

Refugees In-Need's Life, Safety and Security and Privacy Policies.

Policies to safety guide the interest and privacy of Refugees, Orphans and others

The key message here is :

Refugees In-Need has internally displaced persons and communities can face a wide range of serious threats to their life, safety and security policies are at every stage of the displacement cycle. Such threats can stem out from a variety of sources and include diverse actors depending on the context. It is primarily the role of the national authorities and benevolent organizations like **Refugees In-Need**, to provide protection against such barbaric and heinous threats and ensure that acts of crime, violence and abuse of human rights do not take place in a climate of impunity.

Human rights and humanitarian actors like **Refugees In-Need**, rarely have the mandate, the capacity or the resources to physically and emotionally protect and save the innocent displaced individuals and communities from such threats. We can however, contribute to their protection by helping to reduce their exposure to and mitigate the devastating effects of such violence where ever and whenever possible.

This Action Sheet, should be fixed together with an action plan sheets on :

(a). Gender-Based Violence . And 2. on children associated with armed forces and groups. It tries to provide guidance on ways to address three distinct but interrelated threat issues related to life, safety, security and privacy:

Threats resulting from a breakdown of law and order, including individual or collective acts of crime, violence and abuse of human rights.

Threats arising in the context of armed conflict, i.e. at the hands of or as a result of the activities of armed forces and groups that are parties to the conflict.

Threats arising as a result of communal or intra-group tension, either within the displaced population or between the displaced and the host population, for example, as a result of competition for scarce resources, such as land, water or firewood.

And threats arising as a result of death.

Some key considerations

Ensuring life continuation, safety, privacy and security is the responsibility of the State and its actors as well as its institutions. It is important to engage with national and local authorities to that extent if possible, when seeking to identify, prevent and respond to core security threats in order to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of such actions.

Internally displaced persons and communities are themselves key protection actors. They have an understanding of the local context and access to information and knowledge, which others may lack. They should be consulted and any existing coping mechanisms and strategies supported.

Sometimes the best protected strategy is to give an education and enlighten people on threats related issues, preventions and solutions to overcome them for good. Even where measures are taken to enhance peoples' privacy, lives, safety and security they retain the right to move elsewhere within the country or other countries or places without any handicap or hindrances in their movement or to live and also seek asylum elsewhere (abroad) .

(b). Protection from crime, violence and abuse

First Overview

Forced displacement often takes place in situations characterized by a breakdown in the rule of law, where national or local authorities may lack the capacity, or the willingness, to maintain law and order and ensure the safety and security of displaced individuals and communities.

Theory and practicality of Protection of Internally Displaced Persons

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In general, an act of violence, whether it takes place during conflict or not, can be defined as any act that inflicts physical, mental, sexual or other harm or suffering upon an individual or group, including threats of such acts, and that either results in or has the likelihood of resulting in injury, death, physical or mental disability, or deprivation.

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This list is not exhaustive and various other threats might need to be identified and addressed. This includes, for example, threats arising in the context of natural or environmental disasters, such as fires, draught, floods, earthquakes, landslides and pollution. Together with other factors

– such as armed conflict, the collapse of institutions and infrastructure, poverty, lack of education and livelihood opportunities, and a breakdown of social norms and values – this may lead to a marked increase in crime, exploitation and abuse in both the public and private spheres.

Internally displaced persons often bear the brunt of such violence. They have frequently lost the protective presence of their homes, families and communities and lack access to life-saving assistance and services, including food, shelter and basic health-care. As a result, they may find themselves at greater risk of such violence at the same time as their ability to recover from its harmful effects is undermined. While such threats are common in both urban and rural environments, they can be particularly pronounced in large and over-crowded camps or settlements. Population density, poverty and sub-standard living conditions, combined with lack of effective law enforcement and access to justice can create fertile ground for crime, violence and abuse at the hands of internal and external actors. Such threats can range from minor offences, such as theft, robbery and vandalism, to serious violations of human rights, including rape, physical assault and killings.

The closed environment of camps and settlements coupled with anxiety and desperation stemming from trauma, marginalization and lack of hope, can contribute to an increase in the frequency and seriousness of such acts and undermine the coping mechanisms of individuals and communities as well as their ability to protect themselves.

Below are examples of common threats to life, safety, privacy and security

Racism/Racist, discriminations, torture of human lives, unlawful imprisonment, inhumane acts, abuse of human rights and ugly utterances, murder; killings; assassination; forced disappearance; summary or arbitrary, executions; physical assault or battering.

Torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and other outrages upon personal dignity; mutilation or maiming; corporal punishment.

Sexual and gender-based violence, including rape and sexual assault, abuse or humiliation; sexual exploitation, including forced prostitution and sex in exchange for aid; harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, forced and early pregnancy; and honour killings.

Abduction; kidnapping; enslavement: forced recruitment; forced labour; human trafficking; sexual slavery.

Forced displacement, forced return or relocation. Harassment, intimidation and coercion.

