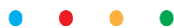


Consolidated response framework

Guidance note

1. Introduction & background



The consolidated Protection Response Framework – Response Framework – contributes to the streamlining of HPC/HNRP 2026 by implementing the ERC–OPAG guidance, and the specific CLAs/AoRs communication, to simplify clusters and fully integrate AoRs within the Protection Cluster, resulting in one consolidated HPC chapter. It ensures an integrated protection narrative with clear visibility for CP, GBV, MA and other risks; uses a single, cluster-wide process from which AoR-specific details are derived; and lightens coordination/IM through one 4/5W and simplified tools to reduce partners' reporting burden.

The Response Framework consists of a common logframe with standard activities and indicators, plus proposed Protection Cluster objectives aligned to the core pillars and programming modalities of protection response—enabling comparability and aggregation across contexts.

2. Resources



This short guidance supports the use of the [integrated tool](#), and the coordination with OCHA on the [HNRP menu of objectives, activities and indicators for the 2026 HNRP](#)s. An [interactive dashboard](#) helps navigating the description of activities and indicators, while an [explanatory note](#) provides an overview of the approach of coordinated protection response in the Cluster settings.

3. Core components



The Response Frameworks builds around core components that are specifically defined to streamline the identification and monitoring of response activities in the framework of HNRP, in line with the principles and decisions previously described:

- **COMMON ACTIVITIES:** A single, agreed catalogue of [common activities](#), covering the full scope of protection response. Specialized activities are explicitly mapped to these common activities.
- **HARMONIZED INDICATORS:** Each common activity includes [specific indicators](#) to identify and monitor specific programmatic modalities, areas of work or target groups. Where appropriate, operations may use broader [generalized indicators](#) to limit the number of indicators and reduce partners reporting.
- **ALIGNMENT WITH HNRP OBJECTIVES:** Activities are mapped to the [HNRP strategic objectives: SO1](#), Saving lives and alleviating suffering, [SO2](#) Protecting safety and rights, and [SO3](#) Sustaining lives and livelihoods. Protection activities are primarily life-saving and/or contribute to protection outcomes; in some contexts, they may also be explicitly recovery-oriented.
- **HARMONIZED MONITORING:** Consolidated common activities, indicators and units of analysis standardize monitoring and reporting across countries, enabling faster and more efficient support under constrained capacities and resources.

4. How to prepare the log frame



The Protection Cluster should develop a consolidated logframe for the HNRPs, presenting activities and indicators in a single, integrated structure. This must be coordinated with all Areas of Responsibility to ensure that specialized activities are fully and accurately captured.

4.1. Definition of activities

1. The [integrated tool](#) provides a detail list of sub-activities [*Complete_response_db*] with four different tabs [*Child Protection* | *Gender-based Violence* | *Mine Action* | *Housing, Land & Property*] indicating the core AoR sub-activities associated with the **common ones**. These elements, together with the descriptions available in the [interactive dashboard](#), should be used to jointly map all activities that need to be represented in the consolidated logframe.
2. **Consolidate and validate the list.** Group the common activities from the initial mapping and conduct a joint review (with AoRs and key partners) to agree on the final list. The Framework supports high granularity, but it is recommended to keep the list concise to limit monitoring and reporting burden.
3. **Adapt wording where needed.** After the list is finalized, you may adjust activity wording—selectively and minimally—to reflect country-specific needs or sensitivities, without changing the underlying scope of the activity.

