

occupied Palestinian territory 2013

Appealing Agency	OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)
Project Title	Protection Cluster Lead Support
Project Code	OPT-13/P-HR-RL/51936
Sector/Cluster	PROTECTION
Objectives	To strengthen leadership of the Protection Cluster and address identified protection concerns in the occupied Palestinian territory, through more effective coordination of protection interventions and cross-cluster protection mainstreaming.
Beneficiaries	Humanitarian and human rights organizations engaged in protection activities; affected populations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in particular those exposed to violence by Israeli security forces and settlers
Implementing Partners	N/A
Project Duration	Jan 2013 - Dec 2013
Current Funds Requested	\$567,744.00
Location	Projects covering both West Bank and Gaza
Priority	A - TOP PRIORITY
Gender Marker Code	1 - The project is designed to contribute in some limited way to gender equality
Contact Details	Li Fung, Protection Cluster Coordinator, lfung@ohchr.org, +972548026911
Enhanced Geographical Fields	West Bank Gaza Strip

Needs

Protection is one of the most important, cross-cutting issues in the humanitarian response in the oPt, and is one of the key priorities for the CAP 2013. Key protection issues are lack of accountability for violations of international law; increasing demolitions and risk of displacement in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem); the continued failure of Israeli authorities to address settler violence; ongoing incidents of violence in the Access Restricted Area in Gaza; the impact of conflict-related violence on children; and restrictions on freedom of movement and the impact on access to services (see Protection Cluster Needs Analysis Framework 2012-2013). In this context, urgent protection needs are monitoring and documentation of protection concerns to inform response and support coordinated advocacy; access to legal assistance to prevent displacement and promote access to justice; protective presence to reduce the vulnerability of affected populations; and providing responses to demolitions and incidents of violence by settlers and security forces.

OHCHR, as Protection Cluster lead, has overall responsibility for ensuring coordinated protection responses. The Protection Cluster Working Group (PCWG) meets in Ramallah and Gaza City, and regular coordination meetings are also held in Hebron (South West Bank) and Nablus (North West Bank). The PCWG has the following sub-groups: Child Protection Working Group, Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (1612) Working Group, Displacement Working Group, Legal Task Force (on national legal systems), Core Group on Settler Violence, Core Group on the Access Restricted Area, Legal Advice Group (on international legal analysis) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group. OHCHR is responsible for ensuring that all protection responses are coordinated in a coherent fashion, taking into account gender and diversity, and the differing protection needs of various groups within the population. Effective coordination between the sub-groups of the cluster is essential, as is inter-cluster coordination to respond to protection issues.

OHCHR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Protection Cluster Response Plan, the outcomes and outputs of which reflect the cluster's priority areas of intervention in access to justice; monitoring and documentation of violations; advocacy; protective presence; child protection and psychosocial support; emergency response and access to services for victims of violations; mine action; and protection mainstreaming. In doing so, OHCHR works in close cooperation with the Chairs of the Child Protection Working Group, Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (1612) Working Group, Displacement Working Group, Legal Task Force and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group, and directly chairs the Core Group on Settler Violence, Core Group on the Access Restricted Area, and Legal Advice Group. OHCHR also works closely with other clusters/sectors to promote more effective inter-cluster coordination in response to protection issues. Gender considerations are an integral part of the operational response coordinated by OHCHR.

OHCHR successfully sought resources in 2011 and 2012 to support its leadership of the Protection Cluster: this has been instrumental in ensuring effective leadership and coordination of the cluster. Achievements include increased coherence between the work of PCWG sub-groups; formation of the Legal Advice Group; joint advocacy initiatives on settler violence, the Access Restricted Area and demolitions; and protection mainstreaming initiatives with three clusters. Continued support is required in 2013 to build on the achievements of the PCWG, ensure well-coordinated and mutually reinforcing action by cluster members and sub-groups, and strengthen synergies between the work of the PCWG and other clusters/sectors.

