

GLOBAL PROTECTION UPDATE March 2022



LEAVING KNOWN ONES BEHIND? THE HUMAN TOLL OF WAR

Photo by: © UNHCR/Artem Hetman

We believe that disability is a result of a negative interaction between a person with impairments and their environment that poses barriers. Our humanitarian system is part of that environment"

Over the past few days, images of children, older people and persons with disabilities stranded on the line of contact in Ukraine without assistance continue to proliferate reportage. They are increasingly vulnerable to violence, injury and death amidst the rising hostilities. With shelters often inaccessible, persons with disabilities are left with no choice but to stay home, awaiting assisted evacuations and expressing the little to no support existing in the face of intensifying abandonment and isolation. Known ones are left behind.

Time and again, the situation in Ukraine, as in many other brutal conflicts, is a **pressing reminder of what happens to the most vulnerable when violence goes unchecked and human lives are deemed expendable as the world looks on.** It alerts us on specific risks that persons with disabilities and older people face in times of emergencies, underpinned by attitudinal, institutional, physical and communication barriers in the environment, and when the absence of mitigation measures, serves as a key catalyst for deepening inequalities.

But it also reminds us that 73 years ago, the nations of the world agreed to basic tenets of humanity during armed conflicts. Today – more than ever – we are reminded that parties to conflict need to uphold international humanitarian law and make protection of civilians a priority.

What is clear also is that long after conflicts slip from global attention, the displaced continue to pay the price. In the first quarter of this year, forced displacement and attacks on civilians were reported as predominant protection risks across our operations – again. The human toll of war lingers on as trauma, emotional distress, sexual violence, and negative coping mechanisms remain deep-rooted.

As we all, rightly so, focus our response efforts on Ukraine, we cannot forget other crises around the globe that also demand our attention. Our responsibility as protection actors is to stand by those forgotten. At the GPC, we committed to keep on our watchlist, crises that no one is watching and focused our attention on CAR, Colombia, DRC, Haiti, and Cameroon that rarely made the headlines for sustained periods of time this year.

In 2022, we estimate that 150 million people will be in need of protection, largely driven by the worsening situations in Ethiopia, Sudan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, as well as continued high levels of need in Yemen, Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo; a number that will only grow given the worsening situation in Ukraine.

This year over 41 million persons with disabilities will also be in need of humanitarian assistance. The extent to which humanitarian partners take measurable action to remove barriers through sustained resourcing, targeted technical support and capacity building, and coordination with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) is a true reflection of the effectiveness of humanitarian systems as a whole.

When we exclude persons with disabilities, whether it be intentionally or unintentionally, we can compound existing inequalities and are therefore at risk of reinforcing the message that persons with disabilities are not equal rights holders. During the Global Disability Summit (GDS) hosted by Norway and Ghana which took place on 16-17 February 2022, protection partners committed to strengthening disability and inclusion in all areas of their work.

We, in the GPC, made <u>four</u> <u>formal commitments</u> on inclusive humanitarian action: (1) disaggregate data by disability, gender and age; (2) providing technical resources to enable disability inclusive humanitarian action in field clusters; (3) building strong partnerships with OPDs; and (4) strengthening protection of persons with disabilities from violence, exploitation and abuse.

This report features good practices from our Protection Clusters in Ukraine, Syria, oPt, Yemen, Somalia and Venezuela, where we live up to our responsibility of not being an obstacle to inclusion and participation, and where we exert efforts in coordinating more inclusive protection services and assistance.

In the current context, where conflict is taking a brutal humanitarian toll, maintaining peace efforts, sparing civilians and keeping safe humanitarian access for protection outcomes will be key in the days ahead. But nothing can protect more than silenced guns.

CONTEXT UPDATE

Between December 2021 and February 2022, the protection landscape is marred by continuing political instabilities, emerging crises and climate emergencies that created significant protection risks for civilians, especially the marginalized.

