

## **Who's in the driver's seat? Centering locally-led protection analysis across humanitarian planning, response, and transition**

**Organizing Networks:** Global Protection Cluster in collaboration with the Protection Analysis Local Actor Network (convened by IRC)

**Other Collaborating agencies and networks:** Oxfam, Danish Refugee Council, CBM, ProLAC, IASC Disability Reference Group, Action Against Hunger

### **Description/Session purpose**

Protection risks impacting on the lives of millions are complex and need shared understanding and cooperation among everyone involved in humanitarian work – including a meaningful role for local actors and affected communities. Although global policies stress the importance of analyzing protection risks and humanitarian needs from the point of view of those most affected, the voices of crisis-affected people and their organizations are often left out when prioritizing, interpreting, and making decisions based on the analysis. In recent years, there have been efforts to improve how protection analysis is done and used within interagency spaces, including the HNRPs; however, there has been an evident gap in meaningfully inclusion of local actors within this process. Similarly, the Humanitarian Planning Cycle Discussion highlights that delivering a fully inclusive and accountable process, demands both ‘meaningful, continuous engagement with crisis-affected communities in all their diversities to ensure the HNRP reflects people’s priorities, capacities and preferences’ and ‘engagement of NGOs (INGOs and L/NNGOs) throughout the process’ and at critical junctures<sup>1</sup>. Yet there are structural, organizational and context-specific challenges requiring a specific focus and understanding.

To address this gap in learning, the Protection Analysis Local Actor Network (PALAN) convened by IRC, in collaboration with the Global Protection Cluster, Community led Protection Community of Practice, Disability Reference Group, CBM, DRC, ACF and other collaborating agencies have undertaken a structured global learning exercise with a diversity of contexts and types of ‘local’ actors engaged in and leading contextual analysis of protection risks facing crisis-affected populations. This event aims to share insights, promising practices, priorities and recommendations from local actors to advance more inclusive and locally-led protection analysis in interagency strategic planning and response.

### **Expected outcomes:**

This session aims to:

- Disseminate and validate key findings and recommendations from local organizations involved in a global research and consultative exercises on their engagement in and leadership of protection analysis initiatives.
- Support linkages and strengthen engagement between local and national organizations and interagency initiatives leading analysis and strategic planning processes and promote pathways to further capacity sharing, peer exchange, support and activation of their expertise in protection analysis.

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<sup>1</sup> [HPC 2026 Discussion Paper](#) (August 2025)

Facilitate substantive interagency dialogue, anchored in local actors' perspectives, on how to integrate locally led protection analysis into the Humanitarian Reset and the rethinking of the humanitarian architecture.

**Target audiences:** Local organizations involved in protection action, Protection Sector/sub-sector and Leads coordinating interagency analysis initiatives, Humanitarian Response Leadership, Donors steering and resourcing analysis informing strategic planning (including HPC 2026)

**Session type:** Online Event, Presentation of global learning and panel-style discussion of emerging insight areas

**Desired date and time:** 4 March, 14:00 – 15:30 CET. Any day week of 2 March would be suitable, desired time frame from 14:00 CET to accommodate participants from MENA and LATAM regions

**Meeting link and password:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rescue.zoom.us/j/99820257049?pwd=A2EAE9uGvYEbhEuuzQ2ZYybktqKJr3.1>

Meeting ID: 998 2025 7049

Passcode: 875611