Activities or outputs

Given the large membership of the cluster (the largest in the oPt, with around 100 members) and the broad scope of the issues coordinated under the cluster, sufficient human resources are essential to ensure leadership and coordination. The following staff have been recruited to support OHCHR's leadership and coordination of the PCWG: one international officer (P4) to ensure the overall coordination of the PCWG in the oPt; one international officer (P3) to support coordination in Gaza; and two national officers to support coordination in the West Bank. In addition, two OHCHR-funded posts, an international officer (P3) in the West Bank and a national officer in Gaza, are dedicated to PCWG coordination. Working with the Chairs of the Protection Cluster sub-groups and with the members of the PCWG, these staff:

1. Provide vision and leadership for the Protection Cluster, based on consultations with members and stakeholders;
2. Undertake day-to-day coordination of the PCWG, including convening meetings, information-sharing and ensuring PCWG input to humanitarian processes (e.g. CAP);
3. Chair the Core Groups on Settler Violence and the Access Restricted Area, and the Legal Advice Group;
4. Ensure coordination with the work of the sub groups of the PCWG, namely the Child Protection Working Group, Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (1612) Working Group, Displacement Working Group, Legal Task Force and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group;
5. Identify and propose action to address gaps, including in information-gathering, management, analysis and coordinated response to priority protection concerns;
6. Coordinate joint monitoring and information analysis on settler violence and violations in the Access Restricted Area, coordinate the protection response, and liaise with other clusters on broader humanitarian responses;
7. Coordinate joint advocacy efforts under relevant priorities of the HCT Advocacy Strategy (e.g. accountability for settler violence and violations in the Access Restricted Area), including through liaising with UN human rights procedures and mechanisms, and oversee implementation of the "Life, Liberty and Security" action plan;
8. Through the Legal Advice Group, coordinate the discussion of questions of international human rights and humanitarian law, and the provision of feedback to PCWG members on possible legal arguments to assist in their advocacy and other protection work;
9. Work with the other clusters and sectors to mainstream protection in the overall humanitarian efforts, including through the provision of guidelines, checklists and training, and coordination of operational responses to protection issues.

Indicators and targets

Outputs:

- Sustained focus on protection issues in humanitarian processes;
- Increased coherence and coordination in the work of the PCWG and of its sub-groups, drawing effectively on the expertise and contributions of national and international partners;
- More effective documentation of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, in particular on settler violence and violations in the Access Restricted Area, due to greater co-ordination of monitoring and research efforts;
- More effective coordination of protection responses to priority protection issues, especially settler violence and violations in the Access Restricted Area (including legal assistance, protective presence, child protection and psychosocial support and material support);
- Increased coordinated and joint advocacy efforts are undertaken pursuant to the Humanitarian Country Team Advocacy Strategy, with an emphasis on accountability for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (particularly on settler violence and violations in the Access Restricted Area, and other priorities in the "Life, Liberty and Security" action plan);
- Strengthened integration of protection principles, human rights and international humanitarian law in the humanitarian responses of other clusters/sectors, and more effective inter-cluster coordination in response to protection issues.

Outcomes:

Effective leadership and coordination of the Protection Cluster, drawing upon the expertise and efforts of national and international cluster partners, leads to strengthened coordination in addressing priority protection issues – both in response and prevention – and an increased focus on respect and accountability for violations of human rights and

international humanitarian law.

Progress against the outcomes and outputs of the Protection Cluster Response Plan will be reviewed quarterly through meetings of the Protection Cluster Working Group, drawing upon regular monitoring of activity implementation in thematic areas by the sub-working groups of the Protection Cluster, and feedback from Protection Cluster members.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	
Original BUDGET items	\$
Staffing (1 Protection Cluster Coordinator, 1 international officer Gaza, 2 national officers Ramall)	485,330
Operating expenses (local travel)	2,304
Office communication costs	4,794
Activities	10,000
Support costs	65,316
Total	567,744