Protection of civilians is gravely compromised during insurgencies and political instabilities. In light of the deterioration of the political and security situation in Haiti, the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince has seen an unprecedented and rapid expansion of gang violence which aggravated the existing humanitarian crisis (Haiti Under Gang Control). Between 1 and 3 million people are either victims of direct physical and mental harm or indirectly impacted by issues of access to basic services. The coup d'état in Burkina Faso on January 24, continued political instability in Mali and expansion of armed groups in Tillaberi Western Region of Niger contributed to the deterioration of the security situation in the Sahel, leading to unprecedented levels of forced displacements. Burkina Faso experienced the second biggest spike in displacement since the crisis began. The Senior Officials Meeting on the humanitarian situation in the Central Sahel Region organized on 27 January 2022 shed light on this fast-growing protection crisis, which must be addressed by placing the fundamental rights of people at the forefront of the national authorities' and international community's approach and actions (Protection Messages Sahel). Upcoming elections in Colombia are expected to exacerbate existing tensions with an estimated 2.4 million people at severe risk of rights violations while living in areas directly affected by the conflicts (Protection Messages Colombia). February 1 marked the one-year anniversary of the military takeover in Myanmar where the protection situation is particularly deteriorating in the northwest and southeast regions, as a result of emerging violent conflicts and new waves of displacements. Political and security instability affecting the protection of civilians continues after the military coup in Sudan.

Protection risks in Ukraine have dramatically increased since February 24, transforming into a major protection crisis. On March 2, the United Nations General Assembly convened an emergency session calling on Russia to stop its military offensive. An overwhelming 141 States voted in favor of the motion. However, the situation drastically deteriorated with heavy artillery, launch rocket systems and air strikes causing 1,424 civilian casualties in only a few days. Civilian infrastructures such as apartment buildings, schools, hospitals and residential roads have also been targeted causing immense suffering among the civilian population. The unlawful use of wide-spread explosive weapons in populated areas and landmines is of immense concern. This rising insecurity has triggered mass displacements as reported through the <u>Protection Snapshots</u>; with 1.8 million people newly displaced, 3 million people refuge in host countries and 12 million civilians unwilling or unable to leave due to the heightened security risks. In such context, family separation is an increased risk – affecting particularly women, children and vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and older people. Millions of people urgently need safe passage and life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection (<u>Protection Messages Ukraine</u>). OCHA launched the <u>Flash Appeal</u> on March 1, asking for \$1.1 billion to assist 6 million people inside Ukraine for an initial three months. The International Criminal Court (ICC) proceeded with opening an <u>investigation</u> into the situation in Ukraine while the Human Rights Council (HRC) decided to establish an <u>Independent International</u> Commission of Inquiry to look into violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Unrelenting armed conflict, impacting populated areas, continuously contributed to increased protection risks for civilians. In Yemen, a spike in the last part of 2021 and first months of 2022 in ground hostilities and airstrikes killed and injured 1.535 civilians – which is double the number since the end of the human rights monitoring. In Syria, since the start of 2022, there has been an increase in airstrikes on civilians and infrastructure in northwest and northeast regions. In DRC, the national Protection Cluster and the CCCM Cluster called for the <u>full respect of the civil character of collective</u> sites hosting IDPs in light of the most recent attack on IDP sites in North Kivu and Ituri provinces that killed 62 people. In Ethiopia, armed clashes, including heavy shelling and airstrikes in Tigray, Afar and – to a lesser extend – in Amhara, have led to record-high civilian fatalities with 700 fatalities reported since the beginning of 2022.

Major waves of forced displacements have been recorded since the beginning of the year. In January 2022, Burkina Faso recorded 1.7 million people displaced which is four times higher than 2020 and a 10% increase from the previous month. In the Far North region of Cameroon inter-communal clashes over natural resources resumed leaving an estimated 35,000 people internally displaced and 100,000 people seeking refuge in Chad. In Myanmar, since the military takeover on February 1, an estimated 451,400 people have been newly displaced in addition to the 370,00 existing IDPs, who have limited or no access to protection mechanisms. The last four months of 2021 saw the displacement of more than 65,000 people due to hostilities in Ma'rib and surrounding governorates in Yemen.

