



Global Protection Cluster



GLOBAL PROTECTION UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2022



CLIMATE CRISIS:

A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS



While the world unanimously calls for climate action, for many in Somalia, Pakistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, homes have already become uninhabitable, entire families are displaced and children are experiencing acute levels of malnutrition.

In July, the UN General Assembly adopted a historic resolution that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment constitutes a universal human right – a step forward that could consolidate emerging norms in international environmental law, and bolster efforts to enforce judicial remedies for climate-related human rights violations.

In September, at the 50th Session of the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change presented his first report, identifying the need to address the human rights implications of climate change displacement as a key priority for his mandate.

And yet, since our last Global Protection Update, we have seen the protection crisis in our operations deepen due to the converging challenges of climate change, rising food insecurity, armed conflict, and economic downturn. The climate crisis is becoming a human rights crisis – with its effects lingering for years to come.

Climate change driven floods and drought-related food insecurity are now impacting millions of people, causing displacement, conflict and increased protection risks. From famine at the door in Somalia, to crops destroyed due to excessive floods in South Sudan, we have seen a significant increase in severity of protection risks across all operations. 94% of operations describe gender-based violence as severe or extreme. A steep increase of 13 points from three months ago.

In drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, women and girls are at heightened risk of gender-based violence, forced to travel long distances to fetch water or left alone while family members are away looking for food and livelihoods. In flood-affected areas of the Sahel, population have lost their main source of revenue further generating land-related conflicts. Psychosocial trauma is sharpening, specifically impacting women and children, while cholera outbreaks are declared in Syria and Haiti.

Conflict and political instability are exacerbating the impact of climate shocks in most regions. Several protection risks have been of great concern during the reporting period, with an increase in forced family and child separation, forced labour, slavery and trafficking in persons and

forced recruitment across operations. Attacks on civilians remained high in most operations and moments of hope, gained through peace deals and truces in Colombia, Yemen and Ethiopia are again challenged by the risk of conflict resurgence.

In this race against time, early warning and early action are the hallmarks of an effective response. This report features good practices from our Protection Clusters in Mozambique, Niger, Philippines, Pacific, Somalia, and Syria, where we exert efforts to provide more effective coordination to address specific vulnerabilities caused by climate change that give rise to new patterns of protection risks. It highlights the use of protection tools, programming, and collective advocacy – calling for urgent action on climate change and the effective enjoyment of a range of human rights for people bearing the brunt of a climate crisis they didn't create.

CONTEXT UPDATE

The third quarter of this year witnessed a resurgence of climate crises and exacerbated protection risks. The Gambella and Afar regions of Ethiopia have seen two million people affected and 565,000 displaced by flooding across the country. In Honduras, climate change resulted in hurricanes, droughts, and high levels of food insecurity that have left many in need of assistance. Afghanistan has witnessed its worst drought in 27 years, leaving children at risk of malnutrition. Heavy rains and flash flooding across the country have killed more than 250 people and affected over 100,000 people this year, a 75% increase compared to last year's floods. In Syria, the UN has called for "swift and urgent action"¹ to prevent illness and death after a recent cholera outbreak in Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor, linked to the drinking of unsafe water and food contamination from crop irrigation following severe shortage of water throughout the country. Following above-average rains during the August to October season – particularly in Upper Nile and Jonglei states, with some counties receiving up to 90% more rainfall than normal, South Sudan is experiencing its 5th consecutive flooding season.

The risk of famine and severe food insecurity have compounded negative coping mechanisms. In Somalia, drought and severe food insecurity has left many on the brink of famine, with the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator² warning of "concrete indications" that parts of the south-central Bay region will be in famine between October and December this year without an urgent surge in aid. Droughts in Southern and Eastern Ethiopia resulted in 16 million people targeted for multi-sector life-saving assistance. Lack of food and drinking water are ongoing concern both in drought- and conflict-affected areas in the country, pushing people into negative coping mechanisms. Child labour, street begging, increase in school dropouts and early marriage were observed in drought-affected areas, as well as an increase in psychosocial distress, especially among children and caregivers. GBV risks increased as women and girls were forced to travel long distances to fetch water or were left alone while family members were away looking for food and livelihoods. South Sudan's food security outlook continued to worsen during the April–July lean season which showed higher levels of food insecurity, including 87,000 people facing starvation and death (IPC Phase 5), compared to last year. Key drivers of the worsening food insecurity include crop and livestock losses due to floods. Afghanistan's economy has collapsed over the past year, and record numbers are facing hunger, with most of the population soon to be living below the poverty line.

Attacks on civilians – including killings and injuring as a result of conflict, are still on the rise in a number of operations. In Burkina Faso, the number of security incidents increased by 220% in 2022 compared to last year. The intensity of the conflict remains higher in Burkina Faso than any other country in the Sahel region, with nearly one fifth of the population in need of humanitarian aid. The security situation in Mali has also not improved, with attacks on civilian populations, kidnappings and access to locations in the north and centre of the country becoming increasingly restricted. The French-led Operation Barkhane left the country on 15th August, whilst the mandate of the MINUSMA was renewed in June and the embargo by the ECOWAS was lifted on 3rd July. In Afghanistan, an attack on an educational centre in Dasht-e-Barchi, a predominantly Hazara neighbourhood in Kabul, killed at least 19 students preparing for exams. Following the annexation of large swathes of southern and eastern Ukraine by the Russian Federation, on 21st September, an attack left scores of civilians killed and injured in the outskirts of Zaporizhzhia, when civilians lining up to cross to areas under Russian control to bring supplies to their families or to reunite with loved ones were hit by shelling. Unfortunately, this is only one of a number of attacks that killed or injured civilians in several parts of Ukraine in the past months. In Syria, the past months have witnessed a gradual worsening of the security situation with escalation and increased strikes and shelling, especially along conflict-lines in northern Aleppo and NE Syria resulting in civilian casualties. Between 5-7th August escalation of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian groups resulted in casualties and destructions in Gaza. Violence in the West Bank has been increasing, with the number of Palestinians killed as of August 2022 exceeding the total number from 2021. In Haiti, the flaring up of violence was summarised to the UN Security Council as "an economic crisis, a gang crisis, and a political crisis have converged into a humanitarian catastrophe"³.

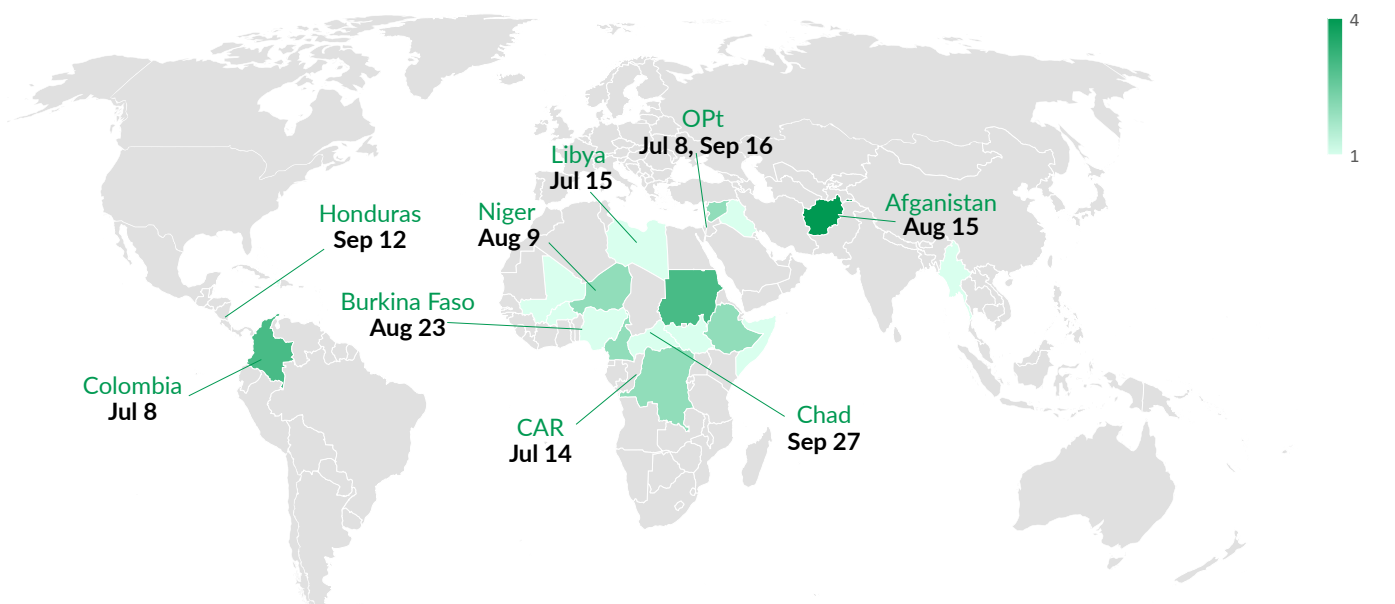
Implementation of peace deals and truces has been challenged and the risk of conflict resurgence are real. A new leadership in Colombia continues to seek to accelerate the implementation of the peace agreement. Among the first actions of the new government was a presidential visit to regions affected by the armed conflict, proposing negotiations with illegal armed actors in the framework of a concept called 'total peace'⁴. This has led to an increase in violent actions as a demonstration of power and territorial control by these illegal armed groups. In Yemen, the failure to renew a truce that began on 2nd of April and had seen a significant reduction in civilian casualties is a devastating blow for civilians. The truce had led to a 60% reduction in casualties over the last six months. In Ethiopia's Tigray region, conflict has resumed and continues to escalate. The five-month truce that was established in March, allowing humanitarian aid to reach Tigray's population, has fallen apart. With the fighting spreading, the return of violence means several areas in the Amhara and Afar regions are now inaccessible. With aid deliveries halted, the region's already dire humanitarian emergency has deteriorated further, with millions of men, women and children still in need.



