tool 52 The MRM and the Cluster System

Factsheet

This factsheet summarizes relevant findings of the MRM global good practices study, UNICEF.

In emergency contexts, 'clusters' bring together humanitarian actors (UN and NGOs) operating in the same sector to ensure coordinated needs assessments, planning, service delivery and advocacy. Of particular relevance for the MRM are the following clusters:

- Protection (led by UNHCR); and its child protection working groups (led by UNICEF). In addition, it might also be useful to follow closely on the gender based violence working group (led by UNFPA-UNICEF).

- Education (led by UNICEF and Save the Children).

- Health (led by WHO).

Collaboration between the MRM and clusters has been articulated in various ways depending on the contexts:

- Training of cluster members on the MRM.

- Inclusion of the MRM as a standing or recurring agenda item in cluster meetings.

- Participation of cluster coordinators in CTFMRs.

- Written documents outlining mutual roles, responsibilities and communication flows between clusters and the CTFMR.

MRM Information Management System (IMS) used to inform programmatic response in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, the MRM IMS served to inform program planning. MRM data analysis on killing and maiming of children through mines and UXOs revealed that a high percentage of the casualties were boys aged 9 to 14 years old who were out of school and who engaged in metal scrubbing for income generation, mainly in the eastern and southern regions. A mine-risk education project is being planned to reach out to this vulnerable group that had previously not been specifically targeted by such existing programs.

Education cluster participation in the MRM in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Particularly since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1998, the education clusters have begun to take a more active role in collecting and reporting information on attacks on schools to CTFs. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, the education cluster coordinator is a member of the CTF and has organized trainings on the MRM for cluster members. This has worked especially well where the MRM is seen as adding value for the cluster, such as in Dungu (Democratic Republic of the Congo), where the MRM provided a platform from which the cluster advocated against the military use of schools. The education cluster coordinator was instrumental in ensuring the inclusion of MRM reporting in the Humanitarian Action Plan in the country.

MRM global good practices study, UNICEF, June 2014

Benefits of a collaboration between the MRM and the cluster system:

Benefits for the MRM:

- Stronger link between monitoring and response.

- Linking with clusters expands the reach of the MRM: due to their wide membership, clusters that are well informed about the MRM may lead more organizations to provide alerts or information about cases.

Benefits for the cluster system:

- MRM data can help trigger and plan programmatic response.

- MRM data can strengthen clusters' advocacy efforts (fundraising and protection/accountability).

Boundaries:

The sensitive nature of grave violations and the need to ensure confidentiality and security of MRM information may be a challenge when it comes to collaboration with the cluster system. The presence of government representatives in some clusters may limit the ability of organizations to discuss MRM-related issues. Moreover, in some contexts, agencies prefer to focus on service delivery and maintain a distance from monitoring and advocacy in order to safeguard their ability to operate. In such cases, collaboration may be limited to programmatic response and sharing of analysis.

WATCH LIST ON CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT