



Global Protection Cluster

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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**Cover Image:** *Afghanistan*. Tens of thousands of Afghans return from Pakistan through Afghanistan's official border crossings.  
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## FOREWORD BY THE GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER COORDINATOR

The year 2024 saw a sharp rise in protection risks, both in scale and complexity. A challenging global context, marked by escalating conflicts, climate change, pervasive violence, hunger, and economic collapse relentlessly weakened the resilience of the most vulnerable populations. As we move into 2025, it is clear that this crisis trajectory remains on an upward climb, with an **estimated 166 million people of all ages, gender and diverse backgrounds**, across 32 operations requiring protection.

Over the past year, we have felt the increasing urgency of protection challenges, particularly in emergencies such as those in Sudan, Palestine, Haiti, and the DRC, as well as the ongoing crises in the Middle East, Myanmar, Ethiopia, and the Sahel. We continue to see high levels of need in protracted crises like Yemen, Syria, and Afghanistan. These situations underscore the critical importance of a **united protection community**, supporting locally led efforts to break cycles of violence.

As we face significant challenges at the outset of this year, this **Global Protection Cluster Annual Report** provides an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and the challenges we face, to recognize the strength of our network, and identify areas where we can improve. It marks the conclusion of our current Strategic Framework, which has guided the work of the GPC and its partners over the past five years. It also marks my first as Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, a role I am honoured to undertake within this dynamic and diverse network of protection experts, and the outstanding team in our Operations Cell.

In 2024, we hosted a **Protection Conference**, fostering valuable connections with country cluster and Area of Responsibility (AoR) coordinators, and convened the **Protection Forum** with remarkable and diverse participation. Together with AoR Global Coordinators, we visited Ethiopia, witnessing the good work of the cluster firsthand and supported the prioritisation of protection efforts. The wide range of activities led by the GPC community also included significant efforts in conducting protection risk analyses, with 23 Protection Analyses Updates published, strengthening our joint protection narrative and identifying key risks to support the Centrality of Protection across operations.

Looking ahead, our new *Strategic Framework 2025 – 2030* will guide our efforts as we continue to support country clusters, enhance protection responses, and convene partners to amplify the global protection voice. **Together with our 2,825 partners and our Areas of Responsibility, we aim to reach 70 million individuals** in the most challenging contexts, where Protection Clusters are driving collective efforts to mitigate risks and protect lives.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to prioritising frontline efforts, while also shaping the global protection agenda and simplifying processes. Our goal is to provide accountable leadership, foster predictability and flexibility, and cultivate a strong sense of community. We strive to ensure the effective coordination of quality protection responses to achieve meaningful outcomes for those most in need.

Finally, I want to express my deep gratitude to all frontline protection actors and cluster coordination teams. **Your dedication to supporting those who bear the brunt of violence, discrimination and inequality is an inspiration.** In the face of immense challenges, your tireless efforts not only provide essential support and safety but also restore a sense of dignity and humanity to those who have endured unimaginable hardships.

We stand ready to support your work, help elevate your narratives and collaborate with you to improve the lives and uphold the dignity of crisis-affected communities.



Josep Herreros

Global Protection Cluster Coordinator

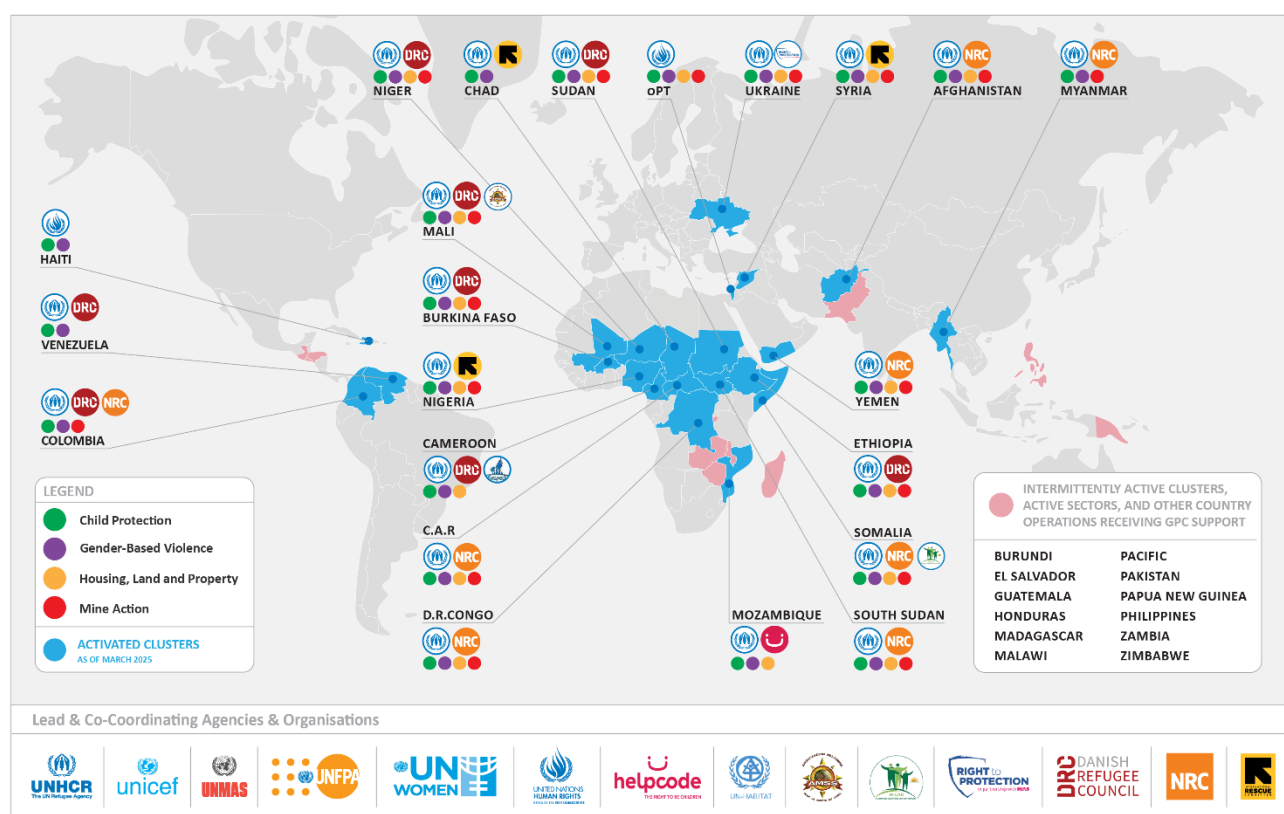
## THE GPC AND OUR FIELD PROTECTION CLUSTERS

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is a diverse network of local responders and actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and United Nations (UN) agencies, dedicated to protection work in humanitarian crises, including those caused by conflict and disasters. The GPC is mandated by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), coordinated by a Global Coordinator, led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), governed by a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), and serviced by a multi-partner Operations Cell.

The GPC brings together members, partners and communities to address the full spectrum of protection activities, including through its four specialized Areas of Responsibility (AoRs): Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Housing, Land and Property, and Mine Action, as well as through Task Teams and Working Groups: Information and Analysis, Cash for Protection, Advocacy, Anti-trafficking and Law and Policy.

