



Global Protection Forum 2026

Concept Note

Session 3: Artificial Intelligence and the Protection Response. What works? What matters.

Wednesday 04 November, 14.00-15.30 CET

Lead/Co-Lead: CARE (GBV Technology & Innovation Reference Group) & GPC

Background

Digital technologies are an integral part of contemporary life, including the daily lives of people affected by armed conflict, other situations of violence or other humanitarian settings such as displacement. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in humanitarian contexts today is widespread. While there is no universally agreed definition of AI, it is most often described as a machine or program performing tasks that would typically require human intelligence. AI is a tool that is increasingly used by protection actors, and other humanitarians, to deliver on their humanitarian response. There is a wide range of use of AI from simple tasks such as generating posters to complex service provision through mental health chat bots. The (mis)use of AI is shaping and creating protection risks that affect the environment in which civilian populations live.

Humanitarian actors adopting digital technologies may find themselves caught between fear and the risk of missing out. This conversation is particularly challenging at a time when resources are being cut, yet it is critical for protection actors to be prepared. While there are significant opportunities in using AI, it is important to be clear-eyed about the risks.

Objective

This thematic session will explore the opportunities and risks. This session will provide listeners with an overview of critical debates within the humanitarian sector on the use of AI, and efforts being made to introduce safeguards on AI use in humanitarian action. This session will explore opportunities in the integration of AI tools in protection responses, and practical steps that protection practitioners can take to reduce the risks associated with AI use and discuss important adaptations for protection actors to achieve protection outcomes and prevent unintended harm to people they serve. This session will also remind protection actors of the digital ecosystem, and how other actors are using AI to deliberately cause harm.

Note to panelists

The session aims to provide audience members with a diverse overview of AI use in humanitarian settings and in the protection of responses. Interventions reflect the opportunities and risks associated with this specific technology. This session encourages panelists to consider AI use as having a high influence on the protection environment. The GPC encourages a reflective view of digital technologies, linked to protection outcomes and Do No Harm.

Guiding issues

This thematic session, focusing on technology and protection, will consider

- Artificial Intelligence, what is it and how are we responding? Debates and collective action within the humanitarian sector
- Innovative use cases of AI in protection action
- Operationalising safety by design. Learning how to use safeguarding tools, such as use cases.
- Sharing a digital ecosystem with perpetrators of violence. The use of technology and AI in armed conflicts and other forms of digital risks

Moderator

- Dina Hanania, co-chair of the GBV Technology and Innovation Reference Group

Panellists

- Saijai Liangpunsakul, Founder of Stop Online Harm
- Caroline Masbounji, Child Protection, GBV Specialist (Technology & Innovations), UNICEF
- Brianna Orr, Senior Advisor, International Rescue Committee
- Colin Bent, Head of the Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) programme for Norwegian People's Aid
- Alexandra Saieh, Head of Global Strategic Influencing and Policy, Save the Children International