



1/6/2019

Somali Region Protection Cluster: Strategy July 2018-June 2020

Strategy

The Somali Region protection cluster strategy is to provide access by as many displacement-affected persons as possible in all zones across the region to a full range of protection services, whether the displacement is due to conflict, drought or other climatic factor paying particular attention to the more vulnerable displaced persons and those with specific needs including some children, women, survivors of gender-based violence and persons with special needs, including, but not limited to, disabilities.

The cluster recognises that displacement-affected persons have rights and also have agency, and will therefore work with them directly or through partners including local authorities, to encourage their contribution to the provision of such services in places of displacement, return or resettlement.

Background

The Somali Region Protection Cluster and CP/ GBV sub-Cluster together developed a strategy for their operations for 2018-2019, starting with a planning day on 20th June 2018.¹ This identified the planned beneficiaries, targeted locations of operations, partners and services to be offered. The strategy was further reviewed in a cluster workshop in May 2019 where the focus of the strategy was re-affirmed, but key data (numbers of IDPs, partners, etc) were updated to the latest figures.

Definition of terms

i. Protection

All activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with international law.

ii. Gender based violence

Any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. The nature and extent of specific types of GBV vary across cultures, countries, and regions.

iii. Child protection

The prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation of and violence against children in emergencies

Beneficiaries

i. Displacement-affected communities

Internal displacement has been a feature of the environment in Somali Region since 2016 or earlier. However, the cause of displacement has changed in the past 2 years. In January 2017, according to DTM round 3, there were about 400,000 IDPs in total across the region, of whom

¹ See report "ProtectionCluster-PlanningDayReport-June2018-Draft4"



230,000 (58%) were drought induced. By November 2017 this number had doubled to 807,000 due to conflict along the Oromia-Somali border, with the majority (461,000 or 57%) now being conflict-displaced. At July 2018, there were 1,091,000 internally displaced, with 717,000 (66% or two thirds) being conflict displaced. As of April 2019² there are now 1,066,732 displaced individuals of whom 722,180 (68%) are displaced due to conflict.

As well as those displaced by the conflict, there are also those in the communities hosting some of these displaced that are also *affected* by the situation by having to share their resources.

So displacement-affected communities are major targeted beneficiaries of this strategy.

ii. Women and children

Women and children are another key group of beneficiaries. Child protection concerns (protecting children from exploitation, violence, abuse and neglect) occur in all communities, and awareness raising on this topic is a key protection prevention activity. The addition of displacement, especially fast onset displacement, can result in children being separated from their families and then at risk of an additional range of threats. So children are key beneficiaries, whether displacement-affected or not.

Certain groups of women are traditionally vulnerable to abuse and in conflict situations with scarcity of resources this can be exacerbated resulting in threats of gender-based violence (GBV), even to those not previously considered vulnerable. For these reasons, women are considered vulnerable in certain situation and are targeted beneficiaries, especially when considering capacity-building initiatives.

iii. Persons with specific needs

The strategy also considers “persons with specific needs” as target beneficiaries. This is a broad term, but can include persons with disabilities, or persons with documentation needs, or other needs identified in the communities.

Locations

The cluster covers the Somali Region, and expects to work in all 11 zones of the region. However, the cluster has prioritised the woredas as units of operation, recognising that there are limited funds to support the organisations providing response, and that we need to focus where we can obtain maximum impact.

The cluster therefore undertook a prioritisation exercise taking into account the following aspects:

- Prioritisation advice from the national protection cluster
- Prioritisation advice from the Somali Region intercluster group
- Prioritisation advice (including presence) from our government cluster partners (primarily BoWCA, DPPB)
- Prioritisation advice (including presence) from other member organisation

² DTM round 16



- Scale of displacement across region

The cluster has prioritised 33 woredas in 10 zones (all except Nogob) for response.³ In addition, as part of the overall Somali Region multi-sector convergence exercise undertaken in April 2019, a reduced set of 17 woredas has been identified as the most critical for all sectors/ clusters in the region.⁴ Partners are advised to refer to these lists when planning activities.

Partners

As of May 2019, the cluster has 31 partners who have attended our meetings; 11 local NGOs, 7 UN agencies, 6 government partners, 6 INGOs and one members of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent movement. We have identified that for sustainability purposes the cluster needs to have at least one local NGO partner for each of the 11 zones in Somali Region (eg to monitor IDP returns). With the current 11 local NGO partners, we will assess whether they can take responsibility for one zone each, or whether we still need additional such partners.

We expect all partners to contribute to the activities of the cluster in 2019-2020.