For more information about who we are, our work and operations, and access to key tools and guidance, please visit our [website](https://www.gpc@unhcr.org). For inquiries, please contact: [gpc@unhcr.org](mailto:gpc@unhcr.org).

## FIELD PROTECTION CLUSTER PRESENCE



## THE STATE OF PROTECTION IN 2024

In 2024, the global protection landscape deteriorated significantly due to escalating armed conflicts, unprecedented levels of forced displacement, and the growing impact of climate-related disasters. The number of individuals in need of protection increased to **170 million**, representing a **4% increase compared to 2023**. Notably, 75% of Protection Clusters operated in environments affected by armed conflict and generalised violence, resulting in significant civilian casualties and widespread displacement across multiple regions.

### Critical Protection Risks

The GPC tracks 15 key protection risks, assessing their severity on a scale from minor (1) to extreme (5). Data from 25 operations in 2024 highlighted the most pervasive and severe risks as: gender-based violence, forced displacement, psychosocial distress, attacks on civilians, legal identity violations, and theft or eviction. These risks reflect the compounded vulnerabilities faced by affected populations in crisis settings. A detailed summary of these trends is presented in the table below. Additional information on the methodology is available for [reference](#) together with the [types of protection risks](#) assessed.

	OPT	SDN	NGA	MMR	MOZ	SSD	BFA	SOM	AFG	SYR-Dam	HTI	NER	DRC	SYR-NW	MLI	COL	T-CD	SYR-NE	HND	SLV	CMR	ETH	VEN	GTM	> LEVEL 4 RISK	LEVEL 5 RISK
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	22	10
MOVEMENT & DISPLACEMENT	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	2	3	3	18	6
ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	3	3	2	3	2	4	3	2	1	15	7
PSYCHOSOCIAL	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	5	5	3	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	2	4	3	3	4	1	16	7
LEGAL IDENTITY	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	5	4	5	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	13	6
THEFT & EVICTION	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	5	4	3	3	2	3	14	5
DISCRIMINATION	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	3	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	13	6
FORCED RECRUITMENT	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	5	5	3	4	3	5	3	3	5	3	4	4	2	2	2	3	2	13	6
MARRIAGE	4	5	4	3	5	5	3	4	5	4	5	3	3	3	3	3	2	4	3	2	3	4	3	3	10	4
ABDUCTION & DETENTION	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	2	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	3	3	4	3	3	2	12	3
FAMILY SEPARATION	5	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	7	2
EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE	5	5	5	5	5	3	4	5	5	4	1	5	4	3	4	4	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	11	6
TRAFFICKING & LABOUR	4	5	4	5	4	4	3	2	3	3	5	3	3	3	2	3	2	4	3	2	2	2	4	3	8	2
DISINFORMATION	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	5	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	6	1
TORTURE & CRUELTY	5	5	4	4	3	4	4	2	3	3	5	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	7	2
> LEVEL 4 RISK (SEVERE)	15	15	14	13	13	14	12	9	7	9	4	6	8	7	7	5	4	7	5	3	3	2	3	0		
LEVEL 5 (EXTREME)	12	14	7	7	4	3	0	7	7	1	2	0	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0		

### Critical Protection Regions: Sudan and the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)

In 2024, **Sudan** and the **occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)** faced the highest severity levels across all protection risk categories, including **forced displacement, attacks on civilians, gender-based violence** and **discrimination**. These crises are directly linked to the ongoing armed conflicts in these regions. In **Sudan**, the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has caused about **12 million**

people to flee their homes. This includes an estimated **8.8 million people** who have been forcibly displaced within the country, making Sudan the [world's largest internal displacement crisis](#).

According to the latest figures published by [OCHA](#), based on data from the Ministry of Health, the conflict in **oPt** has resulted in over **47,000 Palestinian deaths**, with women and children comprising [70% of the casualties](#). Additionally, over **70,000 dwellings** and close to **70% of all**

**infrastructure** is estimated to have been damaged or destroyed, forcing the displacement of nearly the entire population, often multiple times.

#### *Gender-Based Violence (GBV)*

Gender-based violence (GBV) was recorded as **severe or extreme by 88% of country operations** (22 out of 25). The global scale of GBV was emphasised during the [16 Days of Activism against GBV Campaign](#), which revealed the staggering statistic that every 10 minutes, partners and family members killed a woman or a girl intentionally in 2023. These risks are further aggravated by conflict, climate shocks, and mass displacement. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DR Congo), between January to June 2024, over **61,346 survivors** of GBV were identified – of which **89%** were female and **40%** children. The provinces of **North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri** experienced the highest rates of GBV, underscoring the intersection of armed conflict and GBV.

#### *Barriers to Justice for GBV Survivors*

Survivors of GBV frequently face significant barriers to justice. Widespread impunity for perpetrators compounds their fear of stigma and retaliation. This impunity severely limits victims' access to support services and accountability mechanisms. In **Ethiopia**, the scale of the GBV crisis has grown dramatically. Between 2021 and 2024, the number of people requiring GBV response surged from **3.5 million to 7.2 million**, driven by conflict and displacement. Gaps in mental health and psychosocial support have further left survivors without the care they urgently need.

#### *Forced Displacement and Restrictions on Freedoms of Movement*

In 2024, forced displacement reached record levels, with over **122 million people** uprooted due to conflict, persecution, and climate-related disasters. Among displaced populations, restrictions on freedom of movement and violations of housing, land, and property (HLP) rights emerged as critical protection risks.

In countries, such as **Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, the oPt, and the DR Congo**, siege-like conditions

severely restricted access to essential services and humanitarian aid. Displacement also heightened exposure to secondary risks, including landmines, human trafficking, and forced recruitment.

IDP camps, meant to be places of refuge, increasingly became targets of violence. For instance, in December 2024, the **Zamzam IDP camp** near El Fasher in **Sudan**—home to an estimated **500,000 to 1 million people**—was repeatedly shelled. Famine conditions since July had already compounded the suffering of its inhabitants, highlighting the dire conditions for displaced populations in conflict zones.

#### *Attacks on Civilians and Civilian Infrastructure*

Throughout 2024, violations of **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)** escalated, disproportionately affecting civilians and essential infrastructure, intensifying in countries such as **Sudan, Myanmar, and the oPt**. Indiscriminate violence, including the widespread use of explosive weapons in populated areas, resulted in mass casualties and triggered new waves of displacement. In **Myanmar**, the ongoing conflict between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various armed groups displaced an estimated **3.5 million people** by December 2024. Alongside displacement, civilians endured food insecurity, the collapse of critical public services and economic shocks that drove inflation and decimated livelihoods.

In **Nigeria, Somalia, Haiti, and the DR Congo** extreme (level 5) risks of attacks on civilians persisted. In **Nigeria**, political, economic, and social grievances have fuelled violence and deaths across the country. Militant groups, including Boko Haram, which is affiliated with the Islamic State and remains one of the deadliest terrorist organisations in the region, have carried out attacks targeting both civilians and military personnel, further destabilising communities. In **Haiti**, gang violence escalated, claiming at least **5,600 lives** in 2024, an increase of over 1,000 deaths compared to the previous year, according to the UN Human Rights Office.