Destruction of livelihoods and property, including land, fields, crops and livestock and other objects indispensable for people's survival; vandalism; and arson. Theft; robbery; looting; cattle rustling; and fraudulent seizure/purchase of land or property. Extortion; fraud; forgery; unlawful taxation; and paying of "protection" money. Exploitation, obstruction or diversion of humanitarian assistance.

3. International legal principles and the responsibility of the State International (and regional) human rights law contains a number of provisions which are of particular relevance for internally displaced persons, including the rights to life, liberty and security; to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; to freedom from slavery; to equal recognition and protection of the law; and to access to justice.

The State must ensure that all relevant authorities and agents of the State respect these rights, provide protection against violation of rights by any third parties, and ensure that individuals have access to appropriate remedies in case violations occur. To that effect, national authorities should take all appropriate legislative, administrative and executive measures to:

Maintain law and order and strengthen civilian law enforcement, including through training and deployment of adequate numbers of civilian police, both female and male,

A Pro-Action Plans to Life, Safety, Privacy and Security

This including of the already discussed methods in and around camps and settlements areas and other areas inhabited by displaced those persons.

Improve access to justice and strengthen formal and informal justice institutions and mechanisms in order to combat impunity, including by ensuring the prompt and thorough investigation and prosecution of alleged offenders.

Build the capacity of individuals and communities to protect themselves and recover from crime, violence and abuse, including by facilitating their access to life-saving assistance and services which can reduce exposure to such threats, such as adequate shelter, livelihoods, and health care. It is worth noting that the use of force and fire-arms for law enforcement purposes is strictly regulated under human rights law. It must be necessary and proportionate to achieve a legitimate aim, such as to make an arrest or protect the lives of civilians, and an official investigation must be conducted if it results in injury or loss of life. These and other rules are described in greater detail in the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

4.

(i). The role of human rights and humanitarian actors.

While human rights and humanitarian actors rarely have the mandate, the capacity or the resources to guarantee protection against crime, violence and abuse, they can assist national authorities and persons of concern to reduce exposure to and limit the adverse effects of such acts. Such efforts should seek to address the political and socio-economic causes and consequences of crime as well as crime itself. In order to ensure the sustainability of such efforts close coordination with national authorities and displaced and resident communities will be required.

In our work we can ... Assessment and analysis.

However, to ensure that protection assessments take into account the various threats to life, safety and security of displaced persons stemming from crime, violence and abuse.

Where possible such assessments should be conducted in cooperation with security and/or law enforcement experts. It could, for instance, assess factors such as: (ii) the types of threat; (iii) those that are most at risk; (iv) the actors involved and their motives; (v) any aggravating factors or conditions; (vi) the capacity of the State to address the risks, any obstacles encountered and the kind of support needed; (vii) the impact on persons of concern, their coping strategies and the kind of support they need to counter the risks involved; (g) and any possible negative unintended consequences that might result from our intervention.

Advocacy Methods:

Advocate with all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and

Ministries of Justice and the Interior, for adequate numbers of trained and professional civilian police, including female officers, to be deployed in camps, settlements and other civilian areas. Information and communication activities.

Support information and education campaigns/networks, whether through radio, theatre or printed media (leaflets, posters, etc.) that provide neutral security-related information and advice. Such networks should ideally be run by the community, allow information from more than one source, take illiteracy and disabilities into account, and include safeguards for manipulation for political or military purposes.

Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons

5.

These are available from www.ohchr.org/English/law/index.htm Material, technical and financial support consider providing material, technical or financial support to law-enforcement agencies and relevant ministries if appropriate. This can, for instance, include

material support (e.g. office space or equipment, telecommunications equipment, vehicles, or fuel), managerial support (planning, coordination), or financial support

Incentives to Staff Members .

Training Provide or support training relating to human rights, codes of conduct for law-enforcement officials, and principles of effective policing to police and other security personnel. Consider whether other stakeholders could benefit from similar training initiatives.

Reporting mechanisms.

To support the establishment of adequate reporting and referral mechanisms for incidents of crime, violence and human rights abuses. Such mechanisms should preferably be run by national law enforcement authorities. In some cases, however, such mechanisms may need to be established by human rights or humanitarian actors, for instance within camps and settlements. Such mechanisms must respect privacy and confidentiality and be adequately supervised and monitored. Ensure that the informed consent of victims/witnesses is sought prior to sharing of information, that their safety is guaranteed, and that they are referred to appropriate actors for legal, medical or other assistance, as required.

The right access to quality justice:

Improve access to and fair administration of justice by building the capacity of both formal and informal justice mechanisms and the capacity of individuals and communities to access and benefit from such mechanisms. This can, for instance, include material support (office space or equipment, telecommunications, vehicles, fuel, staff incentives), managerial support (planning, coordination), or training (human rights, standards of professional conduct).

Community mobilization.