New and large-scale displacements, returns and relocations of IDPs were exacerbated further in hard-to-reach areas. The renewed fighting in Tigray displaced more than 92,000 people. Escalating violence in the provinces of Mai-Ndombe and Kwilu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, resulted in dozens of people killed and hundreds of homes burned. The violence displaced more than 35,000 people into several localities in the same provinces. An escalation in hostilities in Tonga, South Sudan, have led to increased displacement of an estimated 17,000-21,000 individuals across Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity states since mid-August. In CAR, authorities' intention to close IDP settlements in locations where intention surveys indicated a willingness of IDPs to return in safe areas increased the risk of forced evictions. In Nigeria, the current approach to returns/relocations has exacerbated IDPs' exposure to protection risks, among them unsolved Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues including lack of access to land and secondary occupancy/displacement as well as injuries and fatalities due to mine contamination. A lack of access to basic services in areas of return/relocation is also creating new protection risks while perpetuating humanitarian needs⁵. Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Ukraine were declared by the UN as "the fastest growing displacement crisis in the world in 2022"⁶.

UN-coordinated mechanisms prevented shutdowns and helped to stabilise international tensions. In Yemen, timely funding has prevented the shutdown of the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) - which plays a vital role in facilitating the entry of commercial goods into Yemen's Red Sea ports. With Yemenis relying on commercial imports for 90 per cent of its staple foods and basic goods, this funding extends an additional lifeline to millions of people in need. On 27th July, the Black Sea Grain Initiative was signed between Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the United Nations offering a "beacon of hope"⁷ to help stabilise food and fertilizer prices globally and tackle hunger.

FIND MORE INFORMATION IN THE PROTECTION ANALYSIS UPDATES



PROTECTION ANALYSIS UPDATES

75% of 31 Protection Clusters have produced **38** Protection Analysis Updates, including **22** national, **14** sub-national and **2** thematic. The PAUs are produced regularly on the basis of the Protection Analytical Framework.

Latest PAU per Country

Afghanistan	2022	AUG	Colombia	2022	AUG	Haiti	2022	FEB	Nigeria: Borno State	2022	APR	Sudan: North Darf.	2022	MAY
Burkina Faso	2022	AUG	CAR	2022	JUL	Honduras	2022	SEP	oPt: West Bank	2022	AUG	Sudan	2022	MAY
Chad	2022	SEP	DRC: Ituri	2022	FEB	Iraq	2021	NOV	oPt: Gaza	2022	SEP	Syria: GoS / NE	2022	JUNE
Colombia: NDS	2021	OCT	DRC: North Kivu	2022	JUN	Libya	2022	JUL	Somalia	2022	SEP	Syria: NW	2022	JUNE
Colombia: Choco	2021	OCT	Ethiopia: North	2022	MAY	Mali	2021	AUG	South Sudan	2022	JUN			
Colombia: Nariño	2022	APR	Ethiopia	2022	JUN	Niger	2022	AUG	Sudan: West Darf.	2022	MAY			

KEY COUNTRY NEWS

Burkina Faso continues to face a humanitarian crisis with more than 1.7 million people displaced because of the increasing insecurity in the country compounded by political instability which led to a Coup d'Etat on 30 September. As of the end of August 1 million people live in areas controlled by non-state armed groups.

In mid-August, **Cameroon** officials said the northern border area with Chad and Nigeria hosts about 550,000 IDPs and about 70,000 Nigerian refugees, and some of the displaced persons include civilians who fled conflicts over water between cattle ranchers and fishermen.

Chad's heaviest seasonal rainfall in more than 30 years has left parts of the capital N'Djamena navigable only by boat and forced thousands to flee their flooded homes over the past month.

Health infrastructures in **CAR** continues to be the target of attacks by armed men, causing the temporary closure or the suspension of activities that have a direct impact on the population's access to health care. The WHO-administered attack monitoring mechanism on the health system recorded 18 attacks in 2020 and 90 attacks in 2021.

Colombia recorded more than 8 million people victims of forced displacement accumulated historically since 1985 due to armed conflict and violence, of which more than 10% correspond to forced displacements that occurred after the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016.

The return of M23 in the eastern **DR Congo** is overstressing an underfunded humanitarian relief operation and piling hardship onto communities.

Fighting in **Ethiopia's** northern Tigray region is continuing to spread after a five-month truce broke down three weeks ago. Humanitarian convoys into

the Tigray region are still suspended.

After a month of complete blockade of the country's main fuel entry point due to the gang violence and protests in **Haiti**, water distribution is seriously compromised, and health facilities are running dangerously low on fuel.

Honduras registered 41.71 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2021, compared to 38.7 in 2020 and was the country of Latin America with the highest rate of femicides in 2021, with 6.2 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Classified by the UN as one of the world's top 5 countries most affected by climate change, more than 34,000 people are currently displaced from the south and central **Iraq**.

Between late 2021 and the first half of 2022, several raids resulting in mass arrest of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers occurred across **Libya**.

Dozens of civilians were killed beginning of September in Talataye in **Mali**, the locality which sits at the crossroads of influence for rival armed groups was allegedly attacked by EIGS fighters who have ties with the Islamic State organization.

First week of October marks five years since extreme violence erupted in northern **Mozambique's** Cabo Delgado province, forcing nearly 1 million people to flee during that time.

The security situation in **Myanmar** continued to deteriorate, resulting in an uptick in displacement. As of September, there were an estimated total of 1.3 million IDPs across the country. Many of those displaced remain unable to access humanitarian assistance, hiding in forests or living under siege.

In September, more than 225,000-persons were impacted by floods in **Niger**, destroying shelters and lands.

The Borno State Government

continued with the closure of Dalori I and II camps for IDPs in the greater Maiduguri area, **Nigeria**, in July and August 2022. This follows the previous closure of 6 IDPs camps between May 2021 and January 2022 as part of the BSG's camp closure plan.

Between January and September, **Somalia** reported a total of 926,000 displaced individuals owing to drought.

The UN Commission on Human Rights in **South Sudan** warned that deeply disturbing violence is escalating "all over" while elections have been postponed until late 2024.

About 350,000 people have been affected by heavy rains and floods across **Sudan**, destroying 24,800 homes and damaging another 48,200.

Humanitarian conditions continue to decline in **north-west Syria** due to ongoing hostilities and a deepening economic crisis. In September, the seventh cross-line convoy delivered assistance in line with the United Nations inter-agency operational plan developed after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2585 in July 2021.

The Independent Commission of Inquiry on **Ukraine** highlighted the issue of forced displacement that occurred in late February and March 2022 in the areas of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy and concluded that war crimes have been committed by Russian forces.

Following months of tension and violence in the **West Bank** and the violent arrest of a PIJ leader by Israeli Forces, an escalation of hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups took place in Gaza in August. The escalation has resulted in casualties and destruction, worsening the humanitarian protection situation in Gaza.

