



Global Protection Cluster

# 2022

GLOBAL PROTECTION  
THEMATIC FORUM  
REPORT

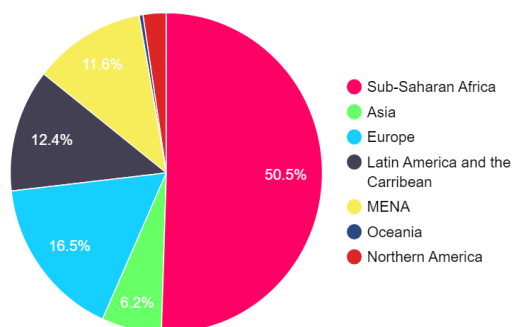


## INTRODUCTION

From the **24 - 28th October 2022** the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), its Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) organized the **Global Protection Thematic Forum on Access that Protects**.

This week-long series of twelve virtual events aimed to provide a platform through which key protection and access partners, field practitioners, donors, Member States, academics and many more came together to find better ways to shift behaviours, policies and practices in ways that can advance access that protects. It presented an opportunity to showcase frontline work and also hear from local voices.

Registration numbers reached over **3,600 people** from **135 different countries** - a significant increase compared to 2,000 registrants in 2021.

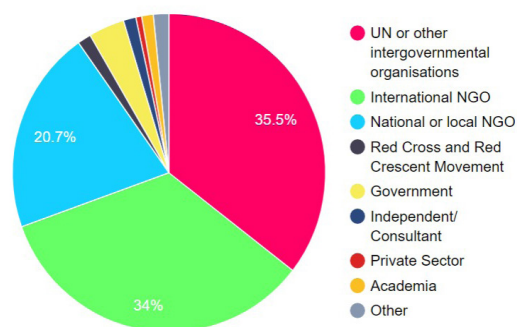


Over 50% of those registered were from sub-Saharan Africa and around 12% from Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Top 10 countries:

CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE	237
NIGERIA	211
CAMEROON	205
UNITED STATES	200
COLOMBIA	169
SWITZERLAND	153
BURKINA FASO	147
SOMALIA	123
ETHIOPIA	101
KENYA	87

Simultaneous interpretation in French, Spanish and Arabic was instrumental to ensure active participation of field colleagues and local actors. This reflects **more diversity in registrations and participation** in terms of region and organisation type than ever before – a strong sign that the forum is designed for and with colleagues and practitioners from the field.



Each session was attended by a minimum of 240 participants, with some very popular gathering around 350 - 500 viewings. In total, more than **2,200 unique participations** were recorded.

## In 2022: Special Focus on Access that Protects

This year's Forum placed a special focus on access for protection, bringing together leading partners to focus on contexts where protection work is being challenged at its foundation due to constraints to access, exacerbating certain protection risks and trends, as well as highlighting some of the ways we can collectively strengthen access for protection looking at leverage points across policy and practice dimensions.

Most protection cluster operations estimate that protection services can reach and be reached on average by **25 to 50% of those in need**. The GPC is striving to support the humanitarian leadership to find better ways to move forward – to shift behaviours, policies and practices in ways that can advance access that protects.

The Forum confirmed that access remains a **key approach, enabler and tool** that helps advance protection outcomes for communities affected by armed conflict and crisis. We need sustained access that enables relationship-building, nuanced analysis of diverse needs, experiences and barriers and responsive advocacy grounded in local priorities and leadership.

**Community-led protection** and the important role of local actors and communities was front and centre during the Forum. It appeared that, as a sector and as a system, we can better enable the ongoing leadership of communities and local actors to sustain and strengthen the kind of access that enables responsive protection services and outcomes in complex humanitarian settings.

Sessions showcased the **‘power of the network’** and the intention of the GPC to create space for the diverse expertise and leadership of its members to flourish. International and national NGOs, networks, coordination platform, UN agencies, academia and donors took an active role in shaping and organising the Forum, sharing opening remarks and closing thoughts or presenting their work during the Forum.

## THE WEEK’S AGENDA

Each session was organized by a SAG, AoR or GPC partner and brought together UN and NGOs, cluster coordinators, local actors, Member States, donors and academics. The theme Access that Protects was covered through a series of **12 sessions**:

24 October Monday	25 October Tuesday	26 October Wednesday	27 October Thursday	28 October Friday
<div>Opening Ceremony 14:00 - 15:00 CEST</div> <div>Protection by Presence: How Donors and Media Coverage Shape the Ability of International and Local Organizations to Provide Protection 16:00 - 17:30 CEST</div>	<div>Forward-leaning, Relationship-based Access 10:00 - 11:30 CEST</div> <div>Access Negotiations with Armed Groups for Protection 13:30 - 15:00 CEST</div> <div>Securing Access for Coordinated Protection in South Kordofan, Sudan 15:30 - 17:00 CEST</div>	<div>Access for Protection through Participation: Working with children, adolescents and their communities 10:00 - 11:30 CEST</div> <div>Interactive Simulation on Access Negotiations for Protection 13:30 - 15:00 CEST</div> <div>Advancing Risk-Informed Advocacy in Support of Access that Protects 15:30 - 17:00 CEST</div>	<div>Coffee Connect: A Virtual Meeting with the Global Protection Cluster 11:00 - 12:00 CEST</div> <div>Digitizing Access: Opportunities and Risks 13:30 - 15:00 CEST</div> <div>Access to Protection: the role of community protection actors 15:30 - 17:00 CEST</div>	<div>Community engagement with armed actors: Strengthening protection, prevention and response 10:00 - 11:30 CEST</div> <div>Engaging with Access Working Groups: Good Practices and Opportunities 13:30 - 15:00 CEST</div>

All recordings, presentations, Mentimeter results, featured videos and opening/closing remarks are available on the Global Protection Cluster website: [here](#).



## Opening Ceremony: Placing Protection at the Heart of Access Negotiations



*Contributors: Global Protection Cluster, UNHCR, OCHA, Geneva Call, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Protection Cluster South Sudan and Citizens Organization for Advocacy and Resilience (COAR) Afghanistan.*

In her role as moderator of this ceremony, Bernadette Castel-Hollingsworth, Deputy Director of the Division of International Protection at UNHCR, opened with [reflections](#) on access as a key enabler, approach and tool, noting a marked deterioration in the degree and quality of access over the past few years, particularly for GBV and legal aid. While we as a sector have made tremendous strides over the past several years in strengthening the quality and impact of protection efforts, **sustained access and support for more inclusive and community-based measures has never been more imperative.**

Delivering his [keynote speech](#), Ramesh Rajasingham, Director of Coordination at OCHA, framed OCHA's leading role in supporting and facilitating humanitarian access. He highlighted that protection is at the forefront of missions conducted by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and underlined OCHA's dedication to advancing access and protection, working with all partners and stakeholders to ensure **more strategic, more transparent and more consistent standards across the board on access.** He concluded by calling for the importance of tackling the assumption that advocating for protection and rights will result in limited access and thus impact operations.