Refugees In-Need, in working with the community, identify various ways to strengthen the protection

capacity of individuals, communities and civil society to prevent, respond to and recover from violence, for instance through training, counseling and/or material support. This could include training on human rights and humanitarian principles and other topics, such as first aid, crime prevention, fire-fighting, mine-awareness, conflict resolution, and community relations. Pay particular attention to individuals and groups with specific needs, including single women and girls, older persons and minorities.

Family unity:

Refugees In-Need is ensuring that any separated family members are identified, that family tracing and reunification mechanisms are established, and that immediate needs for protection and/or assistance are addressed. In the case of separated and unaccompanied children, best interests determination may need to be conducted and alternative care arrangements identified.

The local communities or camps management

Refugees In-Need will ensure that community and camp-management committees, including relief-distribution committees, are non-discriminatory, participatory and representative. Adequate safeguards against manipulation, misuse and diversion of aid to political or military forces or groups must be put in place. Camp rules should be drafted and disseminated by the committees in cooperation with camp-management authorities.

Refugees In-Need Community Watch Systems

Refugees In-Need, with this plan, sort to assist the community in organizing and managing, in cooperation with the police when feasible, community-watch mechanisms, as described in subsequence procedures.

The system must and will be civilian friendly in character, include both women and men, and should receive adequate training in basic principles of law enforcement. They should be adequately supervised, monitored and equipped.

REFUGEES IN-NEED - LIFE, SAFETY, PRIVACY AND SECURITY IN TERMS OF COMMUNITY TENSIONS.

OVERVIEW OF REFUGEES IN-NEED LIFE, SAFETY, PRIVACY AND SECURITY.

Whether internally displaced persons find refuge in camps, rural or urban settlements or within existing communities, their protection and coping mechanisms will, to a large extent, depend on their relationship with the surrounding communities. Conflict between displaced and host communities can arise for a number of reasons. Where ethnic, racial or political tension has been at the root of the displacement, this will be perpetuated on both national and communal levels during displacement.

Even without underlying inter-communal tensions, potential sources of conflict are numerous.

The disorderly movement or arrival of large numbers of people in itself is likely to cause upheaval. Large-scale movements and settlement of pastoralists with their cattle have caused clashes in the past. If the new arrivals are fleeing from armed conflict, host communities, including previously settled camps, might fear military incursions or reprisals, or more insecurity and criminality.

The most common source of tension between displaced and host communities relates to the competition over scarce resources, such as land, water, food and firewood. Host communities are often concerned about depletion of already scarce resources and may feel compelled to protect their livelihoods and the long-term sustainability of their communities. While such issues might not be apparent at the earlier stages of a displacement crisis, the potential for tension and conflict often increases with time.

Tensions can also arise as a result of actual or perceived discriminatory or preferential treatment. As an example, singling displaced individuals and communities out for humanitarian assistance and services, while neglecting the needs of the host community, is likely to result in increased tension and hostility. Similar tensions may arise between different communities or groups of displaced persons, for instance if assistance is only provided to those who have recently been displaced.

The role of human rights and humanitarian actors

In the work of Refugees In-Need we can ...Assessment and analysis

Ensure that all assessments take into account the protection and assistance needs of both the displaced and the resident community on an equal basis.

Humanitarian efforts must be based on an objective assessment of the needs of persons of concern, without discrimination of any kind. Where possible, include representatives of both communities in assessments and try to identify any potential sources of tension as well as areas of common interest between the communities in terms of information and communication activities.

Help establish open and transparent channels of communication and dialogue between the displaced and the host community. This can, for instance, include various cultural and social activities and exchanges or joint councils or committees that bring together representatives of both communities to discuss and resolve matters of mutual interest and concern.

Support information campaigns and other activities that provide culturally sensitive information to both communities about ways to minimize the adverse effects of displacement and facilitate the peaceful co-existence and integration of displaced persons in areas of displacement.

Second overview process.

Describes the risk in question, analyzes its impact upon the lives and well-being of internally displaced persons, and identifies the individuals and groups most at risk. Provides an overview of relevant legal principles and standards contained in international (and regional) human rights, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law, where applicable, and emphasizes the responsibility of the State to respect and ensure respect for these principles.

Refugees In-Need suggested activities that can be undertaken by human rights and humanitarian actors to prevent and/or respond to the risk in question. Many of the

generic activities are described in greater detail in the Guidance Notes of the lay down rules and regulations to identifies key national, regional and international actors who can play a role in the response.

Refugees In-Need will provide a list of useful references, tools and websites where further information can be found.

The pro-action plan provides general guidance which will have to be adapted by teams in the field to suit the context and the day-to-day reality of operations, including with regard to the roles and responsibilities of the different protection actors.

The provisional edition of the policies will be field tested during the first half of 2014. All human rights and humanitarian staff and partners are encouraged to provide feedback on the pro-action plan.

Examples of relevant field practices, which will be included in the first edition of the pro-action plan would also be welcome. All criticisms, comments and suggestions can be sent to our e-mails of both our administration desk and supporting office.