



AFGHANISTAN PROTECTION CLUSTER

Advocacy Strategy and Action Plan

2025-2027

Bamyan, Afghanistan ©UNHCR/Caroline Gluck





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1. Background

The Afghanistan Protection Cluster which includes its Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) – i.e.: Child Protection (CP), Gender Based Violence (GBV), Housing, Land and Property (HLP), and Mine Action (MA), is mandated to coordinate an effective protection response in light of the protection risks affecting some of the most vulnerable members of crisis-affected communities across the country.

As set out by the IASC at the global level for all Clusters, one of the six core functions of the Afghanistan Protection Cluster is advocacy. This advocacy aims to both inform the Humanitarian Country Team, which plays a leadership role in guiding the humanitarian response in Afghanistan, and to advocate for and with affected communities on addressing protection risks. As a network of leading protection partners, operating at national and sub-national levels, engaging closely with diverse communities and people experiencing particular vulnerabilities and protection needs, and connected to a range of global allies and channels, the Afghanistan Protection Cluster’s approach to advocacy is deeply enmeshed in collaborative approaches.

In Afghanistan, this advocacy role is particularly urgent in light of the policies and practices of the current governing regime, represented by the Taliban De Facto Authorities (DFA) who took control in August 2021. Since the takeover by the DFA, the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan have been severely restricted, with their ability to participate in public life effectively erased via numerous, progressively restrictive and discriminatory decrees. These discriminatory measures are driving further humanitarian needs and protection risks, while also limiting women and girls’ access to basic services and humanitarian assistance, including protection. Along with the rights and protection of women and girls, persons with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities and others are all being eroded, in parallel with a disregard for principles of equality, justice and non-discrimination¹.

Civic and humanitarian space, particularly protection space, has been increasingly, and highly restricted, further limiting access to protection and essential services for women and girls and others experiencing exclusion. The extent and nature of protection activities, the operations of protection-focused actors, the safety of protection staff, the work of human rights advocacy and civil society, have all come under immense pressure over the past three years.

Amidst growing restrictions and a highly complex operating environment, the Afghanistan Protection Cluster (APC) is committed to further advancing strategic, collaborative and complementary advocacy as a central part of its work, including as outlined in the APC Strategy for 2025-2027. The APC is well positioned to lead on various identified protection advocacy priorities, and support, as well as contribute to the leadership of other actors on other priority issues. The following strategy outlines prioritized protection risks that will be addressed, in part, through advocacy and the specific approaches, tactics and actions needed to affect change in support of the strengthened rights and agency of all those most impacted by risks of violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation in Afghanistan.

Wama District, Nuristan ©UNHCR/Chinar Media



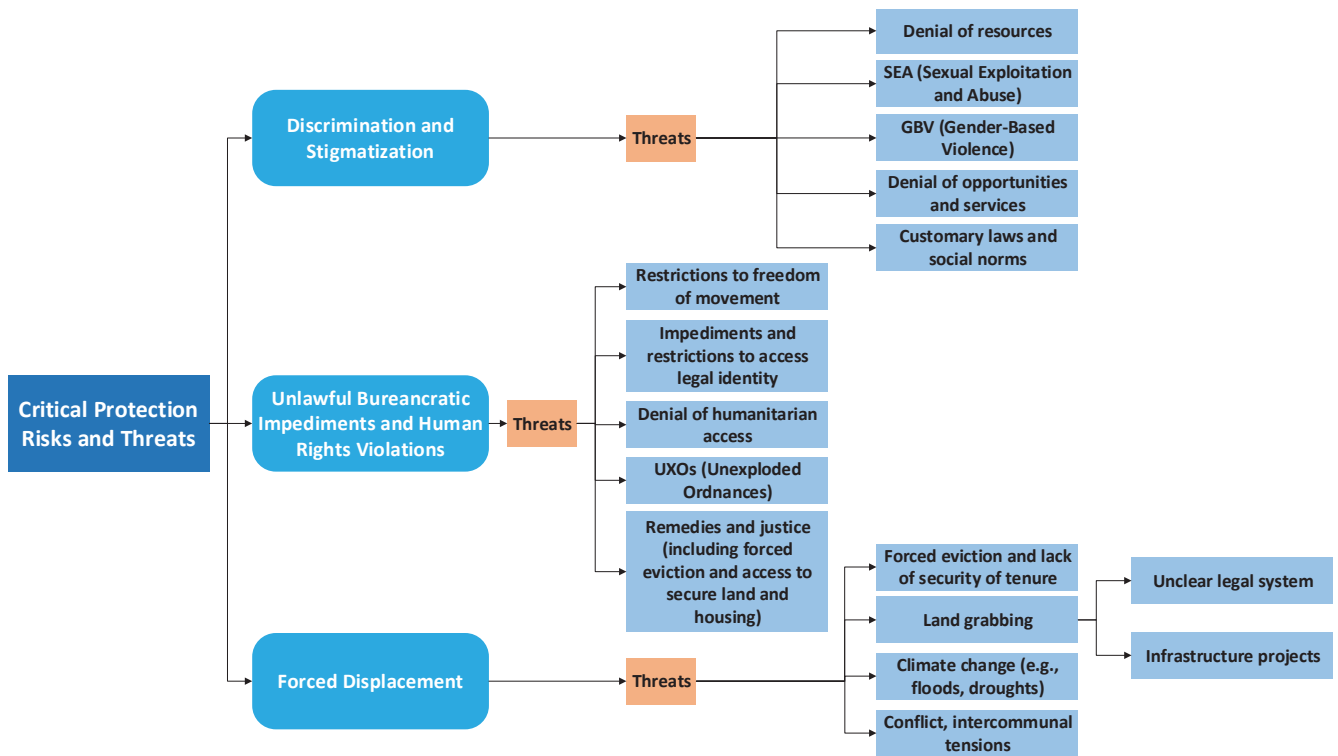
¹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan for the UN General Assembly, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, August 2024 - <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/253/29/pdf/n2425329.pdf>



