



THE IDP-INITIATIVE

QUARTERLY UPDATE

JANUARY 2022

This Update provides additional detail on UNHCR's internal displacement response and on this occasion six country operations are covered. Each provides a different protection and solutions angle. From Colombia, a summary is made of the newly launched Protection Analytical Framework, with some analysis also of its Cluster Coordination impact. From Ukraine, information is shared on our on-going work to support IDP durable solutions, including through housing support. From Yemen, information is shared on current cash support to internally displaced persons, including detail on the results of post distribution monitoring. From Honduras, our efforts to drive a community-based protection response are explained, in response to a sharp rise in crime. From South Sudan, additional detail is provided on our Area-Based Approach in support of resilient communities. From Burkina Faso, the results of Shelter Cluster Performance monitoring are shared.

Foreword

Today more than 50.2 million women, men and children are internally displaced due to conflict and violence, a multi-year high - notably a conservative estimate. Those forced to cross international borders as refugees fleeing persecution and violence further add to the growing tide of uprooted humanity. Millions more are displaced by disasters. The trajectory of forced displacement is set to rise further with little political settlement of protracted conflicts, amidst new violent actions.

For those on the frontlines of response, including, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees - we work with authorities and communities to anticipate, respond and help find solutions for those displaced. While we stand as the lead agency within the United Nations system, guiding global protection action for the needs of people displaced within their own national systems, our hands-on work on internal displacement, is closely demonstrated by our field presence in more than 37 countries and additionally within sub-national territories, often mired in violence and with on-going internal displacement. We deliver both a protection and solutions response working hand in hand with state and local authorities, as well as negotiating for the protection of civilian populations in territories controlled by non-state actors.

The range of issues in need of intervention in contexts of internal displacement are encompassed across the mandates of multiple UN agencies of which UNHCR is a part. The Emergency Relief Coordinator leads globally and the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators drive forward at the country level, supported by the Humanitarian Country Team, OCHA and the full range of UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and other partners.

Within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee framework, and as division of responsibilities, UNHCR leads the Global Protection Cluster and co-leads the Global Shelter Cluster and the Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, together with IFRC and IOM. UNHCR coordinates national protection, shelter and CCCM clusters, most often with NGO partners. There are now more than 3000 coordination partners who form part of our formal coordination structures. Numerous additional civil society and community based organisations bring added value to UNHCR's collaborative efforts in field locations.

Our work combines coordination leadership with operational engagement, bringing us closer to the people, building our credibility with cluster partners and strengthening relationships with governments, including at local levels. Helping to meet critical humanitarian needs is a priority as it aids in building the trust required for dialogue on sensitive protection issues. Delivery through procurement of much needed shelter materials; providing basic aid and assistance packages; facilitating the renewal of expired documents and acquiring new civil documents which facilitate access to local services, freedom of movement and thus access to livelihoods; and so much more shape the contours of our regular delivery to IDPs and communities hosting them.

Anticipating the increasing challenges of the forced displacement trajectory, substantial investment has been made in recent years to strengthen organizational engagement across the entire spectrum of forced displacement – through preparedness, response and solutions. Indeed, this approach is based on the recognition that protection and solutions interventions are most effective when they are inclusive.

UNHCR's review of its IDP approach was initiated in 2016 and resulted in a shift in several organizational processes for programming and as well the revision of its Policy on Internal Displacement. Launched in September 2019, the IDP Policy has guided predictable and decisive organizational response to situations of internal displacement. As part of our continued effort to improve, we believe it is now timely to analyse our engagement in IDP settings. A Report encompassing 2019-2021 will be compiled with a view towards organizational learning, identifying areas of further improvement and as well practices that have demonstrated concrete results, all with the intention to enhance national response and accelerated support for people in internal displacement.

The Report, to be released in the latter half of 2022, will be shared externally, on a one-time basis. Presented through Chapters the Report will cover each of the seven geographical regions, providing evidence-based examples of what has been done. Included also will be information on our response from thematic perspectives on how we have reorganized and reinforced our efforts towards a more population inclusive approach, building on our skills gained in the seventy years of trust placed by the international community in UNHCR.

