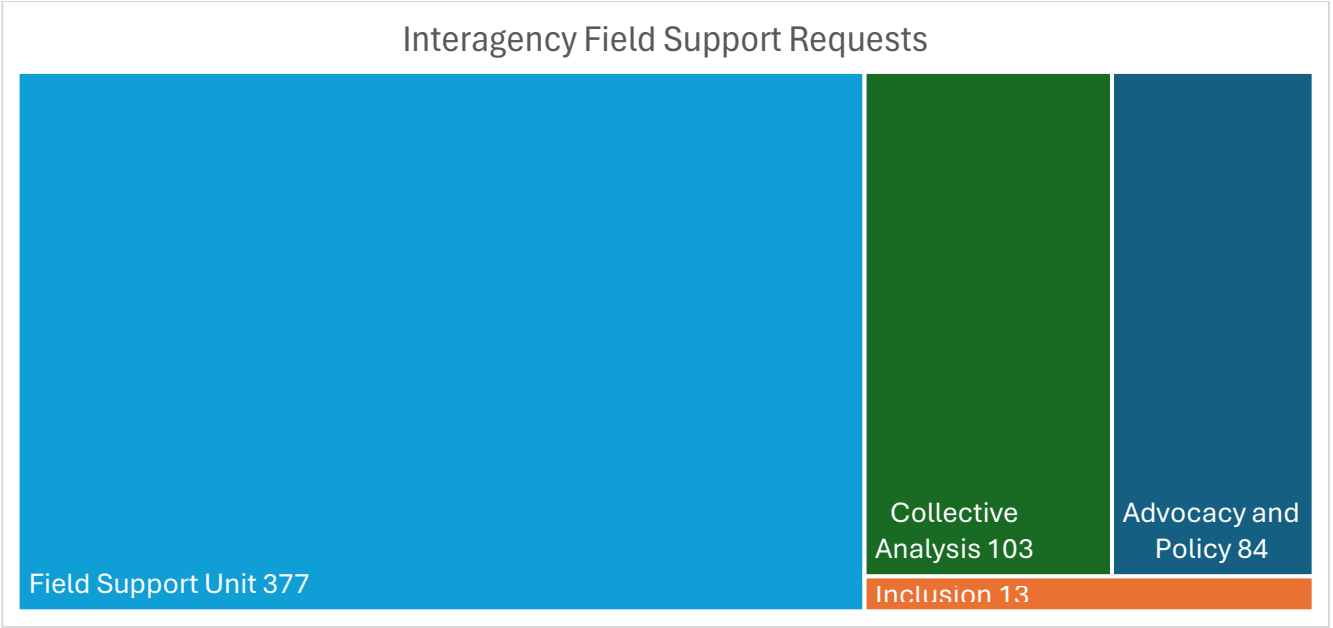# GPC INTERAGENCY FIELD SUPPORT ANNUAL TRENDS OVERVIEW JANUARY- DECEMBER 2025

This report provides a summary analysis of the support requests received by the GPC from field protection clusters, and requests from global partners wanting to engage more strongly with field operations, across 2025. This report is for GPC SAG members, Operations Cell and other relevant colleagues that support protection coordination and response across humanitarian contexts.[1]
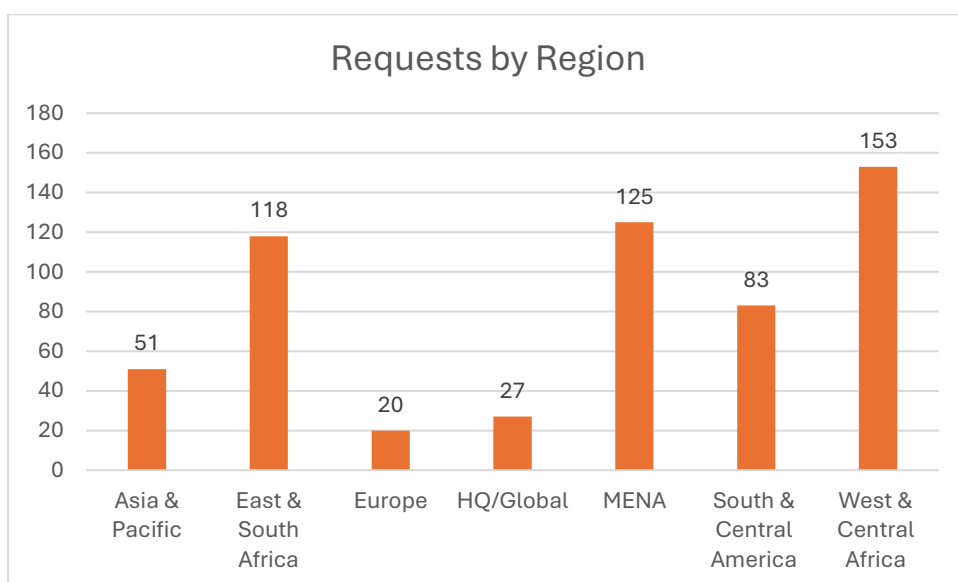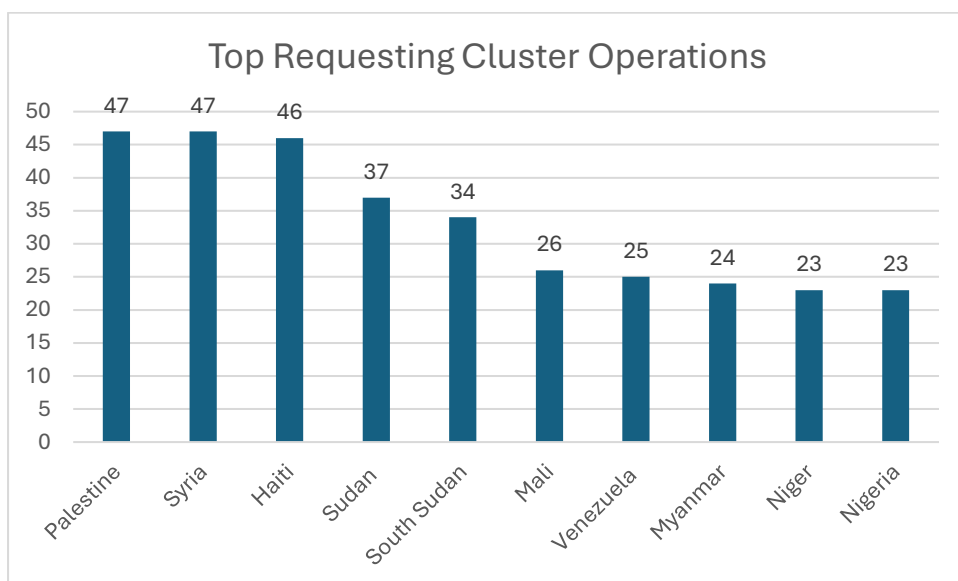
The GPC interagency field support approach is structured through a system of country focal points (Field Support Unit), who provide day-to-day country level engagement and support to cluster operations. The GPC also hosts dedicated capacity to support field advocacy, analysis and IM, as well as thematic protection issues such as inclusion. The support provided by the GPC to field operations draws on the generous capacity of our members and partners. In 2025, 7 agencies, organisations and donors provided dedicated staff resources to the GPC.[2]

577[3] Field Support Requests in 2025. A 9% increase from 2024	**28 + 2** Clusters and non-cluster operations supported	**45** Partners, coordination groups and other actors involved in providing field support	**50%** Reduction in dedicated staff capacity to the GPC

