REPORT ON ADVOCACY STRATEGY WORKSHOP

25 June & 30 July 2015

[DATE]
IRC
Protection Co-Lead
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1 Introduction:

Protection cluster has been actively involved in facilitating the most vulnerable among the IDPs through protection activities such as grievance desks, providing legal advice, establishing protection committees and through mobile protection teams. The Child Protection sub-Cluster members/humanitarian organizations are providing child protection services to 40,814 children (18,478 girls) and 14,438 women through 46 Protection Learning and Community Emergency Services (PLaCES) and Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) including outreach services in three IDP camps and host communities of Kohat, Hangu, Bannu districts/FR Bannu and Kurram Agency.

As of August 2015, 50,590 families have returned to Khyber Agency, South Waziristan Agency (SWA), and North Waziristan Agency (NWA). This includes 1,551 unregistered families to SWA and 761 unregistered families to NWA. The relocation of 84 families from Togh Sarai camp started on August 2015. To date, 81 families have relocated to New Durrani camp.

Out of the total number of displaced population, 16% of the families have been returned while 84% are still in displacement. There are still challenges faced by both the returnees and people in displacement. According to assessments, child protection issues esp. child labor, holds a key significance as children get involved in daily wages or collection of fire woods which disables them to get admitted in schools. The other issue which is commonly found in assessments is the issues of CNICs esp. to women which hampers the process of registration and assistance. Mostly female headed households who are without CNIC face difficulties during returns as well as displacement. Moreover, issues relating to persons with disability esp. women with disability are found to hold a key stance for advocacy approaches, as this segment of the displaced society are often not seen as key stakeholders and their needs are not taken into consideration. Therefore, the needs for advocacy on such key concerns were felt to be dealt upon in various forums by identification of stakeholders who can better take up the situation and many displaced communities can get benefit from. Thus, the protection cluster organized advocacy strategy workshop with the cluster members to find out more of such issues which need advocacy which the cluster members felt while working in field level. The workshop aimed at developing a consensus on key protection concerns which can be taken further for advocacy.

2 Overview of the Workshop:

The workshop commenced from the round of introduction of the participants who were participating from different national and international organizations including UN agencies. The Protection Cluster Lead UNHCR Ms. Jolanda Van Dijk and the Senior Protection Coordinator IRC Mr. Wajahat Ali facilitated the workshop by introducing the purpose and aim of the workshop. The participants were informed about the objective of the workshop and were explained the importance of the advocacy strategy and its effectiveness in future. The overall workshop was activity based with various interactive exercises where all the members shared their inputs via group activities before the forum. The participants actively participated in all the sessions and identified the key protection concerns along with the advocacy messages which can be raised in various forums. On the basis of the expected outcomes, the participants
were able to bring the main protection concerns to the forth which can be thought of as advocacy agent for future long term solutions.

2.1 Objective of the Workshop:

The key objective of the workshop was to establish a strong foundation for developing a SMART Advocacy Strategy for the Protection Cluster.

2.2 Key Outcomes of the Workshop:

The workshop aimed to achieve the under mentioned expected outcomes.

1. To analyze the context and protection situation with respect to key advocacy needs and analyze the key stakeholders’, their mutual relationships, power and influence over each other
2. To develop an advocacy framework with key actions

2.3 Proceedings of the Workshop:

The participants were briefed about the overall objective and outcome of the workshop, with the expectation of achieving some concrete advocacy push from protection cluster jointly. An activity based session was conducted which main aim was to raise certain protection issues which the cluster members deal with on field. The protection cluster members identified some key protection concerns from the exercise, which resulted in the problem identification, their root cause and solution to the problem which according to participants can be best advocated for. Those problems were shared in parallel to evidence analysis to identify some relevant key stakeholders to which these concerns can be advocated.

