

DRAFT FOR FOURTH STATE CONSULTATION

Workstream 3 – IHL AND PEACE

CO-CHAIRERD by Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the International Committee of the Red Cross

Overview

Respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) is a strategic investment in peace. It reduces suffering, sustains essential services and preserves the social fabric on which recovery, reconciliation and long-term stability depend. During armed conflict, preserving pathways to peace must remain a deliberate objective that informs decision-making at all levels. This requires ensuring that the legal, institutional and operational systems necessary to fulfil IHL obligations remain functional throughout hostilities and during transitions toward peace.

The measures that will be taken to achieve this are as follows:

- provide recommendations to strengthen systems before armed conflicts break out
- provide practical ways for states, mediators and other stakeholders to integrate IHL into mediation and negotiation processes, including through illustrative humanitarian provisions on key humanitarian challenges
- identify concrete and verifiable actions that can be taken once hostilities end to support de-escalation, rebuild confidence and reduce the risk of renewed violence.

Outcome

Before hostilities: strengthening systems that preserve pathways to peace

In order to preserve pathways to peace, the legal, institutional and operational systems that underpin IHL must remain functional, even when armed conflict breaks out.

Preparedness, in this context, means strengthening and safeguarding these systems in peacetime to ensure that core functions remain intact if hostilities arise and to limit the harm caused by these hostilities. The policy and planning choices that are made early on influence whether legal obligations will be respected, which in turn determines whether or not parties to armed conflict will be able to live in peace again after the conflict has ended.

Peace is indeed shaped not only by political settlements, but also by whether parties are able to protect people, minimize the impact of violence and preserve trust. In other words, protective measures that

are put in place in peacetime are not only about ensuring respect for IHL during times of war but also about creating the foundations for recovery and long-term peace when hostilities come to an end.

1. Building and maintaining peacetime systems that are essential for protecting humanitarian principles and that can remain operational in times of armed conflict

When core humanitarian principles are upheld, people feel less resentment, carry less trauma and are less likely to get stuck in never-ending cycles of grief. These principles include providing families with information about their missing loved ones, accounting for detainees and treating them in accordance with the law, and ensuring the dead are handled with respect and are properly identified. During peacetime, states can take certain measures related to these core humanitarian issues to create conditions that will be conducive to reconciliation and the eventual restoration of peace. These measures are outlined below:

- a) Develop and maintain legal, administrative and technical frameworks and systems to ensure that persons deprived of their liberty, missing persons and the dead are protected and registered, and that any information relating to them is properly managed. These systems must be fully resourced and tested in advance of a crisis so they can function without interruption in case of armed conflict.
- b) Ensure that civil registration and documentation frameworks, which enable legal identity and status, include contingency methods and simplified procedures that remain accessible during armed conflict.
- c) Establish or strengthen mechanisms that account for people at risk of being separated from their loved ones, or of going missing, such as the national information bureaus that are mentioned in the Geneva Conventions. It is important to ensure these mechanisms can work alongside registration systems, mortuary and burial services, and tracing mechanisms, and to ensure they are operational from the start of an armed conflict, to prevent fragmentation or loss of information once hostilities begin.
- d) Ensure that safeguards against destruction, manipulation and misuse of records are built into administrative systems, including digital resilience, secure back-up, controlled access, cyber-protection measures and clear authority lines for lawful information-sharing during armed conflict.
- e) Ensure that domestic legal and administrative frameworks regulating access to essential services, including medical care and detention-related services, can be reviewed in advance to ensure that, in situations of armed conflict, access is not restricted on discriminatory grounds, such as nationality or status.
- f) Set up oversight mechanisms for places of detention consistent with domestic and international law, including independent oversight, with a clear mandate, visiting procedures and trained personnel, so safeguards against ill-treatment and disappearance remain functional during armed conflict or periods of transition.

2. Preparing during peacetime for the protection of civilians and civilian objects, including civilian infrastructure and essential services

By putting measures in place during peacetime to protect civilians and limit the disruption to essential services during war, states can mitigate the human suffering and societal breakdown that often fuel prolonged instability. The following measures can help to maintain the conditions necessary for recovery, reconciliation and a return to peace.

