Global Protection Cluster

Global Protection Forum 2026

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

Tuesday, 3 November | 14:00–15:30 CET

Registration Link: here

Objective

Ten years after the adoption of the IASC Protection Policy, the question is no longer what the policy commits us to, but how effectively we are delivering on those commitments and what it will take to do better.

This session will take stock of progress, lessons learned and practical examples of how Humanitarian Country Teams and inter-agency coordination mechanisms have translated the Centrality of Protection into collective action and better outcomes for people affected by crisis. It will also confront the gaps: where implementation has fallen short, what remains unfulfilled, and what is needed to turn commitments into consistent practice.

As the Humanitarian Reset reshapes humanitarian leadership, coordination and operations, including in contexts transitioning towards nationally led or development-oriented coordination, protection must remain central to how humanitarian action is prioritised and delivered.

Against a backdrop of protracted crises, growing needs, shrinking resources and constrained access, the challenge is to make protection a collective responsibility, embedded in leadership, decision-making and operational choices, even in increasingly prioritised responses. This means ensuring that humanitarian action is safe, inclusive and responsive to the risks, priorities and rights of affected people.

The discussion will focus on what is working, where collective action is falling short, and what needs to change at country and global levels to accelerate implementation and fulfil the promise of the IASC Protection Policy.

Overarching guiding questions

- **What does effective collective action for protection look like in practice across different contexts?**
- **Where are the biggest gaps, and what support is needed to close them at country and global levels?**
- **In today's humanitarian context, what needs to change to keep protection central to how we lead, coordinate and deliver?**

Moderator

Panos Moumtzis, Director of the Global Executive Leadership Initiative (GELI) and former Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria.

Agenda

- **Introduction and welcome of participants** by Jackie Keegan, Deputy Director of the Division of International Protection and Solutions at UNHCR and co-chair of the Community of Practice on Centrality of Protection with InterAction and OCHA
- **Opening reflections: The IASC Protection Policy – 10 Years On: What Has Changed?,** by Louise Aubin, UNHCR Representative in Malaysia and former Humanitarian Coordinator in Niger
- **Panel discussion with**
    - Barnaby Jones, Chair of the HCT Protection Champions Group and UNHCR Representative in Myanmar
    - Murat Yucer, Senior Protection Advisor in the RC Office, Nigeria
    - Bernard Mrewa, Head of Emergency Preparedness Response with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Sudan
    - Anastasiia Ohorodnik, Deputy Head of Humanitarian Programs, Rokada, Ukraine
    - Yomara Balzan, Director of Aliadas, Venezuela
- **Q&A discussion with additional reactions**, **questions and reflections from the floor**
- **Closing reflections** by Sara Brodd, SIDA, co-chair of the Protection Donor Group (PDG)