In **Somalia**, civilians faced ongoing impacts of conflict throughout the year, including a clan

conflict in the Luuq district in July that led to fires which destroyed two IDP camps and 45,000 people being re-displaced, and a surge in attacks by al-Shabaab militants targeting business owners in Mogadishu in December. In eastern **DR Congo**, renewed clashes erupted in October after the M23 rebel group resumed its offensive following a two-month ceasefire. The conflict was exacerbated by the withdrawal of MONUSCO peacekeeping forces from South Kivu, with plans for further withdrawals from North Kivu and Ituri.

#### *Climate-Related Events*

As global warming approaches **1.5°C**, the frequency and severity of climate induced disasters continue to escalate. These extreme weather events not only create new displacement and protection risks but also compound existing vulnerabilities in areas already affected by conflict or hosting large numbers of forcibly displaced people.

In early 2024, severe droughts in **northwestern and southern Africa**, led to widespread food shortages, disease outbreaks, and displacement, particularly in **Somalia**, where compounded crises left millions facing severe acute food insecurity. Similar drought conditions persisted in parts of the Americas, including **Central America**, where record-low water levels in the Paraguay River and Amazon basin compounded agricultural and water supply challenges. In late February, **Afghanistan** experienced an unusual cold wave and increased highland snow. When the snow melted in May, it caused catastrophic floods, displacing over **115,000 people** and damaging vast areas of land.

As the year progressed, the impacts of extreme weather escalated. Between March and May, heavy flooding devastated equatorial **East Africa** in countries such as **Ethiopia, Burundi** and **Somalia**, causing widespread loss of life, displacing

hundreds of thousands, and pushing millions into severe food insecurity. In September, an unusually active monsoon season brought destructive floods to the **Sahel**, impacting approximately 7.2 million people.

Over 1.1 million individuals were displaced across 11 different countries in **West and Central Africa**, with 642,000 homes damaged or destroyed due to flooding. The same month, **Typhoon Yagi** became the most significant storm of the year, affecting nearly 1.6 million people across **Southeast Asia** and causing extensive damage to infrastructure and food systems.

#### *Complex Transitions*

The withdrawal of UN missions from **Mali** and **Sudan**, as well as transitions in the **DR Congo** and **Somalia**, exposed critical gaps in existing protection mechanisms. In **Mali**, protection incidents increased by **288%** compared to the previous year, with GBV rising by **66%** and violations of children's rights by **11%**. Protection Clusters responded by strengthening community-based mechanisms to ensure continuity of essential services. However, the gaps left by transitioning missions underline the need for sustained support to localised and civilian-led initiatives.

Over the past three months, **Syria** has undergone significant political and military change. In December 2024, President Bashar al-Assad's regime collapsed following a rapid offensive by opposition forces. Security concerns remain high, with ongoing threats from extremist groups like ISIS, as demonstrated by the prevention of a bombing plot near Damascus. Notably, the already high number of IDPs in Syria—estimated at 7 million—is expected to rise significantly as returning populations from neighbouring countries place additional strain on resources and services.

The global protection landscape in 2024 highlights an urgent need for coordinated, well-funded, and innovative responses to safeguard the dignity and rights of affected populations as we move into 2025. Climate-induced disasters, protracted conflicts, and mass displacement have created overlapping emergencies that demand collective action. **As global protection needs continue to rise, prioritising the centrality of protection remains essential in ensuring that all individuals are supported to live in safety and dignity.**



## HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024

### GLOBAL PROTECTION CONFERENCE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING

NAIROBI, KENYA | 10 – 14 JUNE 2024

The Global Protection Conference, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 10-14 June 2024, was attended by over 200 participants from across the GPC and its four AoRs, including national and subnational country cluster Coordinators, Co-coordinators, Information Management Officers (IMO) and support staff, as well as regional colleagues and external stakeholders. The first three days of the Conference were dedicated to facilitating knowledge and peer-to-peer exchange between operations and country coordination teams, engaging on a range of thematic and technical protection priorities, developments, and standards. Key issues included emerging trends and needs at country level, matching operational realities with cluster operational capacities, minimum requirements, the simplification recommendations of the protection architecture and how colleagues from the Cluster and AoRs work together while recognizing and leveraging our specialisation and diversity, and the need to better integrate and optimize resources. The final two days of the Conference brought together keynote speakers, global partners, donors and external stakeholders with the cluster coordination teams, to discuss key directions and priorities such as, shaping the future of protection coordination, centrality of protection in humanitarian responses, optimizing the protection architecture and best practices across a range of thematic issues.

In parallel to the Conference sessions, a two-day Information Management and Analysis Training was provided, aiming to test and revise joint solutions and ways of working for stronger protection risk analysis and identification of people most in need, in increasingly complex protection crises. The dedicated training was fully co-prepared and co-facilitated by the GPC and the AoRs and served as a peer-to-peer exchange and validation of the revised joined-up protection analysis methodology and tools with both PC and AoR IMs.



### ANNUAL DONOR MEETING

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND | 01 OCTOBER 2024

The Annual Donor Meeting served as a moment of critical reflection in understanding and addressing the priority gaps, trends and opportunities to strengthen the protection of communities impacted by crisis. The GPC and AoRs produced a joint [Briefing Note on the State of Protection in 2024](#), highlighting the key drivers of the most severe protection risks affecting communities across the 32 active Protection Cluster operations. The presentation of global protection trends was followed by a panel discussion with Protection Cluster and



AoR colleagues joining from Sudan, oPt, and Myanmar. Protection efforts, led by civilians and communities, that aim to prevent and interrupt cycles of violence have been highlighted as a critical area of action, particularly in the current context of increasing levels of conflict and severe access restrictions. The event was attended by more than 50 participants, from 15 donors and Member States, as well as UN agencies and NGOs partners.



## GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM

ONLINE | 4 – 13 NOVEMBER 2024

This year's Forum offered seven thematic sessions on topics shaping the present and future of protection work and the role of the communities, across our Protection Cluster operations. The Forum is designed to foster dialogue on current protection priorities, discuss emerging issues and present new evidence and good practices. Over 4,500 participations were recorded, an average of 650 participants per session, joining from 150 countries around the world. Simultaneous interpretation in four languages meant that we reached a wider audience than any Forum previously, with 50% of registrations from Sub-Saharan Africa, 15% from MENA and 10% from Latin America and the Caribbean. Speakers joined on behalf of 40 different organisations, including NNGOs, Protection Cluster and AoR coordination teams, donors, INGOs, UN agencies and academics. The Opening Session, Dilemmas and Opportunities in Humanitarian Frontline Responses, which included keynote remarks from Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at UNHCR, was joined by over 830 unique participants. Other high-level speakers included the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs. The [official Summary Report](#) provides an overview of interventions from speakers and serves to summarise key take-aways, best practices and highlights the work of protection colleagues working globally and in over 20 Protection Cluster contexts.



## GPC/AOR COORDINATOR JOINT MISSION

ADDIS ABEBA & SHIRE, ETHIOPIA | 02 - 06 SEPTEMBER 2024

At the request of the Ethiopia Protection Cluster and AoRs, the GPC Coordinator and Coordinators from the four AoRs carried out a joint mission to Ethiopia. They met with crisis-affected communities, national and local organizations, authorities, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, the Humanitarian Country Team, international NGOs, UN entities, OCHA, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, Cluster Lead agencies, and donors. While many meetings took place in Addis Ababa, the coordinators undertook a two-day field visit to Shire, Tigray. The MA AoR Coordinator travelled from Shire to Mekelle for a workshop with persons with disabilities. This was the third joint mission by the GPC and AoR Global Coordinators, following missions in Somalia and Ukraine in 2023. It is a crucial component of the recommendations on the Simplification of the Protection Architecture and will remain a priority.