The High Commissioner's IDP-Initiative (2020-2021) of which this Update is the last, was developed to share snippets of our IDP Step-Up, demonstrated through Quarterly Updates which have been provided to readers since early 2020. Included in this last IDP Initiative Update, is the full arc of displacement from preparedness through to solutions, as well as some essential "enablers" of UNHCR's work, such as programme and budget, workforce management and resource mobilisation.

My role as Principal Adviser is to promote, catalyse and coordinate all aspects of an expanded UNHCR IDP Step-Up internally and engage externally with stakeholders for further improvement in our joint efforts to support States and IDP Communities to find solutions to internal displacement.

Sumbul Rizvi is the UNHCR Principal Advisor on Internal Displacement



Members of the Protection Working Group in Chocó, Colombia, 2021 © NRC/David Garcia

COLOMBIA

National protection updates shaping analytical responses

With the signing of the Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia (GoC) and the FARC-EP in 2016 came the hope of stability and an end to more than 50 years of conflict. New armed groups, however, emerged and insecurity still afflicts parts of the country, particularly the Pacific Coast. Afrocolombian and indigenous populations suffer the brunt of violence, which could potentially intensify in coming months.

Five years after Colombia's historical peace deal, 6.7 million IDPs still require humanitarian assistance and reparations, according to Colombia's Victim's Unit. There are also 1.8 million Venezuelans in Colombia, making Colombia the second largest refugee hosting country in the world. As such, and in light of the devastating impact of the COVID pandemic, it is essential to garner the necessary international support for

Colombia as it manages the humanitarian and longer-term needs of displaced populations on its territory.

In view of the foregoing, the national protection cluster co-led by UNHCR is working hard to enhance visibility for the growing protection risks posed by the internal conflict in Colombia. In doing so, and with support from the Global Protection Cluster, it has scaled up capacity for a deeper and more systematic analysis of the crisis to feed advocacy and interagency planning and decision-making. The result today is that protection is at the center of the narrative of the conflict in Colombia.

In mid-September, UNHCR and its protection partners led a comprehensive protection analysis following the GPC PAF methodology. This involved

In April 2021, the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) launched a new [Protection Analytical Framework \(PAF\)](#) to guide robust, context-specific protection analysis. The PAF helps anyone undertaking protection analysis to answer the following questions: How should data and information be organised and structured to support an in-depth and integrated analysis? What information is needed to undertake a protection analysis?

While the PAF guides in-depth and ongoing protection analysis of the crisis environment, it also informs decision making for multisectoral and multi-disciplinary strategies that reduce and prevent protection risks that may violate international human rights and refugee and humanitarian laws. It is suitable for use across humanitarian contexts, including with internally displaced people, returnees, refugees, and mixed situations.

Ultimately, the purpose of this new analytical framework is to guide protection-specific situation analysis and the organisation of data and information to provide an “evidence-base for programming, advocacy and dialogue for the purpose of influencing behaviours and policies in support of a more favourable protection environment.”

travelling to isolated areas of the country deeply affected by conflict and armed violence and convening face to face consultations with communities.

As a result of the PAF, the protection cluster now estimates that as many as 4.9 million people in Colombia reside in areas most affected by the conflict and are thus at risk of conflict-related human rights violations in 2022. Within this, some 1 million people in the 22 (out of 1,200) municipalities most affected by the conflict face an acute risk.

At-risk populations include farmers and afrocolombian and indigenous communities. Some of the persistent human rights violations include internal displacement, confinement and limitations on freedom of movement (at individual and communal level), enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, recruitment, sexual assaults, presence of mines and other explosive ordnances, torture and killings. Meanwhile, mass displacement almost tripled between 2020 and 2021.

Building on the PAF, the protection cluster is advocating for a more sustained and regular presence in affected communities, with priority for those with acute risks. Traditional protection interventions and advocacy need to be complemented by an operational response and support to local institutions, especially those providing healthcare, education and opportunities for livelihoods.

In such a context as Colombia with high incidences of confinement, initiatives that address mental health and include psychosocial support are essential and need to be strengthened. Equally important is an ongoing community-based engagement and recognition for the role of local partners, authorities and the affected communities themselves as agents of change in designing and delivering the humanitarian response and driving longer term solutions.



Sports and recreational activities with boys and girls at high risk of forced recruitment in the neighborhood El Paraíso in Cofradía.
©UNHCR/ Ruben Salgado Escudero

HONDURAS

Preventing forced displacement in Honduras: the challenge of erasing invisible borders

Honduras is characterized by a situation of internal displacement caused by organized crime. The Government officially recognized the displacement situation in 2013; however, to date violence and consequently protection needs persist and a protracted situation of internally displaced has followed. Official response is many times security-oriented, does not include a strong component of community engagement in high-risk zones and lacks a strong institutional and legal framework.

The restrictions of mobility and freedom due to the social and territorial control exerted by the criminal structures present, particularly, in urban areas, is one of the main causes of internal

displacement. These groups mark specific locations within the communities to delimit the presence of contending criminal groups. The establishment of these “invisible borders” hinders access to school and health services, compromises peaceful coexistence, and increases the possibility of deadly violence to those who fail to comply to the criminal groups’ norms. In this context, children and young people face the risk of being forcibly recruited and suffer gender-based violence, often accentuated by exclusion, stigmatization, and criminalization because of where they live, forcing them and their families to seek protection elsewhere.

Through its partnership with civil society and grassroots organizations in 24 high-risk urban and rural communities, UNHCR preserves and increases humanitarian space and strengthens communities so they improve their capacity to organize, identify risks, formulate solutions, and engage with public institutions to restore their rights. In San Pedro Sula, as gangs and criminal groups establish invisible borders and “mark” people in communities according to the side of the neighborhood they live in, UNHCR identifies safe places where people can meet again seeking to remove the stigma that has been imposed on them by gangs. The provision of: a medical dispensary that guarantees health services for all the community, the construction of a library that allows for young men and women from different areas of the neighborhood to engage and read books, the painting of the stairs from a park disputed by gangs that will gradually allow for children to access the playground, are some examples of how to advocate and regain public spaces. These actions allow for people living in different sides of the established invisible border to access the same service without directly disputing the control of criminal groups.

The “Community Art” programme, led by the Municipality of San Pedro Sula with support of UNHCR and partner Children International, seeks to mitigate the risk of forced recruitment and gender-based violence for young people as it promotes the use of safe cultural spaces for social inclusion, dialogue and participation through artistic workshops in Rivera Hernández, Chamelecón and Cofradía. What results particularly relevant is not the specific service provided to the community but the goal of enhancing protection spaces: erase the stigma of belonging to a determinate part of the neighborhood and making it easier for people to walk and access other locations.

This combination of a community-based strategy of small-scale infrastructure, often called tactic urbanism, and urban planning with local authorities has helped to prevent forced displacement. In Choloma, Villanueva, Tela and Santa Bárbara, located in the northwestern region of Honduras, artistic collectives support committees and youth councils to carry out protection action plans through art, culture and sports activities, as well as through the provision of basic services, that enable the use, appropriation and strengthening of community infrastructure as protection spaces where youth empowerment and community participation is fostered.

Under this initiative, two grassroots organizations, Multidisciplinary Youth Artistic Collectives of Rivera Hernández and Positive Chamelecón took action to raise awareness on the protection issues their communities face and promote social change. By doing so, the youth networks of San Pedro Sula join the efforts of other youth organizations such as the Nansen Award winning Youth Against Violence to speak up on the impact of violence on communities and young people, and to advocate for the urgent adoption of the bill for the prevention, assistance and protection of internally displaced persons Honduras

These experiences evidence that engaging with young people and community leaders contributes to a better understanding of the causes of forced displacement, opening opportunities for community empowerment oriented to prevention. By putting forth creative and innovative ways to transform those realities, the protection spaces within are expanded and the sense of community and public space gradually recovered, thus erasing invisible borders.



A member of a Community Action Group (CAG) conducting protection needs assessment interviews near Malakal, Upper Nile State, 2021.
© UNHCR / Igor Iatluk.

SOUTH SUDAN

Area-based approach to establish resilient community-based response structure in South Sudan

Humanitarian needs in South Sudan continue to be high, driven by multiple factors including devastating floods, the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, enduring socio-economic challenges, and widespread localized violence and inter-communal fighting. At the same time, there are indications of progress since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). While UNHCR maintains its non-return advisory for South Sudan, against a backdrop of fragile peace and cautious optimism, some 390,000 refugees have spontaneously returned.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are also seeking solutions. Across South Sudan, more than 1.3 million IDPs have returned home spontaneously, with some 6,000 vulnerable IDPs assisted by humanitarians to return to areas of origin/habitual residences in 2021. The number of IDPs seeking support to return is increasing. So far, UNHCR intention surveys undertaken in Unity, Jonglei and Central Equatoria states indicates that more than 40 percent of IDPs wish to return to their areas of origin as soon as conditions are conducive to return. This is the case for areas that are currently flooded but would otherwise be approved jointly by humanitarians and the

Government for facilitated returns; many IDPs lack resources to return without assistance.

