

Protection Sector Terms of Reference

Introduction

In December 2012 the sector-cluster system was established in Myanmar for the situations in Rakhine and Kachin States. The Protection Sector meetings were placed in the National Protection Working Group (NPWG) forum to utilise an already existing mechanism. However, it soon became evident that the two humanitarian situations in Rakhine and Kachin needed dedicated attention beyond the scope of the NPWG. Therefore, in April 2013 a task force under the NPWG concluded that the NPWG should refocus its scope to cover humanitarian situations to improve the delivery of the humanitarian response based on the functions of formalised cluster/sector system for the humanitarian emergencies in Rakhine and Kachin States.

As a result the Protection Sector was established to coordinate the protection response in humanitarian situations and to support the work of the Protection Working Groups in Kachin and Rakhine.

Objective

The Protection Sector supports the protection response in humanitarian situations in the country, which is informed by field operations, with primary attention to the situations in Rakhine and Kachin. The Protection Sector will deal with current and emerging humanitarian crises including any protection issue related to persons affected by such crises. The core components of its responsibilities include:

- Standard setting (policy and guidance)
 - Support the development of policy and guidelines through common tools on information gathering on protection adhering to global standards.
 - Support the HCT with protection policy documents and agree on priority protection issues as identified by Kachin and Rakhine PWGs, and streamline guidance as a way of standard setting by the Protection Sector.
 - Support the mainstreaming of protection into clusters and sectors (Rakhine and Kachin) by engaging with sectors, clusters, and local actors on protection themes through guidance, training and direct support and collaboration in the implementation.
 - Further strengthen referral pathways already identified.
- Joint advocacy and follow up action
 - Support the field PWG advocacy efforts on the central country level.

- Monitor activities and support field PWGs at the central level in support of their protection initiatives and decision making.
- Identify, monitor and analyse protection concerns and trends with a view to follow up and address them with key stakeholders as well as through other channels such as the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR).
- Support preparedness and contingency planning.
- Information management
 - Develop information sharing protocols that adhere to standards of information sharing and recognize the sensitive nature of certain information.
 - Prioritise thematic briefings for the meetings.
 - Information sharing with other actors such as Government, MNHRC, UN Human Right Theme Group, civil society, and other local and international actors.
- Donor relations
 - Coordinate revisions and development of the protection sector in interagency fundraising documents such as the Response Plans.
 - Consult on needs assessments vis-à-vis fundraising.
 - Support donor briefings.

Recognizing that the protection work in the humanitarian situations will link with the more systemic human rights issues and that cross fertilization between the two perspectives is necessary, the protection sector will coordinate with the UN Theme Group for Human Rights (reports to the UNCT), and other relevant fora/actors. The Protection Sector will feed the findings from the humanitarian situations into the broader policy discussions and reflect the wider thinking of the UN and other actors in its own policy discussions and planning. The protection sector will also closely link with the Humanitarian Advocacy and Communications Group (reports to the HCT), the Mine Risk Education Group and other humanitarian theme specific actors to ensure appropriate coordination and relevant action.

Structure and management:

The Protection Sector is the umbrella and support mechanism for the protection working groups in Rakhine and Kachin states. The protection working groups and the Protection Sector together represent the Protection Sector. It participates in the inter-sector/cluster coordination at country level within the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team.

The Protection Sector has established sub-sectors and can establish short term task forces as needed for thematic areas while at the same time seek representation with other protection related groups which are not directly established to serve the humanitarian situations. The Protection Sector sub-sectors include the GBV sub-sector and the Child Protection sub-sector.

The Protection Sector includes any agency with protection activities, capacity and/or interest in humanitarian protection concerns. Membership is flexible and remains open at all times recognizing that not all actors are active in both humanitarian situations.

The Protection Sector meets every two weeks rotating between Kachin and Rakhine situations with the possibility of convening ad hoc meetings when the need arises.

The Protection Sector is chaired by UNHCR as the designated Protection Sector lead. The GBV sub-sector is led by UNFPA and the Child Protection sub-sector is led by UNICEF

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