- a) Identify, map and regularly update information on civilian infrastructure and other infrastructure enjoying special protection, their interdependencies and the essential services they provide and enable so that planning reflects the reverberating effects of armed conflict across the water, energy, health, sanitation, education, transport and communications sectors.
- b) Integrate mitigation and service-continuity measures into contingency and emergency-preparedness planning to reduce disruption and enable early recovery, including preparedness to address explosive remnants of war (ERW) that are affecting essential services. This includes establishing systems to record and retain information on the use or abandonment of explosive ordnance and procedures for sharing such information with relevant authorities, civilian populations and organizations involved in the marking, clearance, removal or destruction of such ordnance, as well as in the maintenance and repair of infrastructure.
- c) Establish civil-military coordination mechanisms and non-hostile contact procedures, including designated focal points and communication channels, to address urgent protection risks and to support the continuity of essential services in case of armed conflict.
- d) Incorporate an assessment of the potential harm to civilians into planning processes, including cumulative societal and environmental impacts and long-term destabilization risks, and the heightened vulnerabilities of children, persons with disabilities, older persons and other at-risk groups, so that security decisions are informed by protection considerations as well as operational objectives.
- e) Prepare child-protection frameworks, including procedures for separation, handover, family tracing and the reintegration of children associated with armed forces or armed groups.

3. Incorporating humanitarian restraint and building confidence through disarmament frameworks

Disarmament plays a critical role in upholding humanitarian norms, reducing the risk of escalation and building confidence among states, and hence helping to achieve the objective of peace for all people. Integrating humanitarian considerations into national policies on disarmament and arms control during peacetime – including clearance, stockpile destruction, victim assistance, transparency and environmental considerations where relevant – can help to prevent civilian suffering and protect the environment in case of armed conflict, thereby creating conditions conducive to de-escalation, dialogue and sustainable peace.

- a) Take into account the views and perspectives of survivors and affected communities when drafting national policy on humanitarian disarmament. This helps to ground weapons policy in lived experience and to sustain political commitment.
- b) Join, faithfully implement, and refrain from withdrawing from humanitarian disarmament treaties and agreements, encourage others to join them and promote them as universal

instruments, recognizing that they help to protect civilians, provide stability and ensure long-term security.

- c) Prioritize humanitarian disarmament, in times of peace as in times of armed conflict, as a means to build confidence among states and help maintain peace.
- d) Place the human cost of weapons and the risk of escalation at the heart of disarmament processes and negotiations, with a view to prohibiting or restricting weapons that have unacceptable effects, recognizing that the use of such weapons can fuel hatred, prolong hostilities and hinder reconstruction and reconciliation after conflict.
- e) Carry out arms-transfer, export and procurement processes that comply with applicable obligations, taking into account assessments on the potential harm to civilians, impacts on essential services, diversion risks, compliance patterns and long-term destabilization effects.
- f) Strengthen national arms control frameworks by aligning domestic legislation with relevant international and regional instruments and ensuring that arms-control decisions incorporate appropriate risk assessments, including those relating to compliance with IHL.
- g) Strengthen regional and cross-border cooperation and information sharing to prevent diversion in arms transfers and illicit arms flows, and to support the effective implementation of arms-control measures.
- h) Establish or maintain procedures for reviewing weapons prior to adopting or acquiring new weapons and new means and methods of warfare. This includes carrying out assessments on autonomy, digital dependencies, predictability, human oversight, cybersecurity and escalation risks in realistic operational environments
- i) Incorporate appropriate safeguards into procurement and contracting processes to ensure that humanitarian considerations are taken into account when developing and deploying new weapons.

During armed conflict: integrating IHL into mediation and ceasefires

During armed conflict, mediation and negotiation processes provide critical entry points for reinforcing compliance with IHL. Integrating concrete humanitarian commitments into mediation processes, ceasefires and special agreements can reduce suffering, build trust and preserve the conditions necessary for sustainable peace. Humanitarian disarmament may also serve as confidence-building steps within mediation and ceasefire processes. Humanitarian engagement and negotiations may take place independently from political negotiations and should not be subordinated to them. These commitments include:

- treating persons deprived of their liberty humanely, registering them properly and ensuring they have contact with their families
- clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and treating the dead with dignity
- protecting civilians and civilian objects
- providing impartial access to humanitarian relief
- putting measures in place to protect children, including separation and handover protocols for children associated with armed forces or armed groups

- putting measures in place to protect persons with disabilities, older persons and other at-risk groups.

