1. Organizing the Health Cluster to coordinate all Protecting PHC and health facilities, hospitals and clinics operating health relief operations in the disaster zone, including military health facilities, including

Box 1 Scope of critical service operations and the action required to maintain health systems in disaster and conflict zones

physical protection and security measures for hospitals and checkpoints as necessary Ensuring fast track transfer of essential drugs and medical supplies

3. Protecting health workers and health volunteers from attack and intimidation during their work, in their homes and to and from their places of work.

4. Ensuring safe transport of sick and injured patients to and from

Protection required for the health systems

health facilities and preventing attacks on the sick and wounded. 5. Ensuring the safety of UN relief teams and other humanitarian organizations including registered national and international NGOs active in emergency health response operations 6. Banning the storage of weapons in hospitals, launching attacks

from health-care facilities or carrying of members of armed forces in ambulances or any other health logistics except when transporting the seriously injured Protecting and supporting national and international parties assisting the health system with provision of supplies, equipment

and vital consumables that are essential to execute life-saving

surgical, anaesthetic and other vital services 8. Ensuring the provision of safe corridors to care seekers to access health facilities 9. Documenting violations to the functioning of health services in

conflict zones 10. Establishing formal and informal contact focal points with relevant authorities for enhancing protection and for acting on reported violations

11. Upholding the neutrality and impartiality of the health care

system and the legitimacy of health workers assisting the sick and injured irrespective of the conflict zone they serve in and promoting preventive policies, while not coercing health workers to make statements that could compromise their neutral stance 12. Preserving all essential amenities of the health system with special attention to electricity and water supply 13. Training the health workforce in undertaking essential preventive

intimidation, kidnapping and violence

security measures and in handling situations related to

Assessing health protection needs of IDPs and their hosting population 3. Ensuring the access of IDPs to health relief

Critical service operations

operations and to all necessary health care facilities 4. Ensuring the availability of skilled health workers

and sustained access to the female health workforce 5. Organizing essential care services with focus on MNCH including reproductive health and family

planning

supplementation 7. Treating STIs Preventing disease outbreaks 9. Providing immunization services Offering specialized referral care Facilitating access to psychosocial support &

6. Promoting breast feeding & nutrition

mental health services 12. Protecting single parents with children Sustaining stocks of medical supplies and drugs, including oxygen 14. Caring for persons with disability and provision of supportive aid

15. Ensuring outreach health services to those

unable to reach facilities 16. Organizing reconstruction and upgrading of health facilities 17. Setting minimum operating standards for health response

18. Recording and reporting all violations with a negative impact on the functioning of health services 19. Organizing community-based care and

encouraging IDPs' active participation 20. Undertaking health education and promotion interventions

iDPs = internally displaced persons; MNCH = maternal, neonatal and child health; STis = sexually transmitted infections; UN = United Nations; NGOs = nongo vernmental organizations