



**CORE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ON  
DISPLACED PERSONS, REFUGEES, AND ARMED CONFLICT:  
PROTECTION IN LAW AND PRACTICE**

**Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia  
4-6 November 2019**

**Agenda**

*This course introduces humanitarian practitioners and policy professionals to the international legal frameworks and standards that protect refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and other forced migrants in situations of armed conflict, including international refugee law (IRL), the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL), and soft-law instruments. It also aims to foster reflection among participants on how States, international organizations, and other actors implement these norms and standards in practice.*

*More and more practitioners are working in situations of humanitarian crisis involving the displacement of people, whether within one country or across international frontiers. Protecting basic rights in these contexts is a task fraught with multiple conceptual, ethical, legal, political, and operational challenges. Over three days, this course aims to unpack this complexity and build humanitarian practitioners' confidence and capacity around legal tools and sound protection practices.*

*Directly following the Core Training, the Thematic Workshop looks in greater detail at specific contemporary topics, building upon the content of the course, combining presentations by experts and discussions with the participants.*

**DAY I**

8:30 – 8:45	Welcome Coffee & Registration
8:45 – 9:30	<b>Introduction and Overview of Objectives and Methods</b>
09:30 – 10:45	<b>Basic Notions, Concepts, and Categories (Jean-François Durieux)</b>  <i>In this first session, we will explore the relationship between armed violence and forced migration; unpack the legal concepts of 'armed conflict,' 'displacement,' and 'refugee'; and outline the basic principles underpinning the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in situations of armed conflict.</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:45	<b>Applicable Legal Frameworks (Geoff Gilbert)</b>  <i>How does international law regulate the behavior of States and non-State actors engaged in armed conflict? How does it protect civilian populations, including those at risk of displacement and those displaced in emergency situations? Do refugees have rights under international law? This session will explore the mutually reinforcing contributions of international human rights law (IHRL), international humanitarian law (IHL), and international refugee law (IRL) to the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons.</i>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 15:15	<b>Selected Implementation Mechanisms (Jean-François and Geoff)</b>  <i>Does international law have "teeth"? How is it implemented and supervised or enforced? This session will explore the meaning of "protection" as an activity of humanitarian actors and present a number of international, regional, and national mechanisms that have been designed to make international legal standards effective.</i>

15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:00	<b>The Prohibition of Forced Displacement under International Law (Jean-François)</b>  To flee in the face of danger is a right – but displacement may be an unlawful act, both in itself and on account of the violations that have caused it to happen. In this session we will examine those IHL and IHL provisions that prohibit the displacement of populations, as well as their exceptions and their effectiveness.
17:00 – 17:30	<b>Wrap-up/Q&amp;A</b>

## DAY 2

8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Coffee
9:00 – 9:30	<b>Review of Previous Day</b>
9:30 – 11:00	<b>The Protection of Internally Displaced Persons (Jacopo Giorgi)</b>  Internally displaced persons, like refugees, are persons forced to seek protection and assistance away from their places of original abode. As they do not cross an internationally recognized State border, however, they remain under the jurisdiction of their own State. In certain circumstances, this represents a major challenge for humanitarian workers. The normative instruments on internal displacement developed at supranational level, thus, represent important steps towards a framework for increased responsibility towards IDPs.
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45	<b>Eligibility Issues (1): Definitions (Jean-François)</b>  While armed conflict and other situations of violence are generally recognized by the “person on the street” as legitimate causes of displacement, existing legal definitions that are either too narrow or too broad carry the risk of denying “war refugees” and IDPs the protection to which they are entitled. This session will consider current issues in the interpretation of those definitions, including the so-called “internal flight alternative.”
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 15:15	<b>Eligibility Issues (2): Procedures, Evidence, Exclusion (Geoff)</b>
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Contents of International Protection for Refugees (Jacopo)</b>  International protection in armed conflict and situations of violence requires humanitarian workers to engage with members of the armed forces, non-State armed groups and other weapon bearers. Maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, one of the overarching principles and standards of international protection, in such situations, becomes particularly complex. It requires the adoption of measures to distinguish civilians from combatants and fighters as well as the capacity to guarantee basic safeguards to those not admitted to benefit from asylum.
17:00 – 17:30	<b>Wrap-up/Q&amp;A</b>

## DAY 3

8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Coffee
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Review of Previous Day</b>
9:15 – 11:00	<b>Humanitarian Evacuations and Safety Zones (Geoff)</b>
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:45	<b>Solutions to Displacement (Jacopo)</b> <p>The search for solutions relies on the evaluation of all the options available to the different segments of a displaced population and the creation of conditions conducive to their (re-)integration. Such a process, which may be lengthy and complex, is guided by basic principles stemming from international legal standards and aim to achieve the full enjoyment of the individual's rights. In this spirit, the international community has been devoting increasing efforts to measuring progress towards solutions, in particular in the aftermath of a conflict.</p>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 15:15	<b>Displaced and Refugee Children (Jean-François)</b> <p>Forced migration disproportionately affects people under the age of 18, including those who flee or travel unaccompanied. This session will show how IHL, IHRL and IRL combine to protect the rights of children caught in, and/or displaced by, armed conflict and other situations of violence; and discuss ways of making these rights effective, including the rights to legal personality, to education, and to family life.</p>
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Open forum (all)</b> <p>In this final session, we will strive to answer all questions that could not be addressed, or were insufficiently explained, in the preceding sessions; and to draw general conclusions from our three-day discussions.</p>
17:00 – 17:30	<b>Final remarks / course evaluation</b>