The **Protection Cluster in South Sudan** shared a [video](#) detailing their access challenges, best practices and messages for the global community. Patrick Achiga Vuso, Protection Team Leader with the Danish Refugee Council's Mobile Response Team (right), confirmed the biggest challenge in gaining access for protection activities are ongoing security concerns and inaccessible terrains. John Gtayiel Chuol, Founder & Executive Director of the Mobile Humanitarian Agency shared an example of a successful negotiation of access in the southern Unity State. Finally,



Roving Protection Cluster Officer David Hattar reflected that stakeholders, donors and senior management must **encourage collaboration, not just between agencies, but also between clusters to ensure all access negotiations bear protection in mind.**

Executive Director of Nonviolent Peaceforce, Tiffany Easthom explained what we can do better at global level to further support and enable community self-protection. This included concrete examples from [Women's Protection Teams in South Sudan](#) and how, as humanitarians, we must park our own ideas of protection, justice etc., and use our presence and solidarity for when things get difficult, and play a secondary role in **supporting and making space for local protection strategies.**

Sameera Noori, Deputy Director General of COAR shared examples from Afghanistan on how advocacy has contributed to expanded, quality access for protection purposes. She highlighted the need for **context-specific, flexible and localised approaches**, particularly when advocating for the rights of women and girls to access specialized protection services. Good practices include coordinating with other local NGOs, as well as international organisations, to better understand who is doing what on advocacy and to speak with consistent messaging.

Finally, Hichem Khadhraoui, Head of Operations at Geneva Call, [spoke to engagement with armed groups on access for protection](#), noting the need to tailor this engagement to the type of context, even within one country that can have many layers of conflict, thus avoiding a 'one size fits all' approach. Enabling access remains a key legal obligation of armed groups – and we need to engage armed groups in terms of their perception and reputation of humanitarian actors. He referenced Geneva Call studies that show the importance of **principled action and not deviating from the proclaimed mandate**, as it is viewed by both civilians and state and non-state armed groups (NSAGs). Engagement and negotiations with duty-bearers, including armed groups should be the backbone of any protection strategy.

The ceremony was attended by over 580 participants.

## Protection by Presence: How Donors and Media Coverage Shape the Ability of International and Local Organisations to Provide Protection



*Contributors: GPC Human Rights Engagement Task Team, UNHCR, OHCHR, Protection Sector Whole of Syria, Liam Mahony, COAR Afghanistan and ECHO.*

Over 590 participants joined in this [discussion](#), which was moderated by Kathryn Mahoney, UNHCR Global Spokesperson. Liam Mahony began by deconstructing **what we mean by protection by presence**, a frequently misunderstood and sometime over simplified concept. He framed protection by presence not only as the idea of “being there” or “having an office” but as two sides of the same coin: one in relation to **deterrence and dissuasion and its impact on people who exert violence**, and the other in relation to **encouragement and solidarity and the impact it has on the people who are threatened by the violence**. This dissuasive impact is based on the differential power and perceptions of different actors on the ground. Protection by presence is not only about being there visibly, it is about projecting a message to try to change the calculation of people who are exerting violence against others. It is not only international presence that matters, in fact most protection by presence is done by **national and local actors – such as community leaders, religious actors, and local professionals such as teachers, lawyers, doctors, journalists and human rights actors**. Such a role requires careful risk management, but this should not mean risk aversion and avoiding doing it. Media and journalists are in essence ‘protection by presence’ in conflict areas – part of the role of humanitarian and human rights organisations should be to build on the positive protective capacities of media by encouraging journalists to come out and report on the situation that as seen on the ground. Donor, embassy and foreign affairs ministry visits to conflict areas can also provide a type of high-level protection by presence, a modality that should be encouraged, even if short-term.

Building on this, Sameera Noori shared examples from COAR’s work in Afghanistan, following the Taliban takeover, highlighting the censorship of media coverage and freedom of the press. Many local staff and NGOs were left alone in the country, albeit without resources. She concluded that media and donor coverage is therefore crucial to support a country in a crisis moment, and **national and international NGOs should prioritise the coordination of resources**.

Francesco Motta, Director for Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa at OHCHR, spoke to how physical presence can also be promoted by media into places and communities where international organisations are not able to reach (e.g., OHCHR in Afghanistan and Iraq). He underlined the need to learn to maximise our engagement with local actors to mitigate lack of access and space. Approaches taken must be co-designed and shared with communities and local actors. In relation to donors, he continued that it is about political support not only financial support, for leveraging human rights and protection and mitigation of shrinking of civic space. **Diverse means for protection by presence (not only physical) is fundamental.** UN agencies may have different mandates and it may be difficult to be coherent and coordinated at times, including in relation to analysis, but he stressed the importance for the whole UN system to work more proactively on human rights issues instead of working in silos. For example, when the UN publishes a report, something hits the headlines and then comes and goes very fast, whilst the chronic crisis continues. Words lose currency and **the humanitarian community must strive not to speak on behalf of persons of concerns, but rather give them space and power.**

Protection Sector Coordinator for the Whole of Syria, Yasin Abbas, continued by reflecting that, without donors and media attention in the beginning of the intervention in Syria, it would not have been possible to deliver services. The operation is now seeing donor and media fatigue, with many donors not present in country. **Local NGOs are leading the response and have been able to stay and deliver, despite access challenges over many years.** Despite this, we as an international community have to continue to partner with local communities. If Clusters are functioning, together with their SAGs, they have an important role to play in coordinating resources allocation and pool funding allocations to local actors. The GPC has also supported conversations with donors about resourcing of local actors.

In her concluding remarks, Anne-Sophie Laenkholm, Thematic Coordinator on Protection with the Directorate-General for ECHO, noted that despite big support to Ukraine, funding has not be channelled away from 'forgotten crises', which has a dedicated 15% of initial annual budget. She recognised the challenges of the 'quagmire' of **needing funding to be present, but the must to be present in the first place to receive funding.** However, in most cases there is presence in some form, which requires a backup of strong assessment of risks and analysis, to feed donors with evidence for internal advocacy, particularly when the concerned government of the affected country is not requesting assistance themselves. She noted the **importance of strong protection analysis and advocacy**, to which all key protection actors have contributed, as well as strong collaboration with local actors.

## Forward-Leaning, Relationship-Based Access



*Contributors: Nonviolent Peaceforce (Iraq, South Sudan, Ukraine, Sudan, Philippines) and Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Geneva.*

This [session](#), which attracted over 415 participants, was opened by Andri S. van Mens, First Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs with the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Geneva. Andri highlighted that many conversations around humanitarian delivery and access are framed as very technical, and if not technical then very neutral and independent - concerned about 'not rocking the boat'. This makes sense when thinking about the delivery of aid, in terms of WASH and shelter and food, and even education and health. In that same vein, it also makes sense when thinking about protection. However, with protection, which is core element of humanitarian assistance, it takes different approach and conversation, given the focus on human rights. Access to people must be defended and promoted. Neutrality means standing for rights of all people, including those most in need. **Protection and access go hand in hand, and are not mutually exclusive. Access for protection and protection for access.**

Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) underlined these points through a series of [videos](#), showing the work of Women's Protection Teams in South Sudan, speaking about what access means to them in terms of being able to cultivate land, go to markets and access medical care without any issues or threats. Kudzanai Mativirira, Programme Manager for NP in South Sudan, built on these messages by reiterating the importance of **building the capacity of community groups to access key services and facilitate self-protection**. For example, this takes the form of moving around in groups, which is supported by NP through engagement with local authorities, armed groups and security actors.

