Global Protection Cluster

High-Level Humanitarian Donors Briefing Note: The State of Protection in 2024

Executive Summary

In 2024, 170 million people require protection, a 4% increase from 2023, driven by new and escalating conflicts in Gaza and Sudan, as well as ongoing and protracted crises. In response, protection actors are adapting by enhancing access to conflict zones, deploying rapid response teams, strengthening community-based networks, and mobilising specialised protection teams to address urgent needs. Since late 2023, protection risks have surged, fuelled by political conflict, human rights violations, abuses of international law, attacks on humanitarian workers and multidimensional threats, including social, psychological, and economic harms.

- **Attacks on Civilians and Civilian Infrastructure:** Civilians are consistently targeted in armed conflicts, with attacks on schools, hospitals, and other essential services exacerbating the crisis. Violations of IHL are increasing, especially in Sudan, Myanmar, and oPt, where we are witnessing a total disrespect for foundational normative frameworks. This includes forced recruitment, explosive weapons and aerial bombardments, and indiscriminate violence, leading to mass displacement and deteriorating safety for millions, exacerbated particularly in UN mission withdrawal contexts.
- **Gender-Based Violence and Psychosocial Distress:** GBV has escalated to extreme levels in 14 countries, exacerbating already dire conditions, and psychosocial abuse, discrimination, family separation, kidnapping, abductions, trafficking and forced labour contribute to widespread mental health challenges, especially among displaced populations. Women, children, and marginalized groups bear the brunt of these abuses, further marginalized by weak legal and social systems.
- **Forced Displacement and Restrictions on Movement:** Over 120 million people are displaced, with restrictions on freedom of movement and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) violations ranked among the most severe protection risks. Siege-like conditions in countries such as Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso and the DRC prevent civilians from accessing vital resources, leaving them in precarious and life-threatening conditions.

Key Messages for Humanitarian Donors

- **Protection Risks Must Be Prioritized and Addressed Beyond Humanitarian Assistance:** The drivers of risks, such as weak governance and underlying causes of International Humanitarian Law and human rights violations, need to be addressed jointly. Donors should advocate for international legal compliance, support the centrality of protection and engage with development and human rights actors to create sustainable protection mechanisms.
- **Support to Marginalized and Vulnerable Populations:** Displaced populations, particularly women, children, and other vulnerable categories, face heightened protection risks. Donors must prioritize funding for GBV prevention and response, mental health services, and livelihood programs to enhance preparedness and build resilience, as well as support localized, civilian-led protection mechanisms for those facing forced displacement and movement restrictions.
- **Urgent Funding and Response Gaps:** The Protection Cluster and its AoRs are funded at just 34%. Critical life-saving protection services, such as psychosocial support, mine action, GBV and child protection are being cut in key regions like the Sahel and Ethiopia. Increased, flexible, and immediate funding is crucial to avert further crises and support ongoing protection activities, including advocacy actions with duty bearers and member states.

1. Background

This briefing note informs the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) Annual Donor Meeting on 01 October 2024. This meeting provides a crucial opportunity for reflection and exchange on the latest protection trends, collaborative actions to address priority risks, and strategies to strengthen the protection of crisis-affected communities. This note covers the first half of 2024 and trends observed in 2023 with a shared analysis on the current state of protection, highlighting the key drivers of the most severe protection risks affecting communities across the 32 Protection Cluster operations. It also highlights actions taken by clusters and partners on the ground to enhance the protection of communities and outlines ways donors and protection actors – from local to global level – can collaborate more effectively to address the growing protection challenges caused by the overlapping impacts of conflict, crisis and displacement.

2. Global Protection Trends

The Global Protection Trends incorporate the Protection Clusters' monitoring of risk severity since 2022, alongside the latest Protection Analysis Updates. The 2024 protection outlook is further informed by comprehensive global assessments, which consider factors such as socio-economic development, governance, and the evolving dynamics of conflict and armed violence. This analysis is grounded in the understanding that the effective application of International Humanitarian Law and the protection of civilians depend on two fundamental principles: first, recognizing the specific risks and unique needs that individuals face; and second, implementing concrete measures to enforce IHL without discrimination based on gender, disability, race, or similar factors[1].

