

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
63RD WORKING GROUP MEETING

**Task Force on Human Rights and Humanitarian Action:
Work Plan 2006**

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I Workplan 2006

1.1 Operationalizing Human Rights Protection in Humanitarian Situations:

- Undertaking an examination of protection from a human rights and humanitarian perspective, with the goal of operationalizing human rights protection in humanitarian situations using RSG Kalin's four-part framework.

1.2 Follow up on items 1 and 2 of 2005 Workplan – Protection Mapping & Identification of Key Programming Sectors:

- (i) Undertaking a mapping exercise of general protection concerns and related response measures which need to be addressed in emergencies;
- (ii) Liaising with global clusters (such as emergency shelter, camp coordination, health & nutrition, watsan, etc.) and other key programming sectors (education, food aid, etc.) which could benefit from a rights-based approach for more effective protection on the ground and producing a human rights-based programming checklist for field actors in these sectors.¹

1.3 Lessons Learned:

- Review and take stock of the experiences and lessons learned in applying the broader dimensions of protection within the pilot IASC humanitarian reform countries.

¹ Please note that these are based on the outstanding items 1 and 2 of the 2005 Workplan, but have been revised to reflect the ongoing humanitarian reform process.

1.4 Transitional Justice:

- Follow up on item 4 of 2005 Workplan: Undertaking a review of activities in the field of transitional justice which would need to be addressed in a humanitarian context, with the view to ensure appropriate follow-up action on the ground.

1.5 Justification for Workplan Items 1-3:

The task force is exploring a proposal put forward by the chair-agency, OHCHR, to undertake an operational examination of protection from a human rights and humanitarian perspective.² The current protection framework developed by the Protection Cluster WG focuses largely on the managerial dimensions of the humanitarian protection response, assigning roles and responsibilities to the various agencies involved. However, OHCHR is concerned that human rights protection needs to be better integrated into humanitarian action across the various clusters and sectors. Given that at the field level, as well as at HQ, there exist many different interpretations of what protection entails, all humanitarian actors may stand to benefit from an operational examination of protection which would aim to provide operational human rights content for humanitarian situations using RSG Kalin's four-part framework. This would also contribute to ensuring that there are no gaps in the protection response. Given the swift pace of the humanitarian reform process, the Protection Cluster WG has not been able to undertake such a time-consuming exercise. Thus an agreement was reached within the Protection Cluster Working Group to ask the Task Force on Human Rights and Humanitarian action to undertake this exercise so that it could be given the amount of time and focused energy it required. Given that the task force already had two such protection-related exercises on its 2005 workplan that have not yet been addressed, OHCHR has proposed to the task force membership that this exercise be undertaken during the remainder of 2005 and on into 2006 in furtherance of the task force's existing 2005 workplan.

1.6 Justification for Workplan Item 4:

OHCHR's Rule of Law Department has developed a set of tools for Transitional Justice in Post-Conflict Situations. During this process it was recognized that transitional justice issues must begin to be addressed early on within a humanitarian emergency, rather than waiting for the post-conflict phase. Thus the task force is in the process of forming a small subgroup to take the tools developed for post-conflict situations and adapt them into concise guidelines on transitional justice for humanitarian emergency settings.

Prepared by TF on Human Rights and Humanitarian Action – November 2005

² Taking as its starting point the IASC/ICRC definition of protect as *all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law).*