In subsequent videos, Iraq colleagues also shared experiences on how NP used its networks and relationships with Ministries and police to assist a woman and her children to regain access to an IDP camp through providing documentation. Reem Abdallah Abdulhay, National Protection Officer for NP in-country, explained the process of building trust with security actors, authorities and IDPs in the camp, highlighting that when we build such **trust and relationships, that is when we can succeed and really collectively solve problems and address protection risks**.

Kristina Preiksaityte, Senior Programme Development Manager with NP in Ukraine, touched on the added value of going into hard-to-reach areas on the frontlines of conflict, where international organisations are not generally present. NP built relationships and networks with community groups,



self-organized community initiatives, and women's networks, who are leading the humanitarian response in Ukraine. These groups know what the concerns are on the ground and what to do to address them. She underlined that **there is already so much capacity in these communities**, so the approach here is less about building capacity and more about **supporting existing local response mechanisms and making sure they can sustain themselves**.

Huibert Oldenhuis, Global Head of Programming, shared further examples from Darfur, using the example of visiting communities without an armed escort. This decreases the perception of a militarized approach, reducing suspicion and mistrust by communities. NP's teams could approach community leaders differently by showing up in this way and having ongoing conversations and engagement, clarifying miscommunications and bring different actors together around shared issues, ensuring information flows. To conclude the session, moderator Tiffany Easthom reminded us that **approaches need to start with those who are most impacted by violence and are often those who have the least access to power**.

## Access Negotiation with Armed Groups for Protection



Contributors: Geneva Call (Iraq, Burkina Faso), NRC Yemen and FCDO.

Around 465 participants joined this [session](#), moderated by Christie Edwards, Head of Program for Legal and MEAL at Geneva Call (GC). Kicking off the field perspectives, Atif Hameed, Head of Mission for GC in Iraq, raised that effective access negotiations are a long-term continual process, which can range from six months to three years. Many armed groups and proxies are active at the local level and are quite influential, which requires a great deal of coordination. GC activities include developing material for policy level engagement with groups, and reaching out to the leadership at the top level and commanders on the ground to offer trainings, so that they comply with IHL and IHRL principles. GC also identifies focal points within these forces and trains them actively so they become mediums for access negotiation. Key here is the need for **legitimacy from local authorities, local civil society and leaders**.

These messages were complimented by Pishkafti Shokri, GC Project Coordinator in Nineveh, Iraq, who explained the challenges associated with access for both the population and the humanitarian community. He highlighted a particular example where **community-based protection managed to bring communities, armed groups, media and other local leaders to discuss together** on the conducive return of IDPs to a safe area.

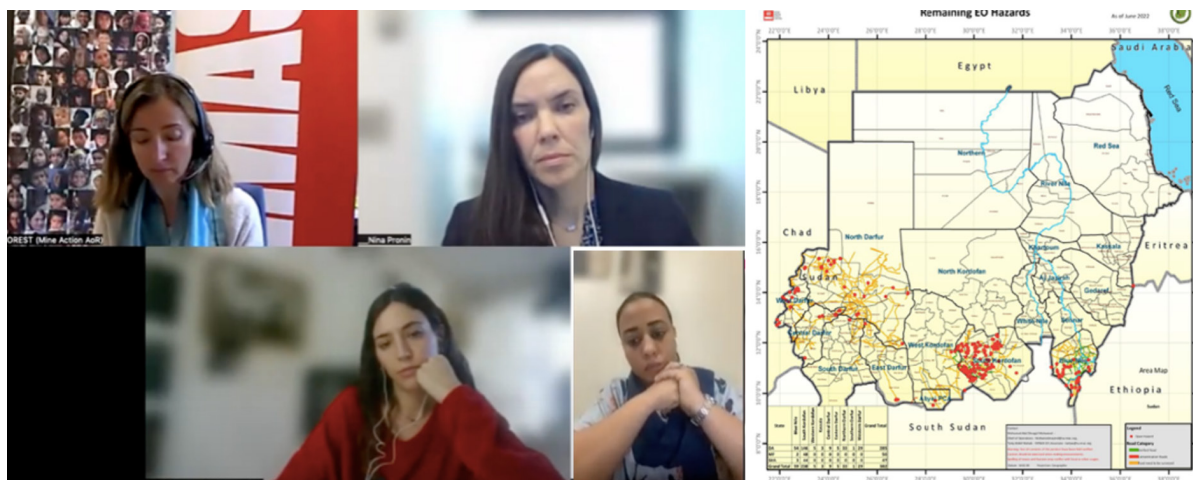
Bringing in examples from Burkina Faso, GC Programme Coordinator Moussa Ag Waerzaren, addressed the main takeaways from the recent study [Self-Defence Armed Non-State Actors in Central Sahel](#). This included the perception of armed groups towards humanitarian actors, which for many groups is tainted by mistrust and misinformation. He noted the importance of understanding local norms, beliefs and moral values of armed groups and the crucial role that **local resources and traditional and community mechanisms play in negotiating with armed groups**. These mechanisms exist and must be reinforced. A recommendation from this study was for humanitarian actors, and protection actors in particular, to better explain, sensitize, and train armed groups on what protection is, and what the mandate and objective of their work is.

Erin Hutchinson, Country Director for NRC in Yemen, brought in the perspective from her operation on how lack of access results in huge gaps on understanding needs and negative coping mechanisms, particularly sexual exploitation. Among other factors, very courageous leadership is key, including from the HC, HCT and OCHA, for example to reduce the interference of the de facto authorities restricting access – impacting particularly needs assessments and the delivery of

services. Furthermore, sustained presence is fundamental and **frontline staff knowledge is a strong resource. Ensuring that this knowledge is fed back to management is fundamental.**

In his remarks, Samuel Carpenter, Team Leader on Protection and Inclusion with FCDO reminded that access is not only about our ability to get trucks across lines to deliver relief in conflict, but also about a mothers' ability to safely take her child to a malnutrition clinic. Beyond that, it is encouraging to see how far engagement with NSAGs has come on as a discipline, as it is essential to negotiating access and improving protection. He also offered an important gender perspective, that **women and girls are disproportionately impacted by crises because of pre-existing inequalities**, increased violence and barriers to accessing essential services and humanitarian assistance. Speaking from a State and donor perspective, he reiterated that both access and protection must be at the heart of our narrative on what humanitarian action is. We also need to strengthen the capacity of the humanitarian system, including local staff and partners, to negotiate with NSAGs at the tactical level to deliver protection outcomes. At the operational level, HCTs have a role to play in shaping the operational environment in which negotiation with non-state armed groups takes place. And at the strategic level, States like the UK have a key role to play in helping protect the normative environment, particularly at the UN Security Council.