EMERGING PROTECTION TRENDS

CRISIS WATCH

ALARMING SITUATIONS

HAITI	BURKINA FASO	SOMALIA	MYANMAR
<p>Haiti is facing an unprecedented humanitarian, protection and security crisis of alarming proportions. In addition to continuous armed gang violence, a six week-long movement of mass protests, acts of civil unrest, roadblocks and lack of fuel have brought the country to the brink of collapse. In September, at least 191 people were killed and injured due to violence during protests, while more than 37 were the result of gang violence. The situation is having particularly harmful effects on vulnerable groups including pregnant women and new-born babies, detainees and marginalized communities.</p>	<p>Burkina Faso continues to face a humanitarian crisis, with nearly one-fifth of the population in need of aid. 1.7 million people have been displaced as a consequence of the increasing insecurity in the country. Nearly two-quarters of the displaced people are children. On September 30, Burkina Faso military leader President Paul-Henri Damiba was deposed in the country's second coup in a year. According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), attacks by armed groups increased by 23 percent in the five months after former leader Damiba took over.</p>	<p>A fourth consecutive failed rainy season has pushed parts of Somalia to the brink of famine. Throughout 2022, severe drought, conflict, climatic shocks, and forced evictions have had a cumulative devastating humanitarian impact across the country and represented major drivers of displacement that have exacerbated an already complex and protracted humanitarian crisis. In response to this critical situation, a national IASC Scale-Up for the famine prevention and drought response has been activated as of August 2022.</p>	<p>The situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate, with further displacement, serious protection risks and rising humanitarian needs. 14.4 million people, representing one quarter of the population, are estimated to be in humanitarian need across the country. An estimated 33,000 children could die as they have not received routine vaccinations. Serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations, including attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, are widespread with reports of villages and homes being burnt, extrajudicial killings and the shelling of civilian infrastructure, including schools.</p>

PROTECTION RISKS

OF CONCERN

PROTECTION RISKS TRENDS IN OPERATIONS

<p>FORCED FAMILY AND CHILD SEPARATION</p> <p>29% of cluster operations report the risk of 'forced labour, slavery, trafficking in persons' as severe or extreme compared to 20% in June 2022.</p>	<p>29% of cluster operations report the risk of 'forced family and child separation' as severe or extreme compared to 20% in June 2022.</p>
<p>FORCED RECRUITMENT, INCLUDING RECRUITMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED FORCES OR GROUPS</p>	<p>FORCED LABOUR, SLAVERY, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS</p> <p>While the overall reporting from operations remains stable, forced recruitment has been a rising protection risk in a set of countries, including DRC, CAR, Colombia, Honduras, Myanmar and Somalia.</p>

MONITOR

TRACKING OF 15 PROTECTION RISKS ACROSS EMERGENCIES

The Global Protection Cluster regularly monitors and tracks 15 protection risks across emergencies crises where a Protection Cluster is activated. The data in this table is the result of the surveys carried out quarterly across 28 operations and triangulated with the protection analysis findings included in the country-specific Protection Analysis Updates (PAUs), when published.

OVERALL RISKS AND CONCERNS	MINOR	STRESSED	MODERATE	SEVERE	EXTREME	N/A or no answer
Gender-based violence	0	0	2	20	6	0
Impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement	1	1	5	17	3	1
Psychological/emotional abuse or inflicted distress	0	1	9	14	4	0
Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings, attacks on civilian infrastructures	2	3	3	14	5	0
Theft, extortion, eviction or destruction of personal property	1	3	10	12	1	1
Abduction, kidnapping, forced disappearance, arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention	0	4	7	10	3	1
Impediments and/or restrictions to access to documentation, remedies and justice	1	4	9	10	3	1
Discrimination and stigmatization, denial of resources, opportunities, services	0	4	14	9	0	1
Presence of mines and other explosive ordnance	4	2	9	9	3	1
Child, early or forced marriage	1	14	14	8	1	0
Forced recruitment, including recruitment of children in armed forces and groups	12	4	12	8	1	1
Forced family and child separation	0	5	16	5	1	1
Forced labour, slavery, trafficking in persons	3	10	8	5	1	1
Misinformation and denial of access to information	4	11	7	4	1	1
Torture or inhuman, cruel, degrading treatment	6	4	10	4	2	2

AT A GLANCE

SEVERITY OF PROTECTION RISKS AS REPORTED BY PROTECTION CLUSTERS

Since June 2022, the eight most severe protection risks across operations remain substantially the same as highlighted in the last Global Protection Update. There has been a slight increase in reported severity on [risks related to freedom of movement](#) and [presence of mines and other explosive ordnance](#). While gender-based violence remains the most reported risk, the last quarter has seen a significant increase in severity across all operations: [94% of operations describe GBV risks either as severe or extreme](#).



Every field operation reports **Gender-Based Violence** as being amongst top concerns. 94% describe the GBV risk as severe or extreme.



27 operations report **forced displacement** and **impediments to freedom of movement**. 88% of them classify the situation as severe or extreme.



All operations describe **psychological/emotional abuse** or **inflicted distress** amongst the affected populations. 71% rate the risk of distress as severe or extreme.



Attacks on civilians or infrastructures are occurring in 27 cluster operations. 82% of them report the situation as severe or extreme.



Presence of mines and other explosive ordnance is a risk across 26 operations. 38% rate the risk as severe or extreme.



Theft, extortion, eviction or destruction of personal property is a risk across 27 operations. 53% report the risk as severe or extreme.



24 operations highlight **abduction, kidnapping, forced disappearance, arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention** as a major concern. 47% describe the risk as severe or extreme.



27 operations report **impediments and/or restrictions to access to documentation, remedies and justice**. 47% rate the risks as severe or extreme.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

AFGHANISTAN	DRC	GUATEMALA	MALI	PACIFIC	SYRIA
BURKINA FASO	BURUNDI	CAMEROON	CAR	CHAD	COLOMBIA
EL SALVADOR	ETHIOPIA	HONDURAS	IRAQ	LIBYA	MOZAMBIQUE
MYANMAR	NIGER	NIGERIA	OPT	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN
SUDAN	UKRAINE	VENEZUELA	YEMEN		

In [Central African Republic](#), 6,576 GBV incidents have been recorded in the 2nd quarter of 2022, in the most affected areas by armed conflict and food insecurity, representing an overly concerning steep increase compared to the end of 2021. In the region of North Kivu ([DRC](#)), GBV violations perpetrated by armed groups are observed on a daily basis, with Beni and Lubero territories registering 60% of all cases. At country level, an increase of cases targeting IDPs has been registered since June 2022. In [Mali](#), forced marriages, rape, physical violence at water and wood collection points are on a worrying rise. In [Ethiopia](#), extreme and catastrophic GBV levels are recorded at the border of Amhara and Afar regions and in all zones in Tigray region (1,300 incidents of rape recorded). IDPs frequently report GBV cases, especially in sites where shelter conditions are below standard and availability of and access to services are challenging. 110 women were murdered in [Honduras](#) in the first four months of 2022, a 6.8% increase compared to the same period of 2021.

In **Somalia**, the worsening drought conditions are interrelated with increasing GBV, manifested by a rise in recorded rape (14% of GBV cases compared to 12%) and intimate partner violence (60% compared to 51%) between the second and first quarter of 2022. In the Far North of **Cameroon**, the insecurity and displacement have aggravated an environment where discriminatory socio-cultural norms against women and girls are widespread, and basic social services limited. The number of rapes increased during the past three months. In the NWSW, the persistent insecurity has caused displacement of population, with rising numbers in GBV incidents. In **South Sudan**, 52% of marriages are either children getting married, or children being forced to marry. 213 cases of conflict related sexual violence and other forms of GBV were also recorded throughout the period.

IMPEDIMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, SIEGE, FORCED DISPLACEMENT

DRC	ETHIOPIA	UKRAINE	AFGHANISTAN	BURKINA FASO	CAR
CAMEROON	COLOMBIA	GUATEMALA	HONDURAS	LIBYA	MALI
MOZAMBIQUE	MYANMAR	NIGER	NIGERIA	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN
SYRIA	VENEZUELA	CHAD	EL SALVADOR	IRAQ	PACIFIC
YEMEN	SUDAN	BURUNDI	OPT		

As of September 2022, a total of 1.4M individuals were displaced across **Somalia** due to drought (66%) and conflict and insecurity (34%). In **DRC**, IDPs are increasingly victims of murders, injuries, and rape by parties to the conflict during pendular movements between their areas of origin and their fields, pushed by insufficient humanitarian aid and the need to harvest. Increasing large-scale mass arrest campaigns and forced expulsions of non-Libyans are taking place in Zwara, Tripoli and Sebha urban areas in **Libya**, raising self-imposed restrictions on movements. Armed groups' lack of respect of the principle of distinction is causing recurrent preventive and forced displacement in **Mali**. The freedom of movement of civilian population in **Myanmar** is increasingly curtailed by movement and presence of armed actors, number of checkpoints, curfews, and identity checks across the country. In the first 6 months of 2022, around 327 incidents involving Israeli settlers, the seizing or demolition of 312 structures with consequent 15,130 people affected by forced evictions, have been raising the risk of forced displacement in the West Bank of **oPt**. Insecurity and violence remain pervasive and affect the freedom of movement of civilians in the NW and SW regions of **Cameroon** in addition to the weekly ghost towns and regular lockdowns imposed by non-state armed groups. Civilians also self-restrict their movements, especially in areas of checkpoints, as they lack civil documentation.

ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, KILLINGS, ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

CAMEROON	DRC	ETHIOPIA	MYANMAR	UKRAINE	BURKINA FASO
CAR	CHAD	GUATEMALA	MALI	MOZAMBIQUE	OPT
NIGER	NIGERIA	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	SYRIA
VENEZUELA	COLOMBIA	LIBYA	YEMEN	AFGHANISTAN	BURUNDI
HONDURAS	IRAQ	PACIFIC	EL SALVADOR		

In **Ethiopia** about 3,200 fatalities were recorded since the beginning of 2022. Civilians are deliberately targeted or caught in the hostilities among armed groups and Government forces, and ethnic violence, both in Northern Ethiopia and in other regions, like Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz and Gambella. Since May 2022, there has been an increase in civilian casualties in **DRC** because of the use of artillery and the direct targeting of civilians during fighting between M23 and FARDC. In **Myanmar**, reported protection incidents during the second quarter of 2022 suggest that, at least 349 civilians have lost their lives due to conflict-related violence, either due to indiscriminate or targeted attacks. From 1 January to 15 September 2022, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) recorded in **Somalia** 2,031 events of violence against civilians resulting in 3,217 deaths. Generalised and increased threats against indigenous leaders in Bolivar state in **Venezuela** was reported since June 2022. Airstrikes, shelling, armed clashes, and explosive ordnance incidents have continued to cause death and injury, displacement, damage to property, and destruction of civilian infrastructure in **Syria**. Attacks to health facilities continue unabated in **CAR** with a total of 19 attacks since the beginning of the year, in the prefectures of Ouham, Basse Kotto, Ouham-Pende and Bamingui- Bangoran. Attacks against education remain severe in the NWSW crisis in **Cameroon** including attacks against school infrastructures or lockdown imposed for 10 days to prevent the return to school. Protection monitors also report occupation and attacks against health centers and hospitals.



PSYCHOLOGICAL / EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR INFLICTED DISTRESS

LIBYA	PACIFIC	SYRIA	UKRAINE	BURKINA FASO	CAR
CHAD	DRC	ETHIOPIA	IRAQ	MALI	MOZAMBIQUE
MYANMAR	NIGER	OPT	SOMALIA	SUDAN	YEMEN
AFGHANISTAN	CAMEROON	COLOMBIA	EL SALVADOR	GUATEMALA	HONDURAS
NIGERIA	SOUTH SUDAN	VENEZUELA	BURUNDI		

A disturbing increase in the number of xenophobic incidents targeting foreigners, specifically with anti-migrant and anti-refugee statements were documented and observed in various locations in **Libya**. The latest escalations in Gaza and West Bank of the **oPt** have furtherly declined the chronic and unabated mental health of Palestinian population, suffering already from one of the highest burdens in Eastern Mediterranean region (54% boys and 47% girls show mental health disorder). In **Somalia**, the almost non-existing mental health services (0.5 psychiatric beds/100.000, compared to 6.4 in East Mediterranean and 24 globally) coupled with insecurity, conflict, poverty, drought, and COVID-19 pandemic compounding factors are pushing to a worrying increase of the prevalence of mental-health conditions.

PRESENCE OF MINES, AND OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

MYANMAR	SYRIA	UKRAINE	AFGHANISTAN	CAR	ETHIOPIA
OPT	SOMALIA	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	VENEZUELA	YEMEN
BURKINA FASO	CHAD	COLOMBIA	DRC	IRAQ	LIBYA
MALI	NIGER	NIGERIA	CAMEROON	HONDURAS	BURUNDI
GUATEMALA	MOZAMBIQUE	PACIFIC	EL SALVADOR		

In **Afghanistan** there are still 4,104 hazardous areas affecting at least 1,522 communities. Around 1 million people is affected by mine and explosive ordnance in **Burkina Faso**, where 10 out of 13 regions registered an elevated number of incidents. Approximately one in three communities in **Syria** is estimated to be contaminated by explosives posing significant risks to civilians and humanitarian actors and a major obstacle to early recovery efforts. 185 casualties from landmine/ERW explosions have been registered in **Myanmar** (65% of the total registered in 2021), and 39 incidents (affecting 127 people) in **CAR**, with the highest number of cases in the prefectures of Ouham-Pende, Nana-Membere, Ouaka and Mambere Kadei. As of May 2022, 60 square kilometres of minefields, 77 suspected hazardous areas and 19 battle areas have been recorded in **Somalia**, with civilian population accounting for 50% of the total number of 422 casualties registered. Assessments are ongoing after the August 2022 violent escalation in Gaza of the **oPt**, which have increased the presence of mines and explosive ordnance. In **Venezuela**, 12 explosive devices were deactivated in the sector La Capilla in the Arauca axis, approximately five kilometres East of the town of La Victoria, in municipality Paez of Apure state.

THEFT, EXTORTION, EVICTION OR DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

DRC	AFGHANISTAN	CAMEROON	CHAD	COLOMBIA	GUATEMALA
HONDURAS	LIBYA	MALI	MYANMAR	SOMALIA	SYRIA
UKRAINE	BURKINA FASO	CAR	EL SALVADOR	ETHIOPIA	IRAQ
NIGER	NIGERIA	PACIFIC	SOUTH SUDAN	SUDAN	BURUNDI
VENEZUELA	YEMEN	MOZAMBIQUE	OPT		

A total of 854 cases of extortions have been registered in the four regions of **Niger** as of August 2022. IDPs in **Burkina Faso** are constantly losing their houses and lands in the place of origin, with few opportunities to find shelter and land in areas of arrival. Continuous attacks in villages and looting in areas left by displaced population is increasing the violation and abuse of property rights in **DRC**. In **Honduras**, merchants, small business owners and public transport drivers, in urban settings, often face persecution and life threats related to extortion. In an environment of increased mass evictions, theft and extortion of belongings affect frequently migrants and refugees, when passing checkpoints in **Libya**. Extortion remains a widespread protection risk in **Myanmar** and has become a means of exploitation, in particular across the Rakhine and Chin states. During the second quarter of 2022, extortion represent 23% of the reported incidents and impacted 46% of the total number of victims, especially in IDPs camps and checkpoints. In **Somalia**, during the period of January – September 2022, the HLP AoR recorded a total of 109,461 forced evictions, 84% of which occurred in Banadir region. In Mogadishu alone, the humanitarian sector has lost \$2,196,500 in infrastructure and investments because of forced evictions. In the Far North and NWSW crisis of **Cameroon**, attacks by the non-state armed groups as well as criminal gangs systematically resulted in theft and destruction of personal properties including houses and livestock.

IMPEDIMENTS AND/OR RESTRICTIONS TO ACCESS TO DOCUMENTATION, REMEDIES OR JUSTICE

CAMEROON	SUDAN	SYRIA	AFGHANISTAN	CHAD	HONDURAS
IRAQ	LIBYA	MALI	MOZAMBIQUE	MYANMAR	SOMALIA
UKRAINE	BURKINA FASO	CAR	COLOMBIA	DRC	ETHIOPIA
PACIFIC	SOUTH SUDAN	VENEZUELA	YEMEN	GUATEMALA	EL SALVADOR
NIGER	NIGERIA	BURUNDI	OPT		

In [Syria](#), an estimated 60% of communities face risks related to documentation, land tenure and property, and almost 80% face impediments related to loss or lack of documentation. Seeking justice remains a major challenge in [Libya](#) for all the population, due to interference of armed groups and barriers for using the statutory legal system, with no option to regularize status of persons who entered irregularly, neither any due process for persons detained due to their irregular status. Access to justice for IDPs, women, adolescent girls, and minority groups is particularly challenging and heightens protection risks in [Somalia](#). In [Afghanistan](#), use of punishments such as public shaming, arbitrary arrests, torture, and public executions have been reported across several province while the de facto authorities are slowly re-establishing a formal justice system. In the Far North region of [Cameroon](#), lack of civil documentation remains endemic due forced displacement. In September 2022, almost 48% of children registered in primary grade 3 were unable to sit their exams because of a lack of birth registration documents. In the NWSW crisis, civil documentation was lost or destroyed during the attacks on villages or during flight; and civil registration centers have been abandoned in the most insecure areas. In August 2022, some 87,000 birth certificates were blocked due to the lack of civil documentation registers.