4.2. Definition of indicators

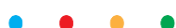
1. **Use standard indicators and units of analysis.** All activities come with standardized indicators and harmonized units of analysis to simplify in-country monitoring and enable global aggregation and support.
2. **Map indicators to each common activity.** List all indicators linked to the selected common activities. If indicators across activities are too granular, select generalized indicators from [*Complete_response_db* : *Column K*] or [*Unique_lists*: *Column E*] to limit the number of metrics tracked.
3. **Apply at least one common indicator per activity.** Every activity must include at least one common indicator (specific or generalized). Operations may add context-specific indicators, where essential, while avoiding unnecessary reporting burden on partners.
4. **Use the [interactive dashboard](#) guidance to align methods.** The interactive dashboard provides indicator descriptions and key data-collection considerations. Where common units of analysis differ from AoR-specific monitoring, apply a pragmatic bridge to preserve both (e.g., MA operators and the Protection Cluster in Country A agree to assign X beneficiaries per EOD spot task or EHA, allowing operators to count tasks and multiply by X for beneficiary estimates).
5. **Track beyond the HNRP where needed.** The Framework allows you to identify activities and indicators that may sit outside the HNRP but are important for the Protection Cluster strategy (e.g., CoP support, targeted advocacy). These should be discussed within the PC Coordination Team and with the SAG, to define the approach for their tracking as part of the cluster monitoring as relevant.

4.3. Definition of Protection Cluster objectives

1. **Use the standard objectives from the [integrated tool](#).** Standard Protection Cluster objectives are available in [*OCHA Menu: Column F*]. These align with the predefined objectives in OCHA's monitoring system and map to the six pillars of the protection response.
2. **Review and adapt objectives in country (after activities are finalized).** While **common activities and indicators** should remain consistent across operations, Protection Cluster objectives **may be tailored** in country through a joint review. Ensure that:

- a. **Wording is context-sensitive.**
 - b. **Objectives are balanced.** Avoid objectives that have very few activities; merge where appropriate.
 - c. **Coverage across HNRP Strategic Objectives is clear.** If an objective contributes only to **one** HNRP Strategic Objective, confirm that the protection activities are still properly distributed.
3. **Map objectives to HNRP strategic objectives.** Protection Cluster objectives are organized by their contribution to: SO1: Saving lives and alleviating suffering and SO2: Protecting safety and rights. Distribute protection activities under SOs according to their contribution. Note: SO2 is not exclusive to the Protection Cluster / Sector — all sectors should identify how they reduce priority protection risks and propose related activities.

5. Important considerations



The current Response Framework has been designed to support the development of a consolidated Protection Cluster logframe within the HNRPs. Its application should be accompanied by a collaborative reflection on monitoring arrangements, taking into account coordination resources and partner capacities.

- The Protection Cluster must encompass the full scope of protection activities, including Child Protection (CP), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Mine Action (MA). Housing, Land and Property (HLP) should be included depending on inter-cluster arrangements.
- Monitoring should be proportionate to available resources. The following minimum principles apply:
 - Partners implementing multiple specialized activities should report only once.
 - Partners should report against common activities and indicate the relevant area of work (e.g. case management – GBV, CP or legal counselling – CP). More detailed AoR-specific indicators may be used only where sufficient IM capacity exists.
- Common activities and indicators should be used to define shared cost structures through a rational and pragmatic approach, supporting consistent costing and monitoring.