2. Context

A more fulsome overview of the Afghanistan context and protection situation is provided by recent Protection Analysis Updates published by the Protection Cluster as well as other documents, such as the 2025 Afghanistan HNRP and the Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team Centrality of Protection Strategy (endorsed in August 2024).

To highlight some of the prioritized protection risks the humanitarian sector is addressing in Afghanistan, the Humanitarian Country Team presented the following diagram as part of the HCT Centrality of Protection Strategy, with the APC is actively contributing to.



The HCT CoP Strategy sets out the broader frame for APC advocacy efforts, which will contribute to the implementation of the CoP Strategy and advance on a particular prioritized protection risks.

Afghanistan faces a severe protection crisis worsened by decades of conflict, political instability, climate disasters, and entrenched discrimination. Women, girls, persons with disabilities (PWD), minorities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and youth are especially vulnerable, facing severe restrictions on rights, freedom of movement, and access to essential services like education, healthcare, and livelihoods. Discriminatory policies and laws, such as the recent PVPV law, have deepened the marginalization of women and girls, increasing gender-based violence, including early/child marriage, increasing child labour, and psychological distress. Persons with disabilities face widespread discrimination and restricted access to services as well as limited specialized services, worsening their exclusion. Decades of conflict and natural hazards have led to significant internal displacement, with an estimated 6.3 million people in protracted displacement, with many having been displaced multiple times, and who are exposed to protection risks, including trafficking, family separation, exploitation, discrimination, and abuse. This is compounded by an influx of returnees from Pakistan and Iran, straining resources and increasing the risk of eviction, especially in informal settlements, underlining the need for durable solutions. Displaced people often lack adequate housing, civil documentation, employment opportunities, and social support. At the same time, some 191,500 people residing in nearly 600 informal settlements (ISETS) are at high risk of eviction due to DfA initiatives to return them to their places of origin and develop state land. Afghanistan also faces extensive explosive ordnance contamination, resulting in approximately 50 civilian casualties each month, with over 80% of the victims being children. Afghanistan has a young population, with 63% under 25 and 46% under 15. Youth face challenges such as limited education, employment opportunities, meaningful participation leading them to resort to harmful coping mechanisms, such as drug addiction, violent extremism, child labor, early/child marriage and



economic exploitation. Around 1.5 million secondary school-aged girls are out of school, further limiting their opportunities, while a ban on women and girls attending private medical institutions restricts access to essential services and employment as well as long term maternal and child health implications. Mental health needs are rising, with many, especially women and children, suffering from the impacts of violence, displacement, and isolation. The situation is worsened by restrictions on MHPSS services, especially in Kandahar province. These challenges will likely continue to deplete the population’s ability to cope, diminishing its capacity for self-protection and pushing many to resort to harmful coping mechanisms.

The humanitarian response is hindered by bureaucratic delays, restrictions on aid workers, and insufficient funding, leaving many without the help they need. The protection risks requiring immediate attention in the period covered by this analysis are:

1. **Discrimination and stigmatization – denial of resources, opportunities, services and/or humanitarian access**
2. **Presence of mines and other explosive ordnance**
3. **Gender-based violence**
4. **Unlawful impediments and/or restrictions to freedom of movement, forced displacement and threats of forced eviction**
5. **Impediments and/or restrictions to access legal Identity, remedies and justice**

Addressing these complex protection risks will require sustained, inclusive, and robust humanitarian assistance, along with a concerted effort to advocate for the rights and protection of Afghanistan’s most vulnerable populations².