Areas of return have diverse populations, with a mix of IDPs, returnees and host communities placing pressure on essential services. The cross-cutting protection needs in such areas are enormous, including needs in terms of shelter, basic infrastructure such as clinics and schools, livelihoods and essential core relief items as families seek to rebuild their lives and their communities. Reclassification of the IDP Protection of Civilian Sites (POC) to IDP settlements with decreased assistance from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has also resulted in an increase in the number of IDPs returning to their places of origin.

UNHCR advocates for the implementation of area-based approaches (ABA) to facilitate a holistic protection and solutions response to these population groups. The ABA project builds community-based structures to identify and respond to critical, life-saving protection needs, foster community ownership and create a platform that facilitates inclusion of key actors in the area including the government, humanitarian, and development actors.

Communities play a primary role in the creation of a peaceful and protective environment, but such engagement should be inclusive of different gender, age, and other social groups. As part of the ABA project in areas of return, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Humanitarian and Development Consortium (HDC – national NGO), has formed Community Action Groups (CAG) to mobilize the community in playing its part in creating a protective environment, enhance referrals for focusing attention for specific needs, and raise awareness of human rights.

CAGs are voluntary fora composed of returnees with IDP or refugee backgrounds, and host communities. The chairpersons and members of the executive committees are selected through open and fair elections, and serve as the core of

the groups. Various action groups are formed under the executive committee to work on focused issues, such as SGBV, child protection, and Houseing Land and Property (HLP). Since CAG handle sensitive cases, all the core members should understand and commit to the Code of Conduct for CAG, to respect humanitarian principles and ensure accountability and confidentiality. UNHCR also monitors the work of the CAG, to ensure respect for protection principles.

Within their own local community, the CAG is responsible for a variety of tasks which are further in the process of enhancement –

- I. to mobilize and raise awareness on the issues related to peaceful co-existence, prevention and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), and the rights and protection of groups in vulnerable conditions. Community members will also be informed of available external assistance and encouraged to consider and build-up their own capacities for solutions.
- II. to carry out protection needs assessments in their respective communities and conduct regular monitoring of groups in vulnerable conditions, such as children, women, elderly, and disabled persons. The CAG members are due to receive training in monitoring and reporting skills and to map out the protection capacities available at the community level.
- III. to provide initial support to identified groups in need of special protection measures by ensuring referral to existing support structure by involving local communities, traditional support mechanism, local government authorities including the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC).

CAGs have been established in six communities in Baliet and Fashoda, Upper Nile State, namely Aburoc, Dethok, Kodok, Baliet, Riangnhom and Adong. This is work in progress and while they

might be a small step towards solutions, with proper assistance and capacity building, these community-based structures will become foundations for solutions-oriented interventions to enhance the resilience and stability of local communities in return areas.

In addition, UNHCR establishes (transitional) solutions through the ABA approach by providing targeted assistance in areas with diverse

populations, including IDPs, returning refugees and IDPs. The project includes providing shelter material support to 600 households (around 2,400 individuals) among the most vulnerable IDPs, IDP returnees and host communities. It will also serve to construct a much-needed medical centre in Adong to serve 4,500 households (around 25,000 individuals), where medical consultations and services are currently provided outdoors, including gynaecological and obstetric services.

UKRAINE

Ukraine takes further steps to realize durable solutions for its internally displaced population

The year 2021 has brought numerous positive developments for the internally displaced and conflict-affected population in Ukraine, despite the ongoing conflict and civilian casualties since a ceasefire agreement was concluded in July 2020. UNHCR has worked closely with IDP communities, local and central authorities and other United Nations and civil society partners to enhance the protection of IDPs and pave the way towards durable solutions.