Snapshot of global protection landscape

Q1&2 of 2024 were particularly dire for many civilians caught up in renewed conflicts, political instability and new large-scale emergencies. In 2024, **170 million people are in need of protection – a 4% increase from last year.** While the calculation of 2025 people in need of protection is still under way, current estimates from the GPC and its partners in nine countries (Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Mozambique (Cabo Delgado), Niger, Nigeria, Syria NW and Venezuela) indicate that for every person identified as in need in 2024, approximately 2.61 people will be exposed to protection risk in 2025. This suggests that the number of people at risk in 2025 will be significantly higher than those officially identified as in need of assistance[2].

New cycles of violence and conflict in Gaza (and most recently Lebanon), Sudan, and the DRC have led to major humanitarian crises with significant civilian casualties and millions displaced. In Myanmar, Nigeria, the Sahel region, Somalia, Ethiopia and Ukraine, a consistent **pattern of grave and lasting civilian harm** continues amidst ongoing conflict.

At the same time, the median years of armed conflict affecting the countries where Protection Clusters are active is 14 years[3], including countries that have faced new cycles of violence and conflict, such as oPt (84), Yemen (15), Myanmar (75), the DRC (13), Sudan (41), Mozambique (11), Nigeria (13), Syria (13), Afghanistan (46).

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[1] International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts. Building a culture of compliance for IHL to protect humanity in today´s and future conflicts, ICRC, September 2024.
[2] The ratio of 2.61 represents the estimated number of people exposed to protection risks in 2025 for every person identified as in need of assistance in 2024.
[3] Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset version 24.1 (consulted 4th September 2024).

In 2024, protection risks related to **i) unlawful impediments, restrictions to freedom of movement and forced displacement, ii) attacks on civilians and civilians' objects, iii) discrimination, denial of resources and opportunities have been** reported at the highest severity[4] in half or more of countries with Protection Cluster presence. This is followed by: **iv) gender-based violence, v) psychosocial abuse and distress, vi) forced eviction and destruction of property,** and **vii) impediments to legal identity, remedies and justice.**

COUNTRIES WITH MOST EXTREME PROTECTION SITUATIONS | 2023-2024

Sudan, Palestine and Myanmar	Afghanistan, Mozambique, Somalia, Nigeria and Syria
EXTREME	**VERY HIGH**

Between mid-2023 and July 2024, **Sudan, oPt and Myanmar** have constantly experienced the highest levels of protection risks across categories of severity. **Afghanistan, Mozambique, Somalia, Nigeria and Syria** follow closely as highly impacted, though not always at the most extreme levels.

The below multidimensional analysis combines different situational indexes[5] to contextualize protection risks, resulting in a classification of countries with comparable situations according to specific parameters.

MYANMAR, oPt, SUDAN
These countries present the most dangerous environments, where active conflict and violence severely impact civilians. Widespread gender-based violence, abductions, and attacks on civilians are accompanied by weak or failing governance structures. These regions are collapsing, with the civilian population overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis. Urgent action is needed to address the extreme vulnerabilities present in these regions.
AFGHANISTAN, CAR, CHAD, DRC, ETHIOPIA, HAITI, SOMALIA, SOUTH SUDAN, SYRIA, VENEZUELA
These countries face significant protection challenges, particularly in areas such as displacement, civilian targeting, and socioeconomic vulnerability. While governance and institutional structures show some signs of stability, they are insufficient to address the pervasive risks faced by the population. Despite a surface-level sense of order, there is a persistent undercurrent of violations and instability, especially for those displaced or marginalized. Afghanistan continues to place severe restrictions on women and girls, denying education, employment and freedom of movement.
BURKINA FASO, MALI, MOZAMBIQUE, NIGER, NIGERIA
These countries represent severe humanitarian crises unfolding, with widespread gender-based violence, and civilian abductions. Governance structures are weak, leaving populations exposed to significant risks such as forced recruitment and displacement. The level of insecurity is high, reflecting environments where human rights violations are rampant, and the civilian population is left without adequate protection.
COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, UKRAINE
These countries, while still in crisis, show relative resilience compared to other regions. Governance and social structures appear more functional, contributing to better outcomes in areas like corruption control and food security. However, the presence of ongoing conflict and violence still causes displacement and threats to vulnerable groups. These areas, though somehow stable, continue to require focused support to address lingering protection risks and prevent further deterioration.