IN FOCUS

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The combined impacts of climate change, including environmental degradation, changing and unpredictable weather patterns and the intensification of frequency and magnitude of natural hazards are exacerbating the precarious situation of millions of people. Livelihood and coping capacities are eroded, compounded by food insecurity and malnutrition, conflict and displacement on a universally [visible scale](#). Less visible but equally affecting is the exacerbation of existing protection risks, as well as the generation of new protection risk reflecting the negative effects of both slow and sudden onset natural hazards and other climate crisis events.

Challenges caused by climate change and disasters are often multi-faceted and complex, which results in protection risks that are interconnected and multi-layered. Events often exacerbate and compound existing vulnerabilities at individual, community, and institutional level. The protection response to this challenging and complex dynamic requires placing the affected population at the centre of collective efforts. It also demands a deeper understanding and expertise on the interconnections between climate change and protection risks.

The Global Protection Cluster has issued a [Guidance on preparedness for protection in the context of climate change and disasters](#) and [toolkit](#), and organized a [Webinar with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change](#), recognizing the importance of considering protection in preparedness and response for climate change and disaster. The GBV AoR has issued a brief on [Climate change and Gender-based violence](#), and other important research and learning has been developed, including the HPG briefing note [Addressing protection risks in a climate-changed world](#), the ICRC report [When rain turns to dust: understanding and responding to the combined impact of armed conflicts and the climate and environment crisis on people's lives](#) or the recent InterAction Practitioners Roundtable on [Seeking protection outcomes in situations of armed conflict and climate change](#).

Whilst we advance in research, capacity building and learning, our frontline protection response must adapt at a very fast pace, to ensure that no protection risks are overlooked, and standard mechanisms are fit for purpose. Across all 32 Protection Cluster operations, this is resulting in processes of reflection and analysis, in addition to ensuring the timely delivery of the humanitarian response. Protection Clusters partners are working together, across sectors and with governments and authorities, elaborating guidance, identification and referral mechanisms, integrating protection risk considerations in disaster preparedness and response, and revising strategic approaches.

In this report, we present some case studies illustrating the ongoing efforts of our cluster operations in similar emerging situations: a) Climate change causing specific vulnerabilities, affecting the impact of protection risks; b) Environmental degradation giving rise to new patterns of protection risks; c) Governmental legal and policy response frameworks as fundamental to address protection risks and resulting needs; d) Protection risks being addressed better within disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

GOOD PRACTICES

NIGER

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND PROTECTION RISKS



Environmental degradation and climate change drive conflict and protection risks



Protection risks and food security
Disaster management and protection

Niger is torn by constant human rights violations by NSAGs and the worst effects of climate change, including droughts and flooding. Its climate is characterized by high inter-annual variability in rainfall, which results in recurrent dry years. The process of environmental degradation (advancing desertification) is compounding the drivers of conflict - continuously impoverishing the soil, reducing viable arable

land and further generating land-related conflicts.

Desertification pushes the population to move as a result of inter-communal farmer-herder conflicts, result to sex for survival, child exploitation, extortion of goods, and physical aggression related to shared natural resources. The occurrence of floods is devastating, with the consequences of loss of human life and material goods, massive population displacement and the psychosocial trauma seen specifically impacting women and children.

In order to strengthen the response to the increasing protection risks and resulting needs related to the effects of climate impacts, the Niger Protection Cluster has been scaling up its support and contribution to authorities and at inter-cluster level. It has promoted a **joint-partner assessments** to determine protection needs, together with a better mapping and sharing of response capacity matrix

across actors. A **catalogue of protection risks related to food insecurity** has been inventoried to prepare mitigation measures.

These efforts to better comprehend the relations between environmental degradation and the protection environment are being mainstreamed across the Protection Cluster work: a) dissemination of targeted alerts and situation reports; b) mobilization of actors; c) participation in government crisis meetings for advocacy; d) identification of prospective protection risks for recommendation to the HCT; e) Technical support to the government's flood response contingency plan.

The current synergies among protection actors, governments and other humanitarian responders are positive and they are particularly relevant to develop an integrated approach to respond to environmental degradation. In this sense, the **draft law on natural disaster management** currently being prepared to strengthen the efforts of protection actors is very welcomed and timely.

SYRIA

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND PROTECTION RISKS



Emerging patterns of protection risks due to environmental degradation



Adapt protection analysis
Inter-sectoral correlation efforts

The dire protection situation of the population due to the protracted crisis in Syria is reaching new high levels, aggravated by general environmental degradation, impacting population standards of living and coping capacities. Over the past years, drought-like conditions have become the norm. The seasonal water crisis in the North-East Syria is contributing to an erosion of livelihood opportunities and increased cost of living.

The Protection Cluster has started a reflection on how to adapt the **analysis of the situation to better understand the interlinkages between protection risks and the impact of water crisis**. This impact includes the soaring numbers of people resorting to harmful coping strategies, GBV risks have increased due to the need of changing movement and behavioural patterns, the rise in movement to camps by those seeking assistance which has increased the pressure on already congested sites, and an increased risk of exploitation ([Syria PAU](#)). The efforts to correlate the effects of the environmental degradation and protection risks are required to better adapt an adequate protection response. In this direction, an initial exercise to factor in the impact of the water crisis into the protection response has been done through the **development of an intersectoral Water Response Plan**, to start identifying the most appropriate response, taking into consideration protection risks and the rising needs.

The current protection response is thus being reviewed, in order to adapt the mechanisms to the emerging patterns and the effects of the water crisis. These efforts are nonetheless challenging, since the required attention and funding to address the environmental degradation and the protection risks integrally has not been sufficiently met.

PHILIPPINES and PACIFIC

LEGAL FRAMEWORK and PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESPONSE



Post-emergency effects of natural hazards on protection environment and risks



Government and partners led initiative
Legal Framework

In the Philippines, the Super Typhoon Rai has impacted several provinces in December 2021. Based on the Government's Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) report as of 23 September 2022, there are still 3,254 persons displaced.

The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, one of the provinces impacted by Super Typhoon Rai, with the support of the inter-agency coordination team and UNHCR adopted Executive Order No. 25, a **legal framework for the creation of Response to Recovery Cluster Leads and Co-leads, following the disengagement of the Humanitarian Country Team from the province in June 2022**.

The creation of this government-led cluster will ensure the continuity of the response to Typhoon Rai, as well as recovery programmes for the affected population, particularly the internally displaced. The Protection Cluster through UNHCR will continue to provide technical assistance to ensure the centrality of protection in emergency response as required by both the national and local governments of Southern Leyte.

In the Pacific, people are exposed to multiple disasters in the same area, often in quick succession. The frequency and magnitude have increased over the last year. Recently, the Yasa (a category 5 cyclone) was immediately followed by TC Ana (a category 3 cyclone). Communities are often left without time and capacity to recover, in a cycle of evacuations, return to their shelters and to evacuation centers. There are increasing risks of GBV and child abuse in evacuation centers, rising mental health and psychological distress, and exclusion of most vulnerable groups as PWD and older persons.

The Protection Cluster has increased partnership and collaboration in order to better understand and respond to changing vulnerability in disaster response. The Protection Cluster supported Rainbow Pride to develop a specific **training package to ensure meaningful inclusion of SOGIESC community in disaster response** and works in synergy with the UNW Women's resilience to disasters program to **address inequality. A Vulnerability Analysis and**

Assessment has been further piloted in Fiji and Vanuatu, to specifically address protection risks affecting the most vulnerable and excluded groups of population.

