

Using the PIM Framework to Develop Inclusive Protection Monitoring and Inclusive Protection Needs Assessment Guides

Migration and Displacement Protection Specialist, Laura Giani, describes how she used the PIM Framework to develop Humanity and Inclusion's guidelines for inclusive protection monitoring and inclusive protection needs assessments.

Laura Giani is a protection specialist focussing on migration and displacement for Humanity and Inclusion (HI). She is part of HI's Protection and Risk Reduction Division in HI headquarters in Lyon, France.

Humanity and Inclusion's focus on migration and displacement

Humanity and Inclusion implement programs in fifty countries. HI found that migration and displacement was becoming an important issue in most of the countries where HI was present. This required development of the organisation's protection expertise. According to Laura:

Working with refugees is part of HI's DNA. The organisation was founded at the beginning of the 80's to provide refugee survivors of Cambodian landmine explosions with prosthetic limbs and rehabilitation; a task the organisation is still carrying out today. So HI have long standing experience working with forcibly displaced people. But the massive population displacement we have been witnessing in the last decade is certainly without precedent. It represented a contextual feature of many regions where HI operates that could not be ignored. People on the move are in fact exposed to a high level of vulnerability and they face violence and protection challenges all along their migration route and along disability, gender and age lines.



A FGD held with women in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

HI created the position Laura's is currently holding to focus on protection and displacement, and to adapt HI's sectors of intervention and approaches to the specific aspects of mixed migration contexts. Laura supports programs in countries impacted by forced displacement such as Bangladesh that hosts almost a million Rohingya refugees or countries hosting refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Laura also supports programs in countries considered mixed migration hubs such as Niger in the Sahel region.

Building a shared understanding of protection categories

HI carries out protection monitoring activities in countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar and Ethiopia. The big change in context due to the COVID crisis in most of the countries where HI is present also triggered several protection needs assessments by HI teams. However, HI's protection specialists observed some confusion about what is meant by protection monitoring as well as misunderstanding around protection information categories:

I realised there was a lot of misunderstanding around protection [information] categories, around what we need for protection monitoring, confusion between protection monitoring and monitoring and evaluation of protection activities, confusion between protection needs assessment and protection monitoring.



A Humanity and Inclusion staff member undertakes interviews as part of protection monitoring in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

Strengthening Inclusive Protection Information Management

Laura had planned to run a training on the PIM framework, with a focus on general protection and protection monitoring, that would bring staff together from Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh. This plan was stopped by the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdowns and associated public health restrictions, and a reorienting of HI's organisational and response priorities. But the COVID crisis, as a massive change in the context with immense protection impacts, also underscored the need for improved ways to gather and analyse protection information. Laura explains:

Of course, during this time, there were assessments running constantly. I was also reminding people to look at what already exists, in line with the PIM process... Within the framework of running projects there were also protection-monitoring activities that had to be tailored to COVID contexts. I provided some dedicated sessions on the PIM Framework to field teams and I also decided to take the opportunity to develop guidelines on protection needs assessment and protection monitoring.

There are already a lot of existing materials [on these topics] but I also drew on HI's experience from the field to adapt and develop these guidelines which were made inclusive with the support of my colleagues from Inclusive Humanitarian Action.

[Writing the guidelines helped elaborate] ...“what does protection monitoring mean for Humanity and Inclusion? For example, there are specificities for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Value of the PIM Framework

The use of PIM conceptual framework helped me a lot to fill in conceptual gaps, in particular related to protection needs assessment and protection monitoring. The fact that I could refer to definitions, terminology, key principles, standards and processes pulled together and previously thought through by protection practitioners and IM together, made my task much easier. The fact that I could refer to a conceptual framework already internationally recognised and already agreed upon helped to give more legitimacy to my work.

It provided clarity on certain issues (definition and outcomes) but also it provided a methodology on how to carry out certain activities (protection monitoring, protection needs assessments, case management, data sharing, etc.).

[Because of this] it improved the quality of our protection needs assessments and protection monitoring; [and therefore] improved the quality of our protection response.

PIM Highlights

- Guidelines identify and communicate the defined purpose of protection monitoring and protection needs assessments ([PIM Principle](#) - Defined purpose)
- Highlighting of Disability, Gender and Age approach supports protection monitoring and protection needs assessments that are inclusive (PIM Principle – people-centred and inclusive)
- Guidelines clarify distinctions between protection needs assessments and protection monitoring ([PIM Matrix](#))
- Guidelines encourage use of secondary data, where available ([PIM Process](#))

Humanity & Inclusion (HI) changed its name from Handicap International in January 2018 to express the organisation's values and mission more clearly: “We work alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.”