Interagency Field Support Requests

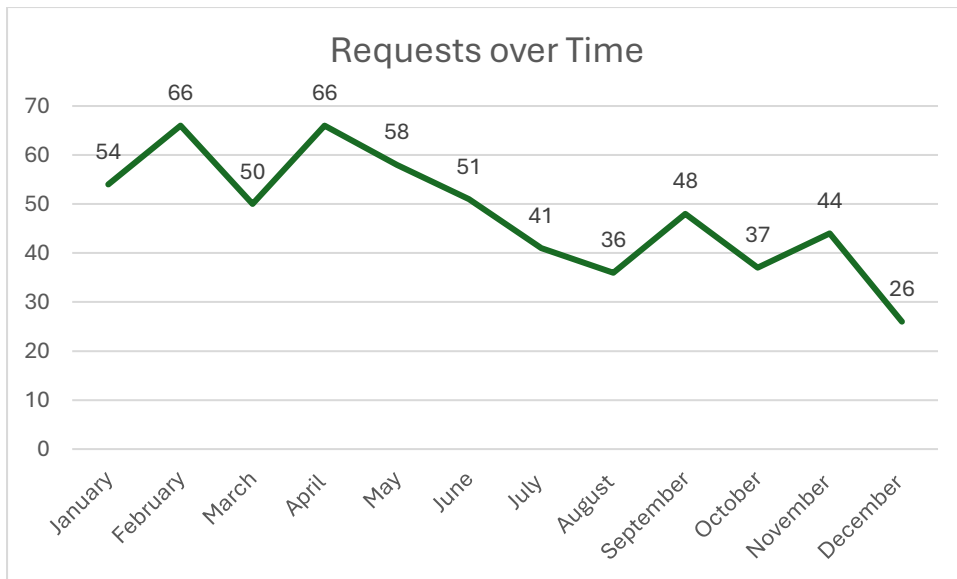Field Support Unit 377 | Collective Analysis 103 | Advocacy and Policy 84 | Inclusion 13

---

[1] The GPC Interagency Field Support Annual Trends Review 2024 can be found here.

[2] In 2025, Help Age, Humanity & Inclusion, IMMAP, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

[3] The GPC does not track IM support requests. The GPC IM lead is in frequent contact with all cluster operations IM officers and provides additional trainings and HPC guidance.

SNAPSHOT OF FIELD SUPPORT IN 2025

Top Requesting Cluster Operations

Country	Value
Palestine	47
Syria	47
Haiti	46
Sudan	37
South Sudan	34
Mali	26
Venezuela	25
Myanmar	24
Niger	23
Nigeria	23

Requests by Region

Region	Value
Asia & Pacific	51
East & South Africa	118
Europe	20
HQ/Global	27
MENA	125
South & Central America	83
West & Central Africa	153

The highest requesting countries are most commonly those countries significantly affected by new crises or a change/escalation in crises in 2025. The Field Support Unit also acknowledges that different countries have varying internal country capacities to address emergent needs and a lack of request for support does not indicate poor engagement between the country operation and the GPC.

Country operations can reach out to GPC for support as needed. To ensure continuity of engagement, country focal points and Ops Cell technical leads regular meetings with cluster operations, and the GPC hosts townhall sessions that are open to all cluster coordination team members.

Requests over Time

Month	Value
January	54
February	66
March	50
April	66
May	58
June	51
July	41
August	36
September	48
October	37
November	44
December	26

HUMANITARIAN TRANSITION IN 2025

There has been a reduction in the number of Protection Cluster operations in 2025, in line with country-level decisions on coordination needs and requirements. This decrease in the number of active cluster operations partially accounts for the reduction of requests in the second half of 2026.

- 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 2026.
- 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 transition to deactivation processes, with transition processes formally in place for the 2026-2027 period.
- Due to an easing in the context, the responses in Zambia and Lebanon required limited support from the GPC in 2025.

It is anticipated that there will be further cluster transitions and deactivation in 2026.

