

**Human Rights Task Force
Friday 17 February 2006
Saudi Pak Tower**

Minutes of the meeting

12 participants attended the meeting, including UN organizations, international and local NGOs (UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR/IASC mission, RCO/Human Rights Adviser, Care International, World Vision, Médecins du Monde, ROZAN, Jurisconsults, HRCF). The agenda was amended as a member of the IASC evaluation team attended the meeting.

The seventh meeting will take place on Friday 17 February 2006 at 11.00 (Saudi Pak Tower, 13th Floor).

1) IASC evaluation mission of the cluster approach

Iain Hall (UNHCR) represented the evaluation team in the meeting. He introduced the ToR of the mission and shared some of his preliminary findings. He also discussed a number of specific issues with the members of the Task Force. Members supported the cluster approach, recognizing the inclusiveness of the mechanism in terms of participation. The following concerns were however expressed:

- 1) There are gaps in terms of accountability. Who is responsible for what? What is the timeline?
- 2) The very late registration process. A pre-existing format should be made available.
- 3) The difficult coordination with colleagues in the hubs.
- 4) In general, members of the Task Force – especially non-UN members were not enough informed about the objective of the cluster approach.
- 5) Human rights issues were diluted and not adequately addressed. It was the reason why a human rights task force was established. It was suggested to have one additional cluster – a cross-sectoral cluster – looking at cross-cutting issues, especially human rights and gender with the view to ensure that those issues are effectively mainstreamed into the work of all clusters.

2) Case work

Because of time constraint, the Task Force did not discuss cases. As Saleem did not attend the meeting, the Task Force did not discuss cases of forced marriage. A case involving a girl with disability was flagged. It was suggested to follow-up with STEP.

A joint OHCHR/UNHCR visit is scheduled from 25 to 28 February (Mansehra and Battagram). To be confirmed.

3) Discussion on selected human rights issues

- (i) **Follow-up on concept notes – land, housing and compensation**

UN-HABITAT officially agreed to go ahead with the project on land, housing and compensation. The deal is now the following. Two teams (one in North West Province Frontier and one in Kashmir) of two national consultants (one legal expert and one social scientist) supervised by one international consultant (who will also be Pakistani) will undertake the following tasks:

- Review land and property disputes arising from the earthquake;
- Review traditional land and property disputes prior to the earthquake and how they have been exacerbated by the earthquake;
- Reviews mechanisms (that includes compensation) that were/and are in place to adjudicate such disputes;
- Suggest how disputes mechanisms can be strengthened; and
- Analyze what are the implications in terms of housing and livelihood through the reconstruction process, including the voluntary return.

(ii) Voluntary return

Draft principles and operational guidelines were circulated. It was agreed to provide comments before Wednesday.

4) Follow-up recommendations and actions

- ROZAN to share disability case with STEP;
- Comment the draft principles and operational guidelines on voluntary and sustainable return;
- Present the Draft Principles and Operational Guidelines during the next meeting of the Protection Cluster and request the holding of a special meeting on the voluntary return;
- Iain (UNHCR) will further circulate relevant documents on the cluster approach;

Pending recommendations and actions:

- HRCP will follow-up with ICRC regarding possible funding to facilitate visit by relatives of prisoners who have been transferred from Muzaffarabad;
- Request the Secretariat of the Protection Cluster to add one item for discussion during its next meeting on the issue of corruption and codes of conduct;
- **The Task Force supports the proposal made by the head of the protection cluster of having a special meeting on referral and monitoring system;**
- STEP will share with human rights adviser the 87 cases of discrimination against people living with disabilities;

20 February 2006/LM