The following **illustrative humanitarian provisions** are designed to be inserted, as appropriate, into negotiation frameworks, ceasefires and special agreements under Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions, and peace agreements. Some provisions may be particularly suitable for establishing understanding early on between parties during active hostilities, while others are more appropriate for formal ceasefire arrangements, special agreements or comprehensive peace agreements.

1. Reaffirmation of IHL

The Parties reaffirm their obligations under IHL and recommit to respect and ensure respect for these rules in good faith. The Parties shall take all necessary measures to prevent violations and to ensure full implementation of the present agreement.

2. Humanitarian confidence-building measures

The Parties shall, without delay and through agreed channels, or a neutral intermediary where appropriate, implement the following humanitarian measures:

- a) exchange preliminary information and lists relating to persons deprived of their liberty and persons reported missing
- b) implement localized humanitarian pauses and medical evacuation arrangements
- c) mark ERW and implement risk reduction measures
- d) formalize humanitarian commitments through special agreements consistent with common Article 3.

3. Humane treatment, registration and oversight of detention

The Parties shall ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty are treated humanely. They shall establish procedures to ensure people can be registered promptly and continuously from the moment they are captured until they are released. They shall ensure loved ones are notified and facilitate contact between persons deprived of their liberty and their families by sending relevant information to national information bureaus or other agreed tracing mechanisms, as applicable. They shall protect detention records from being destroyed or manipulated.

The Parties shall grant supervisory access to places of detention in accordance with IHL, including access for a neutral intermediary where appropriate. Access arrangements shall specify methods, timelines and reporting procedures.

4. Release, transfer and reintegration

The Parties agree to establish clear, time-bound procedures for the release, transfer and reintegration of persons deprived of their liberty. Procedures shall include:

- a) verifying identity and legal status
- b) providing medical screening and a continuity of care, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) where needed

- c) restoring or issuing civil documentation
- d) notifying families and facilitating contact prior to release
- e) referring people to health, social welfare, reintegration and livelihood services, including measures to prevent stigma, retaliation and renewed violence.

International armed conflicts: Prisoners of war (POWs) shall be released and repatriated without delay after active hostilities end, subject only to criminal proceedings for any acts that cannot be justified by their captivity. Civilian internees shall be released as soon as the reasons justifying internment end and as soon as possible after hostilities end.

Non-international armed conflicts: Persons deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the conflict shall be released once legal and security grounds no longer exist, including at the end of active hostilities or when detention is no longer necessary. Periodic safeguarding reviews and transparent legal bases shall be used.

5. Early measures on missing persons and information management

The Parties shall take feasible measures to search for and account for persons reported missing in connection with the armed conflict, and to collect, protect and transmit relevant information concerning persons deprived of their liberty and the dead, including through national information bureaus or other agreed tracing mechanisms.

The Parties shall enable families to report missing persons and ensure that they receive timely, accurate and accessible information on the search process and its results.

The Parties shall protect personal data collected for these purposes from being destroyed, manipulated or misused, and ensure they are shared in accordance with data-protection and agreed procedures.

Where appropriate, the Parties shall commit to establishing or strengthening a dedicated national mechanism to actively search for, identify and clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons, with meaningful participation from families and appropriate data-protection safeguards in place.

6. Dignified treatment of the dead during hostilities

The Parties shall ensure that the dead are recovered, documented and managed in a respectful way. This shall include:

- a) searching for and recovering the dead, and marking recovery or burial sites, including the GPS location where possible
- b) collecting and preserving personal information and information relating to burial sites and circumstances of death, and preserving personal effects
- c) using chain-of-custody procedures for remains and effects
- d) communicating with families in a timely and open manner.

Recovery operations shall be coordinated with ERW risk mitigation measures to ensure safe access. The Parties shall ensure that recovery and identification efforts continue during negotiation phases and that they are not suspended pending political settlement.

7. Humanitarian access

The Parties shall allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian relief for civilians in need, which is impartial in character and conducted without any adverse distinction, subject to their right of control.

They shall work together to agree on the technical arrangements that need to be put in place in order for this humanitarian aid to be delivered safely and for all civilians in need to access such aid safely.

Humanitarian arrangements shall respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

The Parties shall respect and protect humanitarian personnel, objects and transport involved in the delivery of such assistance.