IMPACT OF REDUCTION OF HUMANITARIAN FINANCING ON FIELD SUPPORT

The reduction of humanitarian financing in 2025 has had a significant impact across protection operations, including support for protection coordination.

Cluster operations have seen a reduction in dedicated staffing. By the end of 2025, approximately 50% of cluster operations have been impacted, on coordinator, co-coordinator and IMO, there has been an increase of double hatting staff. Information Management (IM) positions have been one of the positions most heavily affected in the overall reduction of cluster staffing. Despite these reductions, the Cluster Lead Agency and NGO co-coordination have worked to ensure that

there are no permanent gaps in coordinator/co-coordinator positions in any active cluster response.

While protection partners have consistently been willing to support protection clusters, there has been a reduction in overall partner capacity to provide dedicated support, such as the scale-up of protection case management trainings and other standalone partner led initiatives.

In February 2025, Internews was forced to suspend a series of trainings they had designed to build the capacity of protection clusters and their partners about the risks of misinformation and disinformation and the protection consequences.

IMMAP and Humanity & Inclusion were forced to end their secondments into the GPC due to a sudden suspension of funding. This has affected the IM and Inclusion capacity of the GPC.

Overall, there has been a 50% reduction of dedicated staff capacity to the GPC, global level, since the beginning of 2025. IMMAP also had to end 4 field IM deployments. Field Support colleagues note a decrease in request from double-hatted coordinators, who have less time to dedicate to cluster activities beyond core tasks.

More information on the impact of the reduction of humanitarian financing on protection response is available [here](#).

2025 CCPM EXERCISE

The Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) is a self-assessment of cluster performance against the 6 core cluster functions and accountability to affected populations. This exercise is based on a common global calendar across all clusters and initiated by UN OCHA. Each year, the GPC supports this exercise by providing a process flow, template material and collecting data on behalf of country operations and presenting this information in an easy-to-use dashboard. This CCPM exercise is an important opportunity the cluster operations and the GPC to identify priorities and proactively identify support needs.

In 2025, this exercise was disrupted as the timing of the CCPM exercise coincided with the sudden suspension/loss of humanitarian financing. To allow coordination teams to focus on support for partners, the GPC allowed operations to deviate from the CCPM timeline and adapt the processes as needed. Given the variation in the exercise across all operations, the GPC did not develop 2025 CCPM Report. Despite the challenges, 581 partners across 26 operations submitted their inputs into the CCPM exercise.

HUMANITARIAN RESET AND FIELD SUPPORT

In 2025, 81 requests made to the field support unit related either directly or indirectly to the humanitarian reset. This is just over 21% of the 377 requests. 22% of all collective analysis requests were linked to the humanitarian reset. These requests covered a wide range of topics, including hyper prioritisation exercises, revised ways of working, and navigating changes in coordination structures and the increased use of area-based coordination

To assist cluster coordinators to navigate this, the GPC increased the number of Town Halls, and developed a dedicated resource page for coordinators, which is available here: Positioning Protection in Humanitarian Action 2025.

This included:

- GPC NRC Note on Protection in Humanitarian Coordination Transitions
- GPC Guidance on Sudden Programme Closure
- GPC Guidance on Prioritisation of Protection Response Activities
- GPC Key Messages - Protection Saves Lives and Supports Stability and Solutions (for Protection Coordinators and partners)
- GPC Funding Analysis and Protection Risks - Understanding the Link and the Cost of Inaction
- Protection Matters: Saving Lives and Reducing the Harms Faced by People Amidst Humanitarian Crises

The GPC updated the Protection Field Coordination Toolkit to ensure that it was up to date and reflective of the Humanitarian Rest.

GLOBAL SUPPORT INITIATIVES

The GPC participates in globally led initiatives that aim to support field coordination and field response.

