



Global Protection Cluster

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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FOREWORD BY THE GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER COORDINATOR

The year 2025 has been marked by a severe deterioration of the protection situation in places such as Gaza, Sudan, and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, while the complexity of the challenges across all the crises where we work has worsened, including in light of drastic funding cuts and related reductions in essential protection services. An **estimated 395 million people in 23 countries** were exposed to protection risks. This number reflects individuals and communities facing direct, often life-threatening threats from violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation.

It has also been a year of change, with the **Humanitarian Reset and cluster simplification** driving significant reform as we work in a more integrated way with our colleagues from Child Protection, Gender based Violence and Mine Action. Our current Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) ended its term, and we elected a new SAG, with membership from local and international NGOs, women-led organizations, and UN partners, with geographical diversity and different areas of expertise well represented.

Despite the challenges and uncertainties, protection partners and clusters have continued delivering for and with affected people, working and advocating together for **protection amidst “hyper-prioritized” humanitarian responses**. During this year, we responded to 577 field support requests from 28 Protection Cluster operations and two non-cluster operations, with 43 partners involved in providing field support. We published 25 Protection Analysis Updates, Protection Alerts for Palestine, DRC, Mozambique, Sudan, Chad and Myanmar, a Global Protection Update, and analyses on the impacts of the funding crisis. We delivered a range of private briefings, engagements, and submissions to inform decision-making in Geneva and capitals around the world, and shone a light on protection through public events and discussions. The Global Protection Forum served as a loud and clear call from diverse partners and allies for protection to be further strengthened at the heart of the humanitarian system.

Challenges will certainly continue next year, with protection and protection partners under pressure as crises and funding uncertainty persist. However, I find real solidarity and hope in this strong and diverse protection community, and we count on our colleagues, clusters and partners to continue working hand in hand with affected communities. **Together with our partners, we aim to reach 51 million individuals in the most challenging contexts**, where Protection Clusters are driving collective efforts to mitigate risks and protect lives.

As the GPC and Protection Clusters, we remain committed to advancing collective action for protection and ensuring that the capacity and expertise developed by CP, GBV and MA AoRs and partners will continue in an integrated manner in the GPC. In 2026 we will also continue to realize more localized response systems and capacities, promoting local partners’ leadership while supporting transition planning as needed.

As we have said throughout the year, **many of the humanitarian crises we are confronted with today are essentially protection crises**, with protection risks and violations of international law driving humanitarian needs. I strongly believe that the only way forward is to continue our work together – to further raise our voices, to deliver, to stand firm on the importance of protection, and to continue to push for better outcomes for those whose rights and dignity are under attack.

Josep Herreros
Global Protection Cluster Coordinator

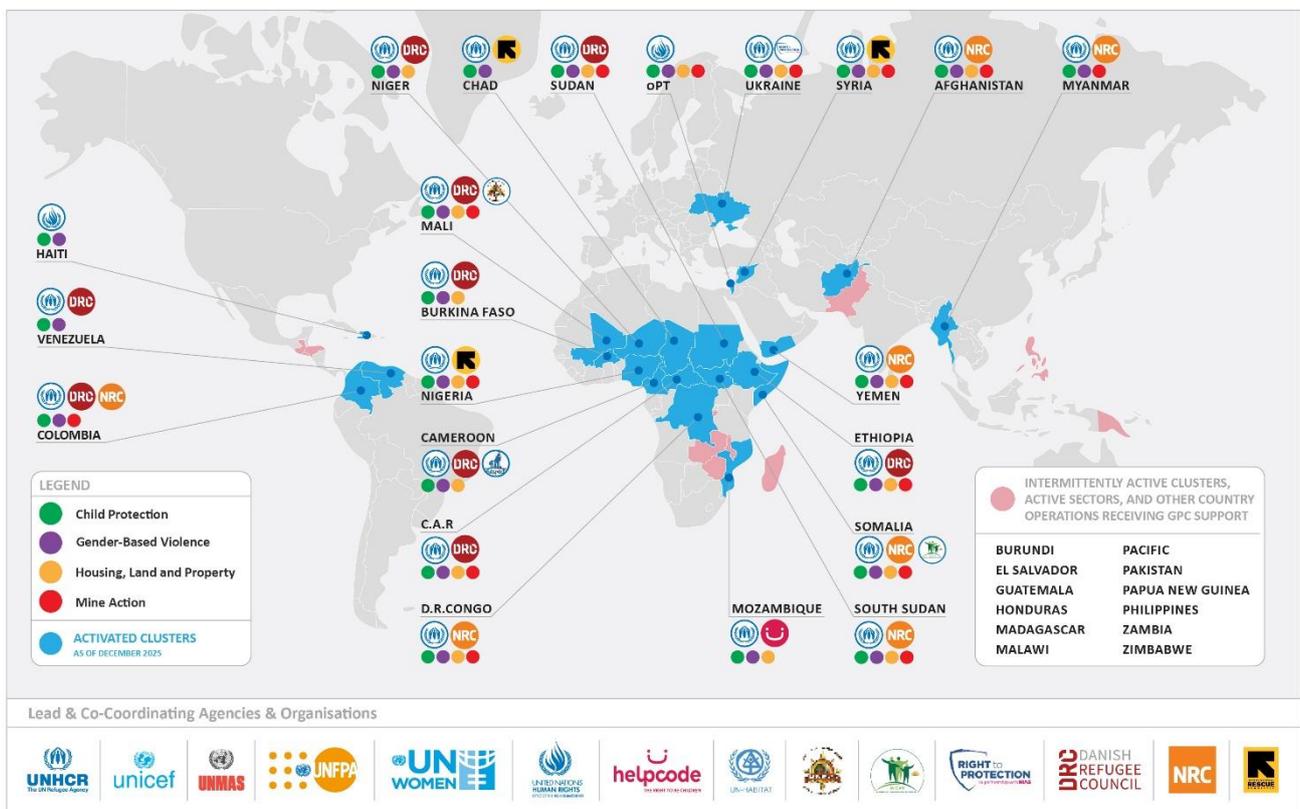


THE GPC AND OUR FIELD PROTECTION CLUSTERS

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is a network of diverse 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), 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 risks. In 2025, the GPC counted 2,835 members.

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

FIELD PROTECTION CLUSTER PRESENCE IN 2025



THE STATE OF PROTECTION IN 2025

The global protection landscape in 2025 is marked by a scale and severity of civilian harm that surpasses previous years. According to the [Global Protection Update](#) of October 2025, an estimated **395 million people in 23 countries are exposed to protection risks** (including 254 million in Africa, 78 million in Asia, 28 million in the Americas, 20 million in MENA and 15 million in Ukraine). This number reflects individuals and communities facing direct, often life-threatening threats of violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation. The estimate is based on extensive monitoring of protection risks at subnational level undertaken by Protection Clusters, complemented by 24 national and subnational Protection Analysis Updates published in 2025.

