

## 2021 strategic focus

Considering the above-mentioned changes in the context, arising opportunities, capacities and well as identified risk and gaps the Protection Sector (PS) plans to focus on the following thematic priorities as well as ways of working in 2021:

- **Durable solutions** – with the timidly optimistic prospects of progressing peace process, both space and need for durable solutions for displacement affected communities becomes more visible and acute. In line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement the protection sector will support putting principled approaches to area-based and inclusive durable solutions for displacement affected communities on the agenda of the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding community seeing this as an opportunity for the nexus approach to materialize. At the same time, the Protection Sector will work on contingency plans including modes of engagement in situations of forced returns of internally displaced persons. Recognizing that durable solutions require a multistakeholder approach and exceed the focus of the Protection Sector the sector will build engagement with non-protection actors.
- **Housing, Land and Property** – the peace and recovery prospects are followed by increased risk of eviction of households residing in informal collective sites, unable to pay rent for private accommodation. The Protection Sector will prioritize a focus on risks of forced evictions through eviction risk monitoring, preventative engagement, mass eviction contingency plans. The Protection Sector will support building overall capacity of sector partners to address HLP issues also in the context of potential returns of persons displaced by armed conflict.
- **Alternatives to detention for migrants and asylum seekers** – the Protection Sector will continue to support advocacy efforts on alternatives to detention centres and work in complementarity with the MRP. At the same time, considering the increasing trends of releases from detention centres strengthened coordination and contingency plans are required to mitigate associated protection risks.
- **Cash and Protection** – considering the grand bargain commitments as well as the dominant preference of persons in need to receive CVA rather than in kind assistance, notwithstanding the risks related to cash based programming in Libya the Protection Sector will focus on streamlining the use of CVA for protection outcomes both as a modality to facilitate access to protection services as well as a means for integrated protection.
- **Community – Based Protection** – the Protection Sector will increase its focus on Community – Based Protection to strengthen social cohesion between the different population groups to mitigate intercommunal conflict and reduce protection risks related to forced displacement with consideration to intersectionality of vulnerabilities and diverse coping strategies. The Sector through its partners plans to strengthen its engagement with inclusive community structures to support community dialogue, community action and development plans and community based conflict resolution mechanisms, at the same time advocating for stronger access to formal justice for grave violations of rights.
- **Protection Mainstreaming and Conflict Sensitivity** – the Protection Sector will engage with the ISCG members to provide tailored support on protection mainstreaming for sectoral interventions. The Protection Risk Analysis done in the 2021 HRP will be used as an entry point for engagement with sectors. At the same time, the Protection Sector will support an improved understanding and application of conflict sensitive programming, both among its partners as well as non-protection actors including use of conflict analysis.
- **Exclusion** – while the Libya HRP considers specific concerns of five population groups based on their displacement status, a more granular understanding of vulnerabilities, exclusion factors and coping capacities, especially among the non-displaced groups remains limited, thus risking that persons in need might be systematically excluded from assistance and access to rights. The

Protection Sector will be supporting a more nuanced protection analysis focusing on the situation of various subgroups within the Libyan populations, especially Tebu and Tuareg, persons at risk of statelessness to inform the overall response.

These priorities will be reflected in all pillars of the sectors work, reflective of the core functions of cluster coordination<sup>1</sup>: information management, advocacy, capacity support, programmatic guidance, and quality assurance.

- **Protection Information Management** – with the focus on building sector- led/sector coordinated information management mechanisms especially for protection monitoring, with use of harmonized indicators and methodologies and where relevant standardized tools. These will be a foundation for evidence informed programming and advocacy, with a commitment to ensure established systems have a defined purpose, avoid duplication of data collection and are people centred, closing the feedback loop to communities and strengthen their own advocacy capacities.
- **Guidance, standards and quality assurance** – with a focus on developing guidance documents and SOPs tailored to the Libyan context as well as strengthening qualitative monitoring of the protection response through joint and peer monitoring.
- **Capacity development support** – the protection sector will continue building on the capacity development and training needs identified by its members in 2020 and encouraging partners ownership in addressing capacity gaps through joint trainings.
- **Advocacy** - the Protection Sector Coordinators will put stronger emphasis on assertive advocacy with key stakeholders in the humanitarian, peace, development, and donor community to influence the implementation of protection and assistance within the framework of a rights-based approach.
- **Coordination of protection response** – in line with the strategic priorities set out in the Protection Sector Strategy and the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, supporting development and implementation of sector and intersectoral contingency plans, timely information sharing, engagement with non-protection and non-humanitarian stakeholders.
- **Strategic planning** - considering the Humanitarian Response Plans as the strategic document to build a shared narrative and strategy for the humanitarian response in Libya, while cognisant of its limitations and flaws the Protection Sector will support greater transparency and inclusiveness of the process, especially by establishing activity based costing, clear methodology related to PIN and target calculation.
- **Localization and government engagement** – the Libya Protection Sector has currently no national or local Libyan NGOs among its members and recognizes it as a major weakness. Throughout 2021 the Protection Sector Coordinators will work closely with SAG members to identify opportunities for building engagement with national actors and diversifying the sector membership. The PS coordinators in cooperation with the SAG will also look for entry points to build relations with national and municipal authorities in ways that align with intersectoral principles and ways of engagement

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/health-cluster/about/cluster-system/cluster-coordination-reference-module-2015.pdf>