GPC initiated support for field coordination teams based on identified gaps. Examples of this form of action include:

- Practical Guidance - Role of Protection Clusters in Durable Solutions Processes
- Positioning Protection in Humanitarian Action 2025, resource page
- 10 Peer to Peer sessions based on topics identified by cluster coordinators
- 5 webinars dedicated to HPC and 2025 revisions
- Integrated Response Framework guidance
- NRC-GPC-CIVIC research report and sharing sessions Protection After Peacekeeping Mission Departures, June 2025
- Aide Memoire: Leveraging International Humanitarian Law to Protect Civilians [to be published in 2026]
- 2 in-person 5-day workshops by UNHCR, the GPC and the CCHN on protection in armed conflict and protection negotiations with Ethiopia and DRC protection clusters and their partners
- Support to GELI and UNHCR for the delivery of 1 in-person workshop on protection leadership with HCT members in DRC
- Harmonization of mechanisms for protection risk analysis, including 6 in-country revisions of protection monitoring and dedicated learning material and mentoring

Global to Global Initiatives, where the GPC contributes to global initiatives led by other counterparts. Examples include:

- Participation in FAO led FSL Cluster workshops on Centrality of Protection

- Standalone protection analysis training and guidance for global clusters, donors and other actors
- Inputting into CCCM site safety audit tools, and supporting in country pilot programmes
- Promoting protection in HNPW, including with specific sessions on protection analysis, and protection advocacy and accountability, while championing participation of national protection actors

Global partner initiatives to support protection clusters and protection responses. Partners regularly launch initiatives aimed to improve protection responses, and coordinate with GPC to roll out these initiatives. Examples include:

- Centrality of Protection Community of Practice rolled out of Benchmarks
- Internews training for protection clusters on misinformation and disinformation [suspended after humanitarian financial freeze].
- Interagency Protection Monitoring guidance
- Strengthening of protection analysis of and for local actors, and in food security.

SUMMARY OF FIELD SUPPORT REQUESTS BY THEMATIC AREA

The following section describes trends in requests for field support. For specific updates on accomplishments and outcomes of cluster initiatives, please refer to the Global Protection Cluster Annual Report.

- **Advocacy & Policy**

The GPC received 84 requests for advocacy support from field operations in 2025. The GPC regularly receives requests to provide technical support with country-focused advocacy plans and initiatives as well as requests to facilitate country clusters being able to engage and influence global bodies and stakeholders. In addition to providing a platform to enable clusters to reach global channels and audiences, including member states and experts bodies (such as Special Procedures Mandate Holders and the UN security council), the GPC has provided advocacy strategy support and provided over 9 workshops and trainings, which also support country level targets and enable protection clusters and partners to engage HCTs and other actors such as government and national bodies.

Main Support Requests	Number of Requests
Advocacy Strategy Support	21
Support for Donor Briefings	18
Review + Revise Documents	12
Workship/Trainings	9
Capacity Support	9
Support PC Inputs into Specialised Processes	9

Top 5 target of advocacy initiatives	Number of Requests
Global level targets	25
Expert bodies	24
Cluster and partners use	19
HCT + HCT bodies	12
Other country level targets	9

Protection partners have been consistently active in providing support to protection cluster advocacy, with 25 partners and other counterparts lending their expertise and capacities to collective cluster efforts.

- **Cross Cutting Issues**

The GPC has dedicated inclusion capacity to support clusters, and field cluster engagement with other sectoral clusters – hosting age inclusion and disability inclusion specialists. In 2025, the organisation that provided a disability and inclusion specialist had to end the secondment due to a lack of funding.

In 2025, the GPC received 13 requests for support on the topics of age inclusion and disability inclusion. The GPC also received 10 requests for protection mainstreaming support.