Critical Protection Risks

The most severe and recurrent protection risks include **attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, abductions, arbitrary detentions, severe movement restrictions and forced displacement**, all driven by conflicts and by the growing disregard for and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and the lack of accountability for it. **Gender-based violence, impediments to and denial of legal identity**, and intensifying **psychosocial distress**, compounded by the **denial of essential services and opportunities**, are consistently reported at severe levels, further highlighting the impact of these risks on crisis-affected individuals. Harm to civilians is increasingly heightened by social, psychological, and economic threats that extend beyond physical dangers. These are driven by societal norms, misinformation, and failures within legal systems, exploiting vulnerabilities such as social exclusion, limited awareness of rights, and economic instability.

This year's trends show clearer, **group-specific patterns of harm**: for example, men and boys remain heavily affected by abductions and illegal detention, while children face persistent risks of family separation and forced recruitment (especially boys). Women and girls continue to be disproportionately impacted, with early and forced marriage and other gender-based harms. These patterns highlight an increased stratification of protection risks that requires targeted responses.

Critical Protection Situations: Sudan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Myanmar

In 2025, **Sudan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Myanmar** faced the most extreme situations. This year, the deterioration was most visible in [Gaza](#), where the crisis has deepened into famine amid continued bombardment and the destruction of civilian infrastructure and lives. In [Sudan](#), particularly in **El Fasher**, civilians remained trapped in siege-like conditions for more than 500 days followed by horrendous rapes, killings and other abuses. In the **eastern DRC**, the rapid escalation of the M23 offensive in January resulted in the capture of [Goma](#) and [Bukavu](#) within three weeks, the killing of an estimated 3,000 people, and the displacement of over one million additional people, bringing total internal displacement to 6.4 million. **Myanmar** continues to experience widespread rights violations, with more than

19,900 people arrested since the 2021 coup and 7,100 still in detention, including humanitarian workers.

Escalation of Crises: Mozambique and Haiti

Rapidly escalating crises are driving sharp increases in violence and displacement, further compounding already severe humanitarian needs. In [Mozambique](#), escalation of attacks on civilians and civilian objects, and destruction of property has led in recent weeks to forced displacement of nearly 100,000 people. The number of people displaced by gang violence in **Haiti** doubled from September 2025 to October 2026, while killings, kidnapping and sexual violence are being used as tactics to extort and terrorize communities.

Protracted Situations: Venezuela, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin

Many of today's protection risks are rooted in prolonged and protracted crises, where conflict,

institutional erosion and economic collapse persist over years, entrenching vulnerabilities and normalising harm. In such contexts, risks are not only widespread but increasingly concentrated among the most vulnerable, as coping capacities are exhausted and humanitarian access remains constrained. In **Venezuela**, the collapse of public institutions, combined with extreme economic decline is driving families into negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage, child labour and trafficking. Across **the Sahel** and **the Lake Chad Basin**, armed group activity, forced recruitment, displacement, sexual violence and denial of services continue to dominate the protection landscape, while growing insecurity further constrains humanitarian access.

Accelerated Transitions

Protection risks remain high in countries experiencing accelerated transition, where changes in humanitarian presence and programming create additional vulnerabilities. In **Cameroon**, the Far North, Southwest and Northwest regions face high levels of abductions, kidnappings, unlawful detentions and killings. In **Colombia**, an estimated 167 municipalities face at least four of the 15 protection risks at severe or extreme levels. In **Nigeria**, 11 Local Government Area (LGAs) face a similar combination of risks. Across several operations (Afghanistan, DRC, Syria) massive return movements have occurred – sometimes under adverse circumstances – underscoring the critical need for sustained protection support to ensure that people can return in safety, dignity, and with their rights upheld.

Climate-Related Events

This situation is highly worrying and leads to further deterioration when communities are hit by natural hazards or the impacts of climate change. In areas where protection risks already overlap, contingency planning and preparedness are extremely difficult, and natural hazards become far more devastating, creating new protection risks, and increasing humanitarian needs. Recent examples include severe flooding in **South Sudan**, **Nigeria**, **Venezuela** and earthquakes in **Myanmar**

and **Afghanistan**, which have displaced large populations, exposed them to heightened protection risks (19.9 million in Myanmar and 1.2 million in Afghanistan), disrupted essential services and worsened pre-existing vulnerabilities. In these contexts, individuals face the combined effects of environmental hazards, conflict and exclusion – an interaction that greatly increases the risks of exploitation, violence, loss of property and family separation.

Emerging Protection Challenges

Emerging protection challenges are increasingly shaped by both deliberate tactics of harm and rapid technological change. In several crises, the **weaponization of food, the use of famine as a method of warfare, and siege tactics** are being employed to exert control over civilian populations, cutting off access to essential goods and services and exacerbating vulnerabilities. The continued, and at times increasing, **use of rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war** to exert power and control, deny and destroy the lives and dignity of women, children and also men remain worrying. At the same time, **technology is transforming the protection landscape**: while digital tools can improve early warning, communication, and access to assistance, they also introduce risks such as surveillance, data exploitation, misinformation, technology facilitated violence, and exclusion of those without digital access. Together, these dynamics demand adapted protection strategies that address both intentional deprivation and the evolving digital threats facing affected communities. The **use of new methods of warfare** – particularly drones – by state forces, armed groups, and gangs is outpacing existing prevention, protection, and response capacities, creating new and poorly regulated risk environments for civilians. The **use of explosive weapons in populated areas** is only adding to an already dire situation. The rapid concentration of humanitarian assistance in a limited number of locations, combined with widespread service reductions, is shifting **disproportionate responsibility and risk onto local NGOs and frontline actors** – often without the resources, security guarantees, or



institutional support required to operate safely and effectively.

Together, these trends point to a global protection environment where conflict-driven risks, discrimination, deliberate deprivation and institutional collapse increasingly overlap. The deterioration is widespread, multi-dimensional and advancing faster than the humanitarian architecture, even after the Reset, can adapt to. Large segments of the population are now directly exposed to severe violence, coercion and deprivation, driven by the flagrant disregard and violations of IHL and human rights law and lack of accountability for it. These harms are further compounded by discriminatory norms, misinformation, weak legal systems, limited awareness about rights and economic instability.



