

Protection Working Group (National/Gauteng)
24 June 2008
Wits University

Present

Monique Ekoko, UNHCR (Chair)
Camilla Kragelund, UNHCR
Katherine Lay, Human Rights Watch
Jonathan Whittall, MSF
Yukiko Kumashiro, IOM
Laila Badawy, NRC
Gry Hjeltnes, OCHA
Christine Knudsen, OCHA
Pete Manfield, OCHA
Claudia Shilumani, UNFPA
Jessica Chaix, Save the Children
Diane Paul, UNICEF
Stephen Blight, UNICEF
Jacqueline Nzoyihera, OHCHR
Duncan Breen, CoRMSA
Philip Coetzee, Global Relief Fund

Absent with apologies

Joyce Tlou, SAHRC

Summary of meeting and actions points

Access to sites

- Agreed as urgent action point that UNHCR, with support from OCHA, would draft key principles for access to sites to support advocacy on access control. The draft will be circulated to group by Thursday June 26th, to ensure that LINGO and civil society access can be considered, potentially through coordination with SAHRC.
- Agreed that a small inter-agency group would be composed to discuss the guidance with Carene of DMS and appropriate DMC counterpart, preferably Friday June 27th or as soon as possible thereafter. UNHCR will contact DMS and DMC for meeting time.
- Guidance would be shared with Western Cape and KZN protection groups for replication and distribution.

One-page multi-sectoral protection guidance

- All final comments on previously circulated drafts to be forwarded to Joan Allison (UNHCR) immediately after meeting to be finalized and distributed to all participants for use.
- UNHCR to send to Western Cape and to KZN for use at those levels with partners.
- UNICEF to draft one-page protection guidance on Child Protection, Education and Psychosocial (separately)
- Final versions to be posted on OCHA site for common usage.
(<http://ochaonline.un.org/rosa/AttacksonForeignersinSA/tabid/4613/Default.aspx>).

Coordination of ongoing activities

- OCHA asked that each organization complete the 3W matrix distributed on Monday and return to OCHA for compilation by Wednesday June 25th. This tool will among other things be a useful basis for designation of lead protection focal point for each site.
- Agreed that group will designate one focal point to maintain daily presence at each site during next meeting.
- Agreed that UNHCR will share their daily monitoring schedule with group to ensure complementary actions by mentions. Other actors with established schedules also share with members. (Recommended to use the newly established Google Group.)
- Sites of particular concern at present:
 - Akasia: merging and reshaping of the site, access, attacks on SARCS, role of police and reports of security concerns.
 - Wadeville: relocation of site this past weekend and need to monitor closely

Protection structures in other provinces

- Agreed that the Gauteng working group will focus on the province, as well as centralize information from other working groups for use in national-level advocacy or strategy development. The Gauteng working group will not be able to work on operational issues in a timely fashion, and would recommend that provincial level structures be used for matters of immediate response.
- UNFPA indicated their willingness to convene a coordination forum in Durban. CoRMSA will alert their membership to the structure and encourage participation.
- UNHCR, supported by UNICEF, will convene a working group in Cape Town in consultation with Cape Town based staff.
- OCHA offered support to these structures.
- CoRMSA offered to convene meeting with organizations working in Musina/Limpopo area. Meeting is expected to take place in Polokwane.

Protection Strategy

- UNHCR circulated draft protection strategy for review. Comments to be received by Friday June 27th.
- Need for an advocacy strategy strongly highlighted around issues of security forces at sites, policing, legal status. In particular, concerns about ongoing criminal attacks on foreigners not being classified as xenophobic but rather as petty crimes.
- The group agreed need for clear and constant messages to Task Force and key leverage points within government, related to state accountability and rule of law issues. HRW to share contact information for Task Force.

GBV

- Unicef GBV consultant arriving this weekend, and will be working in coordination with UNFPA GBV consultant.
- Oxfam is finalizing a funded project with CSVR for GBV monitoring and psychosocial support in the sites.
- IOM to provide information to the Protection WG and to the GBV actors on trafficking pathways, including any reports of how recruitment/trafficking perpetrated in the region.
- HRW noted that Gender Links is convening meeting next week to draw attention to how GBV is being overlooked in the xenophobic violence response and advocacy. Will provide information to the group on the meeting and potential links to GBV coordination structures.

- UNFPA will convene sub-group on GBV for interested organizations, and with government participation. Date and location to be announced by Claudia of UNFPA.

Child Protection

- UNICEF to follow-up with Department of Social Development on public statements on adoption.

Youth and Adolescents

- OHCHR to share names and contact information of active youth groups with UNICEF, to inform CP working group on potential partners for youth and adolescent work in sites and in communities
- UNFPA and UNICEF to link with UNDP on UNDP non-violence programmes for youth to inform CP working group strategy
- UNICEF to share existing tools aiming at addressing the needs of youth and adolescents in emergencies and explore possibilities for establishing peer support groups.

Appeal and contingency scenarios

- OCHA shared scenarios for ongoing situation, and potential for up to 20,000 forced mixed-flow migrants from Zimbabwe, as agreed by the Humanitarian Country Team in preparation for appeal draft this week.
- UNHCR will convene a small working group on Wednesday June 25th at 14h00 in Pretoria to develop the inputs on broader protection (LHR, OHCHR, IOM, Oxfam).
- UNFPA will convene a small working group on Thursday June 26th (date/place to be determined) on GBV prevention and response. (UNFPA, UNICEF, Save, CSVR)
- UNICEF will convene a small working group on Thursday June 26th (date/place to be determined) on child protection response and prevention of abuse, exploitation, violence. (UNICEF, Save)
- Inputs from subgroups (broader protection, GBV and child protection) to sent to UNHCR for compilation no later than Friday morning, June 27th. A plenary meeting will be held on Friday June 27th to consolidate inputs, subject to expressed interest in such a meeting.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 1 July, 10.00-12.00. UNHCR meeting room, 351 Schoeman Street, Pretoria.

UNHCR, with input from OCHA
25 June 2008