Examining the varied effects of protection threats on civilians

As described by the UN Secretary-General, the state of civilian protection in 2024 is 'resoundingly grim', with thousands of civilians killed and injured and millions displaced. In crises ranging from Gaza to Ukraine to Sudan, a lack of basic compliance with international law has exacerbated the severity of protection

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[4] Phase 4 and Phase 5, according to the protection risks severity monitoring scale composed of 5 phases, where phase 5 represent the worst conditions.
[5] The analysis is based on a Hierarchical Clustering Dendrogram using the following data: Protection Risks severity 2023-24, Human Development Index (HDI), Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), ACLED Conflict Index, Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Gender Inequality Index, INFORM Risk selected indicators (Development & Deprivation, Socio-Economic Vulnerability, Food Availability, Food Utilization, Food Security, Governance Effectiveness, Economic Dependency).

needs, shrinking humanitarian space and obstructing aid access in conflict zones. As a result, protection actors are struggling to respond to the scale and gravity of these needs, while civilians continue to face appalling levels of violence, including in many contexts, sexual violence.

The analysis of protection risks reveals an **increasing and persistent presence of threats primarily linked to political motives, conflicts, and states' responsibilities to uphold human rights and comply with International Humanitarian Law (IHL).** These threats include attacks on civilian infrastructures such as schools and hospitals, conflict-related sexual violence, and widespread human rights violations. They often exploit vulnerabilities stemming from weak rule of law, inadequate security, and systemic discrimination. The capacity to mitigate these risks typically extend beyond the reach of humanitarian assistance alone, necessitating systemic changes at higher levels, including policy reforms and coordinated international actions.

Since late 2023, countries such as Sudan, Palestine, Myanmar, Syria, and Somalia have been grappling with multiple severe protection risks, including attacks on civilians, forced recruitment, and movement restrictions. In 12 countries, attacks on civilians are particularly extreme, while forced recruitment, displacement, and abduction continue to inflict widespread harm in others. Meanwhile, Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, the DRC, Haiti, Honduras, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Ukraine are also experiencing alarmingly high levels of at least one of these risks, from attacks to forced recruitment and large-scale displacement.

Their impact is intensified by **the persistent presence of multidimensional threats that extend beyond physical dangers to encompass social, psychological, and economic harms.** These threats often arise from societal norms, misinformation, and failures within legal systems, exploiting vulnerabilities such as social exclusion, a lack of awareness about rights, and economic instability. Humanitarian assistance can play a crucial role in enhancing capacities by providing support services that build resilience and offer remedial actions, while also advocating for broader systemic changes. However, the effectiveness of protection assistance is significantly hindered by the absence of necessary policy reforms and coordinated international actions.

Since late 2023, Sudan, Palestine, Myanmar, Syria, Afghanistan, Mozambique, and Somalia have been among the most severely affected by multiple protection risks. Gender-based violence (GBV) has reached extreme levels in 14 countries, while widespread challenges such as psychosocial distress, legal identity issues, and landmine threats continue to escalate. Other critical risks, including theft, family separation, and human trafficking, continue to escalate. In addition, countries like Colombia, the DRC, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Venezuela are also facing high to extreme levels of threats, particularly in relation to GBV, mental health crises, and forced evictions.

Seventy-five percent of Protection Clusters are operating in situations of armed conflict and generalized violence. Strengthening duty bearer's compliance with and accountability for international humanitarian and human rights law is central to negotiations and advocacy efforts. The current situation reveals a significant gap in the enforcement and strengthening of national and international laws, integration of civilian protection strategies and safeguarding of civilians. There is insufficient effort or unwillingness towards the ratification and implementation of international treaties and instruments such as the Geneva Conventions, the Mine Ban Treaty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in armed conflict.

In conflict zones like oPt, Sudan, and Yemen, critical measures, such as the establishment of no-strike zones around civilian infrastructure like hospitals and schools, remain absent or inadequately enforced. Additionally, secure corridors for the safe passage and evacuation of civilians are not consistently established, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. **Accountability for IHL violations** is limited, with insufficient prosecution of individuals responsible through national or international courts. Furthermore, the lack of clear and enforced Rules of Engagement that prioritize the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure during military operations continues to undermine efforts to mitigate harm in these conflict settings.