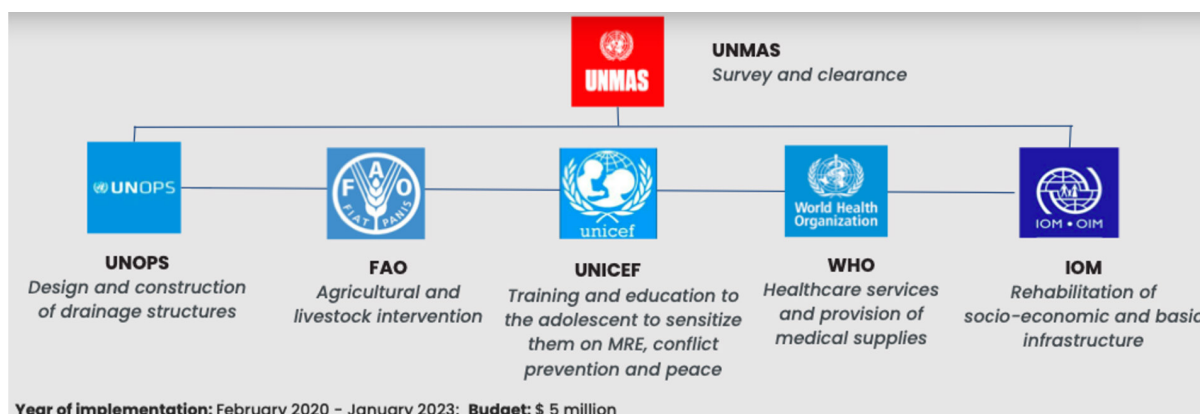
## Securing Access for Coordination Protection in South Kordofan, Sudan



Contributors: Global Mine Action AoR, UNMAS Sudan, Human Security Unit and IOM

Offering a concrete examples of success stories in gaining access for protection, over 265 participants joined this [session](#), moderated by Christelle Loupforest, Global Deputy Coordinator for the Mine Action (MA) AoR. Christelle opened by sharing that access is the foundation and the precondition for an effective and principle emergency response. Sofia Lopez Garcia, Associate Programme Officer with UNMAS in Sudan, complimented by saying that **MA is a gateway for protection by securing access for humanitarian actors**: surveying and clearing areas to enable access, responding to humanitarian requests, and by capacity building of humanitarian personnel. As an example for enabling access to humanitarian aid, the team presented the UNTFHS programme in Sudan, an integrated project to improve the livelihood of people in South Kordofan.

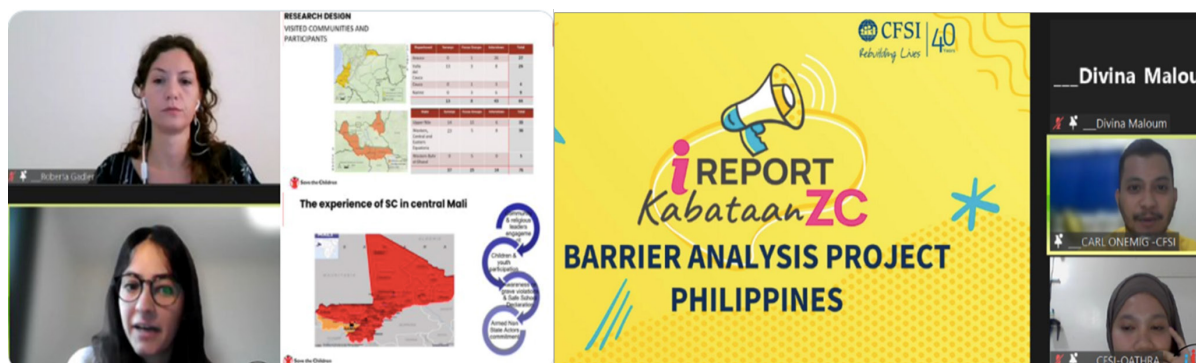
To frame the context, Enas Oman, Programme Officer with IOM explained that the state of [South Kordofan](#) was a fragile situation until 2016. SPLM controlled three localities in the State, with a high presence of IDPs, conflict, and contamination, impacting the lives of local communities. Nomad routes passed through mine contaminated lands as part of their migration routes. A member of the community, Jacob Mahmood, explained how contamination impacted access, notably that of students to education and access to water sources. For this project, UNMAS cleared the priority roads and areas to allow the rest of the UN agencies, IOM, UNOPS, FAO, UNICEF and WHO to provide food, health, and socio-economic security.





In addition, the session included an overview of the [Human Security Approach \(HSA\)](#) of the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), which was the methodology used for this project. Nina Pronin, Programme Management Officer with the Human Security Unit, highlighted the strength of the Human Security approach as a tool for access for protection. By placing the people at the centre, being context-specific, comprehensive, prevention-oriented and multi-sectoral, and integrating participation and empowerment. It is not about traditional security (territorial integrity, state, peace), but rather places the individuals as the reference point. The Human Security Approach looks at what security and protection means in people's daily lives – economic, food, health, environment, personal, community and political security.

## Access for Protection through Participation: Working with Children, Adolescents and their Communities



*Contributors: Divina Maloum, Save the Children (Colombia, Mali), Child and Adolescent Survivors Initiative Philippines, Global Child Protection AoR, Global Gender-based Violence AoR and The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, SIDA, SDC.*

Co-moderated by Amy Smith, Humanitarian Child Protection Adviser with Save the Children in Colombia and Divina Maloum, a young activist from Cameroon, who was the winner of the 2019 children's peace prize, this [session](#) was joined by 570 participants. Divina began by sharing about the organization [Children for Peace](#), which she co-founded in 2015: a girl-led movement looking to increase children's participation in political processes. Children and youth make up the majority of populations affected by humanitarian crises and often play a vital role in understanding protection needs and supporting self-protection and the protection of their peers. Engaging with these populations provides opportunities to hear their opinion about their lives, protection needs and concerns. The ideas and views from young peoples' direct experiences, can lead to more effective, relevant and sustainable decisions on protection policies and services, ensuring the needs of children and adolescents are central to protection responses.

Save the Children's panel members included field staff Roberta Gadler, Child Protection Technical Advisor in Mali and Fernanda Almeida, from the Civil Military Relations and Access Unit. They shared key findings from [research](#) in Colombia and South Sudan, as well as field experiences from Mali on community-led negotiations and the role of young people in ensuring access to protection. Research highlighted that children are vulnerable and exposed to violations of their rights, particularly to violence, recruitment by armed groups and limited access to education. Based on community findings, a tool designed to support humanitarian organisations in engaging with communities for negotiations on protection was presented.

Work in Mali included different campaigns engaging both community leaders and children on child protection strategies and advocacy for the respect of child rights. As a result of the War Against Children Campaign, one community dialogued with extremist armed groups which allowed the re-opening of schools which had been closed due to insecurity concerns. The Children and Youth Ambassadors for Peace programme supporting children and youth led organisations led to engagement with NSAGs, obtaining commitments around protecting schools. The main challenges to this work included evolving with the complexity of the conflicts and mitigating for adverse effects of the work, ensuring that community members and children are not put at further risk, for

example through not placing children as focal points on sensitive matters. The main opportunities identified were **systematic conflict analysis as well as child participation in peace processes work.**

Carl Onemig Bagood and Qathra Bitong, Adolescent Representatives of the Child and Adolescent Survivors Initiative Core Group of the Community and Family Services International (CFSI) in the Philippines shared the methodology and findings of their [Barrier Analysis Project](#). Designed as youth-led, participatory analysis, the group of adolescents led the collection and validation of information on barriers adolescent survivors of gender-based violence face in accessing multi-sectoral services, as well as the development of recommendations for how to address the identified barriers.

The participants then split into two breakout groups, one looking at community negotiations and the other at child participation. The participants in the community negotiations group were asked about their background and most participants said they were somewhat confident with negotiations for access but were new with child participation. Main takeaways from these included **the importance of understanding protection risks, involvement of community leaders, negotiation preparedness, the role of communities to negotiate their own access and how youth and children are capable of voicing their needs.** The participants in the child participation group were asked the barriers to child participation, including for children with disabilities which included cultural and structural aspects. Main takeaways from the discussions on child participation included the importance of providing the space for children to express themselves, awareness raising on the importance of child participation within communities to address cultural barriers and ensuring that humanitarian workers have skills on engaging safely with children.