Protection Services

Protection Cluster undertakes activities in line with the three pillars of

1. Prevention and Mitigation
2. Preparedness and Response
3. National Systems Strengthening and Recovery

i. Prevention and Mitigation

For the actors working in the areas of general protection, child protection and gender-based violence protection, the activities under prevention and mitigation include:

- **Awareness raising** with different beneficiary groups to make them aware of what protection concerns are, and how they can be prevented or at least reduced / mitigated against
- **Protection mainstreaming** – working with members of other thematic sectors to understand how they can contribute to reducing protection issues in the way they design and carry out other processes in their spheres of responsibility (eg distribution of food, relief items, etc)
- **Gender mainstreaming** by ensuring that men, women, boys and girls are included in awareness raising, protection mainstreaming and other activities as appropriate, so that they are separately and differently aware of how each person can contribute to identifying and then preventing protection concerns; this can be as simple as reporting on unsafe play areas for children

ii. Preparedness and Response

For the actors working in the areas of general protection, child protection and gender-based violence protection, the activities under preparedness and response can be the most resource

³ See excel spreadsheet "ProtectionCluster-PrioritisationTool-Oct2018"

⁴ Hargele, Dagahbour, Filtu, Berano, Gode, Hudet, Moyale, Babile, Tuliguled, Dolo odo, Adadle, Afdem, Danot, Warder, Kubi, Legehida, Kelafo from "Somali Region EHF Allocation-12042019", OCHA, 12/4/19



intensive. Response often means addressing some form of harm that has been done to the individual, whether gender-based violence or violence against children and can often mean individualized approaches, leading to case management. On the other hand in the case of harm causing mass movement of people such as in internal displacement (eg due to houses burned) the response can involve assessing living conditions in place of displacement and advocating for the provision of basic services (food, water, shelter, relief items & kits, health, education) to restore dignity to the individuals.

Preparedness required a knowledge of the types of protection issues that are likely to arise and where, and can include having relief items or dignity kits prepositioned so that when the threats strike (eg flash flooding) items are available close by and can be provided swiftly.

Specific actions include:

- **Protection assessment** in areas of recent displacement to identify protection concerns
- **Advocacy** to relevant partners (from protection and other sectors) to address the identified concerns
- **Protection monitoring** in identified areas to see how protection concerns are being addressed
- **Provision of specific protection services** such as identification and referral of specific cases (eg for GBV or child protection)
- **Community-based approach** through setting up of safety committees
- **Taking advice from community** members on their prioritized needs (such as solar lamps to share between families)
- **Identifying** separated and unaccompanied children, with a view to undertaking Family Tracing in future if appropriate

iii. National Systems Strengthening and Recovery

The Protection Cluster has three main government partners which are:

- a. Regional Department of Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (DPPB)
- b. Bureau of Women & Children's Affairs (BoWCA)
- c. Bureau of Labour & Social Affairs (BoLSA)

The humanitarian partners of the protection cluster include the following groups:

- d. United Nations (UN) humanitarian and development agencies
- e. International Non-Government Organisations (INGOs)
- f. Local Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)

The cluster works with BoWCA and BoLSA by referring to these government partners the individual cases of child protection, GBV protection and persons with specific needs (including physical and mental disabilities) whom the cluster members identify in the field.

Our government partners are also included in protection activities in the field (eg assessments and monitoring) and are actively involved in running cluster meetings.

All these contribute to systems strengthening, and will continue in this plan.

Prioritised Activities

The priority areas of work for cluster members are in the following two groups – SR specific activities, and nationally applied comprehensive package of services:



1. Somali Region specific protection activities

- Establishment of Mobile Protection Teams (MPTs) covering Child Protection (CP), Gender-Based Violence (GBV) protection and general protection - supported by appropriate logistics for **selected sites/ woredas**
 - Undertaking protection assessment of new displacements/ emergency situation, and ongoing protection monitoring where warranted eg in areas of return
 - **Community-based protection**, by setting up safety (protection) committees in individual sites
- Provision of Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) services regarding Civil Documentation, specifically targeted at **drought-affected IDPs**
- Standardisation of Dignity Kits, including SOPs for distribution
- Strengthening/ developing the referral pathways (in particular for GBV cases)

2. Protection activities applying nationally, from National Protection cluster **comprehensive package of services** which cover prevention, response and support services for persons with critical specific needs, including GBV survivors and children with protection risks:

- Establishment of multi-purpose safe spaces and associated CP and GBV services for women, children and youth linked with existing structures, where possible e.g. TLCs, TFCs, health centres etc.
- Strengthening the capacity of BoWCA, BoLSA, Health and Justice sectors to provide case identification and management, family tracing and reunification, coordination and referral pathways to ensure integrated services
- Strengthening the capacity of the DPPB and other relevant Government partners in IDP site planning, organization and management with a protection lens.
- Establishment of two-way communication with IDP populations to enhance accountability, including institutional and capacity development.
- Provision of psychosocial support/psychological first aid and Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) through appropriately trained service providers.
- Distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs) - dignity kits and individual household solar lamps.
- Protection monitoring and analysis
- Strengthening of community-based structures both within the host communities and IDP sites to prevent, mitigate and respond to protection risks by providing appropriate community-level support and referral to services.
- Protection mainstreaming e.g. to work with other sectors to ensure basic/ essential/ lifesaving services are safe, dignified, inclusive, participatory and accessible considering the differential needs of IDPs.

Timeline

This strategy is for implementation in the period July 2018 – Jun 2020.

Somali Region Protection Cluster

May 2019