MOZAMBIQUE

A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO ENSURE PROTECTION



Protection risks affecting IDPs in transit and accommodation



Preparedness and capacity building
Legal framework and policy

Mozambique experienced extreme weather events throughout the past 10 years, including droughts, floods and tropical cyclones. From 2017, nine tropical cyclones hit the country and displaced over 4 million people. The most recent one was in 2022, with Tropical Cyclone Gombe (CAT 4) affecting 736,000 people through loss of livelihoods and shelters in four Provinces. These cyclones also resulted in multiple displacements for IDPs who were already experiencing a protracted displacement situation due to armed conflict in Northern Mozambique.

Key protection risks associated with these events occur in transit or accommodation centres, such as exposure of women and girls to potential gender-based violence, loss of civil documentation, separation of families (including children) and PSEA. In addition, the challenge for the Protection Cluster is the strong determination of the government to return families to their places of habitual residences, despite the loss of shelter and potential exposure to protection risks.

The lack of disaster preparedness and capacity to respond to the extent of the impact **created an opportunity for the Protection Cluster to adopt a three-pronged approach to ensure protection of vulnerable population before, during and after a disaster.**

1. Build institutional (government) capacity to respond to disaster by ensuring protection sensitive strategies, approach, and activities.
2. Raise awareness of transit/accommodation centre managers that key (minimum) protection considerations are in place (e.g. feedback, gender sensitive temporary living arrangements, coordination, and others)
3. Develop a multi-purpose tool in assessing compliance of transit centres to protection standards. This tool serves as both a checklist and an advocacy tool.

These efforts include the elaboration of an updated guidance on [protection messages for affected communities, managers of evacuation centres](#) and a [fact sheet on climate-related displacement](#). Mozambique authorities have developed a three-year Action Plan (2022-2025) based on the adoption of a national Policy and

Strategy for Internal Displacement Management (PSIDM) and, among the main activities planned, a Training Manual on the Policy/Strategy and an e-learning platform will be developed and made available across 11 provinces. This represents an opportunity for the Protection Cluster to work in partnership with the Government to strengthen its protection capacity on disaster preparedness and response.

SOMALIA

DROUGHT EFFECTS ON PEOPLE VULNERABILITY



Drought-induced changes of vulnerability and capacities of affected population

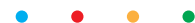


Drought-protection mainstreaming
Vulnerability screening

After four consecutive failed rainy seasons, the extent of the drought-induced crisis in Somalia is extreme, having pushed parts of the country to the brink of famine. At the moment, an estimated 7.1 million people are facing crisis-level food insecurity, while 213,000 people are facing risk of catastrophic hunger and starvation. As of September 2022, 1.4 million people have been internally displaced, 926K as a result of the drought and 467K as a result of the conflict, violence and insecurity. These shocks have significantly exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities among affected communities and exposed populations to heightened protection risks, particularly affecting girls, boys, women, persons with disabilities, elderly and persons with minority clan affiliations who face systematic levels of exclusion and marginalization.

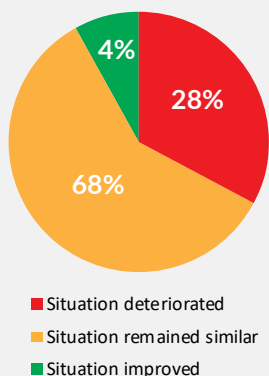
Somalia's Protection Cluster has been developing a [drought response protection mainstreaming guidance](#), [sector-specific protection mainstreaming tools](#), and [inter-agency referral SoPs](#). In addition, partners and AoRs are collaborating to strengthen vulnerability screenings, outreach, case management and protection monitoring to better identify vulnerabilities and respond to emerging risks and needs. Strong efforts have been made to support and ensure the engagement of minority-led national NGOs throughout the response.

The HLP AoR prioritises land tenure in drought-prone locations. This has provided incentives for landholders to invest in measures that prevent HLP violations. By exploring household variations in land tenure security and climatic shocks across villages, the AoR investigates the extent to which land tenure systems matter in households' capacity to cope with adverse impacts of climate and protection risks. The AoR also maps land tenure arrangements in drought prone locations, and consequently documents ownership using GPS coordinates and photographic evidence. This has prevented secondary displacement and reinforced protections against HLP violations, hence improving productivity and consequently household food security.



PROTECTION ACCESS

Trends access situation by protection actors to affected population



Protection access refers to the ability of protection actors to reach affected people, as well as the ability of affected people to access protection assistance and services in a timely and unimpeded manner.

Access by protection actors to affected population

During the reporting period, Protection Clusters reported that the access situation by protection actors to affected populations remained similar in most operations (68%), while it deteriorated in **Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen**. The access situation improved only in the **Pacific**.

Most operations report that between 25% and 50% of affected populations can be reached by protection actors. **Ethiopia** and **Sudan** operations report that it can reach a mere 25% of affected population, while only **Iraq** and **Guatemala** report that it can reach 75% or more of affected populations. 5 operations (**Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Honduras and Niger**) can reach between 50% and 75% of affected populations.

Percentage of affected population that can be reached by protection actors

>75%	75-50%	50-25%	<25%	Do not know
Iraq, Guatemala	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Honduras, Niger	Afghanistan, Burundi, CAR, Chad, Colombia, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pacific, South Sudan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen	Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan	oPt, Ukraine

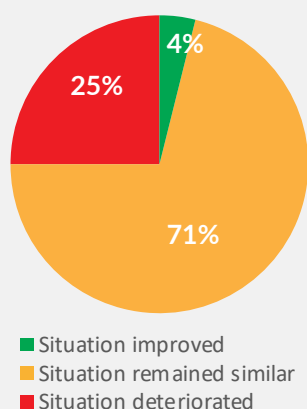
The most critical barriers for protection actors to reach affected population relate to:

- ↑ On-going insecurity or hostilities affecting humanitarian assistance (incl. presence of landmines, IEDs, ERW, UXOs) for 24 operations
- ↑ Environmental and logistical constraints for 15 operations
- ↑ Bureaucratic and administrative constraints for 15 operations
- ↓ Direct attacks or threats against protection actors, facilities and assets for 12 operations
- ↓ Interference into implementation of protection activities from local authorities or non-state actors for 10 operations.

Operations updates: Aid services and supply flows into Tigray and some areas in Afar and Amhara regions are once more reduced and impeded. Humanitarian convoy movements into **Tigray** via Afar have been suspended since 24 August, cutting off life-saving supplies to millions of people in need. Humanitarian operations continue to be severely impacted by the lack of fuel and the suspension of cash, electricity and communication services. Non-state armed groups continue to impose blockage/siege on some of the towns of the south-central regions of **Somalia** and prevent the free movement of goods and people, hampering the delivery of basic services and humanitarian assistance to drought affected communities. In **Sudan**, issuance of visa for international NGO staff is also facing longer delays. Destruction of administrative facilities for civil registration and civil documentation, medical centres, water supply facilities and schools

remain high in **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger**. According to the Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework (AMRF), the protection sector in **Libya** was consistently one of the most impacted sectors in terms of access, with the second half of 2021 reporting an increase in constraints, particularly in the key cities in all three regions - Benghazi, Sebha and Tripoli- indicative of the man-made nature of the constraints rather than geographical impediments or specific security challenges. As with many other sectors, protection sector partners struggled with obtaining registration and visa permits to enter the country, hampering the delivery of much-needed humanitarian assistance. The Protection Cluster is also facing funding shortages in **Somalia** as the protection responses are deprioritized from the drought response and funding has been limited. Government restrictions in **Syria** prevent direct implementation of several activities related especially to legal assistance and case management, which must be done through government-approved implementing partners. This form of indirect implementation of protection activities risks compromising the impartial delivery of services and the population's meaningful participation. The mandatory reporting of GBV incidents by service providers, in addition to social stigma, deters some PoCs from seeking GBV assistance.

Trends in access situation for affected populations to protection services



Access by affected populations to protection services

During the reporting period, Protection Clusters reported that access situation for affected populations to protection services has remained similar in 71% of our operations. The situation deteriorated in **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Mali, Mozambique, Ukraine, Yemen**. Only in the **Pacific** did the situation improved.

Most operations (57%) reported that between 25% and 50% of the affected population can reach protection services. In **Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique and Sudan** a mere 25% or less of the affected population can reach protection services. Only in **Iraq and Guatemala** can 75% or more of the affected population reach protection services.

