

UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS
3 – 5 JULY 2019

International Conference Center Geneva

DISCUSSION PAPER

Title of session: Evidence for Action: Connecting people and data in support of evidence-informed outcomes

Date: Thursday, 4 July 2019

Time/Room: 11:00-13:00 and 14:00-16:00 – Room 3

Executive Summary:

Timely, reliable and useable data is key to identify protection risks, needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of affected people in displacement situations. With the point of departure in the overall theme “Working together, better”, this session will focus on advancing the discussion on and making recommendations for how data and evidence support the planning, prevention and delivery of responses to protection needs, finding and implementing solutions to displacement, and ensuring progress towards collective outcomes.

In recent years, several frameworks and approaches have been developed as part of collective efforts to strengthen the evidence base for improved planning and response to forced displacement. One of these is the Protection Information Management (PIM) Conceptual Framework, which aims to ensure safe, responsible and meaningful data management for evidence-informed protection outcomes. This session will take a field practitioner’s perspective to explore the practical elements of generating and using data as an evidence base for the delivery of collective outcomes. Practitioners will share and discuss initiatives, frameworks and approaches aimed at ensuring principled and purposeful data collection, analysis and use for evidence-informed action, and lessons learned about the challenges and impact of applying these at the field level.

Part I Meaningful Engagement with Affected Communities: From informants to partners will focus on the participation of and engagement with affected people and communities in data collection, analysis and use.

Part II A Collective Commitment to Evidence: Coordination fora taking the lead will focus on using evidence for collective outcomes, i.e. on how data is shared with and used by coordination structures for joint analysis, planning and response for evidence-informed collective outcomes.

Concept Note:

- **Background and link to the theme**

Timely, reliable and useable data is key to identify protection risks, needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of affected people in displacement situations. With the point of departure in the overall theme "*Working together, better*"; this session will focus on advancing the discussion on and making recommendations for how *data and evidence* support the planning, prevention and delivery of responses to protection needs, finding and implementing solutions to displacement, and ensuring progress towards collective outcomes.

In recent years, several frameworks and approaches have been developed as part of collective efforts to strengthen the evidence base for improved planning and response to forced displacement. One of these is the Protection Information Management (PIM) Conceptual Framework, which aims to ensure safe, responsible and meaningful data management for evidence-informed protection outcomes. This session will take a field practitioner's perspective to explore the practical elements of generating and using data as an evidence base for the delivery of collective outcomes. Practitioners will share and discuss initiatives, frameworks and approaches aimed at ensuring principled and purposeful data collection, analysis and use for evidence-informed action, and lessons learned about the challenges and impact of applying these at the field level.

The session comprises two parts:

Part I *Meaningful Engagement with Affected Communities: From informants to partners* will focus on sharing and discussing examples of frameworks and approaches aimed at ensuring the *participation of and engagement with affected people and communities* in primary data collection, analysis and use, in the spirit of commitments under Accountability to Affected Populations and the principles and practices of responsible and ethical data approaches, as well as engaging with affected people through feedback mechanisms, which provide data on programme response and unmet needs.

Part II *A Collective Commitment to Evidence: Coordination fora taking the lead* will focus on sharing and discussing examples of frameworks and approaches aimed at ensuring the use of data and evidence for collective outcomes, i.e. *how data is shared with and used by coordination structures for joint analysis, planning and response for evidence-informed collective outcomes*.

Objectives of the Session

- Share frameworks and approaches to data collection, analysis and use for evidence-informed planning, response and other collective outcomes
- Discuss lessons learned, good practices, challenges, and the impact of applying frameworks and approaches in a) the engagement with affected people in data collection, analysis and use, and b) the use of data by coordination structures for joint analysis, planning and response
- Provide recommendations for ensuring the principled, collaborative and effective generation and use of evidence for collective responses to displacement situations

Desired outcomes of the session:

- Frameworks and approaches facilitating safe, responsible and meaningful data collection, analysis and use for evidence-informed responses to protection risks and displacement needs shared
- Good field practices of applying frameworks and approaches for engaging with affected communities in the collection, analysis and use of data for evidence-informed planning and response identified
- Recommendations on gaps to be addressed to ensure the principled, collaborative and effective generation and use of evidence for collective outcomes to displacement situations provided.

