Community-Based Protection during COVID-19 Pandemic

Reflections & Recommendations

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Community-Based Protection (CBP)

*" Engagement with individuals, groups and community-based structures in conflict- and displacement-affected communities in **planning and implementing strategies** to **prevent** or **reduce protection risks**, mitigate and address the consequences of **violence, coercion and deprivation**, address root causes, and building community resilience and preparedness through **enhanced capacity and effective use of local resources** "*

DRC

Characteristics of COVID-19 & CBP

❑ Additional and enhanced protection risks

❑ Reduced face-2-face interaction with communities

❑ Disruption of community protection structures and increased intra & inter communal tension

❑ Restrictions on access to information & provision of information on rights

Understanding Communities' Protection Needs

- Adapted protection IM approaches to capture COVID-19 risks & protection impact

- Further disaggregation of data across age, gender & diversity (AGD)

- Continued, *remote* engagement with community Protection Focal Points & community-based protection structures

- Phones, airtime, communication equipment

COVID 19 Impact Analysis Factsheet

August 31, 2020
#5

Key Findings

COVID-19 Pandemic is severely impacting on forcibly displaced populations and migrants globally. Often vulnerable, living in crowded spaces and with limited opportunities to access services the effect on them from the pandemic is a global concern. Cases of C19 as well as policies limiting gatherings and movement has been detected in all DRC country operations.

- Women's protection concerns are increasing due to COVID-19. Gender-based violence is increasing in many contexts and MMC data reveal that women to a larger extent than men feel increased levels of worry and anxiety.
- Stigmatization and xenophobia is on the rise in many countries. This is negatively impacting on ability of migrants and refugees to obtain support
- Evidence from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Lebanon and Kenya shows a growing concern over potential conflict as a result of frustration over C19 containment measures, loss of income and rumor spreading.
- Trend data from MMC show that in Colombia, Libya, Tunisia and Niger fewer migrants and refugees are now staying at home and isolating themselves

- In Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia and Iraq data showed a drop of appr. 50 %-points of HHs having 1 or more HH members working after C19 restrictions. Many migrants also report decreased access to work. There however appear to be a positive trend in many countries with fewer migrants and refugees reporting reduced access to work
- Loss of income means HHs have to resort to coping mechanisms. In Afghanistan those that had decreased livelihood/income generating activities were 63% more likely to borrow money than other HHs.
- Many suffer from a lack of savings, limiting their ability to cope In Jordan, only 4% of the Syrian refugee HHs reported having savings and in Lebanon only 1% of Syrian refugees. In Niger only 5% report having savings.
- While men appear to more prone to loss of employment, female migrants and refugees to a large extent than men report being unable to afford basic goods.

- These developments coupled with the broader contextual trends, scenarios of C19 impact suggest an increased risk of displacement in all displacement producing countries DRC work in.
- In particular in the Sahel region and Ethiopia, COVID-19 is increasing the risk of larger-scale displacement substantially

CBP Response

- Communities are *first responders* with self-protection capacities
- Awareness sessions and CwC on C-19 risks, entitlements & protection risks
- Intensified engagement with community-based structures
- Referral pathways – awareness and use
- Training of community-based structures & Protection Focal Points
- Partnership with CBOs and NGOs

Recommendations

1. Recognise communities' role & self-protection capacities
2. Invest in CBP from the outset of crisis
3. Prepare and build relationships & trust
4. Ensure remote programming capacities
5. Strengthen Communicating with(in) Communities (CwC)
6. Avoid parallel protection structures