



Global Protection Forum

PROTECTION IN ACTION: DELIVERING IMPACT IN TIMES OF CONSTRAINT

02 – 06 November 2026

Concept Note

I. Introduction

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is pleased to convene the first Global Protection Forum following the consolidation of the Protection Cluster and the former Areas of Responsibility. The Forum brings together partners and country coordination teams to reflect on emerging challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities to strengthen the protection of people affected by conflict, violence and disasters. It provides a space for the consolidated GPC, including Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, and Mine Action thematic areas, to engage with the broader protection community, foster dialogue and visibility, and promote joint-action on current protection priorities.

The 2026 Global Protection Forum will take place virtually from 02-06 November 2026, through an online platform with simultaneous interpretation in English, Arabic, French, and Spanish.

You can learn more about the previous editions of the Global Protection Forum [here](#).

II. Objectives

The humanitarian landscape continues to undergo significant transformation. Severe funding cuts, reforms under the Humanitarian Reset, and increasing hyper-prioritised humanitarian responses, alongside a global political pushback on gender and a seeming erosion of support for the multilateral system and its norms, are happening against a backdrop of escalating conflicts, widespread violations, and growing risks faced by civilians. These trends are compounded by a persistent lack of accountability for violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law and growing impunity, which further undermines the protection of civilians. At the same time, protection actors are being called upon to demonstrate greater impact and efficiency, maintain attention to specialized areas of protection, and strengthen collective accountability for protection outcomes within an environment of contracted resources.

III. Programme

This year's Forum will focus on 'protection action and impacts' – the interventions, programming and collective actions that are driving forward contributions to people's protection amidst conflict and disasters. Through engaging sessions, partners and experts, including local and national actors at the forefront of protection action, those engaging in specialized areas such as child protection, GBV, mine action, or inclusion as well as protection champions in other sectors reflect on their successes, challenges and lessons learnt on how we can shift power, enhance accountability and drive collective efforts to achieve greater protection impact.

The Forum programme will consist of 5 sessions. Each session will be limited to 90 minutes.

Session 1 – Protection Under Pressure: Protection Capacities, Action and Priorities in a Time of Constraint

Monday 02 November, 14.00-15.30 CET

Objective: The Global Protection Forum will open with an overview of the current global protection landscape, drawing on the (forthcoming) 2026 Global Protection Update and the GPC's [Protection Capacities Under Pressure](#) report (and its complementary thematic notes on [Child Protection](#), [Gender-Based Violence](#), [Mine](#)

[Action](#) and [Inclusion](#)). The session will examine how shifts in protection capacity (particularly impacting local and national actors), closure of protection service points and spaces, and the erosion of essential norms and principles are affecting the protection of people in crisis. The discussion will explore how protection actors are adapting to these pressures and identify the actions and approaches needed to sustain critical protection outcomes for affected people. It will consider what is required to ensure that the protection needs and risks faced by diverse groups – including women, children, LGBTQI+, older persons, and persons with disabilities, remain visible, understood and prioritized – and to strengthen protection interventions, programming and accountability that uphold the rights of all crisis-affected populations.

Session 2 – From Policy to Practice: 10 Years of Collective Protection Action under the IASC Protection Policy

Tuesday 03 November, 14.00-15.30 CET

Objective: Ten years after the adoption of the [IASC Protection Policy](#), this session will reflect on how its commitments have translated into collective action at country level. Rather than revisiting the policy itself, the discussion will reflect on key learnings, good practices, and practical examples of how Humanitarian Country Teams and inter-agency coordination mechanisms have strengthened collective protection outcomes. The session will look at what aspects of the policy remained unfulfilled in practice and what should be implemented to facilitate its comprehensive operationalization. At a time of protracted crises, growing humanitarian needs and shrinking access and resources, the session will reaffirm that the Centrality of Protection is more important than ever as the foundation of quality humanitarian action. Integrating accountability for protection into leadership, decision-making and operations is essential to ensuring that humanitarian action is safe, inclusive, and responsive to the risks, priorities and rights of affected people. Through country case studies, participants will explore what has enabled effective leadership, collaboration, and accountability for protection, as well as the persistent challenges, needs and enablers to further strengthen collective protection outcomes in humanitarian response.

