

Practice 3

Technical Support and Capacity Development of humanitarian actors linked to protection clusters

Replicability

The cluster can provide support in a way of a Helpdesk

targeting national and local partners

At a country level

INNOVATION

- Building disability sensitive protection analysis

- It is key to have participation of persons with disabilities to have life examples

- Countries receiving tailored support based on the interest, level of knowledge and context

Impact

Strengthen Local Knowledge

Capacity Building

Protection analysis process



Global Protection Cluster GPC

Technical Support and Capacity Development of Humanitarian Organisations Linked to Protection Clusters



Global Protection Cluster



Timescale:
2020 – 2022



Thematic Area(s)

Capacity development of humanitarian Organisations, including Organisations of Persons with Disabilities



Background:

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is a network of NGOs, international organisations, and UN agencies that work together to provide protection in humanitarian crises such as armed conflict, climate change, and disasters. The GPC is mandated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It is governed by a Strategic Advisory Group, co-chaired by the GPC Coordinator and an operational NGO and serviced by a multi-partner Operations Cell.

As part of a broader capacity development effort to improve protection clusters' and their partners' skills and proficiency, a project was implemented to provide technical assistance to local organisations involved in protection coordination mechanisms at the country level. The project targeted local and international teams involved in project design and program planning across several areas, including

child protection, gender-based violence, housing, land, property, and mine action.

The programme spanned various sectors to provide comprehensive protection in humanitarian crises and was implemented in several countries, including the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Syria.



What challenges did this practice address?

After surveying protection clusters, critical gaps were identified in their services. These gaps included a lack of technical support, insufficient

information management resources, limited capacity to collect disability-inclusive data, and a lack of knowledge on including persons with disabilities in interventions. As a result, it was challenging to deliver effective services to persons with disabilities, often leaving them behind in relief efforts.

There was also a lack of coordination among humanitarian organisations at the country level in addressing the specific protection concerns that affected persons with disabilities, such as access to services and the right to equal treatment.

Reports such as the Humanitarian Requirements Overview and Humanitarian Response Plans revealed that persons with disabilities faced numerous barriers that restricted their access to services. These barriers included logistical challenges like distance, transportation costs, and accessibility, as well as social issues like bullying and inadequate infrastructure.

Responses to these challenges were often not inclusive, with many programmes lacking the necessary measures to ensure no one was left behind.



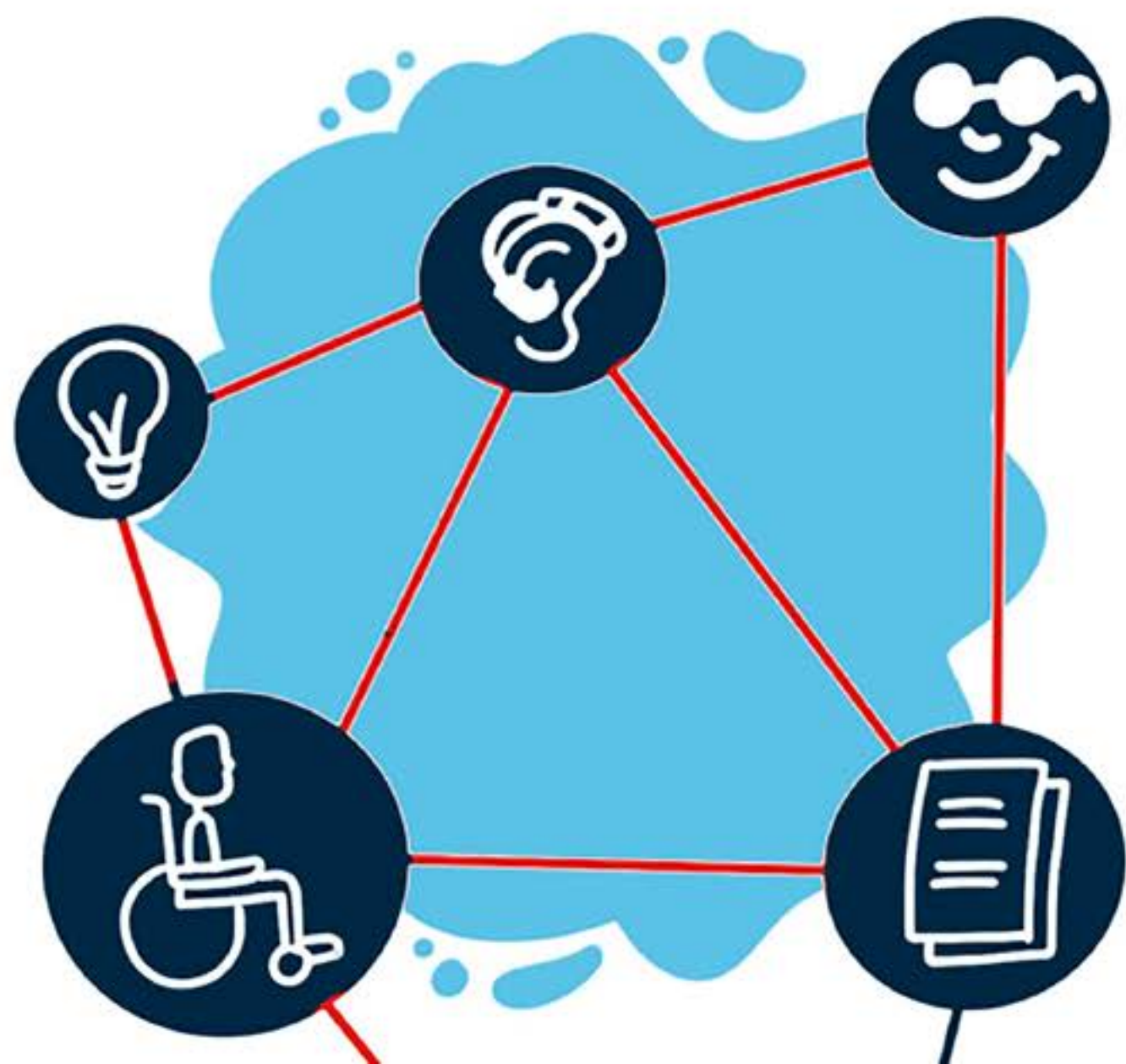
What was done to address the challenges?