HIGHLIGHTS IN 2025

HUMANITARIAN RESET AND CLUSTER REFORM

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT & IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT | MARCH-JUNE 2025

The Humanitarian Reset, announced in March 2025, represented a system-wide effort to reform humanitarian action by improving efficiency and sharpening the focus on life-saving activities. A key milestone under the Reset was the IASC Principals' decision on [Cluster Simplification](#), including the reduction of global clusters from 11 to 8 and the consolidation of the Protection Cluster and its Areas of Responsibility. This was followed by a joint letter from Cluster Lead Agencies and the issuance of guidance to cluster coordinators to support implementation of these reforms at country level. A significant proportion of the GPC support to country clusters during this period focused on accompanying and operationalising these reforms, reflecting both the scale of change and the demand for guidance at field level. As part of this effort, the GPC launched a new dedicated webpage, [Positioning Protection in Humanitarian Action 2025](#), to provide a central platform for resources, guidance, and updates on the reforms. While the prioritisation agenda under the Reset strongly reaffirmed protection as core to life-saving aims; and in many contexts protection was clearly recognised and supported within hyper-prioritisation exercises; the pace and scope of reform have also generated uncertainty for planning, resourcing, and coordination structures. This has required clusters to balance immediate delivery with continuous advocacy to ensure protection leadership and outcomes were not diluted in the process.

PROTECTION CLUSTER CONSOLIDATION

GLOBAL & IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT | JUNE-DECEMBER 2025

Following the IASC Principals decision on Cluster Simplification (see above), the GPC worked towards the consolidation of the Protection Cluster and its four Areas of Responsibilities (AoRs) at both global and country levels. By the end of 2025, the global AoRs were fully integrated into the GPC, with leadership for gender-based violence, child protection and mine action continuing under UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNMAS. This consolidation reflects the commitment to a unified structure, with a consolidated team at global level and one consolidated [Strategic Advisory Group \(SAG\)](#) for the period 2026-27. In addition, harmonized and streamlined guidance was developed for the 2026 Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) and constant support provided to country operations in its implementation. The 2026 HNRPs now present a single chapter with planning figures and a consolidated response monitoring framework while preserving clear budget breakdown per specialised responses. Throughout the year, progress at the country level has been closely monitored, and ongoing consolidation efforts will continue to support country-level implementation in 2026.

SUPPORT TO CLUSTER TRANSITION

REMOTE & IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT | MARCH – NOVEMBER 2025

In 2025, there has been a reduction in the number of Protection Cluster operations, in line with country level decisions on coordination needs and requirements.

- The 4 coordination bodies of the Syria response (Whole of Syria, Northeast Syria, Northwest Syria and the Damascus Hub) merged into one unified coordination structure in June 2025.
- Honduras and Guatemala clusters deactivated, in line with 2024 decisions. In 2025, Honduras operated an interim protection platform that has deactivated by the end of 2025 – in line with the coordination commitments.
- Zimbabwe cluster has transformed into a sector.
- NE Nigeria and Cameroon are undergoing a transition exercise, with transition processes in place 2026-2027.
- Due to an easing in the context, the responses in Zambia and Lebanon required limited support from the GPC in 2025.



To help navigate these changes, the GPC increased its support to country clusters undergoing transition in the context of the Humanitarian Reset. This support included the development of a joint NRC/GPC [Guidance Note on Protection in Humanitarian Coordination Transition](#), facilitation of peer-to-peer exchanges to share practical experiences and lessons learned, and targeted country-level support, including a dedicated mission to Cameroon and tailored support to clusters in Colombia and Nigeria. These efforts aimed to strengthen transition planning, clarify roles and responsibilities, and mitigate risks to protection leadership and outcomes during periods of structural change. It is anticipated that there will be further cluster deactivation in 2026.

PROTECTION CLUSTER SUPPORT TO THE CENTRALITY OF PROTECTION

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT & IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT | JANUARY-DECEMBER 2025

In 2025, the GPC strengthened its support to country operations on the Centrality of Protection (CoP), including in shaping HCT protection strategies, action plans, and collective advocacy initiatives. This included the publication of 25 Protection Analysis Updates (PAUs), a stronger subnational protection risks severity focus and dedicated risk prioritization support to inform evidence-based planning and HCT's decision making. The GPC also actively supported the roll-out of the [Centrality of Protection Benchmarks](#) with cluster operations, participated in Shelter and Food Security Clusters workshops on Centrality of Protection, and actively contributed to the inclusion of CoP in the HNRPs process revision. The GPC also engaged with UNHCR and GELI to support implementation of the first HCT workshop on protection leadership, which took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as part of an ECHO-funded initiative aimed at strengthening protection across country-level humanitarian response efforts. To enhance understanding of protection risks, the GPC also produced an introductory video on Protection Risks, along with 15 short videos covering each of the standard protection risks monitored by the GPC and its partners. These efforts have supported country-level implementation of CoP, ensuring that protection remains central to humanitarian planning and response. With the CoP Community of Practice, UNHCR, InterAction and other key partners, the GPC contributed to advocacy efforts advancing Centrality of Protection within the Reset and the 2026 HPC.

GPC/AoR COORDINATORS JOINT MISSION

PORT SUDAN, SUDAN | FEBRUARY 2025



At the request of the Sudan Protection Cluster, the GPC Coordinator and Coordinators from the Child Protection and GBV AoRs carried out a joint mission to Sudan. They met with crisis-affected communities, national and local organizations, authorities, international NGOs, OCHA, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in Port Sudan and Kassala, Cluster Lead Agencies, and donors. The team undertook a six-day field visit to Kassala and Gedaref. This was the fourth joint mission by the GPC and AoR Global Coordinators, following missions in Somalia and Ukraine in 2023 and in Ethiopia in 2024.

PROTECTION COORDINATORS' CONFERENCE

ONLINE | 4 – 6 NOVEMBER 2025

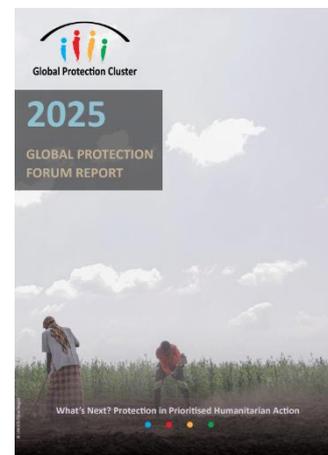
The 2025 Global Protection Coordinators' Conference took place online from 4-6 November 2025, bringing together staff members of the global and country Protection Clusters and Areas of Responsibility. An average of 75 participants took part in each session. The conference consisted of 3 core sessions focusing on elements central to the Humanitarian Reset and implications for protection clusters and partners. The first session focused on the consolidation of the Protection Cluster and AoRs and what it means in practice for country teams and partners. The second session was a jointly organized by the GPC and ProCap, aimed at supporting reflection and learning on advocacy for the prioritization of protection amidst the Reset and in increasingly constrained environments. The last session followed up on last year's Conference focused on transitioning out of humanitarian coordination systems, with a panel discussion bringing together experts from the Norwegian

Refugee Council (NRC), the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the European Union Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO).

GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM

ONLINE | 10 – 14 NOVEMBER 2025

Organized in collaboration with a broad network of partners, the annual Forum provided a space for dialogue, learning, and collaboration on critical protection issues. Through six virtual events, it brought together protection partners, field practitioners, donors, Member States, academics, and others to exchange perspectives on protection priorities and emerging trends. The forum recorded strong participation, with an average of 250 participants per session and a cumulative attendance of 1,600 across 113 countries, reflecting the broad reach and engagement of the forum. The opening session of the Forum brought together nearly 500 participants. Registrations surpassed 5,700 globally, with Sub-Saharan Africa being the most represented region, accounting for 47% of all registrations, followed by Europe (22%) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region (11.6%). Speakers joined on behalf of 43 different organisations, including NGOs, Protection Cluster and AoR coordination teams, donors, UN agencies and academics. The theme of this year's Global Protection Forum, *What's Next? Protection in Prioritised Humanitarian Action*, sought to address the evolving challenges and opportunities faced by Protection Clusters, practitioners and affected communities in 2025. Against a backdrop of funding cuts and increasingly 'hyper-prioritised' humanitarian responses, and as humanitarian crises are marked by rising violence against civilian populations, including women and children, and growing disregard for international law and humanitarian principles, this theme underscored the critical need to place protection at the centre of humanitarian action. The Forum helped analyse current trends in protection risks and examine the main threats faced by communities, with particular attention to some of the most challenging crises. It further considered how protection and the voices of affected populations and local actors is included and prioritized in these responses, and what is required to strengthen this. The [Official Summary Report](#) provides an overview of interventions from speakers and serves to summarise key take-aways and best practices.



ANNUAL DONOR MEETING

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND | 09 DECEMBER 2025

The Annual Donor Meeting offered a timely opportunity to reflect on emerging protection trends. The GPC produced a [Briefing Note on the State of Protection in 2025](#), providing a shared analysis of the most severe protection risks facing communities across Protection Cluster operations. The note aims to support donors and Member States in aligning political, financial and operational support with realities on the ground. This year's context was shaped by two major shifts: the deepening of protection risks in large-scale conflicts and protracted crises – from Gaza, Sudan and eastern DRC to Myanmar, Ukraine and multiple contexts across the Sahel and the Americas – and the restructuring of the humanitarian system under the Humanitarian Reset, which prioritised life-saving outcomes and simplified coordination amid significant funding cuts. The presentation of global protection trends was followed by a discussion with Cluster Lead Agency on progress made towards the consolidation of the Protection Cluster. The event was attended by more than 50 participants, from 12 donors and Member States.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

OPS CELL, TASK TEAMS, WORKING GROUPS AND PARTNERS

2025 marked the first year of our [2025-2030 Strategic Framework](#) and its three strategic objectives. During the year, the GPC placed particular emphasis on the Humanitarian Reset and Cluster Reform.

Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen coordination and collaboration in each country operation

- ◆ 577 field support requests (+9% increase from 2024) from 28 Protection Cluster operations and 2 non-cluster operations, with 43 partners, coordination groups and other actors involved in providing field support.
- ◆ Field support delivered through a system of country focal points, ensuring consistent, day-to-day engagement with cluster operations and the ability to leverage more technical expertise and support as needed.
- ◆ Annual Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) exercise conducted with 581 partners submitting their inputs across 26 operations.
- ◆ Technical and operational support in response to emerging crises, such as the escalation of violence in eastern DRC, Gaza, Myanmar and Afghanistan earthquakes, South Sudan floods.
- ◆ 10 field support missions to Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan, Lebanon, Ukraine, Myanmar, Ethiopia, eastern DRC, Sudan, Cameroon.
- ◆ Series of Peer Exchange Sessions with field operations to enable the sharing of practices and challenges.
 - 8 sessions organized and led by the Protection Clusters from Syria, OPT, Yemen, covering topics such as emergency protection response teams, civil documentation, the inclusion of older people and persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, humanitarian evacuations.
 - 2 additional sessions organized by the GPC on protection coordination and programming in transition contexts and in flood responses.
- ◆ [Protection Field Coordination Toolkit](#) updated with new resources.
- ◆ Sub-national Protection Cluster coordination training delivered in Afghanistan and Myanmar.
- ◆ Appropriate onboarding and capacity support to new coordinators, given significant turnover in 2025.
- ◆ Dedicated inclusion capacity to support Age Inclusion Specialists deployment to Protection Clusters and other humanitarian coordination structures in Ethiopia, Sudan, Syria, Türkiye, Lebanon, Ukraine, and Venezuela.
- ◆ A series of specialized training sessions on ageing, protection and inclusion of older people for clusters and working groups in Papua New Guinea, Yemen, and Mozambique.
- ◆ Five webinars on the 2026 HPC streamlined approach for the Protection Cluster ([recording](#)) and targeting methodology ([recording](#)).
- ◆ Publication of an integrated [Protection Response Framework](#), carried out in collaboration with AoRs, partners, and coordination teams.
- ◆ Support to the annual Protection Risk Assessment exercise, with 2,673 subnational areas assessed across operations.
- ◆ Development of a [Predictive Analysis of People Exposed to Protection Risks in Areas Affected by the Earthquake in Afghanistan](#) and a [Briefing Note on the Protection Response following the Earthquake in Eastern Afghanistan](#), which informed coordination and response efforts. In South Sudan, the GPC produced a [Floods & Protection Risks Analysis](#).
- ◆ Developed an integrated analytical model combining CHIRPS drought severity (SPI) with Protection Risks severity to identify priority protection response districts in Afghanistan.
- ◆ Strategic advice and support to protection monitoring and analysis systems in West and Central Africa and Latin America. Targeted support to align protection monitoring systems with protection risks framework in Syria, OPT, Sudan, Haiti.
- ◆ Partnership with REACH to ensure Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNAs) aligned with Protection Cluster analysis efforts at the country level.
- ◆ One C4P in person training in Ramallah, Palestine (18-22 May 2025), focused on the integration of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) into Child Protection programming, with 17 participants from national and international NGOs operating in the West Bank, including protection specialists, CVA officers, and MEAL staff.

Strategic Objective 2: Support improved integration of priority protection themes

- ◆ Publication of [Practical Guidance on the Role of Protection Clusters in Durable Solutions Processes](#) to equip Protection Clusters to engage in durable solutions processes from the onset of displacement crises. This includes a [Solutions Support Tool: Protection Risks, Obstacles and Entry Points for Protection Clusters](#).
- ◆ Development of an Aide Memoire on Leveraging International Humanitarian Law to Protect Civilians [to be published in 2026].
- ◆ Support to the roll-out of the Centrality of Protection Benchmarks with cluster operations and participation in Shelter and Food Security Cluster workshops on Centrality of Protection.
- ◆ Publication of the [Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement: Implementing National Responsibility](#).
- ◆ Publication of HelpAge new report on [Age Inclusion Specialists: Promoting and Strengthening Older Age Inclusion in Humanitarian Action](#), in collaboration with the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne and covering Ethiopia, Moldova, Ukraine and Venezuela.
- ◆ 3 online dissemination sessions (English, French and Spanish) on C4P guidance [Key considerations for Cash for protection in Specialised/Stand-alone Protection Programming](#) (in coordination with CALP, Regional West and Central Africa Cash Working Group and the German Cash Working Group).
- ◆ NRC, CIVIC and GPC commissioned new research on [Protection After UN Peacekeeping Mission Withdrawals](#) outlining impacts and considerations during and after withdrawals to support the continuity of protection. Several related briefings and research sharing sessions were also organized.
- ◆ The GPC Community-Led Protection Task Team/Community of Practice finalised the glossary on key Community-Led Protection (CLP) concepts, aimed at ensuring a shared and common understanding across stakeholders.