Herat, Afghanistan © UNHCR/Oxygen Media Empire

² See: [Afghanistan Protection Cluster Strategy 2025-2027](#)



3. Strategy Aims and Principles

This document aims to outline the strategic framework and priorities for the Afghanistan Protection Cluster's advocacy efforts, reflecting its mandate and core functions, as well as the particular protection-related threats, vulnerabilities and capacities that crisis-affected communities in Afghanistan are experiencing. The document aims to help shape advocacy efforts during the 2025 - 2027 period, in alignment with the Afghanistan Protection Cluster Strategy for 2025-2027 and the Humanitarian Country Team Centrality of Protection Strategy, with adjustments and updates to be made on a regular basis, particularly with the Action Plan in annex.

APC Advocacy Guiding Principles and Red Lines:

- Our advocacy efforts are grounded in **International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law and International Refugee Law**. We identify priority protection risks to be addressed based on the fulsome recognition of people's human rights, and advance advocacy with the aim of contributing to the realization of these rights.
- We are committed, in all aspects of our work, to **do no harm**. Advocacy on protection risks and priorities can entail particular implications and potential risks, including for partners, staff and, most importantly, for communities themselves. In our advocacy efforts, we will carry out joint risk assessments with relevant partners and allies, plan and implement mitigation measures and ensure decision-making is reflective of a range of perspectives and potential impacts that seeks to 'do no harm'.
- Our advocacy is focused on amplifying community priorities and **ensuring the perspectives and leadership of those affected by crisis are shaping the decisions that impact them**. We will prioritize ongoing community engagement in identifying advocacy priorities, work with diverse civil society groups, local actors and affected people in advancing advocacy actions and provide ongoing feedback to communities about the actions being taken to address the protection risks they are experiencing.
- We believe in the value and impact of **collaborative and complementary approaches** to protection advocacy. We recognize the APC has a critical role to play in advancing protection advocacy. This may involve leading on advocacy efforts, in line with our strengths, or it may involve supporting others to lead, playing a catalyzing, contributing and/or coordinating role.
 - * This includes particular attention and effort paid to how the APC can actively contribute to and help advance the advocacy efforts being led via:
 - Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team's [Centrality of Protection strategy](#) and advocacy roadmap;
 - Afghanistan Gender Equality and Empowerment Strategy;
 - Afghanistan Humanitarian Access Working Group's Strategy;
 - * All APC advocacy efforts should contribute to advancing and continually informing the APC's Strategy 2025-2027 (finalized in December 2024).
- We will continue to uphold and further advance shared principles and commitments that cut across humanitarian and protection work, particularly as they relate to the **full inclusion and participation of women and girls in all aspects of the humanitarian response**.

APC Advocacy Strengths and Approaches

The APC is a network of diverse protection actors reflecting a range of protection and human rights expertise, different operational presence and profile across the country and varied advocacy approaches. The role of the Protection Cluster with advocacy efforts is to help advance collaborative protection-focused advocacy efforts that serves to support, add-value to and amplify protection-focused change efforts.

APC Advocacy Strengths:



Relationships & Access

APC coordination team and members have a range of relationships and entry points with key stakeholders involved in different aspects of protection across the country. This includes national-level relationships and engagement with de facto Line Ministries at the Kabul level, with the HCT and



civil society groups, for examples, as well as a range of relationships at regional and local levels, including with provincial governorates/civil servants, religious and community leaders and, most importantly, with affected populations.

These diverse relationships also mean that APC members have access to different decision-making spaces and platforms, from local to global levels, particularly within the humanitarian sector, and access to a range of different communities and constituencies.



Credibility

The APC and its members are engaged in a range of data and evidence gathering initiatives, including protection monitoring and joint protection analysis. Such efforts are linked with the regular sharing of analysis, priorities and recommendations, including via publications and briefings on protection risks and what’s needed to address root causes and impacts on different communities.

The APC has a strong collective and credible voice, bringing together 70+ protection partner organizations, from local actors to international ones, that have a range of presence, programming and interventions across the country. This translates into greater persuasive power, with the ability to bring forward key advocacy efforts that are grounded in a strong evidence base and operational presence that reflects the experiences, capacities and needs of crisis-affected Afghan people.



Risk Tolerance

The APC is a network and thus representative of a diverse range of profiles when it comes to operational presence, and relatedly, with risk tolerance. There is particular strength in a networked approach to advocacy in a restricted and sensitive context like Afghanistan. This networked approach does not mean that all advocacy actions must be joint or unified, but what it does translate into is a collaborative, coordinated approach that can leverage the different roles, levels of risk tolerance and profiles of partners be taken forward with an agreed on mix of advocacy approaches and actions.

Importantly, the pronounced risks that national and local partners face in advancing protection advocacy with duty bearers must be carefully considered and mitigated against. The particular assessment of risks and development/implementation of related risk management plans will be done collaboratively with concerned partners and communities, with ongoing consultation and adjustment.

