of eviction risks, need to share experiences with eviction monitoring and response.**

III. Check in on 2020 Global HLP AOR workplan

- a. **Jamila asks for members of the AOR Assessment team to contribute to the document she has been circulating**
- b. Jamila – work on resettlement, relocation, and returns also not taken off
- c. Ombretta – recommits to engaging on women and land right theme

IV. AoB

- a. Updates from the field requiring global action? - None

- b. Specific requests for technical support outside of workplan?
 - i. Depika: Lots of tools, HLP in IDP context, not so much in refugee context, so many legal restrictions, so would be good to develop toolkits for refugee contexts (e.g. negotiate with authorities, etc), getting examples from other countries
 - ii. Jamila (UNHCR) covers both, with lot of focus on refugee setting; will reach out and discuss with Depika

V. Next steps/Action points

What?	Who?	When?
Google doc for sharing ideas on how to best prepare and respond to the COVID19 crisis	Alex-create ALL - contribute	Already online Ongoing
Ensure HLP it is prioritized in cluster response	Global: Alex & Julien National: ALL	Ongoing
Provide feedback on HLP assessment document	Members of assessment team	Before April 3 rd
Survey to create “thematic interest teams” to execute & build on AOR workplan	ALL	Already online Answer before April 17th
Connecting on HLP solutions for refugee populations	Jamila & Depika	TBD