8. Child protection during hostilities

The Parties shall ensure that special measures are in place to protect children affected by armed conflict. Children associated with armed forces or armed groups shall be separated from these groups without delay, demobilized where applicable, provided with appropriate help for their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, and transferred to designated child-protection workers in accordance with agreed referral protocols.

The Parties shall facilitate searching for family members and reuniting children with their loved ones. They shall also ensure that civil documentation can be accessed. Everything must be carried out with the best interests of the children concerned in mind – their opinions and evolving capacities must always be taken into account.

9. The safe, voluntary and dignified return of displaced persons

The Parties shall ensure that displaced persons are returned safely, voluntarily and in a dignified manner. The return and early recovery of displaced persons and affected communities shall be facilitated, by:

- a) clearing ERW
- b) restoring essential services
- c) providing access to civil documentation for all, including children who were born during the armed conflict or who were displaced by the armed conflict
- d) resolving housing, land and property issues with transparent restitution or compensation mechanisms.
- e) ensuring that return processes identify and mitigate accessibility barriers and protection risks affecting persons with disabilities, older persons and others with specific needs, including through appropriate protection and support measures.

10. Preservation of essential civil and administrative systems

The Parties shall preserve and protect systems that are necessary for post-conflict transitions, including detention registries, civil documentation systems and tracing mechanisms, ensuring that they remain operational and that they can be transferred between institutions.

11. Women's full, equal and meaningful participation

The Parties shall ensure that women are fully involved in designing, negotiating, implementing and monitoring humanitarian commitments under this agreement. Women's participation shall be meaningful and equal to men's participation. The Parties shall ensure this by:

- a) setting up dedicated consultation pathways for women's networks working on tracing, documentation, the safe and voluntary return of displaced persons and community reconciliation
- b) funding and deploying women with technical expertise on IHL-related issues
- c) adding qualified female experts to monitoring, verification or implementation teams (for issues such as access, ERW, tracing and reintegration).

The Parties may draw upon the Secretary-General's Common Pledge to Increase Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes as a practical framework to deliver and regulate such participation.

12. Community-based implementation and social cohesion mechanisms

The Parties shall formally recognize the importance of families of the missing, encouraging them to participate in search and clarification processes, and of community-based mechanisms, including elders' councils, women's groups, traditional and religious authorities, customary reconciliation forums, clan structures and culturally validated practices, as complementary tools to support the implementation of this agreement and applicable IHL obligations. These mechanisms may support information recovery, reunification, reintegration and recovery of children and released detainees, dispute resolution, anti-stigma measures and restoration of social cohesion, consistent with do-no-harm principles.

13. Role of neutral and impartial intermediaries

The Parties shall acknowledge that neutral, impartial and independent intermediaries may, where appropriate and with the consent of the Parties, facilitate the implementation of humanitarian commitments and other agreed confidence-building measures.

Such actors may help to, among other things, complete and implement special agreements, as stipulated by IHL, release and transfer persons deprived of their liberty, search for missing persons, return human remains, establish humanitarian arrangements, or implement other measures agreed between the Parties.

The Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that such actors are duly protected and can perform agreed facilitation roles safely and without undue interference. Neutral mediators and humanitarian intermediaries shall not be targeted, criminalized, sanctioned or otherwise impeded for carrying out humanitarian facilitation consistent with IHL, including safeguarding humanitarian dialogue undertaken in accordance with IHL.

14. Implementation framework and monitoring

Humanitarian commitments should specify designated focal points, timelines, reporting formats and agreed verification methods, including cooperation with neutral intermediaries where appropriate. The

Parties shall establish a joint or coordinated mechanism to monitor implementation and provide regular progress reports, both when hostilities are ongoing or wavering.

After hostilities: post-conflict implementation checklist for preserving pathways to peace

Once hostilities have ended or de-escalated, the legal, institutional and operational systems that are required for implementing IHL obligations need to be activated promptly, coordinated and sustained if pathways to peace are to be preserved. Effective post-conflict implementation directly shapes public trust, social cohesion and the durability of peace.

This model checklist reflects operational priorities that have been identified during consultations on missing persons and the dead, detention, displacement and durable solutions, and children affected by armed conflict.