To conclude the session, Barbara Weyermann, Programme Manager for Migration and Skills Development from the Swiss Development Corporation, which funds the project in the Philippines, reflected that people should always be in the lead and noted how impressive it is to see how children and young people can be leading and convincing in channelling change. Switzerland made a commitment through the Call to Action on equal partnership with women, since equal partnership is key for effective action.

Amanda Weyler, Senior Policy Specialist at the Humanitarian Unit of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), offered a message to local organisations and youth activists that SIDA is committed to take feedback seriously and reflect this feedback in the role that they play in the humanitarian architecture. Access that protects challenges us to think about the quality of what we do. It is about having **sustained access and reach to people affected by crises, ensuring they are able to shape and participate, and to seek and use local solutions, holding aid organisations and donors to account.**

## Interactive Simulation on Access Negotiations for Protection



*Contributors: Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation and Housing, Land and Property AoR.*

Offered to 317 participants, this [interactive simulation](#) was opened by Jim Robinson, Global Coordinator of the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) AoR, who highlighted that all protection work is about negotiation – negotiation for access, and negotiations with communities, partners and stakeholders to find pragmatic solutions for protection outcomes. In the context of HLP, negotiation is a key part of this work, for example negotiations for communities to be able to live on land, negotiation with host communities and relevant authorities, and negotiations about power imbalances, in relation to access to land. The HLP AoR has also been working on supporting access to land for women, who are often disproportionately discriminated against and left aside.

The simulation gave participants an opportunity to work in teams and **experience the challenges of negotiating access for protection activities**. The [situation](#) involved a theoretical negotiation scenario in which participants worked for a humanitarian organisation, We Are All People (WAAP), providing primary health care, maternal health, medical and mental health support to rape victims, and running community centres. Participants were faced with the following situation: *After an assessment in one of biggest IDP camps in the Southwest, WAAP decided to build a primary health care unit and community centre inside the camp, for which it took a long time to obtain the green light from the camp management. WAAP is confronted with a very influential conservative community leader, Mr. Amun, who opposes the plans and refuses to provide access.*

Participants were split into small groups to practice negotiation for the implementation of these protection activities, before returning to plenary for a debrief by session moderator Fiorella Erni, Head of Operations at the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation. Participants were able to discuss the challenges of negotiating for protection, including the prioritization of assistance over protection activities, the suspicion of most counterparts of protection activities and the difficulty for protection actors to accurately define protection work in a non-threatening manner.



## Advancing Risk-Informed Advocacy in Support of Access that Protects



*Contributors: Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Niger, Overseas Development Institute, Advocacy Network of Kitshanga DR Congo, Nigeria INGO Forum, International Rescue Committee, GPC Advocacy Task Team, Women's Refugee Commission.*

Moderated by Manisha Thomas, Geneva Representative at the Women's Refugee Commission, this [session](#) was joined by 315 participants to reflect on risk-informed advocacy in support of access that protects. Manisha opened by stressing the need for a **collective approach on protection advocacy, and to balance the risk of taking a strong position versus not saying anything**. She also stated that the risks associated with carrying out advocacy on protection issues are often assumed rather than properly assessed and evaluated.

Passing the floor to Louise Aubin, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator with the UN in Niger, Louise provided keynote remarks grounded in a range of concrete examples from her work in Niger and elsewhere. Importantly, she highlighted that advocacy is all about perception and trust building. Among others, she shared the example of an attack in August 2020 by members of a Non-State Armed Group (NSAG), killing seven NGO staff and the impacts of this in the form of blanket mandatory armed escorts. To advocate for decentralised decision-making on use of armed escorts, within the Humanitarian Country Team, OCHA had to recognise the diversity of the humanitarian community, as well as different requirements and security mechanisms of donors, national and international NGOs and the UN. This negotiation required recognizing the interests and diversity of all actors, investing time on understanding the different position of actors, agreeing on an 'options' paper with armed escort being the last resort, dialogue at a more local level, practical mechanisms with everyone involved and recognition of the local frontline authorities. She emphasized the **need for framing documents, and trust building, as well as recognition of the mandates and limits of different actors**. Building on another example, this times from her experience in Central African Republic, Louise reflected on the idea that the definition of protection needs to be defined by the people concerned and that to support this, a system-wide approach to advocacy for protection outcomes is much needed. Furthermore, there is a need for enhanced advocacy and engagement with the broader networks outside of the humanitarian community.

Gemma Davies, Senior Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), recognized that humanitarian actors often face difficulties in finding the right balance of maintaining access and the delivery of services, while retaining space to raise sensitive, often unwelcome, protection issues. Gemma shared recommendations for getting around barriers, entrenched perceptions and mitigating these risks, including **politically astute advocacy** that takes into account political and, where relevant, military interests of advocacy targets; power dynamics and ensure advocacy positions are targeted towards this, including that advocacy positions don't undermine them. Furthermore, the **framing of an advocacy position** based on an understanding of the norms, principles and values of armed actors and how they align with international humanitarian and human rights frameworks will likely have greater impact than referring only to international systems and frameworks. It requires contextualisation of the advocacy position, which international and national collaborations can support. She emphasised the need to build coalitions, work in complementarity across a diverse range of actors and skillsets relevant to the advocacy objective – including across national and international humanitarian, human rights and peace actors. Finally, **working in collaboration can both offset and share risks**. Organisations have different risk appetites, and by working in collaborations, can allow organisations to work within their risk appetite, and, when using mutually reinforcing messages – can allow for risks to be shared.

Isaac Bandu, President of the Board for the Advocacy Network of Kitshanga in DR Congo, shared his experiences working on community-based protection, awareness raising and mediation. Working on advocacy with leaders of armed groups, the network, comprised of 12 core members, seeks local solutions to local problems. Their advocacy work on a range of serious protection risks faced by communities often puts them at risk of violence, abductions and killings at the hands of armed groups. The network tries to analyse and mitigate these risks by making sure that activities are well understood by the armed groups and that they have relationships and credibility with the key targets of advocacy. A further risk-management tactic used by the network is to identify which member or which partner organizations (sometimes national or international) are best placed to take forward certain advocacy activities, with the network sometimes needing to leverage the profile of an international organizations or other times, needing to leverage the local relationships that a member has, depending on the advocacy issue, target and context. Isaac concluded by **recommending international protection actors to further support local organisations and networks and coalitions, helping to share risks, build advocacy capacity and support with funding**. Enabling exchanges of experiences between local protection advocates across different crisis contexts would also be valuable.