Climate-related crises continue to exacerbate protection risks as well. The underwater volcanic eruption of Hunga Tonga was the biggest in **Tonga** since the past 30 years causing a tsunami and ash-fall. Tropical Storm Ana, followed by Batsirai in **Madagascar**, destroyed livelihoods leaving over 38,500 people displaced and over 30 people dead. Protection risks increased for 530,000 vulnerable people following the devastations of Super Typhoon Rai in the **Philippines**. Drought

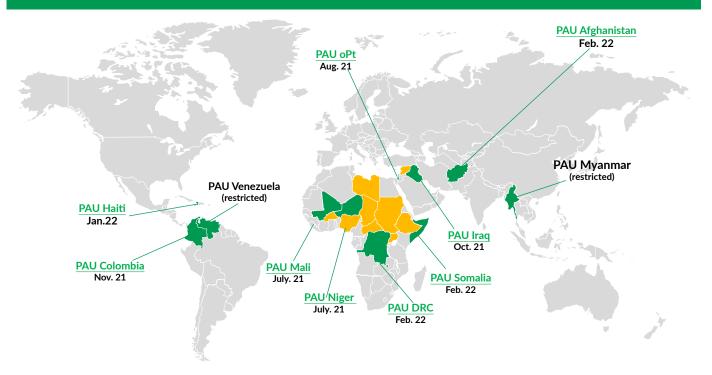


conditions and food insecurity in the Horn of Africa have significantly deteriorated impacting 3.2 million people in Somalia of whom 245,000 people have abandoned their homes and in Ethiopia, it compounded the disastrous humanitarian consequences of the conflict.

Economic freefall spurs record aid needs. Afghanistan's massive economic contraction, banking and financial crises, severe drought and rising food prices have led people to increasingly resort to negative coping strategies. It is projected that 97% of the population could plunge into poverty by mid-2022, while more than half the country's population is in need of humanitarian assistance and 9.2 million IDPs and returnees remain in some form of displacement. Ahead of the upcoming March Pledging Summit and the UNAMA mandate renewal discussion at the Security Council, protection actors called for a scaling up of foundational protection activities, including human rights monitoring, mindful of these extensive protection risks (Protection Messages Afghanistan).

Aid access constraints and funding shortages put civilians at increased risks. While the protection access situation has deteriorated in Colombia, DRC, Myanmar, Burkina Faso and Yemen since the beginning of the year, the situation in Ethiopia remains critical with a mere 25% of affected population able to access protection services. The limited protection footprint is a result of both funding and access constraints. In Yemen, severe funding shortfalls over the past year have led to drastic cuts or the halting of critical aid programs. As the conflict is crossing the seven-year mark this month, UN and NGO partners will call for more support at the Yemen Pledging Conference.

FIND MORE INFORMATION IN THE PROTECTION ANALYSIS UPDATES



PROTECTION ANALYSIS UPDATES

65%

of 31 Protection Clusters produce regular protection analysis updates based on the Protection Analysis Framework.



Protection Analysis Update provides an overview of top protection risks identified, groups most affected and geographical areas. It informs coordination, programmatic response and advocacy efforts.

Other analysis products:

Cameroon Protection Updates Ukraine Protection Snapshot Nigeria Protection Updates

KEY COUNTRY NEWS

Between January and December, 2,344 people were killed, injured or kidnapped as a result of gang-related violence in **Haiti**.

In 2021, 57,787 people were confined by non-state armed groups actions limiting access to livelihoods, food, health and education in **Colombia**.

On January 15, **Tonga** experienced the most violent volcanic eruption in the past 30 years, followed by a tsunami.

Tropical Storm Ana left 30 people dead and 38,500 people displaced to 72 shelter sites in Grand Tana, **Madagascar**.

In December 2021, Super Typhoon Rai destroyed livelihoods and essential services leaving 2,4 million vulnerable people in need of assistance in the **Philippines**.

February 1 marked the anniversary of the military takeover in **Myanmar**. At least 425,000 people have been newly uprooted over the last 12 months, more than doubling the number of internally displaced from before the takeover.