1. Institutional coordination and participation for post-conflict implementation

Effective post-conflict implementation depends on having a person or group of people in place that are responsible for coordination, and more specifically, that are capable of organizing obligations across sectors, led by a designated state authority. In many contexts, an existing national IHL committee or inter-ministerial body may fulfil this role, provided it has the authority to coordinate operational implementation and avoid fragmentation during transition periods.

a) National post-conflict IHL coordination platform

- The lead authority is formally designated (named ministry or office).
- The Justice, Interior, Defence, Health, Environment, Social Welfare, Civil Registry and Mine Action authorities are represented.
- Local administration (state or municipal level) is included.
- The terms of reference explicitly cover detention and release, missing persons and the dead, civil documentation, ERW, displacement and return, as well as child protection and reintegration.
- The terms of reference include overseeing the implementation of any disarmament treaty or agreement concluded between the parties.
- A coordination mechanism is activated immediately after hostilities have ended or de-escalated, and is maintained during intermittent hostilities.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: a decision or decree; terms of reference; a membership list; and meeting minutes.

b) Participation framework

- Families of the missing have a well-defined and sustained role in designing, implementing and reviewing national mechanisms on the missing.
- Women's organizations and women-led organizations have defined, resourced and formalized participation channels.
- Children are able to participate in a safe, voluntary and age-appropriate manner, with safeguards in place.

- Community-based mechanisms are formally recognized as being important contributors to implementation and monitoring (including elders' councils, religious and traditional authorities, reconciliation forums and culturally validated practices).

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: participation framework; consultation calendar; budget allocation; monitoring composition.

c) Protection monitoring and sequencing

- Findings from monitoring protection work systematically inform priority-setting and sequencing.
- Monitoring feeds into transitional justice, accountability and peacebuilding planning.
- Early warning analysis is integrated into implementation reviews.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: dashboards; referral pathways; review minutes.

2. Clarification of the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and the dignified management of the dead

Clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons and ensuring the dead are managed in a dignified way are post-conflict obligations that have a significant influence on building public trust. It is important to take prompt action, put reliable information systems in place and maintain a sustained dialogue with families so that social cohesion and reconciliation can take place.

a) National mechanism and strategy

- A legal mandate exists to search for, identify and clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons.
- A multi-year national strategy is adopted that recognizes the long-term nature of the clarification process.
- Predictable and sustained resourcing is identified.
- Interdependence with the medico-legal system, police and judiciary is clarified.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: law or decree; strategy document; budget allocation.

b) Data systems, registration and safeguards

- Operational ante- and post-disappearance data systems are in place.
- There is interoperability between tracing mechanisms, detention registries, medico-legal systems and civil registries.
- Operational data-protection safeguards are in place (access control, secure storage and lawful sharing).
- Civil registries and tracing databases are protected against destruction, manipulation, cyberattack or misuse during transition periods.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: SOPs; interoperability protocol; IT security documentation; data-sharing agreements.

c) Family engagement and case-level communication

- Individual case-management procedures enable families to submit information, access case files where appropriate, and receive regular updates on progress.

- Standardized communication protocols define the frequency and format of updates, as well as the authorities responsible for providing them.
- Referral pathways provide access to MHPSS for people involved in clarification processes.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: case-management SOP; communication schedule template; helpdesk/hotline records; MHPSS referral protocol.

d) Dignified management of the dead

- Procedures are in place for recovering, documenting, identifying and returning the dead.
- First responders are equipped (body bags, PPE, forensic kits, mobile morgue capacity).
- Personnel are trained in recovery, chain-of-custody and documentation.
- Coordination between rubble clearance and ERW teams is established.
- Personal effects are recorded and preserved.
- Cultural and religious considerations are integrated where appropriate.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: training records; chain-of-custody forms; coordination minutes.

3. Detention review, release and reintegration

Post-conflict detention and release processes directly affect public trust and stability. Clear legal frameworks, structured review mechanisms and coordinated reintegration measures reduce irrational actions and support the transition back to peacetime governance.

a) Legal framework and safeguards

- Legal bases for internment and detention related to the conflict are clearly defined in law or regulation, including authority, grounds and procedural safeguards.
- Review mechanisms are in place to assess whether internment is still required and legal, particularly for non-international armed conflicts.
- Post-conflict release frameworks distinguish between:
 - POWs and other protected persons in international armed conflicts
 - persons interned for imperative security reasons
 - persons detained for criminal offences that are related or unrelated to the conflict.
- Release decisions, transfers or continued prosecutions are based on clearly articulated legal grounds and subject to review in accordance with IHL and, where relevant, domestic law aligned with international obligations.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: legal framework documentation; review body mandate; release criteria or procedures; inter-ministerial legal guidance notes.

b) Registration and record integrity

- A continuous registration system is in place from the moment a person is captured until their release.
- There is interoperability between tracing mechanisms, civil registries and national information bureaus (where applicable).
- Record Protection and back-up measures are in place to prevent records from being destroyed or manipulated during institutional reform.