The next speaker, Yasmine Chawaf, Deputy Director of the Nigeria INGO Forum, shared her experiences with a lack of public advocacy on protection issues in Northeast Nigeria. The fear of being suspended or upsetting the government reigns over the response, even seemingly limiting advocacy at global levels. Attempts to raise protection concerns are also caught up between “competing agendas” at play: 1. Humanitarian; 2. Development, and more specifically stabilization efforts; and finally, 3. Counterterrorism. On camp closures and IDP relocations in Borno State, humanitarians consider the relocations to be premature and unsafe, while the main stabilization/development actors are involved in building some of the “resettlement communities”. Humanitarians perceive that stabilization efforts undermine humanitarian concerns and reinforce the government's denial of existence of humanitarian needs in the state. Another factor relates to counterterrorism efforts, which are used to silence advocates and interfere with humanitarian operations, with organizations pressured to hand over beneficiary lists, for instance, of restricted on cash disbursements as part of the bigger efforts around combatting the financing of terrorism. Instead of looking at these agendas as “competing”, humanitarians should look at the opportunities for advocacy unorthodox actors can provide. Development/stabilization actors enjoy closer and better relations with governments; their connections, platforms and leverage should be used to advance protection advocacy and access to protect. **All actors across the nexus usually serve more than one agenda and should be held to account when it comes to the centrality of protection.**

Kate Moger, Regional Vice President for the Great Lakes with the International Rescue Committee, shared examples of advocacy for protection programming for women and girls, including lessons learned from GBV responses during the Ebola outbreak in 2018 in DR Congo. She shared a specific instance where what was done initially as closed-door advocacy on issues linked to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse did not stay behind closed doors. The advocacy work ended up reaching government officials and the organization had to engage in a range of mitigating actions aimed at maintaining operations and repairing relationships. In the end, however, it meant that higher-level decision makers did read the report in question, something that wasn't planned but ultimately had some benefit in terms of highlighting the issues with senior officials. Kate shared how based on this and other IRC experiences conducting advocacy in high-risk contexts, relationships with governments, international organisations, and other humanitarian actors – including local organizations – are critical to mitigate impacts of advocacy that doesn't go the way you had expected. She recommended to trust your teams on the ground to do analysis of what is needed and what tactics to use. **Doing analysis can be stressful in emergencies – but it is worth it to ensure advocacy is done well**, and training and tools to support analysis and preparation are critical.

Finally, panellist shared their Calls to Action from the session:

- **Louise Aubin:** Collective advocacy is not always possible in every context but you can reach optimal complementarity of advocacy efforts if you share your advocacy strategy and identify common red lines. Collective and complementary advocacy relies on trusted relationships.
- **Gemma Davies:** Advocacy and leadership sets the tone, vision, direction when you have massive protection risks.
- **Isaac Bandu:** Advocacy with local and national authorities is essential.
- **Yasmine Chawaf:** Working together is key, look beyond the usual suspects (both allies and targets).
- **Kate Moger:** Bolder, more courageous advocacy should be our drive.

## Digitizing Access: Opportunities and Risks



*Contributors: GPC, UNHCR, Protection Cluster Ukraine, International Committee of the Red Cross, The Right 2 Protection Ukraine, Rokada Charitable Foundation and PRM.*

Attended by over 325 participants, this [interactive session](#) was moderated by Hovig Etyemezian, Head of Innovation Services at UNHCR. Opening remarks were provided by Samuel Cheung, Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, who highlighted that access is not only about getting trucks into geographical areas of coverage, but also about opening the space for conflict and crisis-affected communities to be protected from human rights violations and to access much needed protection services and responses. This should be considered and protection considerations should be applied in the digital sphere. Increasingly, humanitarian agencies, including UN, NGOs and local partners, are developing digital tools and remote services for conflict-affected and displaced communities who we cannot meet face to face.

The session's first speaker, Romain Bircher, Leader of the Digital Platform Challenge Team at ICRC explained the development of the application (app) [RedSafe](#), currently used by more than 19,000 people and 28 organisations, which is designed to use in times of armed conflict and situations of violence to respond to digital information concerning affected populations. During the time of humanitarian crisis, this app can be used safely by the persons concerned as well as partners, fully controlled by the ICRC. This app was launched in May 2021 in eight countries in Southern Africa, mainly targeting migrants from Zimbabwe to South Africa. Amongst other functions, the information sharing service shares data related to the shelter, food distribution, alerts and mapping of services.

Jane Mogeni, Senior Technical Advisor on Protection and Rule of Law from the International Rescue Committee spoke about her experience with media protection risk analysis, which provides a space in which new protection threats can foster the occurrence of offline protection risks already addressed by the humanitarian actors. With the help of analysis, it is possible to map the most significant protection risks and consequences, and the structural capacities to address them, including **protection sensitive media strategies**.

The field perspective was brought from Ukraine by Daria Lysenko from Right 2 Protection and Oleh Pastushchak from the ROKADA Charitable Foundation that are partners of the Ukraine Protection Cluster, as well as Oleksandra Makovska, from the Protection Cluster, who introduced the Ukrainian Government's digital platform Diia. The application, created in 2019 is currently used by more than



18 million people and provides 72 state-run services and 16 digital documents. Daria explained that R2P actively helps to register IDPs to ensure that victims have received compensation and the registration of the report on damaged and destroyed property. This allows for easier and faster movement across checkpoints in absence of paper documents.

To close the session, Katherine Arnold Armeier, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) reiterated that digital technologies can positively affect protection through the shift from paper data collection to password-protected digital collection. However, this does introduce new risks related to password or PIN sharing. **The improvement in confidentiality and data protection is especially important for sensitive protection programming related to children, gender-based violence, and human rights.** In this area, PRM supported the development of new case management and data protection functionalities for KoBo Toolbox, a free digital data collection platform, through the funding for the Joint Data Centre.

## Access to Protection: The Role of Community Protection Actors



*Contributors: Oxfam, Norwegian Refugee Council, Action pour le Développement des Initiatives Locales Niger, ECHO, GPC, Association pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et le Développement Burkina Faso, Fundación Solidaria Archidiosesana Colombia, Field Medical Foundation Yemen and SIDA.*

Around 380 participants joined this lively [discussion](#) moderated by Illias Adamou, Deputy Executive Secretary with Action pour le Développement des Initiatives Locales in Niger. Passing the floor first to Joanna Darmanin, Head of Unit of Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies at DG ECHO, Joanna opened by recognizing that supporting community-based actors is important to strengthen the resilience of communities, create empowerment and improve sustainability, and it **places agency, rights and dignity at the centre of programming**. She continued that community actors can play a leading role in negotiating access for humanitarian actors, thanks to their networks and connections. Trust and understanding of the local context put them at the heart of this process.

Melanie Kesmaecker-Wissing, Protection Advisor with the Global Humanitarian Team at Oxfam, complimented these comments raising six main recommendations for supporting community-led protection efforts. These include **strengthening local-global-local complementarity**, this means to support direct access to regional and global platforms and forums, direct resources towards the needs of national, local and community actors, support diverse networks, and to foster equal partnerships. Furthermore we must **cultivate trust between different actors** - invest in building sustainable relationships, value different perspectives and histories; seek out the advantages of diversity and difference, and support inclusive structures where marginalised people are credibly represented and active. She reminded that we should **invest in managing risk**, including trainings, learning and support mechanisms for managing risk into partnerships and into exit planning. We must **encourage mutual capacity-building** by recognising the skills and experience at all levels and what can be learned from each other and providing tailored technical support for national, local, and community advocacy and negotiation. With regard to **funding and programme design**, this requires more flexibility in funding and support to CBP activities, and a move away from pre-set deliverables that often fail to enable a focus on trust building and long-term relationships and allow for deliverables, outputs and outcomes to be decided by communities. Finally, it is imperative to **gather global learning and good practices** and provide direction, principles and standards on community-based protection

Bringing the perspective from Burkina Faso, Regis Zoungrana from the Association pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et le Développement (AGED) briefed on the increase in protection risks linked

to the volatile security situation and food crisis. To counter services being refused by authorities and violations of human rights and displacement, the organisation implemented community-based dialogue, related to advocacy, allowing the members of the committee to prepare advocacy notes on specific topics, as GBV. The presence of local community leaders and other representatives promoted a frank and open discussion, looking for solutions together.