Percentage of affected populations that can reach protection services

>75%	75-50%	50-25%	<25%	Do not know
Iraq, Guatemala	Burkina, DRC, Honduras, Niger	Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pacific, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, El Salvador	Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, Sudan	oPt, Ukraine

The most critical barriers for affected populations to access protection services relate to:

- ↑ Unavailability of protection services for 22 operations
- ↑ Ongoing insecurity or hostilities for 19 operations
- ↑ Direct attacks or threats against affected populations for 18 operations
- ↑ Environmental and logistical constraints for 16 operations
- ↑ Restriction and obstruction of access to protection services by local authorities and non-state actors for 14 operations

Operations updates: In **Honduras**, gangs and maras control and impose restrictions in urban centres particularly affecting the poorest areas where they are involved in extortion, forced recruitment, and drug dealing. In the Far North region of **Cameroon**, the access to humanitarian services by affected population is mainly impacted by long distances, insufficient coverage of humanitarian activities, poor road infrastructure, insecurity and lack of information on available services. In a region where many households do not have access to phone and network coverage is poor, partners have very limited means to communicate with communities. It is imperative to support community-based structures in zones where protection actors do not maintain regular presence. In the NWSW, the population access to services is limited by

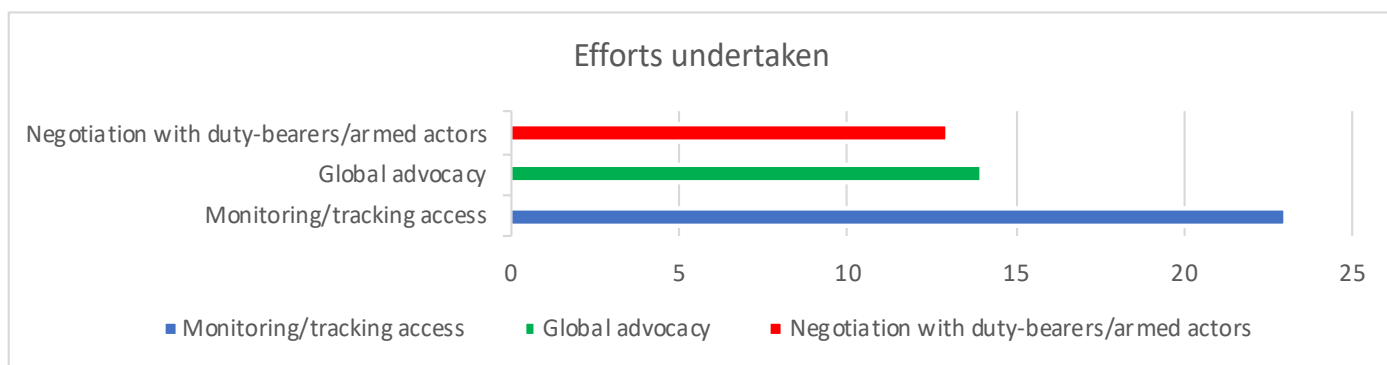


insecurity, especially in hard-to-reach areas, restrictions on their freedom of movement spurred by apprehension over being arrested due to lack of documentation and being targeted by non-state armed groups. In **Colombia**, confinement or threats to communities, particularly indigenous and afro communities, is an impediment to access assistance. In **Sud Kivu** armed groups are deliberately blocking people from Banyamulenge community to access humanitarian aid. The limited availability of protection services in several areas of **Ethiopia**, together with the limited operational presence of protection actors and the constantly evolving security situation in multiple locations make it extremely challenging for the affected populations to access services (quantity and quality of services are both impacted). Violence or threats against humanitarian personnel and assets has been on the rise in **South Sudan**, resulting in the evacuation of staff, consequently affecting the populations' access to protection services. Flooding also plays a major factor in the restriction of affected population to protective services, as many of them do not possess the means of transport (local boats) to reach locations where these services are available. Heavy rains and flood hinder mining clearance activities during the rainy season, especially in upper Nile and Jonglei states, making it less safe for the affected populations to access protective services. In **Syria**, the population is increasingly unable to afford transportation costs due to the increase in price of fuel.

Efforts undertaken

The nature of protection work, in supporting individuals to access their rights, requires sustained presence and engagement with communities, duty-bearers and armed actors. 21 Protection Clusters reported enhanced engagement with OCHA-led coordination forum (e.g. Access WG, CMCoord) to strengthen common analysis, identify priority issues for joint action and tailor approaches to negotiations and advocacy. Protection Cluster also reported engaging with HC/HCT (6 operations), UN Agencies (3 operations), international NGOs (2 operations) and national or local authorities (2 operations) on access for protection. Types of efforts undertaken to enable access for protection includes monitoring/tracking access (22 operations), global advocacy (13 operations), and negotiation with duty bearers/armed actors (11 operations).

Operations updates: Issues related to humanitarian access are central to the discussion of the HCT in **Colombia**. A Humanitarian Access Working Group has been created, with which progress is being made in training and recruitment processes for the territorial teams.

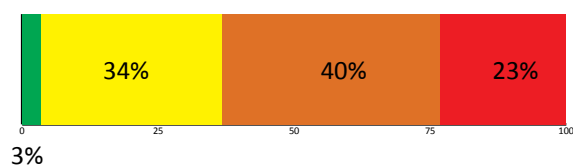


FIELD COORDINATION AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

In Q3 2022, [new regional focal points](#) were appointed to support field Clusters, with thematic expertise ranging from co-ordination to centrality of protection, and service mapping and referrals. The GPC Ops cell undertook 9 missions/deployments in the third quarter, ranging from training to inter-agency missions to gap-filling. The GPC also issued a standardized MoU and guidance on co-ordination in July: [GPC Co-Coordination Agreements: Guidance](#) and [GPC Co-Coordination Agreements: Template](#). Following this, the second annual co-ordination event was organized, with a specific focus on financing of co-ordination.

DELIVER ESSENTIAL QUALITY SERVICES TO POPULATIONS IN NEED

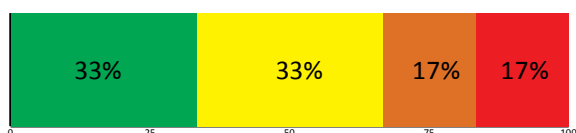
Good Satisfactory Unsatisfactory Weak



Protection partners continue to deliver critical life-saving protection services despite dire operational contexts and low level of funding significantly impacting the coverage of essential protection services. 39% of operations who responded to the survey reported that their services cover more than 65% of the target population. On the other hand, just around a third of operations reported that referral pathways exist to reach services for this population; indeed, most operations reported that referral pathways are established for 30-65% of their target population.

COORDINATE SERVICE DELIVERY

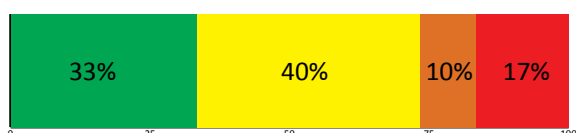
Good Satisfactory Unsatisfactory Weak



All operations have a system tracking who is doing what, where and when, to track progress and coverage of activities. The GPC piloted a new monitoring tool to enhance the quality and timeliness of information shared by partners for the 5W. About 2/3 of operations have services mapping and referral pathways in place. Nevertheless, progress remains to be made to ensure greater coverage, harmonization and information sharing within the cluster and with other clusters.

INFORM HUMANITARIAN STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING

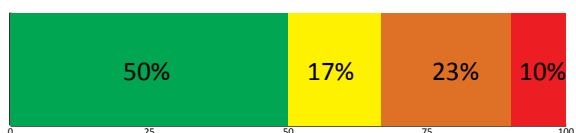
Good Satisfactory Unsatisfactory Weak



With protection analysis as a key priority for the GPC, 75% of operations have needs assessments systems in place. 81% of operations report undertaking joint and collective protection analysis. However, only half do it at least on a quarterly basis and produce regular reports. Operations providing regular briefings to HCT has increased to 80%, with most of them with positive results in influencing HCT decision making.

PLAN AND IMPLEMENT CLUSTERS STRATEGIES

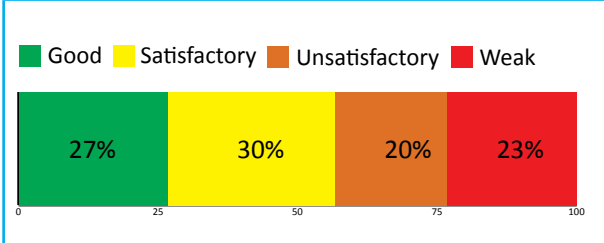
Good Satisfactory Unsatisfactory Weak



Strategic planning remains a strong point of field operations. 82% of field operations have a specific strategy. Almost all promoted the Centrality of Protection in inter-sectoral and other clusters' needs analysis and planning, and report at least some level of success. Most operations actively engage with peace actors and although still limited, operations show good practices in engaging with development actors.