Session 3 – Artificial Intelligence and the Protection Response: What Works, What Matters

Wednesday 04 November, 14.00-15.30 CET

Objective: The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in humanitarian contexts today is widespread. On the one hand, the (mis)use of AI can shape and create protection risks and affect the environment in which civilian populations live. On the other hand, AI is becoming increasingly integrated into the humanitarian response. This session will build on last year's forum session [Protection and technology: for better or worse. how advancements in technology are changing the protection space](#) and discuss how humanitarian protection actors should or can approach AI, including in protection service delivery. The session will include different perspectives, including communities' feedback and perception on the use of AI in service delivery and ethical considerations when using AI to help deliver protection outcomes.

Session 4 – Delivering Protection Amidst Movement and Access Constraints: Lessons from Remote, Mobile and Localized Responses

Thursday 05 November, 14.00-15.30 CET

Objective: Restrictions on movement, sieges, and other acute access constraints present some of the greatest challenges to delivering protection for and with people affected by crisis. Across diverse operational contexts, protection actors have adapted their approaches to continue reaching affected populations and reducing risks of violence and deprivation through innovative operational models and protection mechanisms, including mobile and remote responses, community-based networks, and protection interventions such as humanitarian evacuations and mine action. This session will showcase practical experiences from country operations, highlighting how protection actors – including Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, and Mine Action service providers – have enabled protection through tailored approaches and interventions in besieged and hard-to-access areas. The discussion will focus on operational lessons, enabling factors, limitations, risks and the trade-offs involved in maintaining principled protection action and risk-sharing under severe access constraints.

Session 5 – Destruction and Closure of Critical Protection Infrastructure and Essential Services: Protection, Health, and Education – a Continuum of Care?

Friday 06 November, 14.00-15.30 CET

Objective: The destruction, closure or disruption of critical infrastructure and essential services – including protection services, women and girls’ safe spaces, child-friendly spaces, schools, and health facilities – can have profound protection consequences for affected populations. Beyond the immediate loss of services, such disruptions can increase exposure to protection risks, exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, and undermine people’s access to basic rights and essential assistance. This session will explore the interlinkages between protection, health and education services and consider how their disruption affects a broader continuum of care. The discussion will also consider how humanitarian actors can better anticipate, prevent and respond to these consequences, including through more integrated approaches to protecting and maintaining essential services.

IV. Parameters for Sessions

- For each session, the GPC team is assigning one staff member to lead / oversee the organisation of that session. Co-leads (from SAG and/or partner organisations) for each session is highly encouraged. Session leads/co-leads are responsible for shaping the session’s content and ensuring a diverse representation of speakers and partners. They must produce a short 1-page summary note for the final report.
- Each session must include contributions from local and national actors, including women-led organisations, (co-organisation, moderation or panellist), and examples and contributions from country operations (including by Protection Clusters coordination teams and partners).
- Session will consider, where appropriate, co-hosting and/or opening, closing remarks by a donor or Member State.
- Speakers can present in any of the four languages (EN, ES, FR, AR) as interpretation will be simultaneous and two-way.
- Moderators should be strong presenters with experience of managing large audiences and presentations in multiple languages, supported by interpretation. Previous Forum sessions have attracted between 250-500 participants from around the world.
- Sessions should prioritize panel discussions and/or conversation-style formats (rather than presentations) to enhance engagement between panellists and with the audience. The forum is not the space to promote or launch specific guidance, or new tools. This can be done through the GPC 2026 Protection Series.
- All sessions are public, recorded and will be posted on the [GPC website](#).

For inquiries about the Global Protection Forum, please contact Marie-Emilie Dozin (dozin@unhcr.org) with copy to gpc@unhcr.org