- **Collective Analysis**

The GPC received 103 requests for support to advance collective protection analysis. Analysis support is provided across cluster functions, including the HNRP, as well as products developed jointly by clusters and GPC (PAU + GPU), as well as stand alone country level initiatives. The GPC has received an increase of requests from country clusters and partners, to identify modalities and mechanisms for more collaborative approaches to protection risks analysis and for the use of analysis in advocacy and external engagement. To ensure coherence between field adaptation and global processes, the GPC has held 36 engagements activities (meetings, events) with global stakeholders, and 29 dedicated field actions in the form of learning/mentoring or direct editing/revision of technical notes/tools.

Main Support Requests	Number of Requests
PAU / Analysis document	36
HNRP	19
Protection Monitoring	16
Analysis Strategy	8
Global Protection Update	6

Top 5 target of advocacy initiatives	Number of Requests
Review/Revise/Develop	56
Capacity Support	21
Analysis Strategy Development	10
Analysis Support	9

- **Field Support Unit**

Country Focal points provide general day-to-day support to field clusters and liaise with partners and other stakeholders to gather additional expertise where the GPC does not have the most relevant capacity. These requests are tracked against 12 request categories. The overall picture of field support requests represents the diverse focus of cluster operations. There is no one size fits all approach to protection cluster coordination, and each operation has different resources and capacities of partners to draw on while responding to different contextualized priorities.

The thematic areas of requests are broad, and often very reactive to external demands and sudden changes in contexts and operational response scenarios. Humanitarian Reset is a new category that is tracked by the GPC. It has been combined with the pre-existing humanitarian reform. Requests linked to cluster administration increased 152% compared to 2024. For a breakdown of all 12 request categories and simple definitions, please see Annex 1.

Main Support Requests	Number of Requests
Cluster Administration	121
Protection Response	56
Protection Policy/Positions	41
Humanitarian Reform & Reset	38
Humanitarian Programme Cycle	24

The GPC has drawn on the experience of partners, specifically for: *country specific issues, specialised programming and protection policy and positions*. Cluster coordinators benefit greatly from examples from other cluster operations, and peer to peer support. Clusters also appreciate quick and accessible tools and documents that become the basis for locally adapted initiatives. The GPC is frequently requested to facilitate remote training and workshops, and the Field Support Unit has engaged in 14 more sustained interventions of capacity support, including field missions.

Forms of support requests	Number of Requests
Advice/Guidance	118
Review/Revise cluster documents	55
Example/Lessons	47
General Information	43
Documents and Materials	29
GPC Facilitation [trainings/exercises/activities]	25

FIELD MISSONS

The GPC conducted 10 field missions, at the request of cluster operations.

- Afghanistan. Support to facilitate the CCPM workshop, and operational planning work (January)
- Syria. Support to cluster and hubs to consolidate, post change in governance of Syria (January)
- Sudan. Joint mission of GPC/AoR global coordinators (February)
- Lebanon. Mission of age inclusion specialist (February)
- Ethiopia. Joint mission with CCHN and UNHCR, negotiations training and coordination support (July)
- Ukraine. Support protection analysis and update operational planning (August)
- Myanmar. Subnational coordinator training (held in Bangkok) (August)Ethiopia. Joint mission with CCHN, negotiations training and advocacy support (August)
- DRC. Joint mission with CCHN and UNHCR, negotiations training and coordination support (September)
- Sudan. Joint mission with ProCap. Advocacy training and support to PoC advocacy working group and planning workshop with HCT PoC Advisory Group (November).
- Cameroon. Support for cluster transition planning (November)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIELD SUPPORT TO PROTECTION CLUSTERS AND PROTECTION OPERATIONS

The GPC would like to express our appreciation to the following agencies, organisations, entities and individuals for their willingness to provide support to protection clusters and responses in collaboration with the GPC.

The following organisations were involved in field support actions. This does not cover the incredibly diverse range of actors that collaborated with the GPC in advancing protection work, including participation in other GPC initiatives such as the GPC Conference, GPC Forum and GPC SAG. Please see the GPC 2025 Annual Report for further information.