Strategic Objective 3: Lead collective action to achieve protection outcomes and uphold system-wide quality and standards

- ◆ Publication of 25 Protection Analysis Updates: [OPT \(Gaza\)](#), [Myanmar](#), [Afghanistan](#), [Mozambique](#), [South Sudan](#), [OPT \(West Bank\)](#), [DRC](#), [Colombia \(Norte Santander\)](#), [Cameroon](#), [Mali](#), [Somalia \(Luuq District\)](#), [Niger](#), [Colombia \(Arauca\)](#), [OPT \(Gaza\)](#), [CAR](#), [Colombia \(Sierra Nevada\)](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Haiti](#), [Ukraine](#), [Sudan](#), [South Sudan](#), [Afghanistan](#), [DRC](#), Nigeria and Yemen [available upon request].
- ◆ Publication of the [Global Protection Update: Protection in a Prioritised Humanitarian Response](#).
- ◆ Protection Alerts for [North Kivu](#) and [South Kivu](#), [Mozambique](#), western [Chad](#), and Sudan's [Darfur](#) and [Kordofan](#) regions.
- ◆ 6 Member States and donors' briefings on the situation in eastern DRC, Myanmar, Syria, OPT, Sudan plus a dedicated high-level event by the GPC and OHCHR on 'The Protection Situation and Response in Gaza' with plenary session and several roundtable discussions featuring remarks from the OPT Protection Cluster, national partners, Member States and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- ◆ Publication of an introductory video on [Protection Risks](#) and 15 [specific videos](#) for each of the standard protection risks monitored by the GPC and protection partners.
- ◆ Contribution to several [Protection of Civilian Week](#) side events in New York in May, including with participation from DRC Protection Cluster, and national partners from Mali and Myanmar Protection Clusters.
- ◆ Contributions to OCHA briefings to the Informal Expert Group (IEG) on Protection of Civilians of the Security Council (including briefings on the situation in DRC, Somalia, South Sudan, Haiti and Sudan). Based on the joint research with NRC and CIVIC on [Protection After UN Peacekeeping Mission Withdrawals](#), developed a submission together with Oxfam and the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action to the Review of all Forms of UN Peace Operations.
- ◆ Engagement with human rights mechanisms ensuring timely support to reporting and accountability processes:
 - Confidential briefing and submission by the Afghanistan Protection Cluster to CEDAW.
 - Engagement with Special Procedures Mandate Holders, including the Special Rapporteur for IDPs.
- ◆ HNPW session organised with Oxfam on [Protection Advocacy as First-Line Response](#).
- ◆ HNPW session organised with SIDA, SDC, WFP, OCHA and IRC on [HNPW 2025: Leverage Protection Risks Analysis to Inform Joined-Up Collective Actions](#).
- ◆ Launch of a dedicated Ukrainian language version of the [GPC Protection Advocacy Toolkit](#).

- ◆ Dialogue and engagement between youth leaders in North-West Syria and policy-makers, researchers and donors through online event to share research undertaken by the North-West Syria Protection Cluster with findings consolidated in the [Youth Report: Protection Barriers and Risks](#).
- ◆ Championed inclusive representation in the Global Protection Forum session "Voices in Action: Affected Populations at the Forefront of Decision-Making," directly elevating the perspectives of older people through the participation of an Older People Association (OPA) representative.
- ◆ GPC/InterAction global workshop on Protection Advocacy and Humanitarian Diplomacy.
- ◆ The GPC's Advocacy Working Group members contributed to a range of influencing efforts, including a number of the events, reports and engagements outlined above. Members also contributed to the development of shared narratives and influencing efforts related to the Humanitarian Reset, ensuring protection remained central.
- ◆ Implementation of protection advocacy, engagement and humanitarian negotiations related capacity-building efforts in several country contexts. This included in-person workshops with frontline protection partners in Ethiopia and DRC and HCT members in DRC to advance protection outcomes across the humanitarian response as part of an ongoing collaboration between GPC, UNHCR, the CCHN and GELI. Advocacy and strategic planning workshops were also held with a range of protection partners and HCT members in Sudan, together with ProCap.
- ◆ Direct use of protection risk analysis and calculation of the JIAF (HNRP) Outcome Indicator on Human Rights and IHL in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Haiti, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan and Venezuela.

2025 Specific Focus: Contribute to the Humanitarian Reset and Cluster Reform discussions

- ◆ 21% of field support requests covered issues related to the Humanitarian Reset, such as hyper-prioritization exercises, cluster transition/deactivation, and cluster architecture, including the Protection Cluster consolidation and the increased use of Area-Based Coordination.
- ◆ Clusters supported throughout, with timely responses and advocacy in light of fluctuating proposals on coordination of architecture and protection prioritization.
- ◆ Publication of the GPC statement [Protection Matters: Saving Lives and Reducing the Harms Faced by People Amidst Humanitarian Crises](#).
- ◆ Publication of the GPC report [Funding Analysis and Protection Risks: Understanding the Link and the Cost of Inaction](#).
- ◆ Launch of a new webpage titled [Positioning Protection in Humanitarian Action 2025](#).
- ◆ Publication of key messages on [Protection Saves Lives and Supports Stability and Solutions](#).
- ◆ Contribution to the Regional Protection Working Group for West and Central Africa advocacy note on [the Impact of Humanitarian Funding Cuts on Protection Programming in West and Central Africa](#).
- ◆ Support to Myanmar Protection Cluster funding and protection risk analysis.
- ◆ Publication of three targeted guidance notes addressing critical areas of operational planning:
 - [Prioritization of Protection Activities](#) – to support clusters in focusing efforts on the most life-saving and impactful interventions.
 - [Cluster Transition and Deactivation](#) – to guide field teams through responsible and principled cluster drawdown or handover.
 - [Programme Closure](#) – to ensure the safe, ethical, and effective closure of protection programmes while minimizing harm to affected populations.
- ◆ Advocacy and influencing efforts in coordination with the GPC Strategic Advisory Group and the Community of Practice on Centrality of Protection in two major streams of reform: the future of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) and humanitarian leadership.
- ◆ Contribution to OCHA Area-Based Coordination reflection.
- ◆ Support to coordination teams following the issuance of the [IASC Cluster Simplification Interim Messages to Country Operations](#) to implement the guidance and recommendations regarding the integration of clusters and implications for the 2026 HPC.
- ◆ [Streamlined methodology](#) and standardized processes agreed between the GPC and the AoRs for the 2026 HPC, in line with the consolidation of the Protection Cluster.



AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY



[Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility \(HLP AoR\)](#), co-led through 2025 by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

The HLP AoR worked in 2025 with global and national colleagues from the protection, shelter and CCCM clusters to offer support to the HLP response in over 20 humanitarian operations. Support came 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.

From 2026 as part of the 'humanitarian reset', HLP coordination will now sit with the newly formed Shelter Land and Site Coordination (SLSC) cluster, bringing together the work of the Shelter, CCCM clusters and HLP AoR. A strong working relationship on HLP issues will be maintained with the Global Protection Cluster.

2025 Achievements

Alongside the Humanitarian Reset cluster simplification process, the HLP AoR continued to prioritise support to colleagues in operations. The **HLP AoR's HelpDesk** function continued to respond to technical and coordination requests from HLP practitioners. In 2025, this has included work with colleagues in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan (support on AoR strategy and advocacy), Sudan (support to strategy development), Syria (dedicated coordination support), Ukraine and Yemen. The HLP AoR continued its regular support and peer exchange sessions for all involved in coordinating country level HLP AoR and working groups. This included quarterly meetings of the newly established French-language HLP community of practice for Central West Africa responses which brought together national and sub-national HLP coordinators, enabling the exchange of experiences among coordinators across the Francophone region.

The AoR's **IM support** continues to develop and in 2025 included sustained support to Cameroon, DRC, Burkina Faso, Mali, Syria and Palestine (data collection tools, HPC process and the development of data visualisations and Reliefweb pages). The global IM Advisor mission to Somalia supported the HPC process and provided tailored IM support, developing a dedicated HLP dashboard for clear communication on HLP AoR partner activities and impact.

At the global level, a new global HLP dashboard was launched to 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 HLP AoR also continued its collaboration with the Global Protection Cluster, notably through the workstreams of the joint GPC and AoR IM team, contributing to strengthened coordination and the harmonization of IM practices across the protection cluster.

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 continues with the aim of better integration of HLP-sensitive approaches into programming across sectors. In 2025 this began with the launch of the Beta version of the [HLP Due Diligence Portal](#) with the global Shelter and CCCM clusters. Then our collaboration took a different turn as coordination and IM colleagues began to create what would become the global Shelter, Land and Site Coordination (SLSC) Cluster in response to the 'humanitarian reset'. The HLP AoR convened a global task team to ensure HLP was well reflected in the changing structure as part of the new cluster and working closely with the global protection cluster. The memo, '[Maintaining Momentum and Focus on Housing, Land and Property \(HLP\) through the humanitarian reset: Partnerships for protection, homes, land and shelter](#)' sets out critical HLP



issues to be maintained in the new SLSC Cluster, which can see HLP response better integrated into shelter and site coordination programming as well as maintaining the distinct HLP programming delivered through the HLP AoR and its partners over many years.

The HLP AoR continued to raise the profile of how critical engagement with HLP issues is for effective, safe and longer-term solutions through events and meetings at the Third Arab Land Conference in Morocco, The World Bank Land Conference in the US, Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW). The year ends with the launch of the new Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster, and a firm commitment to a continued working relationship with the Global Protection Cluster.



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.

The 1,098 members strong GBV AoR Community of Practice (CoP) continued working towards increasing overall effectiveness of prevention and response to GBV in Emergencies.

Special thanks to Sarah Martin and Beth Vann for keeping the community alive and strong despite the funding cuts; working on a voluntary basis for a large part of the year.

The CoP provided ongoing facilitation of queries and sharing of expertise and solutions to GBV programming; a series of webinars and a four-week course: Knowing and Regulating the Nervous System - Building Systemic Care for GBV Responders in Challenging Times, facilitated by Paula Ramírez Diaz-Granados, Trauma-Informed Practitioner, and moderated by Sarah. Participants joined from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Paula also provided some sessions voluntarily during the first closures of organizations and GBV staff offering a safe space to participants at a critical time.

GBV AoR Helpdesk: the GBViE Technical Support Hub¹, provided free, confidential technical advice to humanitarian actors responding to GBV in emergencies, in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. In 2025, the Helpdesk responded to a high level of queries. All resources remain available in the [online library](#).

- Updated Report on Humanitarian Financing for National/Local Women's Organizations and Groups.
- Complementary ways of working between GBV and Protection sectors to support GBV survivors.
- The Helpdesk also offered coaching and mentoring to WLOs upon request.

GBV AoR Field Support

The global and five regional teams (Dakar, Cairo, Nairobi, Bangkok, Panama) supported IASC priority countries, preparedness and transition countries, strengthening GBV prevention and response capacities, in collaboration with country coordinators, despite severe funding constraints and helping teams engage on protection consolidation, and adapting to the outcome of the Humanitarian Reset.

I. Major crises and scale ups

Gaza: Sustained technical and coordination support to the GBV AoR in Palestine, stepping in as Acting GBV Coordinator for Gaza. Two missions to Gaza were undertaken to strengthen GBV response under catastrophic operating conditions. The missions focused on supporting the GBV Case Management Task Force to maintain

¹ The GBViE Technical Support Hub is currently on pause, since 1 Jan. 2026, due to funding ending but SDDirect continues to be proactive in seeking funds and hopes to resume this public good service.



quality and survivor-centered services despite severe constraints and included adapting and supervising remote case management modalities; digitization; strengthening safe referral pathways and case transfers. Supported partners to reinforce the positioning of GBV as a life-saving intervention and access to Country-Based Pooled Funds, in addition to targeted advocacy notes on priority GBV risks and quarterly GBV trends analyses to inform coordination, advocacy, and response planning.

Sudan: In 2025, the regional GBV IM specialist facilitated a five-day, in-person training in Sudan, engaging 32 participants from 20 organizations, with most representing Women-Led Organizations (WLOs). In addition, guidance and support were provided on indicators, data analysis, and severity-of-needs calculations as part of the 2026 Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP) cycle. This included technical leadership on severity mapping, People in Need (PiN) estimation, target setting, and data input management, ensuring stakeholders were equipped with essential tools to advance evidence-based humanitarian planning and response strategies.

DRC: During the eastern DRC crisis, the REGA (Dakar) surged to serve as acting national GBV AoR Coordinator, maintaining functional GBV coordination and service delivery in areas affected by fighting and displacement. Contributed to UNFPA's crisis response strategy, regular GBV updates for HCT and donors, and mobilization of human and financial resources, including GBV coordination and IM capacity in Goma and Kinshasa. The mission highlighted the leadership of women-led organizations, such as SOFEPADI and UOFH-NK, through high-level donor briefings and webinars, amplifying frontline evidence from North Kivu and reinforcing WLO roles in GBV response and coordination.

Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica (Crisis Hurricane Melissa): Sustained technical support to Cuba, Haiti, and Jamaica under the UNFPA activated Level 2 emergency. Remote support with rapid assessments, coordination, tools, and resource mobilization. Aligned with UNFPA Priority Emergency GBV Interventions, the IM Specialist focused on monitoring and reporting, contributing critical statistical inputs for the SitReps.

Haiti and Colombia: Technical and information management support to Haiti helped sustain GBV as a life-saving priority amid escalating violence. This support contributed to strengthened GBV coordination and informed humanitarian planning through inputs to People in Need figures, targeting and financial requirements, as well as regular GBV incident analysis and response monitoring, supporting evidence-based decision-making and advocacy.

Climate Crisis: In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Climate Task Team and the Helpdesk, REGA coordinated the development of a learning brief on **Key Considerations at the Intersection of Disasters, Climate Change, and GBV in Asia-Pacific**. The REGA in Bangkok also joined forces with NORCAP on their new GBV data innovation project on Anticipatory Action "Turning Warnings into Action"; NORCAP initiated a dedicated regional data deployment to UNFPA Bangkok, linking data capacities, forecasting, service mapping and local capacities.

II. Regional GBV IM leadership

- **HNRP 2026** calculations of needs, targets and severity of risks and needs in all cluster countries. Provision of data and analysis on protection cluster simplification, cluster transitions (Colombia, Nigeria and Cameroon), inter-agency risk analysis (GRANIT) in coastal countries (Ghana, Togo, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire).

- **GBV dashboards** were regularly published, enhancing visibility of survivors' access to services and supporting evidence-based advocacy and decision making.

- **IM missions: Mali, Chad, Sudan.** In **Mozambique**, one-day workshop where 40 partners mapped 256 GBV services, leading to a critical update of the 4/5W matrix.

Sustained partnerships with local GBV responders and leadership.

- **A total of 1469 WLOs** reached with REGA webinars and learning across all regions.
- **Five WLOs co-coordinate GBV AoRs and GBViE** at the national level in **Yemen, South Sudan, Sudan, Mali and Colombia**; and six at the sub-national level in **Myanmar, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen** with efforts to increase this share. The global GBV AoR facilitated a **peer-to-peer learning platform** for WLO GBV co-leads and supported the selection of co-leads in Mali and Yemen, rolling out new tools to assess power dynamics, leadership and partnerships within the networks in both operations.
- REGA facilitated GBViE training of national and local responders; UNFPA established **expert rosters** with national authorities in **Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Togo**. 150 members, GBViE specialists and humanitarian midwives.
- **6-Week GBV case management program with national and local mentors in East and South Africa region**: After rigorous short-listing, 338 caseworkers were selected, with **45% coming from Women-Led Organizations (WLOs)**.
- [Regional Arab States report on the specific challenges faced by WLOs in accessing Country Based Pooled Funds](#), in collaboration with CAFI Network.
- Strengthened GBViE response coordination in Venezuela (GBV AoR) through a five-day workshop with women-led organizations from the CAFI Network (including Tinta Violeta, Cedexes, and Uniandes, among others), focusing on aligning advocacy strategies for women's and girls' rights.
- Capacity building for higher education personnel (Social Work and Psychology) in El Salvador (UNFPA and GBV Subsector) under the "Mujeres al Centro" (MAC) project: Established the basis for academic certification in GBV Case Management. The curriculum covered GBViE fundamentals, essential services, survivor-centered guiding principles, and core case manager competencies and processes.



Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR), led by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and co-coordinated, until June, by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

An estimated 100 million people live in proximity to explosive ordnance contamination resulting from armed conflicts. Mines, cluster munitions, unexploded and abandoned ordnance, booby traps, improvised and other explosive devices kill and injure thousands of people every year. Most of the victims are civilians and about half of them are children. High numbers of casualties are recorded in conflicts when population fleeing danger travel through unfamiliar areas. Furthermore, these dangerous items hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance and impede communities' access to food, water, health, shelter, land and livelihood. Effective and well-funded coordination between mine action and other sectors is crucial in emergency settings and at the global level.

2025 Achievements

In 2025, the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR)², led by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) provided support to mine action actors across 15 operations³ despite capacity shortage and funding cuts.

² At the global level MA AoR members include: Action on Armed Violence, Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit, Cluster Munition Convention Implementation Support Unit, DanChurchAid, Danish Refugee Council, Fondation Suisse de Déminage, Free Fields Foundation, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), The HALO Trust, Humanity & Inclusion, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), iMMAP, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Mines Advisory Group, The Marshall Legacy Institute, Norwegian People's Aid, Norwegian Refugee Council, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), OXFAM, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), James Madison University, University of Queensland Australia, University of Washington, World Food Programme (WFP).

³ Afghanistan, CAR, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen.



Expected USAID funding fell through at the start of 2025 thwarting the plan to address the mine action information management and coordination capacity gaps faced in 2024. Funding cuts led the Danish Refugee Council to discontinue its support for the co-coordinator position. Staff cuts also reduced UN capacity to contribute mine action expertise to humanitarian partners in Afghanistan, Colombia, DRC, Myanmar, Niger and Yemen. Most coordinators were double-hatted and oftentimes lacked dedicated IM support.

Despite these setbacks, the MA AoR Global Coordinator worked closely with in-country coordinators to offer technical expertise and incorporate mine action into Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans (HNRP). UNMAS Geneva developed a guidance note to assist coordinators in navigating the new consolidated HNRP format, providing clear instructions on framing mine action priorities and offering examples of language to support advocacy. This effort was complemented by contributions to the creation of the [GPC's Integrated Response Framework](#), which standardized activities and indicators across AoRs furthering the consolidation of the cluster.

Recognizing the operational implications of the Humanitarian Reset, the MA AoR launched a survey to assess its impact and sustained an open line of communication with in-country coordinators throughout the year. The Global MA AoR convened seven meetings with partners to consult them on the proposed reforms and briefed donors. It continued to share advocacy tools and best practices in the central depository for coordinators.



During the annual National Directors Meeting (NDM-UN28) in Geneva, the MA AoR organized [a side event on the role of the MA AoR in complex settings crises](#) with UNDP, UNMAS, Germany Federal Foreign Office, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, and Humanity and Inclusion. Participants explored innovative solutions for more adaptable and effective coordination of humanitarian mine action activities.