## OPTIMIZING OUR JOINED-UP APPROACH TO PROTECTION

Following an extensive consultation process led by UNHCR involving lead agencies, GPC members and Areas of Responsibility at both the country and global levels, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donors, 35 recommendations have been agreed upon in response to Recommendation 4 of the Independent Review of the Implementation of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Protection Policy. These recommendations aim to foster a more inclusive and united approach to achieving protection outcomes through a coordinated, integrated response that addresses the complex protection risks and needs of communities, individuals, and families, with a strong emphasis on localization, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), and protection advocacy. Implementation of the recommendations is ongoing and will form part of the GPC workplan in 2025 under the new 2025-2030 strategic framework.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### OPERATIONS CELL, TASK TEAMS AND WORKING GROUPS

2024 marked the last year of our [2020 – 2024 Strategic Framework](#) and its five strategic objectives:



**Strategic Objective 1: We will put basics of coordination and collaboration in place in all our operations.**

*Consistently put in place principled and effective coordination, collaboration, and analysis to meet cluster responsibilities and to contribute to timely and informed decisions by Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams.*

- ◆ 35 operations supported with 530 **field support requests**, with contributions from 25 protection partners, task teams and working groups and other stakeholders.
- ◆ 17 **in-person support missions** to 10 operations (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mali, Myanmar (Bangkok), NE Nigeria, NW Syria (Gaziantep), oPt (Amman), South Sudan, Somalia, Ukraine) to advance on capacity strengthening, strategy development and other aspects of quality coordination.
- ◆ 18 operations supported on **HPC process**.
- ◆ 18 [online webinars](#) dedicated to **strengthening engagement within the HPC**, structured as peer-to-peer learning and a revision process of Protection Clusters' approach to analysis and planning. A total of 1,375 people cumulatively participated, 473 in core sessions organized with Protection Cluster and AoR coordination teams and 902 in thematic sessions organized by the Ops Cell together with OHCHR, Law and Policy Task Team, IRC, REACH, IOM and DRC.
- ◆ 4 thematic webinars organized by GPC partners as part of the **Protection Conversation Series**.
- ◆ 4 courses delivered as part of the GPC's **Specialisation Program on Protection Coordination (SPPC)**, organized in partnership with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law with 2 courses in English (including one face-to-face), 1 in French, and 1 in Spanish for a total of 107 participants from 30 different countries – including: 34 participants from the Protection Cluster, 21 CP AoR, 24 GBV AoR, 15 HLP AoR, 13 MA AoR ; of those, 53 were UN staff (including 26 from UNHCR), 42 INGO, 12 NNGO.
- ◆ **Protection in Armed Conflict and Negotiations for Protection Workshops** developed and delivered by the GPC in partnership with the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiations (CCHN) and UNHCR via 3 tailored, country-focused workshops with 82 Protection Cluster members and partners participating from Myanmar, North-West Syria and Somalia. Follow-up supports and engagement are ongoing.
- ◆ **2024 Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring** conducted across 22 operations who used this space to identify priorities and flag specific considerations within their cluster operations. The results informed the GPC field support priorities for 2024 – 2025 and were summarised in an official report.
- ◆ **Collaborative initiatives to strengthen Age and Disability Inclusion:**
  - Field missions to Ethiopia and Turkey to provide technical support to national specialists and facilitate strategic meetings with Cluster Coordinators and external stakeholders to enable the inclusion of older people and people with disabilities.
  - Two national Age Inclusion Specialists recruited to provide targeted support in Sudan and Lebanon.
  - Three-day knowledge-sharing and cross-learning workshop held in Amman with six specialists from multiple countries to identify successful inclusion strategies.
  - Advocacy efforts including a presentation to cluster coordinators in Ethiopia and a webinar with the Yemen Inclusion Task Force, offering practical tips for ensuring age inclusion in humanitarian programming.
- ◆ **Advancing Cash for Protection (C4P) Programming with the C4PTT**
  - Developed and disseminated a [Key Considerations on C4P in Specialized/Stand-Alone Protection Programming](#) note, providing essential guidance for protection and cash practitioners on using Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) to achieve protection outcomes.
  - Published essential resources including **tip sheets** on [CVA for Protection Outcomes in Mine Action](#), [Child Protection and CVA](#), [Housing, Land and Property and CVA](#), an updated [Cash for Protection Stocktaking Paper](#), and other key documents in the [GPC C4P e-library](#).
  - Trained 130 Protection and CVA practitioners in 5 inter-agency, in-person trainings, in countries including DR Congo and Nigeria.

- Facilitated a Spanish-language webinar in collaboration with CALP Network and IECAH: [Taller de especialización virtual | Programas de transferencias monetarias y protección](#), which focused on C4P and CVA for child protection, GBV and HLP.
- Developed and updated CVA and Protection Training modules, including an in-person curriculum for CVA and CP, an online module on CVA and HLP, and a Gender-Integrated CVA Programming module.
- ◆ **Anti-Trafficking Collaboration:**
  - **Field Support:** Delivered capacity-building workshops in North-West Syria, supported anti-trafficking strategy development in Venezuela, provided briefings in Nigeria, conducted sessions and advocacy in the DRC, and facilitated partnerships in Ethiopia. These efforts focused on enhancing capacity, data collection, and prioritising trafficking in protection strategies.
  - **Advocacy and Reporting:** Advocated for systemic anti-trafficking actions and engaged with mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review to highlight trafficking concerns.
  - **Access to Justice for Victims of Trafficking:** Proposed a study on justice pathways for VoTs in crises, addressing challenges in contexts with non-functioning legal systems or reliance on traditional justice mechanisms, and advocated for its inclusion in global reporting.
  - **Guidance and Resources:** Published the *"Introductory Guide to Anti-Trafficking Action in Internal Displacement Settings"* in Arabic, expanding accessibility for diverse contexts.
- ◆ **Strengthening Community-Led Protection (CLP) approaches with CLP TT:**
  - Co-organisation, with the Advocacy Working Group (AWG), of a session at the Global Protection Forum 2024 on [community-led advocacy: self-protection and accountability](#).
  - Co-authoring of note for Protection of Civilians Week 2024 (with the AWG) titled Protecting Civilians Can't Wait: Ending Impunity and Supporting Civilian-led Approaches.
  - Contribution to the 2024 edition of the ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work by co-authoring a section on community-based protection with ICRC colleagues.
  - Organisation of several peer exchanges to inform approaches to community-based protection, including community-led advocacy (with AWG), community-led negotiations (with CCHN), and community perceptions of protection outcomes (with Ground Truth Solutions).
  - Co-organization of a webinar on 25 November with CCHN on community-led negotiations, featuring a member as a speaker.
  - Contribution to an advocacy paper on community protection in the DRC.
  - Initiation of the drafting of a glossary to provide a common understanding of civilian-led protection concepts and began mapping existing tools on this approach, to guide actions between 2024 and 2025.