Annex: Lexicon clarifications



TERMINOLOGY	DESCRIPTION
LOCAL, NATIONAL OR OTHER BODIES	All formal entities forming part of the State or quasi-State institutional architecture responsible for governance, coordination, regulation, or public service delivery. Distinct from humanitarian agencies (UN, INGOs, local NGOs), these bodies hold legal/administrative mandates and act as duty bearers for protection, access to services, and the enforcement of rights and remedies. Local, national or other bodies include, but are not limited to: - Government ministries, departments, and agencies (e.g., social affairs, justice, interior, gender/child protection); - Municipal or local authorities responsible for administration and oversight of services; - National protection mechanisms or commissions (e.g., human rights commissions, ombudsperson offices); - Security, judicial, and civil registry institutions (e.g., police, courts, civil status/ID authorities); - Statutory coordination and response structures established for crisis management, disaster response, or civil protection.
NON- PROTECTION HUMANITARIAN ACTORS	All operational partners contributing to humanitarian outcomes without leading or co-leading protection-specific activities. Organizations, institutions, or personnel of non-governmental bodies engaged in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in sectors other than protection, whose primary mandate focuses on life-saving, essential services, or infrastructure support. Non-protection humanitarian actors include, but are not limited to: - Shelter, WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education, and Food Security actors implementing sector-specific responses; - Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) partners focused on site management, infrastructure, and service delivery; - Logistics and Early Recovery actors contributing to access, rehabilitation, and livelihoods support; - Development or stabilization partners involved in basic service provision and community infrastructure
SERVICE PROVIDERS / FRONTLINE ACTORS	All individuals or entities directly implementing or supporting protection activities with affected populations, regardless of their institutional affiliation. The term excludes coordination staff and policy-level decision-makers who do not interact directly with affected persons. It includes individuals or teams directly engaged in the delivery of humanitarian or protection services at community, facility, or institutional level. They are the primary interface between affected populations and the humanitarian or government response system, ensuring that services are accessible, accountable, and responsive to protection risks. Service providers and frontline actors include, but are not limited to: - NGO and INGO staff implementing protection or assistance activities; - Social workers and case managers providing individualized support and referrals; - Health workers offering physical or mental health services; - Camp management staff and volunteers facilitating site-level protection and coordination; - Law enforcement personnel responsible for civilian safety and access to justice; - Teachers or school personnel engaged in child protection and psychosocial well-being; - Community-based protection committees or focal points acting as the first line of protection response.
AUTHORITIES / DUTY BEARERS	All State and non-State entities that hold legal, policy, security, or administrative responsibilities toward populations under their jurisdiction or control. As duty bearers, they are obligated to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights and IHL norms, enable safe and non-discriminatory access to services, and provide remedies and accountability. Authorities and duty bearers include, but are not limited to:

	• National and subnational executive bodies (ministries, departments, governorates, municipalities) with mandates over social affairs, justice, interior, health, education, gender/child protection; • Legislative bodies and rule-making institutions (parliaments, councils, regulatory agencies) empowered to enact or amend laws, by-laws, directives; • Judicial and quasi-judicial institutions (courts, prosecutors, complaints mechanisms, ombudsperson offices, national human rights institutions) responsible for remedies, oversight, and accountability; • Security and law-enforcement actors (police, gendarmerie, border guards, corrections) responsible for protection of civilians and safe, lawful procedures; • Civil registry and administrative authorities (ID/civil status, land/tenure, property, migration/asylum) ensuring access to documentation and due process; • Local governance structures (mayors, councils, camp/site authorities) managing service delivery, public order, and site-level decisions; • Where applicable, de facto authorities and non-State armed actors exercising effective control over territory or populations and thus bearing responsibilities under IHL and human rights norms.
OTHER STAKEHOLDERS	All non-authority audiences engaged through advocacy to influence protection outcomes, policy uptake, resource allocation, coordination, and operational practice. Complementary to Authorities / Duty bearers, these stakeholders may not hold primary legal obligations toward affected populations but possess leverage—through mandates, funding, convening power, technical standards, public voice, or community legitimacy—to reduce protection risks and enable accountability. Other stakeholders include, but are not limited to: • Humanitarian coordination bodies and leadership (HCT, ICCG, cluster/sector leads, NGO fora) shaping collective priorities and decisions; • Donors and member states (embassies, development banks, diplomatic missions) influencing policy, access, and financing; • UN agencies and international organizations whose policies, standards, and programming drive inter-agency practice; • International and national NGOs, networks, and professional associations amplifying evidence, norms, and good practice; • Civil society, community-based organizations, and human rights groups monitoring violations and mobilizing social accountability; • Media and communications platforms affecting visibility, narratives, and public pressure; • Academic and research institutions generating evidence, analysis, and normative guidance; • Private sector and service providers (e.g., telecoms, transport, fintech) enabling safe access, information, and service delivery; • Religious, traditional, and community leaders with social authority to prevent harm, counter discrimination, and support referrals.