Improving Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is an area of focus for the MA AoR. In October, the MA AoR, in collaboration with the Global CCCM Cluster and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), produced a practical tip sheet titled [Integrating Explosive Ordnance Risk Education into Camp Coordination and Camp Management](#). This resource aims to strengthen collaboration across sectors to build safer environments for displaced populations. The MA AoR also engaged with Humanity and Inclusion on risk education and attended their [EORE and conflict preparedness and protection of civilians \(CPP\) in EWIPA settings](#) workshop in Brussels. In addition, the MA AoR participated in discussions within the EORE Advisory Group on the use of Artificial and Open-Source Intelligence tools, and establishing an Early Response Network for EORE and CPP.



Partnerships remained central to the MA AoR's work in 2025 with co-coordinators from national and international NGOs such as Humanity and Inclusion, HALO Trust, Mine Detection Center, Norwegian People's Aid, Mines Advisory Group, Danish Church Aid, Ukrainian Deminers Association working with UNMAS, UNDP or UNICEF to optimize coordination at the country level, and thus the impact of mine action actors operating in complex and challenging circumstances. These collaborations underpin the MA AoR's ability to deliver context-specific support and advocate for mine action as an enabler of humanitarian action.



In 2026, as the MA AoR integrates and consolidates into a single Protection Cluster as required by the Humanitarian Reset, the functions of global mine action coordination will face the continued challenge of operating with significantly limited capacity. This will hinder its ability to share analysis on EO risk and to support mine action coordinators in the field. Looking ahead, the prospect of securing crucial capacity remains uncertain. Mine action representatives within the remodeled Global Protection Cluster remain committed to reinforcing the protecting civilians from life-threatening explosive material and enabling access to humanitarian assistance for communities most at risk and mine survivors.



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.

2025 Achievements

Operational support and learning and development remained a key priority for the Global CP AoR in 2025. Through in-country deployment, the Global CP AoR supported 8 humanitarian contexts on child protection information management and coordination as well as CP technical thematic support. Of significance within the in-country deployments were missions to conduct training to enhance the capacities of child protection actors at sub-national level in CP response and coordination through the rollout of the Global CP AoR's sub-national package in contexts such as Sudan and Syria. This is complementary to the tailored and timely remote support provided by the Global, Arabic, French and Spanish CP AoR Help Desks to 27 humanitarian contexts in 2025. The top five topics where support was requested through the Help Desks were child protection coordination, working across sectors, shifting power and systems strengthening, child protection case management and information management for coordination. For more information see: [Help Desk Support - Overview of Trends](#).

To strengthen situation monitoring and risk analysis across the board, the Global CP AoR enhanced its [centralized data platform](#). Developed in 2024, the platform uses Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies and automates and organizes scattered information from key sources such as HPC platforms, UNICEF (MICS), Food Security (IPC), INFORM/ACAPS, and more. This platform has been instrumental in streamlining data management in contexts with limited capacities for data collection and processing and aims to support prioritization and response programming in complex humanitarian contexts. Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions, it generates high-quality insights efficiently, providing faster and more effective access to humanitarian data and to support prioritization and response programming in complex humanitarian contexts.

To support CP coordination actors in the transition and deactivation within the context of the Humanitarian Reset, the Global CP AoR developed and disseminated a transition package with practical guidance for CP coordinators and actors, including governmental entities. A number of CP coordination groups were supported to transition from emergency to development coordination, with strengthening capacity of civil society and local authorities being key components, linked to preparedness for any future emergencies. To assess and enhance the performance of country-level CP AoRs against the six core cluster functions and on accountability to affected populations, a total of 35 coordination groups at national and sub-national levels across 25 countries completed the 2024 CCPM process, with the results being published in Q1 of 2025. 100% of participating countries had a total satisfactory score of 70% or higher, with an average reported score of 89.4%.

The Global CP AoR conducted its face-to-face training on *Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPHA) Coordination in Practice* in October 2025. The course targeted CP practitioners who were already coordinating



or who would be expected to coordinate CPHA activities in cluster-activated countries and other humanitarian emergencies in 2026 onwards. A total of 17 participants working in LNGOs, INGOs and UNICEF from 12 countries attended and completed the coordination training. The content for the training was adapted to include the evolving landscape for protection coordination within the Humanitarian Reset. This included a reflection session to help participants address challenges related to the expectation of CP practitioners to take on additional workloads and roles, in order to sustain effective CP humanitarian response and coordination, affecting both their professional and personal well-being. Feedback gathered from the daily and overall evaluation indicated that most participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the training (94% rated it as excellent or very good).

In November 2025, the Global CP AoR, Plan International and the Global Food Security Cluster launched the [Integrated Child Protection and Food Security Programming in Humanitarian Action Toolbox](#). Developed in response to practitioner needs, it is a collection of practical, adaptable tools designed to help child protection and food security (FS) actors plan, implement, and evaluate integrated programmes in humanitarian settings. It includes examples and experiences as well as lessons learned from CP-FS collaboration at country level. The toolbox is currently available in English and French. The launch of the toolbox marked an important step in strengthening collaboration between the CP and FS sectors in ensuring children are safe from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation linked to food insecurity. The toolbox builds on previous evidence-building, practice and tools on CP-FS integration, which are documented [here](#).

Between 2024 and 2025, the Global CP AoR in partnership with the War Child Alliance implemented an institutional capacity strengthening initiative to support national and local organizations that are members of national Child Protection Coordination groups in the Middle East and North Africa region. As part of this initiative, four local child protection organisations (two in Syria and two in Yemen) received technical support and mentoring to strengthen their institutional systems, leadership, and ability to engage meaningfully in coordination. These organisations were selected through a participatory process and received tailored support across governance, financial management, fund development, and communication. The programme methodology included stakeholder engagement, organisational capacity assessments using the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool, consensus-building workshops, development of Capacity Strengthening Plans (CSPs), and implementation through coaching, training, and strategic advisory services. All four organisations developed and began implementing CSPs aligned with their strategic priorities. Key outcomes included clearer strategic plans, improved board and senior management engagement, updated financial procedures, enhanced fundraising strategies, and stronger external communications. Several partners also assumed more active leadership roles within national CP AoRs, reinforcing the role of national and local organisations in humanitarian coordination. The process, outcomes, lessons learned, and good practices have been documented in a report titled **Outcome Report: Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of National and Local Child Protection Actors in the Middle East and North Africa Region**, which is available [here](#).

CLOSING COMMENTS

We would like to thank all stakeholders for their constant support throughout 2025, acting and advocating for protection at both global and local level, with thanks to iMMAP, HelpAge International, Humanity and Inclusion, Norwegian Refugee Council, UNHCR, ECHO, Switzerland, Sweden, United States for their direct support to the GPC. As we move into 2026, 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 been able to maintain and deliver essential protection services.

Our gratitude goes to our field colleagues, Protection Cluster Coordinators and Co-Coordiators, 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 for their strategic guidance, expertise, and thoughtful engagement which has been invaluable, particularly as the protection sector was navigating exceptionally challenging times: 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 2026.