**Strategic Objective 2: We will ensure voices of crisis affected persons and communities are heard, especially the forgotten ones.**

*Amplify the voices of persons affected by humanitarian crises and ensure consistent and predictable representation of their issues, so they can be addressed by the relevant responsible parties.*

- ◆ **Responsive technical support to Protection Clusters** in the design and implementation of collaborative protection advocacy strategies and actions, aiming to increase the impact of advocacy efforts at local, national and global levels. Ongoing advocacy field support included support with developing advocacy strategies and plans, developing positioning and messaging on key protection issues, drafting advocacy products, organizing key events and briefings with target audiences and building coalitions to advance joint advocacy initiatives.
- ◆ Tailored, in-person **advocacy workshops and strategy development** delivered via 3 support missions with the Protection Clusters in Somalia, Afghanistan and Mali.
- ◆ **Capacity-building and peer-learning exchanges** on advocacy tools and approaches, including on [MEAL for protection advocacy](#) and the role and learnings of Protection Clusters during mission withdrawals and UN transitions.
- ◆ **9 private Member State and Donor Briefings** convened by the GPC on pressing country and thematic protection priorities, featuring interventions by Protection Cluster and AoR Coordinators, national and international protection partners and other humanitarian leaders.
- ◆ **Lobby Trips to Capitals** (e.g. Geneva, Brussels and London) in support of cluster operations advocacy efforts.
- ◆ **Public and Private Advocacy Notes, Letters, Submissions and Statements** issued at global level, including statements, submissions and alerts on catastrophic protection situations in Gaza and Sudan, for example, and



thematic notes and submissions on the Protection of Civilians, Community-Based Protection, Proactive Approaches to Protection and global protection trends.

- ◆ **Confidential briefings and submissions** with 13 different special procedures of the Human Rights Council on country situations and thematic priorities, along with ongoing information sharing and engagement.
- ◆ **Roundtable discussions and events**, including the PoC Week Side Event '[Strengthening the Continuity of Protection During and After Mission Transitions and Withdrawals](#)' and a Practitioner Roundtable on Opportunities and Entry Points for Leveraging Humanitarian Diplomacy for Protection.
- ◆ GPC's [Annual Donor Meeting](#) bringing together 15 donors to discuss global protection trends and highlight efforts of frontline actors in Sudan, Myanmar and oPt.
- ◆ **Global Protection Forum** with 4,500 participations recorded, joining from 150 countries around the world.
- ◆ **3 Global Protection Updates** with a thematic focus on [Forced Returns and Relocations](#), [Continuity of Protection in a Context of Mission Withdrawals](#), [Conflicts and Climate Shocks](#).
- ◆ Stronger **social media outreach**, with 3,700 new followers across platforms.
- ◆ **Anti-Trafficking Related Engagement** with International Fora and Specialists:
  - Continued collaboration with [ICAT, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons](#), sharing lessons and learned best practices to enhance anti-trafficking responses in crisis contexts.
  - Provided expert input to the [Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking](#), reviewing working documents to ensure alignment with field realities.
  - Regular collaboration with the *Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons*, contributing to reports on trafficking in conflict and displacement contexts, including gender-specific impacts.
- ◆ Additional work by the **Advocacy Working Group** to amplify voices of affected populations:
  - The **Advocating for Protection Podcast** reached 563 streams, featuring episodes such as “*Building Trust is Everything: How to Reach the Person across the Table from You?*”, “*Women’s Issues are Human Rights Priorities: Advocating for Human Rights and Gender Justice in the Arab World*”, and “*Soit on avance ensemble, soit on disparaît les uns après les autres: Plaidoyer pour la protection des civils au Sahel.*”
  - The **Protection Advocacy Toolkit** was translated into Amharic by CEHRO and launched in Ethiopia with the national Protection Cluster. Training sessions on the toolkit were conducted in Addis Ababa, Tigray (Mekelle), and Benishangul Gumuz Region (Assossa), supporting advocacy efforts at local levels.
  - During **Protection of Civilians Week**, the Advocacy Working Group and CLP TT published an Advocacy Note emphasizing accountability and civilian-centred approaches. This document aimed to shape key discussions and facilitate actionable follow-up within the protection space.



### **Strategic Objective 3: We will meet the challenges to make protection actions contextually appropriate and complementary.**

*Achieve – through joint analysis - effective and appropriate collective protection outcomes with development, human rights, peace and security actors especially in mixed, climate change response and violent extremism situations.*

- ◆ **23 Protection Analysis Updates**, including 15 national, 7 sub-national and 1 thematic in 16 operations.
- ◆ Capacity building on protection risks and protection analysis updates streamlined across the 18 **dedicated webinars** mentioned in Objective 1, in addition to dedicated mentoring and direct support to coordinators, co-coordinators, information managers and protection partners. Direct support provided to Afghanistan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, oPt, El Salvador, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen for the **revision of the monitoring systems** to identify and prioritize protection risks.
- ◆ GPC, collaborating with AoRs at the global level:
  - Development of a [unified joined-up approach to protection analysis](#), including common [protection risks severity criteria](#) and a [common tool for subnational assessments](#).
  - Development of a [unified approach for severity and PiN for the 2025 HPC cycle](#), including specific [tools to adapt to contextual situations](#).
  - [Harmonization of information and data](#) against protection risks and more clearly defined dimensions of protection needs, in collaboration with REACH and IOM DTM.
  - Harmonization of Protection Clusters and AoRs [common indicators for HNOs](#).
  - Development of [guidelines and tools](#) to strengthen use of age, disability and inclusion data in protection analysis.

- ◆ Assistance to South Sudan for the specific development of a pilot mechanism of Protection Risks Monitoring, to reduce IM-related tasks, provide a monthly situational update on protection risks and adapt to local partners capacities and mechanisms. The initial pilot results triggered conversation to revise systems in place in Afghanistan, oPt and Venezuela.
- ◆ Introduction of a dynamic [dashboard](#) to show **trends and data on protection**, which has been fully revised at the end of 2024 to provide a detailed breakdown of country situations on the basis of the subnational joined up analysis involving partners and AoRs.
- ◆ Coordinated revision of [ACAPS Protection Indicators](#), to align language and approach on protection risks monitoring.
- ◆ Development and publication of a **Human Rights Analysis Matrix** ([guidance](#) and [online dashboard](#)).
- ◆ Coordination with InterAction on process of global consultation and research to strengthen protection outcome, specifically focusing on how to use protection analysis and protection risks in Humanitarian Response Plans.
- ◆ Co-organization with OCHA of a workshop during the Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week on harmonizing analytical frameworks for the HDP Nexus, to integrate PAF and Protection Analysis into the JIAF 2.0 and CCA.
- ◆ Development of a tool to calculate *the JIAF Outcome Indicator on HR/IHL violations*, based on protection risks severity and human rights data, piloted in 3 countries. The tool has been presented as part of a dedicated training to OCHA HPC Focal Points, co-organized with OCHA, to integrate protection risk analysis into Humanitarian Needs Overview and Response Plans.
- ◆ Supported the development and implementation of **HCT Protection Strategies**.