Methodology & choreography [*panel discussion, break-out sessions, pigeonhole, video presentation, mixture of different elements*]

11:00 – 11:10

Welcome and Introduction

Presentation of session objectives and format.

11:10 – 11:25

Hard talk style dialogue with *Jenny McAvoy, Director of Protection, InterAction*

Setting the scene on the importance of data and evidence for protection outcomes and humanitarian action in response to refugee and internal displacement, as well as the value added of collaborative frameworks and approaches to data and evidence building to plan responses to protection needs, find solutions to displacement, and ensure progress towards collective outcomes.

Session Part I Meaningful Engagement with Affected Communities: From informants to partners

11:25 – 12:10

Panel of practitioners sharing experiences, lessons learned and the impact of collaborative information management initiatives, frameworks and approaches to ensure the participation of and engagement with affected people and communities on data collection, analysis and use. Key questions include: How are the frameworks or approaches for engaging with affected people on primary data collection designed? How is the data effectively being used? How have age, gender and diversity considerations been incorporated? How are community feedback mechanisms designed, and how is the data from these used? How are affected communities generating data and evidence themselves, and how is this effectively captured and used by humanitarians?

Speakers:

- **Abaraaha**, *Zaki Issa, Creative Director*
How a diaspora-resourced platform has collected and aggregated data from disaster-affected communities in Somalia. By leveraging diaspora capital and resources, the platform helped to address the food security, community adaptation and resilience needs of the local communities, through disaster mapping and active coordination of diaspora organisations and local NGOs.
- **InterNews**, *Stijn Aelbers, Senior Humanitarian Advisor*
How InterNews' community engagement and Communicating with Communities (CwC) work to empower people in humanitarian situations by using methodologies such as

narrowcasting, rumour tracking, information ecosystem assessments, and feedback analysis, in contexts such as South Sudan, DR Congo, and Bangladesh.

- **Translators without Borders**, *Mia Marzotto, Head of Advocacy*
Focus on common services for community engagement and accountability and the importance of language and translation when engaging with communities to generate quality data.

12:10 – 12:50

Plenary discussion to jointly identify good practices and challenges, and to formulate recommendations for addressing these.

12:50-13:00

Summary of key discussion points and recommendations, and pitch for Part II after the lunch break.

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

Session Part II *A Collective Commitment to Evidence: Coordination fora taking the lead*

14:00 – 14:10

Welcome back and recap from Part I

14:10 – 15:00

Panel of practitioners sharing experiences, lessons learned and the impact of collaborative information management initiatives, frameworks and approaches aimed at ensuring the effective use of data and evidence by coordination structures for joint analysis, planning and response for evidence-informed collective outcomes.

Speakers:

- **DRC**, *Anna Maria Geller, Somalia Protection Cluster Co-Coordinator*
Sharing lessons learned from implementing the collaborative Somalia Protection Monitoring System (PMS), which feeds data into the Somalia Protection Cluster and the Humanitarian Country Team to facilitate joint analysis and inform strategy, programming and advocacy
- **REACH**, *Katie Rickard, Global Programme Manager*
Reflections on lessons learned from the REACH approach to data collection, analysis and use, and how data feeds into coordination structures and supports decision-making and planning capacity for efficient and effective humanitarian action
- **UNHCR**, *Fanette Blanch, Protection Sector Coordinator, Lebanon*
Sharing experiences of how the Protection Information Management Conceptual Framework is helping to improve data management and evidence building for protection outcomes through a shared vision, commitment to collaboration, capacity building and harmonization of information management systems.

15:00 – 15:45

Plenary discussion to jointly identify good practices and remaining gaps, and to formulate recommendations for addressing these.

15:45-16:00

Plenary discussion led by moderators to **consolidate recommendations** from the session.