APC Approaches to Advocacy

Persuasion	Mobilization	Denunciation
<p>APC members aim to persuade decision-makers within the DFA of needed policy and practice change, based on a core foundation in terms of enhanced understanding by the DFA of relevant protection risks and related impacts on people, what they can do to reduce such protection risks and the related benefits of strengthening access to basic needs and rights.</p> <p>Persuasion forms the primary vector for change the APC will pursue through its advocacy efforts.</p>	<p>APC will further mobilize allies at regional, national and global levels, including third party Member States and donor governments, certain allies within the DFA, allied religious leaders and key influencers in the Afghan context, development actors, human rights actors and civil society networks.</p> <p>This mobilization will help advance persuasion efforts as the APC looks to engage with a range of stakeholders to apply coordinated pressure on the DFA via private channels and entry points.</p>	<p>APC will primarily use private approaches and channels with its advocacy efforts, particularly in leveraging any denunciation-focused approaches.</p> <p>The Protection Cluster plays an important role in bringing forward protection risks and impacts on people and this clear communication may strategically leverage denunciation. However, denunciation will be used only when relevant, recognizing the positioning/strengths of the APC and the primacy of positive engagement in advancing influencing efforts in Afghanistan, particularly with the DFA.</p>



More on Advocacy Targets:

Primary - The DFA has not been seemingly/visibly influenced by external or internal pressure to date. They have continued to issue increasingly repressive decrees while being publicly denounced by Member States and the diaspora while repressing signs of internal opposition to such policies. It is unlikely there will be an official reversal of such positioning in the near term, but the potential for continued flexibility with implementation of various restrictive measures, particularly those where implementation relies on officials at sub-regional levels. It remains unclear what might change the calculations of DFA leadership but what is clear is that varied and consistent engagement is needed with multiple levels of the DFA, reflecting their heterogeneous interests and positioning – including regular engagement with de facto Line Ministries, regional officials etc.

Primary – local authorities, religious and community leaders. While many of these local stakeholders may not have official decision-making power over key policies and provisions that are impacting the protection of communities, they often do have some purview over if/how policies are implemented and may also represent allies for protection actors who have particular entry points and influence with DFA decision-makers.

Secondary/Allies - Donors are putting forward a range of different policies and positioning, many of which are limiting the ability of protection and humanitarian actors to fully engage with the DFA in support of protection. While meetings and discussions are possible, humanitarian actors continue to be limited with other forms of technical assistance and engagement, which can help with further influencing. This includes providing technical support to development of technical SOPs, technical advice on thematic strategies, etc. Therefore, helping to inform the positioning of donors vis-a-vis the DFA and protection issues is a priority.

Secondary/Allies - Regional member states and mechanisms play a particularly important role in engaging with and influencing the DFA, given shared interests and, in some instances, more trusting relationships, particularly when compared with global north/western Member States who have been parties to the conflict and/or more vocal/condemnatory on human rights considerations. While the APC does not necessarily have established channels and relationships with all relevant member States and platforms in the region, the APC will work with the HCT and other humanitarian and human rights leaders to inform their engagements with Member States in the region and to look for suitable entry points for more direct engagement on the basis of humanitarian protection risks and priorities.

Secondary/Allies - Human Rights Mechanisms are not a particularly influential set of actors at present with the DFA itself. However, they do provide an advocacy channel that can be further utilized and mobilized, including in informing donor/Member State positioning and supporting accountability efforts over the long-term.



Faizabad, Badakhshan © UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media



4. APC Advocacy Goals and Objectives

Theory of Change

If the relevant authorities and stakeholders have a greater understanding of protection risks and their negative impacts on affected people, and they are persuaded to act on the benefits of policy and practice related actions they can take to reduce harms, including via pressure from influential allies and leaders in Afghanistan and the region, then they will limit the introduction and implementation of discriminatory policies and practices, and support greater access to protection, including by enabling improved access to protection by women and girls and other marginalized groups and for female humanitarian workers to engage in delivering protection services.

Advocacy Goals and Objectives

Advocacy Goal 1: lead and contribute to **preventing, reducing and addressing incidents of evictions and forced displacement including family separation**, and the harms associated with them, while supporting related protective legal and policy frameworks and access to services for affected people.

APC Advocacy Contributions:

Reducing Protection Threats

- Prevent and stop Forced Evictions
 - * Advocate with relevant authorities for moratorium on evictions and pursue on-site solutions
 - * In cases where evictions are necessary, advocate for authorities to follow international standards before, during and after eviction
 - * Advocate with authorities for the promulgation of laws on safeguarding people from forced eviction
- Advocating for different measures to stop deportations and forced returns including family separation.
 - * Advocate with allied donors and Member States to engage with neighboring countries on stopping deportations
 - * Lead conversations and efforts to mitigate and prevent family separation.

Reducing Vulnerabilities

- Strengthen access to Civil Documentation, including for forced evictees/IDPs/returnees/refugees.
 - * Advocate with authorities for reduced costs and/or exemptions from costs, addressing of transportation barriers and streamlined, clarified procedures with a particular focus on highly vulnerable persons, including forcibly evicted/displaced persons, returnees, persons with disabilities, women-headed households.
 - * Amplify advocacy with authorities for improved access civil documentation in areas of high return (jointly with humanitarian agencies)
 - * Advocacy to equip the NSIA office to facilitate civil documentation services.
 - * Work with stakeholders to reduce the impact and consequences of child labor.
- Ensure equitable access to protection and services for forcibly evicted and displaced/returning persons as well as host communities
 - * Advocate with authorities and donors to support access to services ((e.g. education for children, primary health services) for persons without civil documentation
 - * Advocate for access to legal aid/women lawyers etc.