3. Emerging Challenges Intensifying the Impact of Protection Risks

Protection in context of mission withdrawals

The recent withdrawals of UN missions in countries like **Mali** and **Sudan**, along with ongoing transitions in the **DRC** and **Somalia**, have highlighted the complex implications for the protection of civilians. These changes affect protection environments and shift capacities and mechanisms that contribute to protection outcomes. This situation is particularly concerning in the DRC[6] and Somalia, where protection analyses indicate a deterioration in the protection of civilians, which may further decline upon completion of the withdrawals. In Mali, protection incidents have increased by +288% and gender-based violence by +66%, and violations of children rights by +11% compared to last year.[7] The withdrawal of UN missions in various contexts has led to systemic shocks, complicating the available capacities and mechanisms for supporting PoC. This includes **specialized monitoring and reporting mechanisms for child rights and conflict-related sexual violence**, **human rights violations investigation, demobilisation and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups**, and **mine action programming**. As a result, expectations regarding the roles of Protection Clusters – especially in their PoC and advocacy functions[8] – have significantly increased. Protection partners are often expected to assume additional monitoring, reporting and coordination responsibilities. Other contexts, such as **Haiti** and **Mozambique**, face similar challenges with different international forces, while in **South Sudan** and **Afghanistan**, it is crucial to anticipate how peacekeeping and special political mission mandates may evolve to advance protection-centred planning from the outset.

Protection Clusters are taking various actions to ensure the continuity of protection throughout and beyond the lifespan of these missions. In **Somalia**, the Protection Cluster plays a vital role in assessing protection risks and community perceptions which informs withdrawal plans and contingency strategies. In the **DRC**, the Protection Cluster is building the capacities of partners to enhance community-based protection efforts, ensuring that protection mechanisms are established and supported at the local level, allowing communities to undertake self-protection initiatives in the wake of MONUSCO's withdrawal. An overarching consideration emphasized by the clusters is the importance of strengthening the protection capacities of national authorities and investing in locally led, civilian-centred approaches throughout the lifespan of the mission.

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[6] Democratic Republique of Congo Protection Analysis Update, March 2024, available here: here
[7] Mali Protection Analysis Update, July 2024, available here.
[8] Global Protection Update, The Continuity of Protection in a Context of Mission Withdrawals, August 2024, available here.

Collaboration with national, development and human rights actors during humanitarian transitions

As of 2024, discussions are underway regarding the potential transition of at least eight clusters and cluster-like mechanisms (**Ukraine, Colombia, Venezuela, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Zimbabwe, Mozambique**) from IASC humanitarian response structure. Protection partners are increasingly involved in HCT discussions, where they are tasked with considering the continuity of protection in these contexts. This involves identifying risks and response needs that may require ongoing attention following a cluster deactivation, particularly for specific groups that may face marginalization or exclusion. Previous transitions, such as in Iraq, underscores the importance of strengthening engagement with national, development and human rights actors. In contexts where residual risks or needs necessitate an interagency response, it may be essential to maintain a protection coordination forum even after the cluster is deactivated.

Responding to displacement and siege-like situations with limited humanitarian access

Since October 2023, **forced displacement** and **restrictions on freedom of movement has** been consistently reported as a significant protection risk across all Protection Cluster operations. This risk has ranked among the top five, reported as very severe by 64% of operations, and is the second most frequently reported, following attacks on civilians, in terms of risks related to states' accountability. UNHCR estimates that forced displacement continued to rise in the early months of 2024, likely affecting more than 120 million people.

Displacement is driven by violence, attacks on civilians, sexual violence, widespread landmine contamination, aerial bombardment, and **increased obstacles to accessing essential resources, services and livelihood**. These factors not only drive displacement but also contribute to a range of harms, including deteriorating mental health and worsening food insecurity. Additionally, displacement itself can create further risks, as people fleeing violence seek safety in host communities or camps. In places like the DRC, makeshift camps for IDPs are vulnerable to conflict, as armed actors exploit the camps for military purposes, exposing hundreds of thousands of civilians to further attacks.

While displacement is a widespread issue across Protection Cluster operations, **impediments to freedom of movement** – particularly in the **form of sieges and encirclement tactics** – have re-emerged as critical features of contemporary conflict. Siege-like situations, such as those faced by besieged communities in **El-Fasher**, confinements in **Colombia**, the state of siege declared in **Ituri** and **North Kivu,** and blockades in **Burkina Faso** and **Mali,** have severe consequences for large civilian populations. These tactics also create significant operational challenges for protection actors attempting to reach people in need.