**Strategic Objective 4: We will champion and advance durable solutions that meet protection standards through a nexus of humanitarian, peace and development action.**

*Promote protection as central to humanitarian work to address protection problems and to create conditions conducive for durable solutions that are recognized as essential in development and peacebuilding-related actions.*

- ◆ Support to the **IDP Protection Expert Group Mission** to DR Congo (November 2024).
- ◆ GPC Durable Solutions guidance initiated and under development.
- ◆ Participation in the Internal Displacement and Solutions Conference held by the Refugee Law Initiative at the University of London, sharing global analysis on the issue of return and relocation of internally displaced communities and showcasing emerging lessons and good practices from Protection Clusters in Nigeria and Niger.
- ◆ 4 webinars on legal aid in humanitarian settings.
- ◆ 4 technical support missions on IDP law and policy.
- ◆ [Compilation of good practices on legal aid](#) and finalization of the **Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement**, to be launched in January 2025.
- ◆ E-Course on IDP Law and Policy available online for all external partners ([UNHCR learning portal](#)).
- ◆ Facilitation of San Remo Courses on IDPs, and on climate change and forced displacement.
- ◆ [Cross-Regional Forum on Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement in Africa](#) in collaboration with UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs and IPEG in September 2024.



**Strategic Objective 5: We will continue adapting to the shifting operational environment and keep looking forward.**

*Contribute to the identification of protection response gaps and challenges, including emerging and growing trends and engage partners to respond creatively.*

- ◆ Annual [Centrality of Protection Report](#) published.
- ◆ **GPC Roundtable on the dilemmas and opportunities in humanitarian frontline responses**, hosted with first responders from oPt, Sudan, Honduras, Colombia and Venezuela.
- ◆ Participation in global webinars and events to raise the voices of older men and women, such as the Global Protection Forum, and the [Protection Conversation on the Protection of Older Persons in Forced Displacement and Emergency Settings](#), highlighting resources and field practices aimed at ensuring the protection of older persons.

## AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

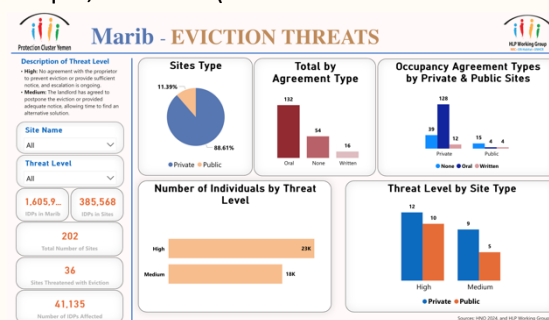


**Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility (HLP AoR)**, co-led by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

The HLP AoR continues to work closely with global and national colleagues from the protection, shelter and CCCM clusters to offer support to the HLP response in over 19 humanitarian operations. Support comes from the global coordination team and an active HLP expert roster drawn from the AoR's membership of NGOs, UN, Member States, practitioners, policymakers, and academia. The AoR seeks a more integrated approach to addressing Housing, Land and Property issues; by promoting collaboration and complementarity of efforts amongst agencies undertaking HLP activities, by addressing policy and technical gaps, and by making the connections with durable solutions and nexus approaches.

### 2024 Achievements:

The **HLP AoR's Helpdesk** continued to respond to technical and coordination requests from HLP practitioners. In 2024, this has included work with colleagues in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia (HLP Rapid Needs Assessment), Mali, Mozambique, Palestine (dedicated Gaza coordination support), Somalia (HLP, Climate Change and Disasters training manual, piloted in 2024), South Sudan (including support on strategy, guidance and documentary film), Sudan (support to strategy development), Syria, Ukraine and Yemen ([Eviction Monitoring Dashboard](#)). The HLP AoR continued its regular support sessions for all coordinators and co-coordinators of country level HLP AoR and working groups, including a new French-language HLP community of practice for Central West Africa responses.



The AoR's **IM support** continued to develop and in 2024 supported DR Congo, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Niger, Palestine ([ReliefWeb pages](#), data collection tools, [dashboards for data presentation](#)), as well as wide-ranging country support for the HPC process, especially for Francophone countries in Central and West Africa. Burkina Faso and DRC received dedicated IM missions to review and reform data gathering and analysis (including building dashboards to monitor HLP response needs and activities). A new global HLP dashboard is soon to be launched which will enable better understanding, analysis of HLP needs and activities, and more effective use and communication of relevant data for both operational and advocacy impact. The task team on PiN and Severity calculation brought together experts on data, analysis and HLP coordination to develop guidance for coordinators and to align HLP AoR approaches with those being developed by the GPC and OCHA's JIAF.

The [quarterly global meetings and global newsletter updates](#) remain a rich opportunity to gather colleagues from across clusters and sectors to share resources, update on collaboration and to discuss specific issues related to Housing, Land and Property programming, practice and policy.

**Collaboration with other clusters** continued with the aim of better integration of HLP-sensitive approaches into programming across sectors. The HLP AoR continues to work closely with the **CCCM Cluster** (hosting and



Global Protection Forum

joining sessions at their annual coordination meeting) and the **Global Shelter Cluster's** HLP Advisers and coordinators at global and country level. This partnership continued through joint events and the launch of an [HLP rights Shelter toolkit](#), new module on the [Protection of HLP rights in the context of Climate Change](#), and ongoing work on an HLP Due Diligence Portal, due for launch in 2025. Close collaboration with shelter partners included co-organising the



[HLP Rights in Crisis Contexts](#) conference in Washington DC, a joint session at the World Bank Land Conference, meetings at OCHA's Humanitarian and Network Partnership's Week (HNPW) on Land Rights and preparation for disaster and conflict; HLP, shelter, settlement – emergency to durable solutions; and a closed door discussion on navigating informal markets in displacement.

The HLP AoR continued to spread the word at the [World Urban Forum \(WUF 12\)](#) in Cairo, COP 16 in Colombia and in Riyadh, through donor/member states meeting on HLP and Protection, and by delivering our popular HLP module (facilitated in English, French and Spanish) at The International Institute of Humanitarian Law's course on Internal Displacement.



### **[Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility \(GBV AoR\)](#), led by UNFPA.**

The GBV AoR supports country coordination teams to address the needs of GBV survivors through the provision of life-saving multi-sectoral services, with the vision of eliminating GBV in all humanitarian settings and addressing the needs of GBV survivors via life-saving service provision. This support is provided through the [Global Coordination Team](#), the [Regional Support teams](#) across five regions (Asia and Pacific, Arab States, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and Latin America and Caribbean Regions), the [GBV AoR Helpdesk](#) and the [GBV AoR Community of Practice](#).

The GBV AoR Strategy 2021-2025 has provided strategic direction, focusing on four strategic priorities: supporting strong and effective coordination, integration of GBV in humanitarian response, promoting learning and setting standards, and supporting a strong, diverse and inclusive GBV community.

#### **2024 Achievements:**

The GBV AoR and its regional teams based in five regions (Asia and Pacific, Arab States, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and Latin America and Caribbean Regions) provided extensive support to GBV coordination teams across 32 diverse humanitarian contexts, and additionally to contexts in preparedness or transition phases. The support included overall sharing of knowledge and technical capacity strengthening, and also bilateral and context-specific support. For example, GBV AoR and the regional teams have supported the GBV coordination teams through in country or remote technical missions (for example for Afghanistan, oPt, Sudan) as well as regular support on advocacy initiatives including donor briefing or drafting briefs or statements (for example for Sudan, Gaza, DRC). All IASC countries have also received extensive support in conducting analyses related to Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC) processes. As a result of this focus, 100% of HRP/HNRP documents included the integration of GBV in the intersectoral analysis and 96% of HNO/HNRP documents provided an overview of GBV targets and needs.