Advocacy Goal 2: Contribute to the **safety and security** of women, girls, men and boys through reduced exposure to violence, harassment and abuse and ensure they can access needed supports when such incidents do occur.



APC Advocacy Contributions

Reducing Protection Threats

- Advocate for scaled-up efforts to address presence of explosive ordnance
 - * Engage and advocate with de facto authorities and other stakeholders for an environment that is free of explosive ordnance through prevention measures, survey and clearance of hazards;
 - * Advocate for strengthened funding for mine clearance;
- Prevent, address and mitigate violence, harassment and abuse against civilians especially women and girls
 - * Ensure protection monitoring and other evidence gathering mechanisms are able to capture relevant incidents and patterns with perpetrators and build linkages with other data collection systems, human rights actors etc.
 - * Engage and advocate with relevant de facto authorities to put in place needed measures that support greater protection from violence, harassment and abuse.
- Prevent, reduce and stop harmful practices and coping strategies, including child labour and forced marriage that are disproportionately impacting girls and boys
 - * Engage with and sensitize communities about the harmful impacts of child labour, forced marriages etc.
 - * Work with stakeholders and government stakeholders to prevent and respond to worst form of child labor and its impact.

Vulnerabilities

- Address vulnerabilities and exposure to mine risks
 - * Advocate for increased ability of protection and humanitarian actors to provide mine risk education services, including via community engagement;
 - * Engage with donors for increased funding supports to mine action efforts, including by specialized agencies as well as across Clusters/sectors
 - * Advocate for mainstreaming of mine risk education across Clusters and humanitarian partners
- Ensure equal rights and access to services for persons with disabilities, including survivors of land mines
 - * Advocate with de facto authorities for cost exemptions, additional travel supports and other measures to support victims' ability to receive assistance etc.
- Ensure equitable access to services for children and adults experiencing violence, harassment and/or abuse

Advocacy Goal 3: Facilitate an **enabling, equitable, accountable, safe and accessible protection environment** for protection actors through increased advocacy engagements which address discriminatory policies and unlawful administrative impediments, contributing to enhanced access to protection and service delivery for women and girls and other marginalized populations.

APC Advocacy Contributions:

Addressing the threat

- Contributing to a safer working environment for women humanitarian workers that enables their full participation
 - * Advocate to ensure women humanitarian workers' safe and full participation to operations.
- The particular assessment of risks and development/implementation of related risk management plans will



be done collaboratively with concerned partners and communities, with ongoing consultation and adjustment.

- Ensure protection actors can operate in ways that enable the full range of protection interventions
 - * Advocate for protection actors to be able to safely operate and deliver on their mandates and implement protection activities/services based on clear regulations and guidelines, timely approvals in terms of registration, workplan approvals etc. from technical line ministries.
 - * Ensure impediments within protection related MoUs are solved by ensuring standard clauses are in line with humanitarian principles and Ministries process them in a timely manner.

Reducing vulnerabilities

- Enable better access to services for women and girls and needed interim measures
 - * Advocate for donors to offer flexible coverage of cost such as Mahram costs (including honorarium/ salary for male guardian), gender segregated transport and office facilities etc.
 - * Advocate with HCT and humanitarian actors for improved, equitable access and participation of affected populations, particularly women and girls, in all stages of humanitarian programming. (GEEWG Strategy)
 - * Advocate with HCT, Clusters and donors to ensure all protection activities are integrated within the humanitarian response to ease the authorization process and smoothen implementation
 - * Advocate with authorities for female-headed households with no mahram (widows, single women) to have equal access to services (e.g. health, shelter); access to judiciary for women without mahram;



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5. Tracking and Measuring Change

The APC is committed to actively monitoring and evaluating its influencing efforts, including through capturing both advocacy outputs and outcomes. Such efforts aim to both support ongoing learning and related adaptation of the APC's advocacy strategy, aiming for it to be as effective as possible, as well as support understanding of how the APC's advocacy efforts are contributing to desired changes.

The impacts of advocacy are recognized across humanitarian, development and human rights sectors as particularly difficult to fully capture and measure, reflecting the complexity of determining what factors and actors may have contributed to or led to changes to behaviours, policies and practices. Taking this into account, the APC will focus on tracking specific advocacy actions undertaken (i.e. outputs) as well as qualitative understandings of how these advocacy actions are contributing to desired change(s) (i.e. outcomes).

In tracking and measuring contributions to desired change, the APC will use monitoring and evaluation methodologies that are best suited to advocacy efforts.