Civilians trapped in these situations often face little to no access to basic services, agricultural lands, or essential resources such as food and water, forcing them into impossible survival choices. Factors such as age, gender roles, or disabilities can further exacerbate difficulties in accessing scarce resources. Depriving civilians of essential supplies necessary for survival is prohibited under international humanitarian law, and parties to conflict must take all feasible precautions to protect civilians. This includes ensuring access to humanitarian assistance, safe evacuations where appropriate, and relief operations.

Protection risks related to camp closure and displacement solutions processes

Protection Cluster operations across various conflict and disaster contexts, such as **Mozambique, Nigeria, and Niger**, have observed a **rising trend of forced returns and relocations** of internally displaced

communities. This trend is partly driven by the unprincipled closure of IDP camps or other displacement sites initiated by national or subnational governments[9], often in ways that violate the basic human rights of IDPs. Several factors contribute to the heightened protection risks faced by displaced communities during these relocations or returns, including weak legal and policy frameworks, unaccountable governance, lack of housing, land and property rights, and the discrimination and marginalization of IDPs.

In response to these challenges, the Protection Sector in **NE Nigeria** developed a [Strategy](#) to guide protection partners working with populations affected by camp closures. This strategy outlines key protection considerations and activities that must be addressed before, during, and after relocation or return, as well as the specific roles and responsibilities of protection leadership, partners, government actors and the communities themselves at various stages of the process. The strategy also includes annexes with key awareness messages for sensitizing affected communities, a checklist for camp phaseout and closure, and a return and relocation observation form.

4. Impact on Affected Populations, Operational Responses and Funding

The most vulnerable populations, often those in protracted crises that rarely make the headlines, endure the brunt of repeated cycles of unaddressed crises and lack of structural measures to mitigate threats, compounded by limited resources. These populations are increasingly forced into **harmful survival mechanisms at an unprecedented scale**, such as engaging in transactional sex, child labour, forced recruitment into armed groups, or early marriage, selling possessions, taking on debt and skipping meals. These practices have a direct impact on people's safety and dignity, perpetuating cycles of vulnerability and undermining resilience. The protection implications are serious with many individuals returning to unsafe conflict areas due to the dire living conditions, reduced support in host communities or being unable to access basic services.

Humanitarian needs continued to grow in 2024, with $49 billion currently required to meet the most urgent needs and assist 186.6 million people across 73 countries – a significant shortfall, as only $14.5 billion (30%) has been received as of August 2024 according to OCHA's monthly update (GHO). This amount is $1.36 billion, or 8%, less than what was available at the same time last year. The **Protection Cluster and its AoRs are funded at just 34%**.

Cluster/AoR	Required (US$)	Funded (US$)	Coverage (%)
Protection	$1.06 B	$541.13 M	51%
CP	$1.05 B	$276.75 M	26%
GBV	$933.54 M	$207. 71 M	22%
Mine Action	$328.99 M	$141.01 M	43%
HLP	$81.65 M	$12.82 M	16%
Total	**$3.46 B**	**$1.18 B**	**34%**

Source: OCHA FTS, 03 September 2024

Emergencies in Haiti, Sudan, the DRC, and Myanmar have particularly large protection funding gaps (less than 20% funded), while several protracted crises remain chronically underfunded (Zimbabwe, Venezuela, Syria, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Mozambique). Resources are often unevenly distributed, with some large

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[9] Global Protection Update, Forced Returns and Relocations, April 2024, available [here.](#)

operations receiving a substantial portion of humanitarian funding (Ukraine, Yemen). **Six protection crises are especially underfunded this year**: Ethiopia, Niger, Zambia, Somalia, El Salvador, Guatemala *(See Annex 1 – Funding Analysis per Protection Cluster Operations).*

Additionally, the lack of funding is significantly impacting the delivery of protection services in various operations. For instance, **mine action programmes** have been cut in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, coinciding with an increased number of incidents involving explosive devices. In Ethiopia, **child-friendly spaces** have been closed further jeopardizing the safety and well-being of vulnerable children, and the GBV AoR, at the national level has decreased from 76 partners in December 2023 to 47 as of September, many who were local organizations. Other examples include **the scaling back of psychosocial support services** in conflict-affected areas of South Soudan. These cuts undermine efforts to protect the most vulnerable populations and address their urgent needs.