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support. The GBV SOPs enable local and international GBV actors to agree on standards and hold each other accountable.

### Highlights of GBV AoR regional support:

**Asia and Pacific:** Launched a regional learning initiative on GBViE for 23 GBV Coordinators and Program Specialists from 18 Asia-Pacific countries. The program included pre-training self-study, a four-day interactive workshop focused on applying tools for GBV coordination core functions, and follow-up sessions in November and December 2024. Dedicated attention to Afghanistan and Myanmar.

**Arab States:** Given the intensity of needs in Gaza and Sudan, support focused on these major crises with the regional advisor stepping in as a coordinator to address gaps, implementing capacity-strengthening initiatives and training for women-led organizations (WLOs), supporting WLOs to assume coordination roles in Sudan, and leading advocacy efforts on GBV needs in these contexts.

**East and Southern Africa:** Continued engaging humanitarian and GBV actors through in-person and remote learning and advocacy events throughout 2024, with a particular focus on local and women-led organizations. Provided technical support to member organizations from the onset of emergencies and scaled up efforts in developing preparedness, anticipatory action planning, and readiness assessments based on regional needs, including for Madagascar, Burundi and Malawi. Collaboration with the University of Nairobi on delivery of a GBViE diploma program.

**West and Central Africa:** Provided continuous support to GBV coordination teams in flood-affected areas across Nigeria, Mali, Cameroon, Niger, and Chad, ensuring improved coordination of GBV response operations. This included developing GBV risk analysis notes for affected areas to highlight critical issues and draw the attention of humanitarian country teams to GBV concerns.

**Latin America and Caribbean:** Regularly collaborated with regional and country-level focal points to develop a multinational GBV referral pathway for the region, encompassing GBV services, referral mechanisms, and legal frameworks for individuals affected by human mobility in mixed settings. Additionally, conducted multiple inter-agency capacity-building initiatives to enhance the quality of GBV subcluster and working group deliverables, as well as the services provided by specialized actors and members. Provided ongoing GBV information management support to all cluster countries in the region; country level data capacity remains low. Dedicated, ongoing support to Haiti GBV response.

**In addition, during 2024 GBV AoR developed two key resources as part of its efforts on capacity strengthening of coordination teams:**

#### 1) GBV Coordination Blended Learning Programme

This blended learning programme is based on the GBV AoR Handbook for Coordination GBV Interventions in Emergencies. This programme features self-paced e-learning, virtual live sessions, and written assignment to apply course content (every second week, alternating with the live sessions) and moderated discussions in an online discussion board. The learning program was launched in 2024 with the second cohort currently completing the full curriculum, and is currently being translated into Arabic, French and Spanish.

#### 2) GBV Core Competency Frameworks for [GBV Coordination](#) and [Information Management](#)

These frameworks will facilitate recruitment of individuals with the appropriate skills and competencies, and they establish a structured pathway for their continuous professional growth. The competency frameworks are accompanied by interview questions to facilitate competency-based recruitment and self-assessment tools. The self-assessment tools will be utilized during coordinators' and IMOs inductions. The frameworks have been translated into Arabic, Spanish and French.

GBV coordination teams and their members have also accessed technical and peer-to-peer support through the Community of Practice<sup>1</sup> and GBV AoR Helpdesk<sup>2</sup>; support included online discussions, training seminars and written briefs and guidance notes in response to specific queries. The GBV AoR Helpdesk has also developed a number of guidance notes to address the emerging issues in the field, including:

- [Guidance Note on Applying Feminist Approaches to Humanitarian Action](#)
- [Briefing Note on Prioritizing Safety and Support in Digital Reporting of Gender-Based Violence](#)
- [How Development Actors Can Support Safe and Effective Response to GBV When Emergencies Occur](#)



**Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR)**, led by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and co-coordinated by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The MA AoR provides extensive support to field teams, with presence in 16 operations, through the Global Team in Geneva and a network of experts from MA AoR members.

## 2024 Achievements:

Throughout the year, the MA AoR co-coordinators have advocated for risk education efforts to be stepped up across all aspects of the humanitarian response and actively participated in the IOM-GICHD roundtable on displacement, migration and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). The MA AoR also hosted an EORE educational hour webinar in October, organised by GICHD, called "**Coordinating Risk Education in Emergencies: Better, Faster, Stronger.**" This session explored key tools developed by AoR coordinators to minimise gaps and duplications in EORE coverage. The webinar also highlighted the collaboration between the MA AoR and IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, along with insights into the Mine Action Field Companion.



*EORE in Ethiopias*

The MA AoR compiled and disseminated **nine steps on victim assistance to assist country coordinators** with implementing the International Mine Action Standard (IMAS 13.10) on Victim Assistance, and to provide a checklist to advance collaborative efforts on service mapping and referrals. This initiative promotes disability inclusion and strengthens the response to direct victims of explosive ordnance accidents who are often left with lifetime impairments. 2024 also saw the creation of MARCO, a restricted online platform where MA coordinators can share best practices and tools.



The MA AoR advocated for better integration of protection as well as **strengthened disability considerations across all treaties, including the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention**. During the Siem Reap 5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference in November 2024, the 2025-2029 Action Plan was adopted, which included several key action points on the diverse needs of EO survivors, including gender, age and disability considerations as well as the need to coordinate and integrate mine action in the humanitarian response during emergencies. UNMAS delivered a statement to States Parties, advocating for improved data management: "*Assistance needs to be tailored to the demographics of victims and supported by robust data collection and reporting methods, in line with the minimum data requirements of the International Mine Action Standard on information*

*Victim Assistance in Syria*

<sup>1</sup> Supported by IMC and UNFPA

<sup>2</sup> Supported and managed by UNICEF



*management. Capacity to collect age, gender, disability and diversity data must be enhanced within organisations.”*

In collaboration with [Dr Hannah Wild](#) of the University of Washington, the MA AoR advocated for integrated and strengthened blast trauma care to be included in the Siem Reap action plan, which was achieved through Action 33: *“Provide effective and efficient context-specific emergency medical care to new casualties and improve national capacity through training, including on psychosocial first care, specialized training for health professionals and layperson first responder training in affected communities and ensure that mine and other explosive ordnance survivors have access to health services including in rural and remote areas.”*



*Contamination in Syria*

In addition, the team worked with the International Rescue Committee to **incorporate survivors into existing Project Case Management frameworks** by advocating for Mine Action to be included in the new guidance published at the end of 2024.



*Clearance activities in Syria*

The MA AoR Global Coordinator provided remote support to the Protection Cluster Coordinators in Mozambique and Niger where the MA AoR does not have in-country coordinators. advocacy and partnerships with actors in the region. The MA AoR has enhanced collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization leading the organization to define its [role in humanitarian mine action](#) and join expertise to integrate agricultural recovery with mine action efforts.



**[Child Protection Area of Responsibility \(CP AoR\)](#)**, led by UNICEF. The CP Area of Responsibility supports local, national, regional and global actors to ensure well-coordinated, predictable, inclusive, and accountable humanitarian efforts to protect children in Humanitarian Coordinator and Early Warning settings.