Mustafa Bazara, working with the Field Medical Foundation in Yemen, shared some of the challenges the organisation faces when conducting community-based protection work. These include: lack of specialized protection services to mitigate and address protection risks, increased vulnerabilities particularly in areas where national facilities are malfunctioning or destroyed, facing difficulties when conducting a mediation process on issues related to the marginalized, especially in areas where tribal norms and traditions are deeply rooted, female members prohibited to participate in some areas where these traditional norms still exist, and difficulties when trying to communicate with Community-Based Protection Networks due to poor network coverage. His main recommendations to the international community, including donors included **increasing and mobilizing resources in order to strengthen protection services, doubling the efforts to support the capacities of vulnerable groups in order to increase empowerment and resilience, and support educational programs.**

Pedro Jesus Albeiro Parra, from the Colombian Fundación Solidaria Archidiosesana shared the catholic church's accompaniment work with communities affected by the activities of armed groups, as well as working closely to strengthen the capacities of indigenous groups. He **underlined the need for advocacy work to be consistent** and exploratory dialogues to take place hand-in-hand with authorities to reach minimum co-existence agreements.

Hannah Jordan, Regional Protection Advisor with NRC, reinforced the session's messaging of the need to be present alongside communities and that the role and agency of community actors offers multiple solutions to access barriers and challenges. Samuel Cheung, GPC coordinator continued that the engagement of community actors is the 'litmus test' for the protection sector. Community protection work is essential to the protection sector and should be properly reflected in strategic planning (HRP/HNO), funding strategies and advocacy efforts. He stressed the importance of **ensuring coordination structures, such as the Cluster system, are accessible for local and community protection actors and highlighted the need for increased visibility and recognition of community protection actors' work in global fora.**

Sara Brodd, Senior Policy Specialist on Protection with SIDA closed the session, remarking that donors can contribute to limiting protection outcomes in the "push" for focusing on high numbers of people reached. We should avoid looking only at number of people reached and understand, and accept, that **protection outcomes need to be measured in more qualitative ways.** This could mean support to developing and adapting methods that can capture impact in a meaningful way for this type of interventions. There needs to be an understanding that projects may have a larger proportion of the budget allocated to staff compared to more assistance focused projects that would typically be more supply focused.

## Community Engagement with Armed Actors: Strengthening Protection, Prevention and Response



*Contributors: Overseas Development Institute, Centre for Civilians in Conflict, WANEP Niger, Search for Common Ground, Local to Global Protection, Save the Children and SIDA.*

Moderated by Gemma Davies, Senior Research Fellow at ODI, this [session](#) brought together over 305 participants. Leigh Mayhew, Research Officer with ODI, began by presenting a scoping study of experiences of supporting community engagement and community self-protection, as well as prevention and response opportunities across humanitarian, protection and peacebuilding spheres. The key takeaway from this was summarised as: whilst there is a role for humanitarian, protection and peace actors to play, **any strategy should be community led**. It should identify where existing engagement is taking place and look to support rather than replace these mechanisms.

Passing the floor to Wendy MacClinchy, Director of the United Nations Program at CIVIC, Wendy introduced the recently published [Toolkit: Advancing the Protection of Civilians in Conflict](#), which is designed for civil society actors – international and local – and governments seeking to achieve a high global standard of protection for civilians caught in armed conflict and war. It is already being piloted in several countries, including in Niger, as presented by Clément Kocou Gbedey, National Coordinator for [WANEP](#), an organization that has tested the toolkit in Niger and experienced the need for civil-military coordination to ensure everyone has a seat at the table, including security actors, as well as to define indicators and agree on standards and monitoring.

Mike Jobbins, who leads Global Affairs and Partnerships at Search for Common Ground, shared his recommendations for supporting healthy, safe and just societies through increased work with protection and humanitarian actors, as well as a range of community/grassroots groups to reduce the threat of violence and promote social cohesion. This includes increasing **capabilities** regarding the Nexus and the need to take the peacebuilding element seriously to look at how humanitarians build relationships with peacebuilding actors. Furthermore, and the need for **continuity** and support with analysis, engagement, dialogue, media engagement and to take more holistic approach to reducing violence was highlighted. Finally, **cross-sector connection**, for example via the [CNXUS](#) platform is key to share learning material, encourage participation in webinars etc.

Kiran Kothari, Advisor on Relations with Armed Actors and Children in Conflict with Save the Children, shared his thoughts on how we can be more locally led in crises, and how we can further improve children protection efforts. He underlined the need for localized context analysis and to analyse the network of influence around negotiation counterparts and build relationships

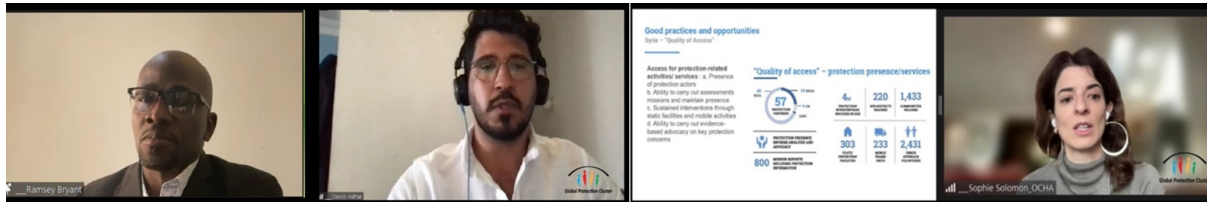


with these, noting that leaders are less likely to engage in negotiations when there are external organisations present doing the same thing and negotiating on behalf of communities.

Nils Carstensen, Coordinator of [Local to Global Protection](#), continued by highlighting the need for an ability to 'stand back' and not get in the way – **'don't suck all the oxygen out of the initiative and efforts already underway'**. Here a granular understanding of what is already happening and if there is a need for additional organizations in the space is key.

Sara Brodd, Senior Policy Specialist on Protection with SIDA brought together the discussion summarising that humanitarian, protection and peace communities can work in greater collaboration and complementarity towards supporting communities for self-protection. SIDA is testing and developing several tools to support partners in this important task. Those tools include principled and flexible funding, multi-year humanitarian funding and exploring ways of localizing the humanitarian response. She concluded that there is a need to do more to encourage joint contextualized analysis with communities to help development, peace and humanitarian partners to have a common understanding that can support coordination and synergies when possible. Short- and longer-term investments should complement each other to enhance sustainability.