The drivers of protection risks extend beyond the capabilities of the humanitarian sector alone. It is essential to define collective actions that address the nature of the threats contributing to these risks, employing a coordinated approach that tackles issues **linked to political motives, conflicts,** and **state responsibilities to uphold human rights and comply with international humanitarian law.** Additionally, we must enhance capacities to effectively confront **multidimensional threats that encompass not only physical dangers but also social, psychological, and economic harms.**

To change behaviours and tackle the underlying causes of violence, coercion, and deliberate deprivation, remedial and environmental building actions must be prioritized over the mid- to long-term. This necessitates engagement with development actors and national stakeholders. The suspension of development assistance in many countries facing political crises exacerbates these issues, preventing the root causes from being addressed and placing an increased burden on humanitarian actors to meet rising needs.

5. **Efforts Undertaken to Adapt to Critical Levels of Need in a Shifting and more Complex Protection Environment**

Protection actors have adapted to the increasing complexity of crises by prioritizing strategies to better access conflict zones, increase the presence of rapid response units, collaborate through community-based protection networks, and deploy specialized protection teams to address urgent needs. These efforts aim to **improve frontline, flexible and mobile responses**, meeting people at their most critical points of need.

The establishment of early warning and community protection mechanisms, led by local actors and communities, has proven effective in adapting to increasingly coercive and dynamic contexts. For instance, Emergency Response Rooms in Sudan provide essential coordination and assistance, while local women's and IDP groups coordinate evacuations, women led organizations are the frontline responders to survivors of GBV. In Gaza, the Emergency Protection Responders (ERP) serve as frontline monitors of ongoing violations and organize safe spaces for children in makeshift shelters. These examples highlight how protection actors are innovating to achieve protection outcomes in highly constrained environments. They are increasingly **grounding their approaches in localized, civilian-centred models**, with further action needed to enhance learning and scale behind these interventions, particularly in crises, such as those in oPt, Sudan, and other contexts, where long-term solutions remain elusive.

While there is an acknowledgement of centrality of protection in humanitarian responses, protection actors often encounter challenges in defining their operational role within specific frontline responses. This can lead to a de-prioritisation of protection in immediate operational efforts and result in limited specialised support to those in need. To address these challenges, modalities such as early warning systems, community protection mechanisms, networks of joint frontline responders require sustained support through coordinated programming and financing. The GPC and its AoRs are intensifying efforts to **build capacities and communicate the effectiveness of protection in emergency and frontline responses.** They are committed to pursuing an integrated approach that consolidates resources, enhance strategic access, and alleviate unnecessary burdens on frontline partners. All these efforts are driven by the goal of ensuring robust protection outcome.

Additionally, since 2022, the GPC and its AoRs have made **significant strides in clarifying protection risks**. This includes the adoption of a common framework to define 15 core Protection Risks as well as the development of key guidelines and tools for integrated protection analysis. The GPC also worked to delineate what can be effectively addressed through humanitarian action versus what necessitates collective actions beyond the humanitarian response.

Building on these efforts, the GPC and its AoRs have recently introduced a revised strategic approach[10] that distinguishes between **people exposed to protection risks** across crises and **people in need of protection.** Under the renewed joined-up analysis approach, Protection Clusters coordinate ongoing assessments of protection risks in close collaboration with the AoRs. This joint effort aims to identify the most effective methods for determining which individuals exposed to these risks are in greatest need of protection services. This approach also helps to isolate additional drivers and impacts of protection risks that may require environmental building or other collective actions beyond mere provision of protection services.

The GPC and its partners have initiated an exercise to define **a corresponding response framework**[11]. With support from OHCHR they aim to more precisely outline the related human rights violations and engagement actions[12] linked to the monitored protection risks. Both initiatives are integral to a strategy designed to facilitate and support collective actions while harnessing the capacities and expertise of the most well-placed actors to address drivers of protection risks.

A harmonized response framework that encompasses assessing, preventing, and responding to immediate harm and abuse, restoring individuals' dignity and living conditions, and fostering an environment conducive to the full respect of individual rights is seen as essential. This framework must consider the operating environment, available capacities, and context to effectively anticipate and address the most critical threats facing the population.

Protection efforts, led by civilians and communities, that aim to prevent and interrupt cycles of violence are a critical area of action, particularly in the current context of increasing levels of conflict and severe access restrictions. In 2024-2025, the GPC aims to enhance its advocacy and engagement on this topic, looking at ways to strengthen learning and support for civilian-led approaches to preventing and responding to violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation, while galvanizing higher-level diplomatic action to strengthen compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

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[10] Methodology for Calculating Protection Severity and Estimating People in Need (PiN) at a Household and Area Level, July 2024, available here.
[11] Currently under revision by the GPC SAG and protection partners.
[12] The current human rights analysis matrix can be found here.