Tracking Advocacy Outputs. APC will track and regularly share advocacy actions led by the Coordination team and members, with related reflections to support learning, strategy iteration and accountability. Such efforts will help capture the full range of advocacy efforts and actions undertaken and identify what further actions may be needed. For example, such tracking will capture the number of meetings held with DFA representatives and other advocacy targets, and the number of advocacy products produced on particular protection risks/priorities. Based on this tracking, the APC can have further discussions with members and allies on the focus of advocacy efforts, related learnings and where there may need to be shifts in focus.

On a quarterly basis the APC will review the action plan to track progress and update the action plan. And, at the end of the year, the APC will conduct a mini assessment of the action plan and develop corrective actions.

Outcome Harvesting is an "M&E methodology used to identify, describe, verify and analyse outcomes. In the context of outcome harvesting, an outcome is defined as "a change in the behaviour, relationships, actions, activities, policies, or practices of an individual, group, community, organisation, or institution" (Wilson-Grau and Britt 2013). Outcome harvesting is designed to collect evidence of change (the 'outcomes') and then work backwards to assess whether or how an organisation, programme or project contributed to that change."³ The APC will convene periodic reflection sessions with its Advocacy Advisory Group and other relevant members to engage in outcome harvesting at relevant points in the year, aiming to further understand relevant changes, how APC advocacy efforts have contributed and further iterate/adapt advocacy plans. Further information and guidance on this methodology is available via CIVICUS and Intrac⁴.

Annex 1 – Governance - Advocacy Reference Group / Advocacy Core Group

The APC will convene an 'Advocacy Advisory Group', composed of APC member organization's advocacy focal points and engaged colleagues to advise and steer APC advocacy efforts. The APC's SAG will also be regularly updated on relevant advocacy priorities, actions and impacts.

The APC's Advisory Group will be convened on an ad hoc basis to contribute to APC advocacy strategy development, priorities, implementation plans, joint efforts, monitoring and learning. The Advisory Group will remain informal for the initial period of this strategy implementation, to be further formalized or re-structured depending on need.

In general, the APC Advisory Group will be convened 2-4 times a year and consulted on an ad hoc basis regarding particular advocacy priorities and efforts. Members of the Advisory Group will also actively contribute to or lead on particular protection advocacy priorities, as set out in the APC advocacy strategy or as agreed on via the Group and in line with their organizational priorities.

Annex 2 – Stakeholder Mapping

To be developed/linked with HCT CoP and HAWG stakeholder mapping efforts

³ Intrac, Outcome Harvesting, available at: <https://www.intrac.org/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Outcome-harvesting.pdf>

⁴ CIVICUS, Outcome Harvesting, available at: <https://monitoring-toolkits.civicus.org/toolkit/outcome-harvesting/>



Advocacy Action Plan (January 2025 – Dec 2025)

Cross-Cutting: Increased understanding of, visibility and support for the protection dimensions of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan amongst key stakeholders				
Advocacy Aims	Actions	Targets & Audiences	Lead & Timelines	Measurement
<p>Advocacy priorities are grounded in community engagement related to protection risks and advocacy priorities, feedback mechanisms</p>	<p>APC Establish collaboration and joint efforts with AAP Working Group;</p> <p>APC to provide guidance, supports for member engagement and feedback mechanisms with communities on advocacy priorities;</p> <p>APC to contribute to joint AAP initiatives/ feedback mechanisms</p> <p>Develop advocacy/engagement messages to be used with community-level gatekeepers (especially local DFAs and community leaders) to mitigate interference in the delivery of humanitarian aid which often leads to protection risks for particularly vulnerable groups (e.g. forced redistribution of assistance, elite capturing, etc.).</p> <p>Women led organizations in Afghanistan play an important role in the strategy or action plan- targeted inclusion and cooperation.</p>	<p>Clusters HCT Women led organizations</p>	<p>APC</p>	<p># of advocacy-focused consultations, feedback sessions with communities</p> <p># of feedback mechanisms/initiatives that take into account advocacy efforts</p>
<p>Inform and influence country-level humanitarian planning, funding and advocacy in support of protection priorities</p>	<p>Quarterly / Ad Hoc Donor Briefings at country level, regular briefings on protection and related advocacy priorities to HCT</p> <p>Regular Protection Analysis Updates and Briefing/Advocacy Notes</p> <p>Protection-focused narratives as part of HPC, pooled fund and other key planning/funding processes</p>	<p>Allied donors at country/regional level</p> <p>OCHA and CBPF</p>	<p>APC Coordination Team</p>	<p># of donor briefings; HCT briefings</p> <p># of analysis and advocacy related products</p> <p>Tracking of CBPF/CERF allocations</p> <p>Review of HNRP</p>