In support of a people-centered and evidence-based situation analysis and response, UNHCR together with its local NGO partner Proliska, launched a protection monitoring exercise in over 150 settlements close to the line of contact in eastern Ukraine. Through key informant interviews and focus group discussions with men and women of different age groups and backgrounds, UNHCR and Proliska sought the perspectives of the people living in these isolated settlements with regard to their security, freedom of movement, access to administrative, social and health

services, and to employment. The information collected was discussed and analysed with local and central authorities and humanitarian and development partners, after which a protection monitoring report was presented and dashboard publicly launched on 29 November 2021. The findings have informed the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan and have been recognized as an important source of information by the relevant line ministries, local administrations, the Office of the Ombudsperson and donor countries.

To further foster a people and community-centered and based approach, UNHCR, together with its partners, supported over 120 IDP-run community-based organizations and initiative groups to advocate for enhanced protection and prospects for durable solutions. In this context, dialogue with authorities was strengthened through Cities of Solidarity Forums, including one conducted in October 2021 that featured an IDP-established cooperative for construction of a



Social support specialist of the UNHCR partner NGO “Humanitarian center “Proliska - Avdiivka” conducts an interview with a resident as part of protection monitoring exercise, Novobakhmutivka village, Donetsk oblast, March 2021 @UNHCR/Proliska: Nadiya Shostak.

multi-apartment house in the town of Vinnytsia. With the support of UNHCR, the community-based organizations now aim to replicate this experience in other regions by identifying partners among IDPs and local authorities, and advocate for the introduction of a nation-wide government supported program of cooperative housing for IDPs and local populations.

Housing has also been identified as one of the priority areas in the new IDP Integration and Durable Solutions Strategy, adopted by the Government in October, and valid until 2024. UNHCR has provided technical advice during the drafting of the Strategy, including data to support the selected priority areas, and helped shape the formulation of the five strategic areas – housing, employment, access to social services, education and medical services and local integration. Specifically, the Strategy paves the way towards diversification of housing solutions, including through the involvement of development donors, de-linking of access to social services and benefits

from IDP registration, and enhancing livelihood opportunities for IDPs. The Action Plan, adopted along with the Strategy, contains indicators to measure progress in the Strategy’s implementation. Implementation has already started. As first steps, the Government has adopted a normative framework to pay accumulated pension debts to IDPs, introduced new digital solutions to simplify access to documentation and residence registration services, and proposed amendments to the Law on IDPs to ensure full de-linking of access to services from IDP registration.

UNHCR will continue supporting community and evidence-based advocacy, innovations and programs addressing priority needs identified by IDPs themselves, towards enabling displaced people of different ages, gender and backgrounds attain a durable solution.

In addition to the aforementioned developments, the following law amendments and initiatives

benefitting IDPs and other conflict-affected communities were adopted and launched in Ukraine in 2021:

- extended possibility for residents of the non-government-controlled areas (NGCA) of eastern Ukraine to use digital solutions to obtain civil documents and social services (e.g. birth and death registration after a court decision; remote verification for pensioners);
- abolition of the law on a special economic zone in Crimea, which enables IDPs from Crimea to now be treated in the same manner as other citizens of Ukraine in financial matters;
- enhanced freedom of movement for residents of NGCA through the abolition of fines that were previously imposed on people travelling from NGCA to government-controlled territories of Ukraine through the territory of the Russian Federation. Other developments related to the freedom of movement concerned provision of

testing at crossing points, lifting of the self-isolation requirement and extending vaccination possibility for residents of NGCA and Crimea.

- introduction of an adaptation educational course for recent graduates from NGCA and Crimea, simplifying their university enrollment
- introduction of a preferential mortgage loan program (3%) for IDPs, with funding from KfW Bank. As of December 2021, over 100 families had benefited from the opportunity;

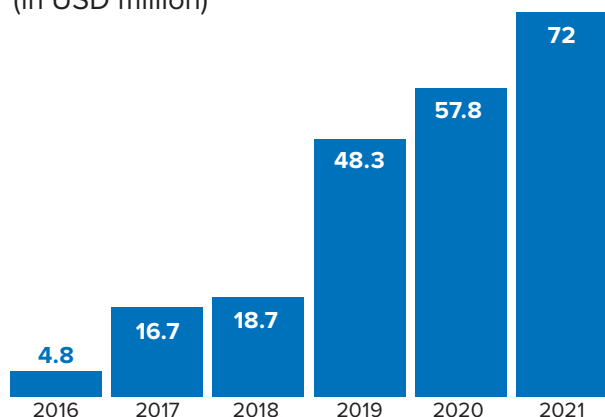
At the global level, UNHCR will continue to actively engage with the Government of Ukraine on IDP data through the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) – the EGRIS Secretariat being hosted by UNHCR and the Ukraine Statistical Service being a valuable member of the Steering Committee – directly linking to the greater Solutions efforts.