6. Recommendations to Donors and Member States

- Member States should advocate for an immediate cessation of violations and abuses from all parties to the conflict. They should emphasize these parties' obligations under International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law, as articulated in relevant Security Council resolutions, with a focus on:
    - Preventing forced displacement, siege-like situations, attacks on civilians and infrastructures, ensuring that communities have access to humanitarian assistance, essential means of survival, resources and land.
    - Preventing and responding to incidents of conflict-related sexual violence in addition to other forms of gender-based violence.
    - Preventing and addressing the recruitment of children by armed groups.
    - Advocating against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

- Recognizing the challenging global funding landscape, donors are encouraged to maintain their commitment to protection and to request the same of humanitarian actors. We recommend a collaborative approach to identify the operations most in need of additional support. Together, we can strategically allocate resources and strengthen targeted interventions to address the most critical protection risks, ensuring that even in times of financial difficulty, protection remains a priority.
    - In Q4 2024, resources should be directed to partners capable of taking on roles previously fulfilled by UN missions in operations that are going through a mission withdrawal.
    - In 2025, priority should also be given to severely underfunded, neglected and protracted crises where unaddressed needs are glaringly evident.
    - Protection should be recognized as lifesaving just like food security and health and prioritized in all humanitarian efforts in line with our shared responsibility to uphold the centrality of protection.

- Donors should bolster localized, civilian-led initiatives aimed at interrupting violence and enhancing protection. This requires political commitment and flexible, long-term funding to sustain such efforts.

- Donor and Member State representatives should continue to work collaboratively with protection actors to ensure that humanitarian policies, advocacy and diplomacy are focused on protection outcomes. This includes:
    - Ensuring that protection is integrated into high-level negotiations and humanitarian diplomacy efforts.
    - Facilitating the engagement and participation of national protection actors in key decision-making spaces at the global level.
    - Advancing protection considerations throughout policy-making processes, from shaping foreign assistance priorities to determining how humanitarian funding is allocated.
    - Supporting the simplification recommendations related to the Independent Review of the IASC Protection Policy to enhance efficiency in our processes.

Annex 1 – Funding Analysis per Protection Cluster operations (OCHA FTS, 03 September 2024)

Operations	Total Required (US$)	Total Funded (US$)	Coverage
Grenada*	819,118	-	0%
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines*	725,786	-	0%
Ethiopia	311,746,826	29,943,586	10%
Niger	76,617,983	10,343,302	13%
Zambia	3,005,110	445,000	15%
Somalia	173,337,343	26,703,287	15%
El Salvador	33,323,087	5,336,814	16%
Guatemala	51,182,482	9,498,809	19%
Zimbabwe	7,957,722	1,765,624	22%
Haiti	46,289,185	10,499,953	23%
Venezuela	91,918,392	21,056,648	23%
Sudan	223,210,999	51,480,234	23%
Syrian Arab Republic	313,408,451	72,355,439	23%
Democratic Republic of Congo	182,297,196	47,616,639	26%
Cameroon	88,634,254	23,639,134	27%
Burkina Faso	125,107,599	33,631,822	27%
Mozambique	60,189,731	16,205,226	27%
Myanmar	161,170,595	44,487,959	28%
Mali	82,802,133	26,336,817	32%
Chad	24,204,984	8,507,390	35%
Occupied Palestinian Territory	188,625,201	66,404,490	35%
Honduras	51,403,214	18,313,939	36%
South Sudan	120,860,411	50,207,137	42%
Nigeria	65,467,884	28,761,958	44%
Central African Republic	38,004,012	18,032,517	47%
Malawi	985,000	532,910	54%
Afghanistan	165,758,757	94,631,196	57%
Colombia	123,622,170	70,679,757	57%
Ukraine	468,137,631	276,921,164	59%
Yemen	168,100,000	100,591,587	60%
Libya*	5,220,000	3,496,893	67%
Madagascar	3,591,000	3,365,701	94%
Grand Total	**3,457,724,256**	**1,171,792,932**	**34%**

There are no active Protection Clusters in these operations, but a flash appeal/humanitarian response plan has been published.