The key protection concerns identified were:

1. Lack of civil documentation
2. Registration
3. Denial of health services to women
4. Denial of girls’ education
5. Problems in CNIC issuance to women
6. Child labor
7. Vulnerable women in camps

The preceding session was followed by yet another round of activity where the participants were asked to identify the key opportunities available for the advocacy push and their key messages to be presented
in different forums for advocacy purposes. The participants listed down some important opportunities which were discussed in detail along with the advocacy messages identified.

3  Key Protection Concerns:

The following were the key protection concerns identified by the participants of the workshop as an advocacy tool:

3.1  Lack of Civil Documentation

The primary root cause were brought into fore front to the forum was local availability of the service providers and their weak services/efficiency of the service providers, complicated procedures, cultural taboos which impede the acquisition of the civil documentation, unawareness of the process and procedures and lack/loss of documents during conflict or disasters. In the view of these, the IDPs left out of the civil documentation processes and as a consequence registration processes are held back. Free mobility is hampered as well as access to education of children is denied. The IDPs lack employment/livelihood opportunity as well as they get no legal status in the society. The secondary consequence of the issue bore lack of humanitarian assistance/services which leads to psychological distress and social restrictions; increased in child labor, street children, drug addiction as well as crime; poverty leading to early child marriages and inheritance problems.

Solution:

The solution to the above mentioned protection concern was identified as awareness campaigns of the importance of civil documentation; provision of documentation facilities at doorsteps; simplification of the overall procedures of attaining the civil documentation; subsidized cost; enhancement of capacity of local service providers; birth registration/registration with NADRA; relaxation of rules and alternate mechanisms.

Key Stakeholders Identified:

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3.2 Registration

Registration was identified as the second most important protection concern which needs to be advocated in the different forums. For being registered, one requires a valid CNIC/civil documentation for acquiring the benefits and services from the govt. as well as private stakeholders. Why these benefits are not promulgated was due to the limited registration centers as well as specific time constraints. Dual addresses in the CNIC is yet another major issue which left out a family from acquiring the assistance services such as food ration, NFI kits, health and hygiene facilities etc. The reports from the ground showed that permanent addresses of some of the displaced communities depicted the address from the host area while temporary addresses portrayed the areas of origin. These kinds of cases are commonly found and many people are not assisted in registration, hence, not being assisted by humanitarian services. Having multiple wives triggers yet another issue which leads to the lack of clause in the defined SOPs for newlyweds. The lack of information of the processes and procedures also contribute to being unregistered, yet leads to verification barriers.

Solution:

The solution identified was to bring NADRA into confidence for the smooth verification process and proper information dissemination among the communities for the knowledge of the importance of registration in line with legal assistance.

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3.3 Problem in CNIC Issuance to Women

The commonly identified concern faced by every organization and grievance desk reports is problem in the civil documentation of displaced women. The participants identified lack of awareness for the CNIC issuance of a woman inside the displaced community which was considered as less important. Lack of legal documentation further with birth and marriage certificate exacerbate the situation of acquiring a valid CNIC for a woman. Furthermore, some of the cultural barriers such as free mobility for women make it impossible to apply for a CNIC. The consequences of such problems give rise to inevitable issues faced by children in their registration processes in schools, in connection with the children’s own CNIC acquisition when adults. At the time of verification, those women have possessed no identification and registration status. Safety and security issues arouse, the distribution points are remained unattended by...
women as it will be inaccessible for them during crisis, which in turn impedes the access of availing services like health, education or source of livelihood.

Solution:

The solution to this problem was identified as provision of awareness sessions to the displaced communities to impart the significance and role of CNIC and maintenance of birth and marriage certificates as legal documentation for CNIC. Despite of NADRA’s facilitation, the processes should be made relaxed and its lengthy process should be made concise. In order to get women enrolled into the process, NADRA should notify special days for women, elderly and disabled people as improvised part of the system as well as NADRA should bring increase in their office buildings in every area to make it accessible for all.

