



GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2024

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PROTECTION WITH COMMUNITIES AT THE CENTRE

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NOVEMBER

WEEK 1

CET

04

DILEMMAS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN HUMANITARIAN FRONTLINE RESPONSES

14:00 - 15:30

Mon

Frontline humanitarian responses aim to support people at their most critical point of need. They are often the first point of lifesaving assistance and services provided by humanitarian actors. Protection actors have a central role in ensuring responses are governed by humanitarian principles, in particular do no harm, yet protection is sometimes overlooked in frontline responses. This session will reflect on the changing nature of the frontlines and obstacles that communities and individuals face when trying to access safety and assistance. It will reflect on who plays the role of first responder in crisis, and can we be doing more to assist these responders? It will also consider how we support community mechanisms for early warning and community protection, and how to balance this with the need to bring specialized services in locations where they are absent. Finally, it will consider areas where we need to increase collective action to strengthen frontline responses.

05

CONTINUITY OF PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION TRANSITIONS

14:00 - 15:30

Tues

As of 2024, at least eight clusters or cluster-like mechanisms are in discussions around potential deactivation or transition. Many country operations are considering whether they can adopt a development-oriented approach and if coordination transitions may be on the horizon. While transitions are important for all clusters, for protection it is often particularly crucial: certain segments of the population may face marginalization or exclusion from state-led support, or even face continued risks to their safety. This session will explore how maintaining an effective response to protection risks and needs and articulate key elements of ensuring the continuity of protection during humanitarian coordination transitions.

06

FROM THE GROUND UP: LEARNING FROM LOCALLY-LED EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

14:00 - 15:30

Wed

Far away from the spotlight, amidst devastating war and conflict, it is the people and communities directly affected by violence and related violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, who are forging a way forward for protection. This session will shine a light on the ways communities are leading efforts to reduce violence and protect civilians across contexts of armed conflict. A panel discussion will feature insights from diverse protection actors and allies as they share examples from locally-led and community-based actions that serve to reduce violence. Key comparative learnings will be highlighted, including with regards to how communities can be further supported and empowered to safely advance and deepen such efforts.

07

Thurs

COMMUNITY-LED ADVOCACY: SELF-PROTECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

14:00 - 15:30

People affected by humanitarian crises are most often the first responders to their own needs, which include protection from violence, coercion, and deliberate deprivation. Nonetheless, it is never their responsibility to ensure their own protection. The primary responsibility for people's protection lies always with the state or those holding control over a territory. So, what can humanitarian actors do to balance their support to self-protection mechanisms and accountability of duty bearers? Community-led advocacy is an integral part of self-protection efforts and also aims at holding duty bearers to account. Such efforts already exist within communities and are natural to right holders. This session will showcase how partners in different contexts support those advocacy efforts led by communities, the challenges faced, and the main tips they have to share.

*WEEK 2***11**

Mon

A PEOPLE-CENTRED APPROACH TO PROTECTION

14:00 - 15:30

Protection remains a cornerstone of humanitarian work, and there is growing recognition that the most effective approach is one co-created with the affected communities themselves. Local and national organizations often lead such people-centered approaches as they directly represent affected people and communities. Listening to their voices, supporting local and community-based protection solutions, and enhancing accountability to those affected, must be integral to our efforts. Today, we must do more to ensure that humanitarian interventions are principled, effective, and accountable - not only to each other but to the people and communities we serve. The session aims to identify and advance - based on existing good practices - the people centered protection agenda, exchange on experiences and explore factors that facilitate accountability and inclusivity of protection, and strengthen inclusive and quality protection by improving coherence in addressing cross-cutting issues.

12

Tues

STRENGTHENING LEGAL AID AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

14:00 - 15:30

Populations affected by humanitarian crises often lack or have very limited access to justice due to weak access to legal instruments, fragile legal frameworks and malfunctioning of institutions and infrastructure following conflict or disasters. Without legal support, displaced persons risk being denied a wide range of rights, access to basic services and, and face challenges to access legal advice. Yet, while legal aid is a vital means to access justice, it is not always considered as part of humanitarian work. This session will be an opportunity to launch a new compilation of learning on relevant strategies and effective practices to strengthen legal aid and access to justice in humanitarian settings. Building on this, a variety of organisations will share their challenges and lessons learnt with a focus on coordination, partnerships and access to hard-to-reach populations.

13

Wed

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY: INTEGRATING PROTECTION FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS

14:00 - 15:30

Protection actors have a key role in ensuring protection and international standards are central to realising durable solutions, including through leveraging of protection analysis and community-based approaches and action. This session will examine how integrated approaches are necessary for durable solutions. For example, in many cases, HLP issues need to be considered across clusters, AoRs and through proactive engagement with communities, authorities and other development and peace actors. This session will highlight concrete lessons and best practices that can be drawn from key protection cluster operations to guide future research and policy efforts regarding durable solutions.