YEMEN

Cash and Protection in UNHCR Yemen operation

Scaling up and strengthening the use of cash assistance is a corporate priority. Yemen is currently the fifth largest cash operation for UNHCR worldwide and the second largest operation where cash is used in the context of internal displacement. Cash-based interventions (CBIs) in Yemen grew from 4.8 million USD in 2016 to 48 million in 2019, to 58 million USD in 2020, and possibly to some 72 million USD in 2021. In 2020 approximately 210,000 IDP households were assisted; in 2021 about 186,000 households received cash assistance, partially with multiple instalments.

UNHCR Yemen - Cash assistance 2016 - 2021
(in USD million)





*A displaced Yemeni Women and her baby in their Khazaf shelter in Al- Houdaydah Governorate, Yemen, July 2021.
© UNHCR / Alejandro Staller*

CBIs for IDPs in Yemen largely consist of unrestricted and multipurpose cash assistance, with a cash transfer value in line with the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket determined by the inter-agency Cash and Market Technical Working Group. Cash assistance is largely carried out via direct implementation modality, with UNHCR determining eligibility, supported by partners through their assessment exercises, maintaining relations with financial service providers for distribution and ensuring oversight mechanisms are in place.

In line with the [UNHCR Policy on Cash-based Interventions](#), UNHCR in Yemen leverages CBIs to achieve important outcomes crucial for the protection of affected persons. The UNHCR Yemen IDP cash program can be defined as cash assistance based on socio-economic vulnerability with core protection elements mainstreamed and associated throughout the process of assessment, eligibility determination, distribution, post-distribution monitoring and evaluation.

Assessments and tools

Protection and CBI teams worked together to define the household assessment questionnaire, which includes numerous protection-related elements (demography, specific needs, civil status documentation, housing land and property) aside socio-economic specific questions. The assessment tool is also used as a protection monitoring tool and – given the size of the database (271,500 household since January 2020) – it informs the analysis of the Protection Cluster, including for the Humanitarian Planning Cycle. The assessment is also a tool to identify persons with specific needs and refer them to available services, offered by the several Community Centers managed by UNHCR partners or by other service providers. In 2021, UNHCR Yemen CBI, information management and protection teams have jointly engaged with authorities – particularly in North Yemen – to introduce a more robust assessment tool. The Protection team also took the lead in the design of the Assessment Guidelines for partners and in the training of partners' monitors, with attention to principles of ethical data collection.

Eligibility determination

Protection and CBI teams teamed up in defining the scoring system to determine household eligibility by finding consensus on the elements to be scored and on the weight assigned to the various answers. As a result, household composition, non-food coping strategies, and specific needs constitute 71% of the weight of the score. Household characteristics such as, women-headed households, adolescent-headed households, the number of children and/or older persons without support, the detected presence of children not attending school, children engaged in labor, situations of eviction or threat of eviction, among others were prioritised in the scoring. For instance, in 2020, almost 17% of the overall recipients of UNHCR cash assistance in Yemen were female-headed households and in 2021 the proportion increased to 19.7%.

Distribution Methodology – a Protection tool

Multi-functional teams comprised of staff skilled in CBI, protection, community outreach, along with UNHCR partners and local communities, regularly monitor the distribution at the bank outlets where IDPs receive their cash. This helps to troubleshoot challenges, reinforce communication with communities, and to observe the integrity of the distribution process, particularly for persons with specific needs, ensuring that protection risks at the distribution stage are mitigated. In the refugee cash program, UNHCR Yemen also included a modality of cash delivery through mobile units, for eligible individuals with mobility challenges. The number of recipients and the logistics involved make it feasible to adopt a similar modality for IDPs; UNHCR is evaluating possible measures. In addition, protection and CBI teams have worked together in improving the communication on the cash assistance program amongst communities to ensure that information on modalities, timeframes and locations are known.