## 2024 Achievements

The Global CP AoR developed its **2025-2030 Strategy** in 2024. The strategy is the result of extensive consultations with partners, donors, coordinators, co-coordinators and information management officers working with the Child Protection Area of Responsibility worldwide. Through a combination of bilateral interviews, focus group discussions, and an in-person SAG meeting, the Global CP AoR fostered consensus through iterative processes and a willingness to embrace change. The new Strategy also draws on key reviews and evaluations that critically examined the role of the CP AoR within global and national humanitarian frameworks. The Strategy contains the following four strategic objectives: (i) Lead Child Protection coordination in humanitarian settings to enhance interagency coordination and information management and provide quality operational support; (ii) Advocate to influence action and commitments for children’s protection and well-being and for effective coordination in humanitarian preparedness and response; (iii) Invest in robust and sustainable child protection and inter-agency monitoring systems and analysis and contribute to evidence generation in humanitarian settings and; (iv) Contribute to resilient and localized preparedness capacities and systems to prevent and reduce the harmful impact of crises on the protection of children.

The Global CP AoR operates four Help Desks – Global (English), Arabic, French and Spanish – which provide rapid, remote and tailored technical support to Child Protection Coordination Groups in humanitarian crises. In 2024, **the Help Desks received and responded to 610 requests across 44 countries**. The top five topics where support was requested were child protection coordination, working across sectors, case

management, assessment, measurement, and evidence, and information management for coordination. For more information see: [Help Desk Support - Overview of Trends](#).

To assess and enhance the performance of country-level CP AoRs against six core cluster functions and on accountability to affected populations, a total of 35 child protection coordination groups across 25 countries initiated the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) for 2024. The results will be available in Q1 of 2025. In 2023, a total of 26 coordination groups across 21 countries completed the CCPM process. 100% of participating countries had a total satisfactory score of 60% or higher, varying between 74% and 97% with an overall average of 88%.

The Global CP AoR **deploys its cluster coordination, information management and thematic experts** to support the child protection preparedness and response in anticipated, new and escalating humanitarian crises. In 2024, the **deployments covered 16 countries in 239 days**, with surge missions and country support comprising 208 days. West and Central Africa (WCA), Middle East and North Africa and the Pacific were the main regions covered. For more detail see: [Deployments | Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility](#).

The Global CP AoR regularly collaborates and coordinates with the [Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#), engaging not only in regular meetings across all eleven Working Groups and Task Forces but also contributing to the development and translation of global policy and technical resources. The Help Desks and Rapid Response Team Coordinators provided input on the updated [Case Management Guidelines and Forms](#). The team also collaborated with the Alliance Secretariat, Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group, Learning and Development Working Group, and Case Management Task Force to develop the Working Across Sectors workshop package, including [“Recognizing and Referring Child Protection Concerns: Rapid Guide for All Humanitarian Actors.”](#) Joint webinars and information sessions were held with the Assessment, Measurement, and Evidence Working Group along with the Cash and Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG) Task Forces for coordination group teams and members.

The Global CP AoR launched its [Child Protection AoR Learning Platform](#). The platform is hosted on Agora and is accessible to all those interested in learning more about Child Protection Coordination and Information Management in Humanitarian Action. The platform includes the [Child Protection Coordination Online Learning Channel](#), the [Child Protection Information Management Online Learning Channel](#) and a lot more! This is part of the implementation of the Global CP AoR's [Learning and Development \(L&D\) Strategy 2023-2026](#).



The Global CP AoR's Information Management Team developed a [centralized system](#) to streamline child protection data management. This initiative leverages Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML) to enhance child protection humanitarian data management. By centralizing scattered resources, the online platform uses AI to generate actionable insights, including risk analysis and situation monitoring, directly supporting prioritization and response programming in complex humanitarian contexts. It provides ready-to-use analysis, printable reports, and both quantitative and qualitative insights, incorporating legal and normative frameworks protecting children. Beyond improving immediate data usability for CP actors, this initiative can be easily replicated and scaled across other sectors in the humanitarian field.

To enhance the accessibility and use of the [Inter-Agency Toolkit on Localisation in Humanitarian Coordination](#), the Global CP AoR collaborated with Save the Children to develop an online module of the toolkit, which is now hosted on KAYA and can be accessed [here](#). Additionally, an [online course on localisation in humanitarian coordination](#) was developed jointly by the Global CP AoR, the Global Education Cluster, the Global Nutrition Cluster and the Global Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Cluster. The course is aimed at supporting cluster coordination teams to increase their understanding of localisation in humanitarian coordination. It offers practical examples of how localisation practices have been implemented in cluster coordination globally and at the country level, along with tips for overcoming barriers that might hinder localisation efforts. It also

provides humanitarian practitioners access to resources and suggestions for advancing localisation in humanitarian coordination. The course is available in English, French and Spanish, with an Arabic version currently under development.

### **UNPROTECTED: ANALYSIS OF FUNDING FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN 2023**

In September 2024, the Global CP AoR, along with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Save the Children and UNHCR launched ***Unprotected: Analysis of Funding for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action in 2023***. The report provides an in-depth analysis of funding gaps that continue to impact child protection in humanitarian settings. In addition, the report also demonstrates the positive impact on the protection of children when child protection programming and coordination is supported with the funding and other resources for the prevention of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence against children. The report is available in [English](#) and the Executive Summary in [Arabic](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).



## CLOSING COMMENTS

We would like to thank all stakeholders for your constant support throughout 2024, acting and advocating at both global and local level, with thanks to iMMAP, Germany, HelpAge International, Humanity and Inclusion, Norwegian Refugee Council, Switzerland, Sweden, UNHCR, United States, and Walk Free Foundation, amongst others – building on comparative advantages and expertise within the sector. As we move into 2025, we aim to enhance the quality of our programmes and impacts on the ground via further multi-agency and Member State contributions and deployments.

We would also like to express our thanks to Member States and donors for their continuous engagement and constructive contributions that have helped strengthen our shared protection narrative and supported our collective capacity to stay and deliver in humanitarian crises. Thanks to your generosity and collective investment, our partners have reached collective protection outcomes through smarter funding, multi-sectorial approaches and integrated programming.

Our gratitude goes to our field colleagues, Protection Cluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators, IMOs, AoRs, protection and non-protection partners, HCs and HCTs who prioritized protection, raised the profile of forgotten protection crises and invested in advancing protection across complex crises contexts.

We thank all SAG members who helped ensure a system-wide response to guide the current GPC strategy: NRC (Co-Chair), UNHCR (Cluster Lead Agency), IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNICEF, UNMAS, UN-Habitat, Abs Development Organization (Yemen), Centre de Développement Intégral de l'Enfant Rural (DR Congo), Community in Need - Aid (South Sudan), Right 2 Protection (Ukraine), Danish Refugee Council, Humanity and Inclusion, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Oxfam, Centre for Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN), ICVA, Interaction, and ICRC.

A special thanks also goes to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons for their continuous advocacy on priority protection issues.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in events, fora and initiatives that were co-organized by the GPC this year. We look forward to continued collaboration with you all in 2025.

**Josep Herreros,**  
**GPC Coordinator**



**Caelin Briggs,**  
**GPC SAG Co-Chair**



**Ron Pouwels,**  
**Global CP AoR Coordinator**



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**Jennifer Chase,**  
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**Jim Robinson,**  
**Ombretta Tempa**  
**Global HLP AoR Co-Coordinators**