Advocacy Aims	Actions	Targets & Audiences	Lead & Timelines	Measurement
Inform and influence donor/MS positioning, policy and humanitarian diplomacy	<p>Global and country-level Donor and Member State briefings and engagement</p> <p>Protection Analysis Updates and Briefing/Advocacy Notes;</p> <p>Advance protection priorities via human rights mechanisms, special procedures mandate holders etc.</p>	Donor and MS representatives - Kabul, region, capital, Geneva, NY	APC GPC	<p># of briefings, submissions</p> <p># of analysis and advocacy related products</p>
Inform and influence relevant UNGA and UNSC processes and decisions, including re. the UNAMA Mandate	<p>Submit written inputs prior to IEG on PoC discussions and UNSC/UNGA decision-making;</p> <p>Ad hoc briefings and advocacy products such as briefs, private letters etc.</p>	UN Security Council Penholder for Afghanistan (Norway) and Members – including via Informal Expert Group on PoC	<p>APC and GPC</p> <p>Ongoing – including in advance of March 2025 decision re UNAMA mandate</p>	<p># of briefings, submissions</p> <p>Reflections on protection-focused changes to narratives, decisions etc.</p>
Inform and influence relevant Human Rights processes, including CEDAW Review	<p>Submit confidential written inputs to inform CEDAW Review of Afghanistan</p> <p>Ad hoc briefings and advocacy products with Human Rights Mechanisms, including Special Procedures Mandate Holders</p>	Human rights mechanisms States	<p>APC and GPC - in collaboration with GiHA for CEDAW; with OHCHR etc.</p> <p>In advance of June 2025 review</p>	<p># of briefings, submissions, meetings etc.</p> <p>Tracking of recommendations, public products that adopt/reflect protection priorities</p>
<p>Advocacy Goal 1: contribute to preventing, reducing and addressing incidents of evictions and forced displacement, and the harms associated with them, while supporting related protective legal and policy frameworks and access to services for affected people.</p>				
Strengthen understanding of impacts of forced evictions and policy/practice related alternatives	<p>Develop case studies, conduct consultations and other evidence gathering activities that help demonstrate negative impacts on people/communities (including humanitarian, economic etc.)</p> <p>Develop synthesis reports, briefs, notes with strong narratives on impacts and policy/practice recommendations regarding specific actions the authorities can take to stop/limit forced evictions.</p>	<p>DFA – Kabul and national level</p> <p>Donors, human rights mechanisms</p>	HLP AoR	<p># of briefs/reports issued on impacts of forced evictions</p> <p>Tracking of allies who are mobilized in support of this issue/advocacy</p>



Advocacy Aims	Actions	Targets & Audiences	Lead & Timelines	Measurement
<p>Advocate with authorities for the promulgation of laws on safeguarding people from forced eviction</p>	<p>Develop narratives, reports, briefs, notes etc.</p> <p>Bring forward comparative examples and case studies from the region/other context;</p>	<p>DFA at national level</p> <p>Donors, Human rights mechanisms</p>	<p>HLP AoR</p>	<p># of meetings/discussions/submissions with DFA</p> <p>Tracking of supportive members of DFA, drafting/development of policies/laws etc.</p>
<p>Advocate with relevant authorities for moratorium on evictions and pursue on-site solutions -</p> <p>In cases where evictions are necessary, advocate for authorities to follow international standards before, during and after eviction</p>	<p>Develop narratives, reports, briefs, notes etc.</p> <p>Bring forward comparative examples and case studies from the region/other context;</p>	<p>DFA at national level</p> <p>Donors, Human rights mechanisms</p>	<p>HLP AoR</p>	<p># of meetings/discussions/submissions</p> <p>Monitoring of moratoriums and related changes to policy/practice</p>
<p>Contribute to strengthened access to Civil Documentation, including for forced evictees/IDPs/returnees/refugees</p>	<p>Advocate with authorities for reduced costs and/or exemptions from costs, addressing of transportation barriers and streamlined, clarified procedures with a particular focus on highly vulnerable persons, including forcibly evicted/displaced persons, returnees, persons with disabilities, women-headed households;</p> <p>Advocate with authorities and donors to support access to services ((e.g. education for children, primary health services) for persons without civil documentation</p> <p>Amplify advocacy with authorities for improved access civil documentation in areas of high return (jointly with humanitarian agencies)</p>	<p>DFA – national and regional levels</p> <p>Donors</p>	<p>APC</p>	<p># of advocacy products (briefs, notes, letters, submissions etc.)</p> <p># of meetings/engagements with DFA on the topic</p> <p># of meetings/engagements with donors on the topic</p> <p>Monitoring changes to narratives, policies, practices etc. of key targets</p>