## Engaging with Access Working Groups: Good Practices and Opportunities



*Contributors: UNHCR, OCHA, Protection Cluster Nigeria, Protection Cluster South Sudan and Dr. Ashley Jackson Centre on Armed Groups.*

Joined by over 245 participants, this [final session](#) of the week was moderated by Houda Chalchoul, Senior Legal Officer (IHL) with UNHCR. In her opening reflections, Sophie Solomon, Global Access Advisor at OCHA introduced Access Working Groups (AWGs) as platforms to discuss access by key stakeholders, which differ from country to country depending on objectives (i.e. analysis, solutions, mapping etc). Engagement can happen at various levels: monitoring, reporting and analysis; coordination mechanism; policy development; advocacy and negotiation. **Protection actors are welcomed and their participation is of high importance.** A good example of including protection lenses in the AWG was in Ukraine, where civilians were evacuated in alignment with Protection Cluster guidelines.

Asked about how do we better negotiate access while leveraging protection outcomes, David Hattar, Roving Protection Officer with the Protection Cluster in South Sudan raised that AWGs are mostly security people negotiating for services, not having protection in mind. For the Protection Cluster this is the priority - How can we negotiate for food or NFI assistance without guaranteeing access or safety for civilians? Protection actors need to reframe the narrative. How can we talk about food distribution when armed groups are attacking people bringing the food distributed back home? He shared three points of action: 1) **participation of Protection Clusters in AWGs**, to bridge the gap between the AWGs and protection actors and feedback information from communities on where access is needed, 2) **use mobile response working groups**, to coordinate the limited response capacity in a hard to reach areas, communicate with communities and do trust-building with communities and stakeholders, and 3) make use of a **recently launched protection monitoring system**, which aims to cover 95% of the country, currently at 25%. This requires buy-in from key stakeholders and data to inform on access constraints and entry points.

Ramsey Bryant, Senior Protection Cluster Coordinator in Maiduguri, Nigeria, shared from his context examples of the key access issues such as the presence of UXOs/IEDs in return areas and the limited demining programs as well as the criminalization of negotiation with NSAG, illegal checkpoints and climate related constraints make some areas inaccessible. He then highlighted that in **order for access to have an impact it has to be linked to protection risks**. Given that the ongoing return and relocation of IDPs is one of the main concern for the humanitarian community in Nigeria deeply affected by access constraints, the protection Cluster played a critical role trying to address this issue by joining position papers and information sharing as well as advocacy with AWGs. He continued that they use community-based groups to highlight protection issues, which are transmitted to the AWG. They also have regular meetings with the military, for example on the occupation of schools, and recently mobilised protection community-led actors to engage with the

military on understanding and capacity building on roles of protection, humanitarian civil-military coordination and military. A joint briefing session to donors is under discussion.

Dr Ashley Jackson, researcher, author and Co-founder and Co-director of the Centre on Armed Groups, shared her expertise on engagement with armed groups. A [recent report](#) found that the main dilemma is getting access to protection and ensuring that protection is part of an access approach. The report found that presence allows for protection, and yet there are still assumptions about access first and protection after. They are, however, **intertwined and need to be addressed together**. The engagement with NSAGs is getting more restricted because of the counter-terrorism legislation but also seeing a new scale-up and mutation of armed groups with criminal gangs in Haiti or Wagner in CAR. She concluded that **access that protects is not yet a common mindset or approach**. We have made progress by working together and protection actors working collectively (in forums etc) are crucial for raising and reflecting on issues that agencies and other stakeholders would not. It is important to be honest about challenges and new emerging issues.

Julien Marneffe, Head of Field Operations and Support at the GPC closed the session by summarising **access not as a goal but as a means**. We cannot afford to risk having access that does not protect. **Enhanced coordination of protection, access and humanitarian civil-military coordination is essential**.

He thanked all participants, organisers, contributors, PHAP and GPC colleagues for a fruitful and interactive week.

## Key Takeaways and Move Forward

Protection must be placed at the core of humanitarian access.	Journalists, donors, human rights activists and local actors can all do <b>protection by presence</b> .	Access is not permanent, it's only a moment in time. It's about <b>building relationships</b> through persistence, flexibility, and creativity.
Traditional and community mechanisms for nuanced <b>engagement with armed groups</b> exist and must be reinforced.	The <b>human security approach</b> is a powerful tool to secure access for protection in South Kordofan, Sudan.	Participation of <b>children and youth</b> is a promising practice in supporting community self-protection and access negotiation.
Protection is a <b>negotiation</b>	Using <b>risk-informed advocacy</b> to strengthen access and address protection risks is more imperative than ever before.	<b>Digital tools and remote solutions</b> represent a new horizon in terms of access for protection.
<b>Community actors</b> have a critical role in negotiating for their own access to protection services.	Supporting <b>active community engagement</b> and civil society efforts with armed actors strengthens protection responses.	Joint and coordinated efforts between protection actors and <b>access working groups</b> open access opportunities.
 #ProtectionForum2022 #AccessThatProtects		

In his [remarks](#) at the Opening Ceremony, GPC Coordinator Samuel Cheung shared four possible lines to help direct the discussion in terms of access that protects:

1. **Change the narrative** – such that access discussions can no longer be solely about trucks but must be about access that protects. It is imperative, as a sector, to move towards a more comprehensive understanding of access. We need a more ambitious approach in terms of what is needed to strengthen protection outcomes.
2. **Tell the story** – we need access to be where it counts to tell the story e.g. what is really happening in terms of protection violations and getting it out there. Robust advocacy on protection issues is critical in terms of protection actors' ability to call attention to and help stop rights abuses.
3. **Be present** – protection by presence, whether by internationals or through community-based programming. Further supporting and enabling community self-protection action should be the cornerstone of all access negotiations and advocacy across the humanitarian sector.
4. **Negotiate** – with armed groups, through Member State and Security Council channels. There is an opportunity to look into existing humanitarian access systems and processes, to further integrate a protection lens, gearing its focus towards the protection of civilians.

[illegible][illegible]

Other key activities in 2022 have included the report [‘Protection funding: Where do we stand mid-year 2022? A spotlight on operational access for protection’](#), June’s Global Protection Update [‘Beyond Trucks, Access That Protects’](#) and a series of roundtable discussions with Experts, Member States and practitioners.

The GPC [End of Year Event](#), to be held on 13th December 2022, will launch the Agenda for Change, bringing together the invaluable inputs from all stakeholders on access, of which this Forum has been a fundamental component.



## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR ORGANISERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

### International NGOs

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)  
 Save the Children International  
 Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)  
 International Rescue Committee (IRC)  
 Geneva Call  
 Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP)  
 Centre for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)  
 Search for Common Ground  
 Local to Global Protection  
 OXFAM

### Local NGOs

Advocacy Network of Kitshanga, DR Congo  
 Right to Protection, Ukraine  
 Charitable Foundation "ROKADA", Ukraine  
 Community and Family Services International (CFSI)  
 Citizen's Organization for Advocacy and Resilience (COAR), Afghanistan  
 WANEP, Niger  
 Children for Peace, Cameroon  
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### United Nations

United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)  
 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
 United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
 United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
 UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator Niger  
 The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

### Red Cross and Red Crescent

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

### Academics and Research

Overseas Development Institute (ODI)  
 Centre on Armed Groups

### Networks and Coordination Platforms

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action  
 Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN)  
 Nigeria INGO Forum  
 Global Protection Cluster  
 Global Gender Based Violence AoR  
 Global Child Protection AoR  
 Global Housing, Land, and Property AoR  
 Global Mine Action AoR

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### Protection Clusters and Sectors

Nigeria  
 South Sudan  
 Whole of Syria  
 Ukraine