The Global Protection Cluster recognised the need for better responses from key organisations to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, ensuring their inclusion in humanitarian interventions.

This initiative provided a valuable opportunity to enhance collaboration among humanitarian workers at the country level, focusing on addressing the protection and service access requirements of persons with disabilities.

A crucial part of this approach was Inclusive Planning and Engagement, which actively involved organisations of persons with disabilities. The process incorporated inputs from diverse groups, including the Star of Hope in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Ethiopia, national protection clusters, international organisations, and local agencies. These efforts were coordinated by the Protection Cluster's team, which ensured that the perspectives and requirements of people with disabilities were considered in response strategies.

Humanity & Inclusion supported the initiative with training and capacity building, which included developing training and practical guides for humanitarian workers. The focus was on enhancing the understanding of disability inclusion. These training sessions were based on survey insights and aimed at improving the collection of disability data and promoting a rights-based approach to aid. Sessions mainly catered to individuals with visual and mobility disabilities, emphasising the importance of designing inclusive programs and



securing funding for disability inclusion. The sessions also highlighted the need for broader outreach in the future.

Inclusive data collection and analysis was essential for the Global Protection Cluster to identify areas where humanitarian groups required more support. The survey conducted by the Cluster was comprehensive and highlighted the need for better methods of collecting disability-related data. It also demonstrated the importance of gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

Protection coordinators then led discussions that resulted in improved coordination and unified approaches towards disability rights and requirements among targeted organisations.



What were the results of the practice?

Protection partners significantly improved their understanding of disability issues, as shown by the changes observed in assessments before and after the intervention.

They took a proactive approach and committed to advancing disability inclusivity by establishing connections to meet the requirements of persons with disabilities, initiating field assessments, and strengthening partnerships with organisations of persons with disabilities.



Key actions included conducting barrier assessments in Ethiopia and forming strategic alliances in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to address the requirements of persons with disabilities. The Protection Cluster also revised its communication strategy in Venezuela to be more disability inclusive.

Feedback from participants on the training sessions was overwhelmingly positive, indicating an enhanced understanding of disability. The training also provided a platform for organisations to exchange information and build networks, leading to improved coordination and more effectively tailored responses to the requirements of people with disabilities.

The practice achieved several specific objectives, including an enhanced understanding of inclusive responses, strengthened knowledge of data collection and use around age and disability, improved use of rights-based language, better identification of barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing services, awareness of assessment tools for barriers in humanitarian responses, and advocacy for more inclusive humanitarian responses.

The requirements assessment survey revealed an urgent need for technical support, better information management resources, and stronger partnerships focused on disability inclusion. The survey results varied across countries, indicating

differing levels of urgency and readiness to adopt disability inclusion practices.

The survey outcomes also highlighted participants' growing dedication to pursuing disability-inclusive

actions, as evidenced by their willingness to seek support for developing inclusive projects. This marks a significant step forward in integrating disability considerations into humanitarian efforts more broadly.



What could others learn from this practice?

To effectively implement similar initiatives, organisations should consider the following recommendations:



Involve organisations representing persons with disabilities in the planning and implementing humanitarian interventions.



Provide targeted training for humanitarian workers to deepen their understanding of disability inclusion, focusing on data collection and a rights-based approach.



Emphasise comprehensive and inclusive data collection.



Facilitate discussions and strategies among humanitarian Organisations to unify approaches towards disability rights, including barrier assessments and inclusive communication strategies.



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Back