Advocacy Aims	Actions	Targets & Audiences	Lead & Timelines	Measurement
	<p>Advocacy to equip the NSIA office to facilitate civil documentation services</p> <p>Advocate with de facto authorities to ensure equitable access to justice and dispute resolution</p> <p>Advocate with de facto authorities to include women in justice structure to promote women to women services</p>			
<p>Ensure equitable access to protection and services for forcibly evicted and displaced/returning persons as well as host communities</p>	<p>Advocate with authorities and donors to support access to services ((e.g. education for children, primary health services) for persons without civil documentation</p>	<p>DFA</p> <p>Donors</p> <p>Clusters</p>	<p>APC</p>	
<p>Advocating for different measures to stop deportations and forced returns</p>	<p>Advocate with allied donors and Member States to engage with neighbouring countries on stopping deportations</p>	<p>Allied Donors/MS – to Neighbouring Member States</p>	<p>APC</p>	
<p>Advocacy Goal 2: Contribute to the safety and security of women, girls, men and boys through reduced exposure to violence, harassment and abuse and ensure they can access needed supports when such incidents do occur.</p>				
<p>Advocate for scaled up efforts to address presence of explosive ordnance</p>	<p>Engage and advocate with authorities and other stakeholders for an environment that is free of explosive ordnance through prevention measures, survey and clearance of hazards;</p> <p>Advocate for strengthened funding for mine clearance;</p>	<p>DFA – local, regional and national levels</p> <p>Donors</p> <p>Clusters</p> <p>HCT</p>	<p>MA AoR</p>	
<p>Advocate for enhanced efforts to addressing vulnerabilities and exposure to mine risks</p>	<p>Advocate for increased ability of protection and humanitarian actors to provide mine risk education services, including via community engagement;</p> <p>Engage with donors for increased funding supports to mine action efforts, including by specialized agencies as well as across Clusters/sectors;</p>	<p>Donors</p>	<p>MA AoR</p>	



Advocacy Aims	Actions	Targets & Audiences	Lead & Timelines	Measurement
	<p>Advocate for mainstreaming of mine risk education and active referrals across Clusters and humanitarian partners</p>			
<p>Contribute to preventing, addressing and mitigating violence, harassment and abuse against civilians especially women and girls</p>	<p>Ensure protection monitoring and other evidence gathering mechanisms are able to capture relevant incidents and patterns with perpetrators, build linkages with other data collection systems, human rights actors and produce regular advocacy products, briefings, engagements that bring forward this evidence/related recommendations;</p> <p>Engage and advocate with relevant authorities to put in place needed measures that support greater protection from violence, harassment and abuse- advocating for safe spaces where women can be supported (by women) in addressing their and family needs</p>	<p>Clusters HCT</p>	<p>GBV AoR, CP AoR</p>	
<p>Prevent, reduce and stop harmful practices and coping strategies, including child labour and forced marriage that are disproportionately impacting girls and boys</p>	<p>Advocate for a legal minimum age for marriage;</p> <p>Advocate for labour law protections and legal age minimums;</p> <p>Engage with and sensitize communities about the harmful impacts of child labour, forced marriages etc.</p>	<p>DFA and local authorities</p> <p>Religious and community leaders</p>	<p>CP AoR</p>	<p># of products, briefings, submissions etc.</p> <p>Tracking of narratives and positioning</p>
<p>Advocate for equal rights and access to services for all persons experiencing pronounced exclusion/vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Advocate with authorities for cost exemptions, additional travel supports and other measures to support victims' ability to receive assistance etc. (including for persons with disabilities, survivors of land mines etc.)</p> <p>Ensure equitable access to services for children and adults experiencing violence, harassment and/or abuse</p>		<p>APC</p>	



Advocacy Aims	Actions	Targets & Audiences	Lead & Timelines	Measurement
Advocacy Goal 3: Facilitate an enabling, equitable, accountable, safe and accessible protection environment through increased advocacy engagements which address discriminatory policies and unlawful administrative impediments, contributing to enhanced access to protection and service delivery for women and girls and other marginalized populations.				
Contribute to a safer working environment for women humanitarian workers that enables their full participation	Advocate for a stop to the implementation of restrictive decrees that are limiting women humanitarian worker's full participation	DFA Local leaders	APC	
Support the ability for protection actors to operate in ways that enable the full range of protection interventions	Advocate for protection actors to be able to safely operate and deliver on their mandates and implement protection activities/services based on clear regulations and guidelines, timely approvals in terms of registration, workplan approvals etc. from technical line ministries. Ensure impediments within protection related MoUs are solved by ensuring standard clauses are in line with humanitarian principles and Ministries process them in a timely manner.	DFA Donors Clusters	APC with support from OCHA/HCT	
Enable better access to services for women and girls and needed interim measures	Advocate for donors to offer flexible coverage of cost such as Mahram costs (including honorarium/salary for male guardian), gender segregated transport and office facilities etc.; Advocate with HCT and humanitarian actors for improved, equitable access and participation of affected populations, particularly women and girls, in all stages of humanitarian programming. (GEEWG Strategy) Advocate with authorities for female-headed households with no mahram (widows, single women) to have equal access to services (e.g. health, shelter); access to judiciary for women without mahram; Advocate with donors, HCT and humanitarian actors to promote gender inclusive/ responsive principled actions.	Donors HCT, Clusters DFA	APC and GBV AoR	