Post-Distribution-Monitoring (PDM) and impact analysis

Special attention is paid to drafting [PDM tools](#) developed for the various typologies of CBIs, and periodically customised, and include relevant protection-related questions. In addition, UNHCR's CBI and the protection teams in Yemen are currently working with the CBI technical unit in Headquarters to implement a "Cash and Protection" study. Externally commissioned, the study attempts to analyse the impact of the IDP cash program in Yemen on the overall protection environment and on the protection outcomes at household level, both through quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Adjusting the strategy to maximize protection outcomes

The Yemen operation has reflected on the impact of the cash assistance and decided to move from a one-off cash distribution to a multi-installment plan. The decision was corroborated by the findings of the most recent PDMs after the implementation of the cash assistance program supported by the "Famine Relief Fund" in the second and third quarter of 2021, the first cash intervention delivered through a three-installment modality. Targeting a sample of more than 2,800 households, the PDM results showed a decrease of 29% from previous PDM exercises in the incidence of families sending underage children to work; a decrease of 39% in the incidence of families stopping children from going to school; a decrease of 10% in the incidence of families skipping the payment of rents, amongst other indicators.

UNHCR Yemen is committed to further improve the protection elements of its cash assistance programs, through capacity development of its partners and through improved protection risk analysis, particularly on the risk of exclusion of marginalised groups.

Some conclusions can be drawn about CBI and Protection from the Yemen experience, particularly in the context of internal displacement.

- It is vital that Protection and CBI skilled staff work together and reciprocally reinforce their expertise, even when cash assistance is based on socio-economic vulnerability.
- In large IDP emergency operations, UNHCR may need to adopt a socio-vulnerability approach to cash eligibility, preferably through a scoring system based on household vulnerability assessments. When eligibility is based on socio-economic vulnerability, with or without a registration or enrollment system in place, UNHCR can implement an effective cash and protection program, where cash and CBI teams work together every step of the way from assessment to post-distribution monitoring.
- Cash assistance based on socio-economic vulnerability should not be confused with “Cash for Protection” intended as cash assistance complementary to individual or household case management, which requires robust capacity and specialised human resources devoted to case management. However, in situations where UNHCR cash assistance is largely based on socio-economic vulnerability, such as in Yemen, it can effectively contribute to protection outcomes ¹.
- Protection should inform PDM exercises, but there is also a value in separate and independent evaluations on the impact of UNHCR CBI on the protection situation of the recipients and on the overall environment. With UNHCR’s revamped programming mechanism COMPASS putting increased emphasis on Impact and Outcome indicators, these dedicated initiatives may become a regular feature of a monitoring and evaluation plan.
- In large IDP operations, protection staff should benefit from exposure to CBI capacity development initiatives and UNHCR cash experts should be receptive and well-versed on protection and AGD principles.
- For an effective quality programming, risk management, proper mainstreaming of protection in UNHCR cash assistance program, adequate staffing is needed both in the CBI and in the protection teams.

¹ For more information on UNHCR and cash and protection, please see: [Cash Assistance and Protection: Why, What and How](#)

Telling the story

Trapped under repeated shelling in her house in Sana'a, Horia, an internally displaced widow and mother of three, had no option but to look for safety far from home. She found refuge at her brother's house in Amran, a rural Governorate north of Sana'a. She initially fled with her husband, mother, and children, but after the initial years of displacement, and stifled by poverty, her husband woefully took his life. Since then, Horia sews products to sell in town, but her limited income cannot cover the family's most basic needs. In the past three months, she has benefitted from

UNHCR's multipurpose and multi-instalment cash assistance, which she notes has allowed her to buy food for the family as well as send her children to school and provide medicines for her mother, who suffers from a health condition. When asked about her future plans, Horia said that due to this support, she has been able to put some money aside and would like to get a better sewing machine and become better skilled to have her own income and to be independent of UNHCR's aid.



Horia, an internally displaced widow and mother of three in northern Sana'a, Yemen, 2021. © UNHCR



Participants at the Shelter Cluster workshop to build the capacities of national actors. ©UNHCR/B. Degla

BURKINA FASO

Cluster performance monitoring for Burkina Faso Shelter Cluster

In November 2021 the Shelter Cluster in Burkina Faso began its annual performance evaluation process, which allows members of the Cluster and its coordination team to jointly analyze and improve their collaboration. The performance evaluation is a two-step process designed to allow cluster partners to assess the extent to which the cluster has performed its core functions², as determined by the IASC, through a brief anonymous survey focusing on the Cluster's essential functions and responsibility to affected populations. The results of the survey are then

discussed with participants at a cluster performance and validation workshop, where steps to improve performance are agreed upon to develop an action plan.