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3.4 Denial of Girls’ Education

Denial of girls’ education is a common issue prevailing in any different society’s esp. in high concentration observed in displaced communities. The main causes found by the participants of the exercise were lack of awareness towards the importance of education esp. to females, lack of educational facilities for the females, cultural barriers which pose impediment in the path of those who wish to avail educational facilities. Accessibility of schools were identified as yet another main cause which have ripple effect on promotion of girls’ education as educational facilities are found to be kilometers away with no transport. Illiterate parents add immense value in the constraining of girls’ education along with poverty and proper government planning and policies. All such issues ultimately give rise to the early/forced marriages of girls which further worsen the reproductive health of these young children. Chances of domestic violence parallel to gender based violence aggravates like child abuse further early marriages and ends up with no legal documentation.

Solution:

Cultural awareness together with gender sensitization and community awareness leads to the establishment of education committees. Poverty alleviation via skill training; Small Medium Enterprise (SME) lending loans; grants and qarze hasana to the community to fulfill the educational demands; Establishment of schools via increase in number of teachers; number of classrooms and increase in basic
educational budget were the top solutions identified. All these solutions can be advocated taking the community, private and public sectors together for advocacy.

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3.5 Denial of Health services to Women

Poverty is identified as main root cause of the women’s health issues and their access to health services. Poverty in turn prevails due to lack of resources and opportunities to the displaced communities. Lack of awareness and information which rises from being displace to a new area an ignorance of health facilities in such areas add up a second stage to the cause of the mentioned issue. Insufficient lack of services such as private doctors, BHUs as well as social constraints followed up from trust of the family or spouse, customary practices and cultural norms further keeps the women suppressed not from health facilities as well as other facilities.

Solution:

The solution to these issues as the evidence analysis is to provide and sustain opportunities of livelihood to the community such as conditional and unconditional cash grants as well as cash for work. Improved awareness of the systems via print and electronic media by govt. and NGOs; advocacy with government for establishment of health facilities and its up gradation; incentives at health facility spaces; amendments in SOPs along with strict measures against evil cultural practices as an endeavor to advocate for smooth improvised health systems and provision of accessibility to women in displaced communities.

Key Stakeholders Identified:

1. Health Ministry
2. DG Health
3. WHO
4. Shoora workers
5. Protection cluster
6. Ministry of human rights
7. Pakistan Baithul Maal
8. NGOs
9. Print and electronic media
10. PDMA/FDMA
3.6 Child Labor:

Child labor not only prevails in displaced community but also common in many parts of the world. The causes to problem of child labor identified by the group were lack of awareness, poverty in the community, early child marriages, child headed household, unavailability of enough facilities, unemployment, no educational facilities, corporal punishment, lack of leisure opportunities, low literacy rates and women headed households.

Solution:

The solution can be sought as parent teacher conferences on regular basis, special packages for vulnerable children to boost up the interest towards education, establishment of child protection units, involvement of religious leaders towards the eradication of child labor, family planning to avoid population which can easily counter the issue, dissemination of IEC material, involvement of social welfare department, capacity building of teachers and parents via awareness sessions and implementation of clause 25a of constitution.

The key most prioritized issue was identified as poverty which can be advocated in different forums via allocation of budget for EVIs at school level along with ensuring disbursement of paper fund on merit i.e. via Zakat and Usher. In addition, it was decided that increasing level of awareness among the communities about the child labor issues can bring change in the understanding of the issue. Formation of special task force in political admin unit to monitor the child labor issues in FATA. Inclusion of vocational/technical education via informal education in curriculum as well as provision of conditional and unconditional livelihood opportunities for parents can bring about immense level of change to improve the child labor situation. Another important change that was brought to the forefront was formation of networks to address such issues as well as provision of scholarships to the children in labor can positively bring about change in the whole scenario of child labor situation.

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3.7 Vulnerable Women in Camps:

The issues identified for the change were that vulnerable women are economically not sound inside camps as they have no source of livelihood; due to registration and lack of CNIC they are not provided with the facilities at distribution points, the pre-requisite source such as food items as well as NFIs; lack of access to resources exists and women are mostly involved in philanthropic activities or mostly collection of woods. The other issue was of proper shelter to women which is a right for a woman to have proper privacy facilities. This issue relates to the WASH facilities, which also lacks inside camps.