Possible indicators of implementation: registry database; interoperability protocol; audit report.

c) Oversight and access

- An active independent oversight body or judicial mechanism is in place.
- Standard operating procedures allow supervisory visits in accordance with IHL.
- Detention staff receive ongoing training on humane treatment and vulnerability screening.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: oversight mandate; visit agreements; training logs.

d) Operational release, transfer and repatriation procedures

- Time-bound SOPs are in place for the release, transfer or repatriation of persons deprived of their liberty.
- Identity verification, medical screenings and documentation restoration are integrated into the SOPs.
- Procedures are in place to notify families prior to the release of their loved ones.
- Reintegration referral pathways include health, psychosocial and livelihood support.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: release SOP; inter-ministerial protocol; referral directory.

e) Legal regime-specific obligations (where applicable)

- POWs are released and repatriated without delay after active hostilities have ended.
- The seriously wounded or sick are repatriated in accordance with applicable standards.
- Interned civilians are released when there are no longer legal grounds for their internment.
- In non-international armed conflicts, release occurs when legal or security grounds for detention no longer exist.
- Amnesty considerations are consistent with international law.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: repatriation plan; review outcomes; legal memoranda.

f) Reintegration and preventing retaliation

- Community preparation measures have been implemented.
- Anti-stigma initiatives are in place.
- Measures to prevent retaliation and renewed cycles of violence are established.
- Disarmament initiatives are linked with reintegration and community recovery programmes.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: reintegration plan; community engagement records.

4. The safe return of displaced persons and long-lasting solutions

If displaced people are to be returned safely, voluntarily and in a dignified manner, and if other solutions are to be effective in the long term, coordinated legal, security and service-related measures need to be put in place. Addressing documentation, housing, land and property issues, and ERW reduces the risk of renewed displacement and instability.

a) Preconditions for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of displaced persons

- ERW are surveyed, marked or cleared in priority areas.
- Risk education is provided.

- Essential services have been restored or restoration plans are in place.
- Safe access is ensured for engineers and service restoration teams.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: mine action reports; restoration plans; access authorizations.

b) Civil documentation and legal identity

- A documentation strategy is activated prior to or alongside the return of displaced persons.
- Mobile documentation teams or simplified procedures are in place.
- Children born during conflicts have access to their documentation.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: policy directive; issuance statistics.

c) Housing, land and property

- A transparent restitution or compensation mechanism is in place.
- A claims registry has been established.
- A mechanism addressing unlawful occupation is in place.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: Housing, land and property law; decisions database.

d) Consultations and long-lasting solutions

- Consultations are carried out with displaced persons and host communities.
- Reintegration programmes are in place that benefit both returnees and host communities.
- A multi-year investment plan is in place that supports livelihoods, services and infrastructure.
- Local integration and resettlement options are assessed when it is not possible for a displaced person to return.
- International cooperation or burden-sharing arrangements are initiated where relevant.
- Protection monitoring mechanisms are in place to identify risks of coercion, discrimination or premature return and inform corrective measures.
- Psychosocial and psychological support services are available to displaced persons, returnees and host communities, including community-based MHPSS interventions that facilitate safe reintegration and long-term recovery.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: consultation reports; programme framework; bilateral or multilateral arrangements.

5. Child protection and reintegration

Children affected by armed conflict require protection long after hostilities have ended. They need to be effectively reintegrated into society and provided with access to education and psychosocial support in order to prevent them from being marginalized in the long term and from returning to violence in the future.

a) Immediate protection and handover

- Protocols are in place for the release and handover of children associated with armed forces or armed groups.
- Protocols are in place to ensure continuity of education for returning children, including the rapid establishment of safe and accessible learning environments.
- Children are separated from the adults in the armed forces or armed groups.