In 2020, the 17 partners of the Shelter Cluster, the regional coordination focal points and the national coordination team took part in this exercise. At the end of the process, the overall findings were of a positive perception of performance by the coordination team. The survey captured each Cluster coordination function and recommended

2 Cluster Core Functions: support service delivery, inform HC/HCT's strategic decision making, plan and implement cluster strategies, monitor and evaluate performance, build national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning and to support robust advocacy.

actions from partners. Out of the long list, important improvements were made concerning the quality of data pertaining to needs assessments, the improvement on response preparedness and the reinforcement of the collaboration with local actors and government officials. There was also agreement on two key coordination functions where performance deserved special attention: the strengthening of performance monitoring and evaluation and the need to build national capacity.

At the end of the exercise, an action plan was established together with the partners and for each action a partner organization was chosen for its implementation and monitoring. From 8 to 10 September 2021, a national workshop was held with government actors and partners to build

capacity and create more connections between these actors. This capacity building workshop focused on site planning, build back better, standards and good building practice.

In addition, joint missions have been initiated with members of the coordination team, Government partners and cluster partners to follow up on the response in critical regions such as the North, the Centre North and the Sahel. To date, more than 90% of the action points resulting from the performance evaluation have been implemented. The recommendations of the workshop and its follow-up missions have strengthened our coordination transformation plan and in turn supported UNHCR's leadership in the humanitarian response in Burkina Faso.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

UNHCR's biometric enrolment for IDPs expands the reach and strength of protection programmes in the Kasai Region

The risks faced by displaced people run rife across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where vulnerable populations in many regions find themselves exposed to unforgiving climates of intercommunal violence, resurgent militia attacks and natural disasters. The implementation of biometric enrolment, using fingerprint data and iris scans to confirm identities, offers a pathway towards systematizing support and promoting solutions.

On 19 October, provincial authorities in the Kasai province of the DRC came together in Tshikapa to officially launch the pilot phase of a maiden biometric enrolment programme, with the support of UNHCR and partners *Commission Nationale des Réfugiés (CNR)* and *Actions et Interventions pour le Développement et l'Encadrement Sociale (AIDES)*. This collective effort, which in November also extended to the Kasai Central province, is dedicated to the gathering of personalized



Biometric enrolment is providing additional securities to returning families in Tshikapa, Kasai Province. ©UNHCR/Clarisse Fatouma Koundouno

biometric information of 200,000 individuals in the region, with a primary focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have been forced to abandon their homesteads and livelihoods in search of security, but also includes vulnerable people in the host communities and returnees.

With more than 5.6 million people internally displaced within DRC's borders, this programme is opening the door to more efficient, targeted humanitarian responses to address profound needs of IDPs. This includes psychosocial support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and protection for repeatedly displaced families at risk of food insecurity and lacking access to medical assistance.

Collaboration between organizations is at the heart of this programme, with UNHCR leading the Protection Cluster in DRC, co-leading with IOM on CCCM, and engaging with partners CNR and

AIDES to embed such programmes into responses of the future. To facilitate the programme, a committee of provincial experts has been created to accompany UNHCR's multifunctional team, adding depth to an awareness and sensitization campaign dedicated to helping local authorities extend their reach and support to returnees and host communities. Resilient communities are crucial to finding solutions for IDPs; through UNHCR's 'POCs Working for POCs' policy, scholarship winners were engaged to support the collection of data, demonstrating how initiatives built around persons of concern work to build stronger structures for response.

Continued analysis of the collated data will also help track movement trends of displaced people and support UNHCR and partners in better evidence-based planning, anticipating needs and improving interventions in displacement situations. The use of this technology further contributes to

diminishing risks that the most vulnerable are exposed to, including fraud and exploitation. In addition, the operation is being accompanied by awareness-raising activities on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse.

Enhanced funding is critical to scaling up these responses to protect IDPs and all persons of concern. UNHCR's funding appeal of USD 204.8 million for DRC is only 51 per cent funded, with many opportunities to make a difference if this funding gap is narrowed.

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