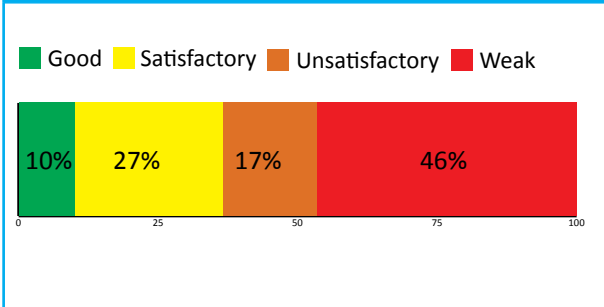


MONITOR AND EVALUATE RESPONSE



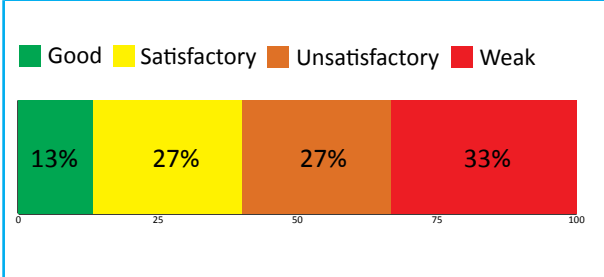
69% of operations conduct reviews of progress against objectives, targets and requirements, 2/3rd of those do it at least quarterly. While most operations conduct reviews of their funding, only one third do so at least quarterly. In addition, there are important gaps in relation to mechanisms to monitor the quality of protection services.

BUILD NATIONAL CAPACITIES IN PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING



More attention needs to be given to ensuring preparedness and contingency plans, with a strong component of localization through capacity building of local authorities, civil society, local partners and communities for different type of recurrent hazards (i.e., conflict/violence, natural hazards, diseases outbreaks). The GPC published a new guidance and toolkit for field cluster operations on disaster and climate change preparedness to build on good practice and provide relevant guidance to enhance preparedness in field operations.

SUPPORT ROBUST ADVOCACY



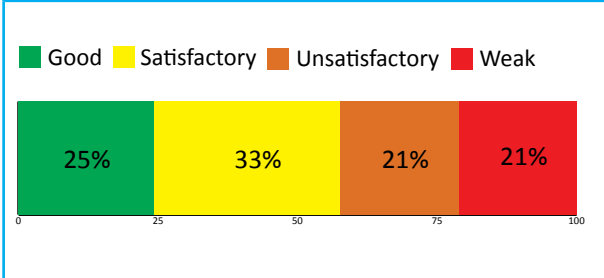
Most operations produce regular advocacy briefing notes and reports. Almost all operations contribute to HCT advocacy messaging, with half of them contributing or systematically advising the HCT on advocacy. Less than half of field operations conduct multilateral meetings with donors, but more than half of those do so at least quarterly. The GPC conducted dedicated advocacy sessions during the Regional Forum with field operations to strengthen advocacy processes, targets and messaging.

ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS AND STRONG ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES



3/4 of operations report facilitating training for partners on Code of Conduct, PSEA or Child Safeguarding. Less than half required adherence to at least one of those policies as a condition for cluster membership. A quarter of field operations report facilitating trainings on AAP and feedback mechanisms highlighting lingering lack of clarity on the role of the cluster on AAP. Finally, while rights awareness-raising and community-based protection constitute some of the strongest programming in field operations, only 23% have developed harmonized approaches for community engagement and RCCE.

CLUSTER RESOURCES AND LEADERSHIP

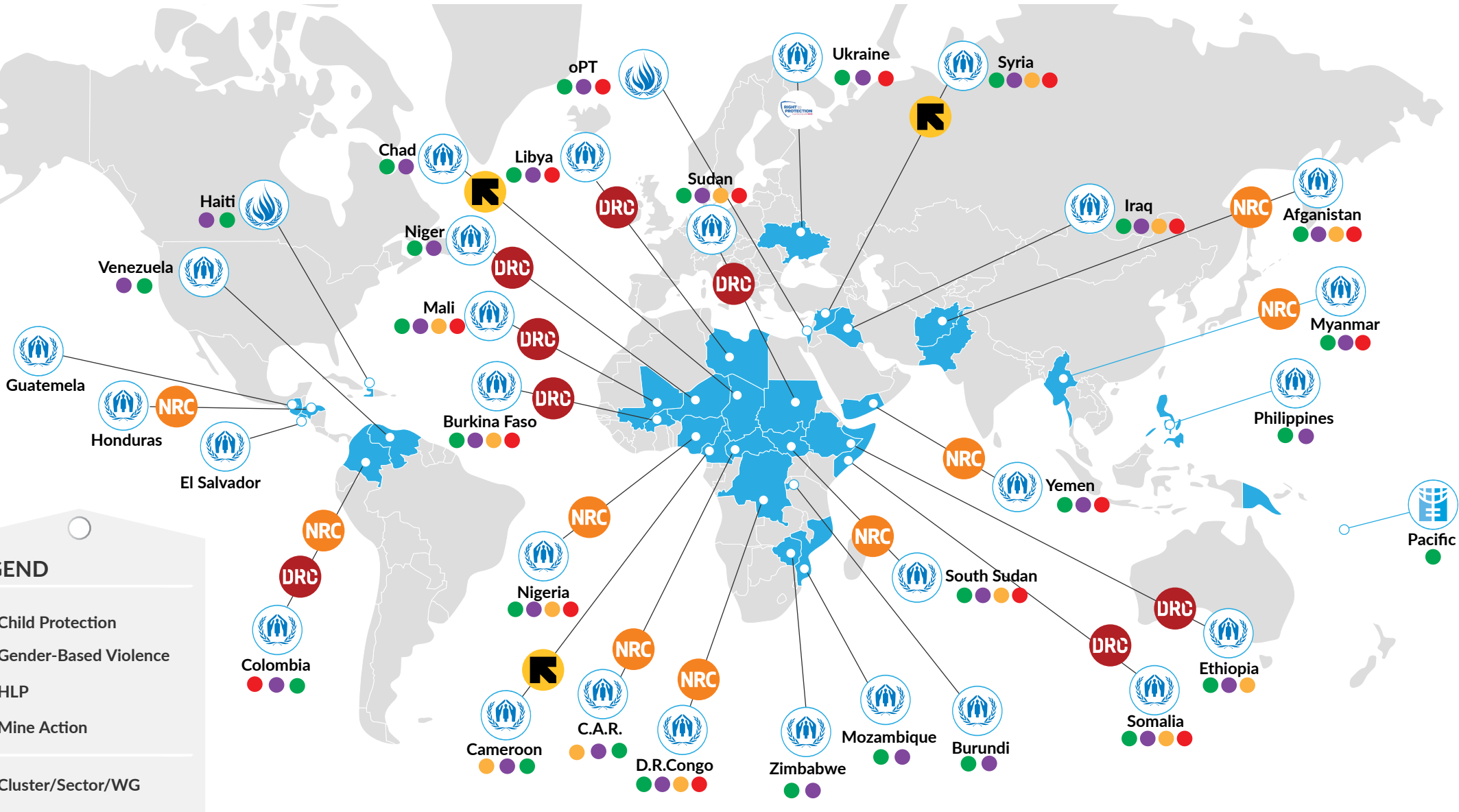


Effective protection coordination requires dedicated resources, appropriate structures, and collective ways of working. Only 60% of field Protection Clusters & Sectors have a dedicated coordinator and 41% have a dedicated IMO. Over half of field operations have established UN-NGO co coordination, an increase from the previous quarter.



GPC National Protection Cluster 2022

Global Protection Cluster



LEGEND

- Child Protection
- Gender-Based Violence
- HLP
- Mine Action
- Cluster/Sector/WG

LEAD & CO-COORDINATING AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS





Endnotes

- 1 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126531>
- 2 <https://somalia.un.org/en/198259-dispatch-epicenter-somalias-hunger-crisis>
- 3 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1128051>
- 4 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/22/colombia-gustavo-petro-total-peace>
- 5 [Advocacy Note on Returns and Relocations of IDPs in Borno State, North-East Nigeria](#)
- 6 <https://press.un.org/en/2022/db220930.doc.htm>
- 7 www.un.org/en/black-sea-grain-initiative