Solution:

The solution identified by the participants was through awareness raising within the camp community as well as building linkages with the camp administration to sort out the issues faced by women. Door to door assessments by camp administration was also sought to be another solution to the problem which can be a better option to find out the vulnerabilities faced by different women inside camps, the matter of whom can be forwarded to the concerned authorities.

Key Stakeholders Identified:

1. PDMA/FDMA (camp coordinator)

4 Key Actions Identified:

While discussing the issues, regarding the CNIC issuance to women the point was raised that women are now being provided with special days for CNIC at NADRA office as well as NADRA specialized mobile team are also been deployed on the ground. The forum was clarified that other issues identified should be restricted to protection, though protection is cross cutting with different clusters, but specific protection issues should be addressed and should not oversee the issues of other clusters. Child Protection issue such as child labor had been proposed for strong advocacy message. The forum discussed that FATA has its own child protection policy, advocacy to demand to implement those policies, as a social protection as a whole was agreed upon, as elimination of child labor was observed to be a huge program rather than an advocacy message.

Furthermore, the consensus was developed to overall issues for identifying the key influential bodies that can be advocated for on the basis of the evidences to convince the key actors to bring about change. The participants also identified the precise time which can contribute towards strong and influential advocacy
Out of all recommendations, four key areas have been identified for advocacy. Below diagrams show the cause which needed to be advocate, influential people and responsibility;

- There is a need to make village committees, jirgas and communities aware of adverse effects of child labor. Child labor not only damage the learning ability of a child it also restrict the future livelihood options for the child and his/her family. It is important to make our societies child labor free for a prosperous future.

- There is a need to advocate relevant authorities on the importance of easy to use mechanisms for security and social document provision. People cannot access many basic facilities and assistance from government and other humanitarian actors without those documents.

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1 Please see Annex “Action points matrix” for further information
- Access to basic facilities is a right of every child and communities should be provided with education on this topic.
- Mostly women and girls do not have access to education. This trend is needed to be changed for the educated, harmonized, diverse and prosperous society.

5 Protection Concerns Requiring Advocacy: input from PHF, Oxfam, NHN, IMC and HI

5.1 Inclusion of Disability:

The main protection concerns which arose requiring more advocacy lobbying within the humanitarian context is funding constraints which impede many operations and interventions. The second main concern felt was NOC, whether travel or project based, stops many means of access towards life saving activities, leads its way towards incapability of access to the people, esp. to handicap women which is the main challenge and requires more focused advocacy in joint protection mainstream. Advocacy on inclusion of disability should be kept foremost and differentiation of terminologies must be encountered. Furthermore, proposals submitted should have at least five questions related to disability with percentage wise gender inclusion. Advocacy regarding disability should not be limited to the protection cluster, but
also in health cluster as well. Furthermore, strong advocacy is required on differentiation of vulnerabilities as mainstreaming disability is one joint protection agenda, it should not be taken as separate entity.

5.2 Protection as policy:

Another prioritized protection concern identified was the political aspect of protection, as in routine business, many try to avoid the said aspect, but wider political definition of protection should not be overlooked and strong campaigning is required in the humanitarian context. The policy guidelines established by NDMA for vulnerable groups is in itself comprehensive document and advocacy is required for all humanitarian actors working on protection to follow the document as well as the Constitution of Pakistan, which clearly indicates the rights base framework. Mainstreaming GBV during emergencies should be advocated as well as high rents paid by the affected population in certain communities must not contribute towards exploitation of the local economy. Protection cluster must have its clear stance and vocal attitude in HCT meetings for all these concerns.

Return is most of the time involuntary and NADRA should advocate women CNIC for catalyzing the process of registration. Advocacy for skill development programs for women for their sustainable income generation for survival is required at all levels. Strong advocacy is required in girls’ education after return as nobody talks about it when the return is over. The legitimacy of the bond which is made signed by the affected people by the political administration should be challenged as it raises many protection concerns after the signature of the bond.