- Children are immediately referred to child-protection workers.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: SOP; referral pathway.

b) Tracing, reunification and documentation

- Family tracing mechanisms are in place.
- Documentation processes respect the best interests and evolving capacities of the child.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: case-management protocol; documentation records.

c) Reintegration and long-term follow-up

- Child protection is integrated into disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, justice, education and return strategies.
- Tailored measures for adolescents are included.
- A long-term follow-up mechanism is established.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: strategy annex; follow-up protocol.

d) Education and safe learning environments

- Access to education and vocational opportunities is supported.
- Safe community spaces are in place.
- Alignment with the Safe Schools Declaration and its guidelines where applicable.
- Teaching practices include psychosocial support and avoid causing children any further trauma.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: education recovery plan; safeguarding guidance.

e) Child-related early warning indicators and participation

- Early warning indicators for risks of renewed violations affecting children (including attacks on schools, recruitment or child displacement) are established.
- Community reporting channels are in place.
- With relevant safeguards in place, children are encouraged to take part in recovery initiatives on a voluntary basis.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: early warning SOP; risk assessments; safeguarding protocols.

6. Explosive remnants of war and environmental safeguards

ERW and environmental contamination affect recovery, return and long-term stability. Coordinated clearance, risk mitigation and environmental protection measures help to keep civilians safe and support sustainable reconstruction.

a) Explosive remnants of war coordination

- ERW information-sharing mechanisms have been established, including the exchange of available information on the location and nature of explosive hazards.
- Data collection and casualty recording systems support prioritization of clearance operations.

- Return and recovery areas are prioritized for the survey, marking and clearance of explosive hazards.
- National work plans for ERW survey, clearance and risk education are developed with input from affected communities.
- National mine action frameworks link clearance, risk education and recovery planning.
- Rubble clearance teams coordinate with ERW specialists to ensure the safe restoration of infrastructure.
- Stockpiles of explosive ordnance are identified, secured and destroyed in accordance with applicable safety and environmental standards.
- Measures to support cross-border clearance and coordination to improve regional security are in place.
- Local volunteers are used to lead risk education and build community trust.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: mine action plan; tasking orders; coordination minutes.

b) Environmental risk mitigation

- Environmental risk mitigation is integrated into clearance and disposal methods.
- Contaminated land and toxic remnants are assessed and prioritized in recovery planning.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: environmental risk assessment; remediation plan elements.

c) Disarmament and weapons governance continuity

- Mechanisms to implement any disarmament treaty or agreement concluded between the parties are put in place.
- Article 36 weapons review procedures are maintained and applied.
- Inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms for oversight, traceability and review of weapons transfers, procurement and stockpile management remain operational.
- Weapons marking, tracing and border-control cooperation mechanisms remain operational.
- Stockpile management systems ensure the safe storage and destruction of surplus weapons.
- Inter-ministerial traceability and oversight arrangements are maintained.

Possible indicators that implementation has taken place: review procedure note; risk assessment template; oversight record.

7. Monitoring, reporting and periodic review of humanitarian commitments

The transparent monitoring and periodic review of humanitarian commitments can help ensure that they are effectively implemented and sustained over time. Reporting and verification mechanisms support accountability, allow authorities to identify gaps in implementation and enable measures to be adapted as circumstances evolve.

a) Monitoring and reporting

- Responsible authorities are designated for monitoring implementation across thematic areas (detention, missing persons, ERW, return, child protection, etc.).
- A periodic reporting framework is established, including agreed reporting formats, timelines and responsible entities.

- Data and information from relevant ministries, operational agencies and local authorities are consolidated through the national coordination mechanism.
- Monitoring results are shared with relevant national authorities and, where appropriate, with oversight bodies or partners involved in implementation.

Possible indicators of implementation: reporting templates; monitoring dashboards; periodic implementation reports.

b) Verification and periodic review

- Independent or neutral verification modalities are identified where appropriate (including cooperation with neutral intermediaries or oversight institutions).
- Regular implementation-review meetings are held to assess progress, challenges and corrective measures.
- Lessons learned are incorporated into updated operational procedures, national policies or planning tools.
- Monitoring findings inform longer-term peacebuilding, recovery and institutional reform processes.

Possible indicators of implementation: review meeting minutes; updated SOPs; corrective action plans; lessons-learned reports.