ACAPS
Alliance for Child Protection
Amnesty International
Apoyar
GPC Advocacy Working Group
GPC Anti-trafficking Task Team
GPC Information and Analysis Working Group
GPC Community-led Protection Task Team
GPC Law and Policy Task Team
GPC Cash for Protection Task Team
CARE
Global Cluster Coordination Group
Cedier
Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN)
Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organisations
Child Fund Alliance
CIVIC
Centrality of Protection Community of Practice
DG ECHO
Danish Refugee Council
Global Education Cluster
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
Global Executive Leadership Initiative (GELI)
Humanity and Inclusion
International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
InterAction
INTERSOS
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Jordan INGO Forum
Lebanon Protection Working Group
NORCAP
Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP)
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Office for the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
Oxfam
Protection Standby Capacity Project (ProCap)
ProLAC
Save the Children
Titi Foundation
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
UN Women

The GPC would also like to thank the many former coordinators, active consultants and other individuals who have generously given their time throughout 2025. The GPC also wishes to thank all our colleagues that cover the specialist technical areas of child protection, GBV, HLP and mine action (formerly AoRs).

Annex 1: Requests by cluster and non-cluster operations

Operation	Request	Operation	Request
Palestine	47	Multiple Clusters	16
Syria	47	Somalia	16
Haiti	46	HQ/Global	14
Sudan	37	Ethiopia	14
South Sudan	34	CAR	11
Mali	26	Colombia	7
Venezuela	25	El Salvador	4
Myanmar	24	Lebanon	4
Niger	23	Papua New Guinea	4
Nigeria	23	Philippines	3
Afghanistan	21	Madagascar	2
DRC	21	Other non-cluster	2
Burkina Faso	20	Honduras	1
Mozambique	20	Guatemala	1
Ukraine	20	Malawi	0
Yemen	18	Zimbabwe	0
Cameroon	16	Pacific	0

Annex 2: Understanding Request Categorisation

Category	2025 No. Requests	Understanding the Field Support Request Category
Cluster Administration	121	Cluster administration links to the core day to day functions of the cluster, ToRs, SOPs, cluster membership, SAG and HR processes. In 2025, this also includes issues linked to protection cluster consolidation.
Collaboration & Connections	15	Cluster coordinators and partners are often proactive in reaching out to establish connections with global partners and initiatives. The GPC is a willing interlocutor to establish links and support follow up tasks.
Country Specific Issue	21	Country specific issues have been linked to very specific operational challenges and dilemmas faced at the country level. This has included conflict sensitive issues, and specific adapted trainings for individual country contexts.
General/Other	17	Non-specific requests and clarifications.
Humanitarian Programme Cycle	24	HPC requests range from protection inputs into key documents, protection specific activities and inclusion of specific programmatic criteria. IM support is not included within this figure.
Humanitarian Reform & Reset	38	Support requests linked to the 2025 Humanitarian Reset and previous Humanitarian Reform issues. NB. This indicator tracks issues *directly* related to the reset or reform. Other requests that are indirectly linked to the reset are included in the figure of 81 direct and indirect reset requests highlighted within the report.
Localisation	3	Efforts to improve cluster coordination for local partners, and promote local capacity to take coordination roles
Partner Support Initiative	9	Partner initiatives to support cluster operations, where the GPC facilitates the exchange between partner and cluster and provides any follow up support.
Protection Policy/Positions	41	Requests on protection policy and positions have a significant focus on centrality of protection, HCT protection strategies, Protection of Civilians topics, as well as developing or clarifying specific legal and policy positions.
Protection Response	56	Protection response requests are actions and activities by cluster to improve the overall protection response, including provision of relevant tools, lessons learned and frameworks.
Specialised Programmes	9	Includes requests around specialised programming including antitrafficking, case management, disinformation and service mapping
Ways of Working	23	Ongoing clarification of ways of working between humanitarian actors, and best practices in engagement, requests for support from GPC to intervene with other interlocutors on behalf of cluster operations.