Afghanistan is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe with 97% of its population who could plunge into poverty by mid-2022.

Since the escalation of hostilities in **Ukraine**, protection risks such as shelling and air strikes on civilian infrastructures and mass displacements have alarmingly increased.

Since 2022, 700 fatalities were reported in **Ethiopia** due to armed clashes, between TPLF and government.

In early December, the Far North region of **Cameroon** experience the rise of intercommunal armed clashes that led to 35,000 IDPs and 100,000peopl to flee to **Chad**. Following the mutiny that ousted

President Kabore in **Burkina Faso** on January 24, the security situation

remained volatile leading to multiple new displacements.

69 civilians, including local leaders were killed in Banibangou, **Niger** on November 4.

On February 1, 62 civilians were killed and 40 more injured in an armed attack in Plaine Savo displacement camp, in the **DRC**.

As of end of January, more than 45,000 people were newly displaced in **CAR** as a result of violent armed clashes.

After the end of the UN human rights monitoring in **Yemen**, between October 2021 and February 2022, the number of civilians killed or injured because of airstrikes doubled to 1,535 civilians.

In January 20, an IS attack on Sina'a prison resulted in 6 days of fighting in northeast **Syria**. 200 people were killed and 45,000 displaced from their home.

EMERGING PROTECTION TRENDS

CRISIS WATCH

WORRYING TRENDS

CAR	COLOMBIA	HAITI	CAMEROON	DRC
CAR faces a stubborn protection crisis with levels of GBV particularly shocking. There is an urgent need to scale up protection programmes and services, both in quality and quantity, by the protection lead agencies and major protection actors in country.	Attacks on civilians increased by 31% and forced displacement by 196% in Colombia. Support is needed to regain access and operational presence to assist affected communities in hard- to-reach areas, as well as scale up an integrated protection response.	Port-au-Prince experienced an unprecedented and rapid expansion of gang violence. Enhancing protection analysis and developing a comprehensive protection response program is critical to address the needs of civilians who have borne the brunt of this violence and see their protection situation worsened.	Growing inter- communal tensions in the Far North region culminated in an outbreak of violence forcing thousands to flee. The crisis in the North-West and South -West regions also resulted in 80,000 people finding refuge in the Littoral region. In January 2022, the Protection Sector launched a new coordination platform for the Littoral region.	The protection crisis in the DRC is one of the largest and most forgotten. It took a new downwards twist in 2022 due to a resurgence of armed conflict and a series of attacks on IDP sites in the Ituri province. Protection response requires a serious readjustment in size and scope.

OF CONCERN

GREATEST RECORDED INCREASE OF PROTECTION RISKS IN OPERATIONS

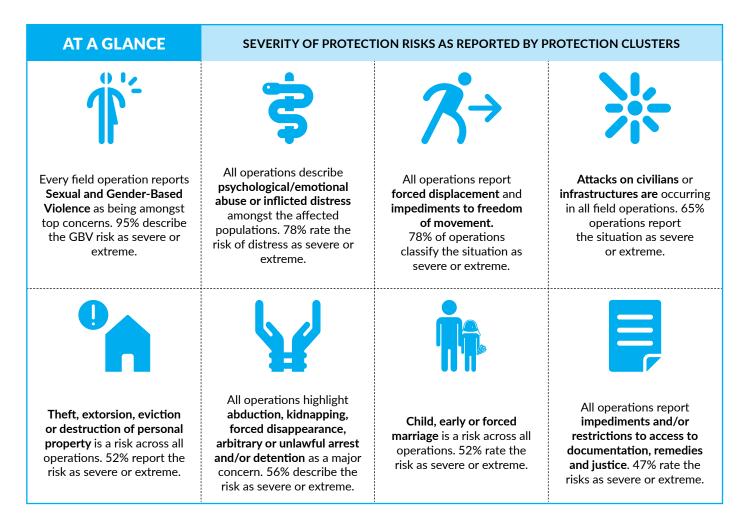
1. IMPEDIMENTS TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OR FORCED DISPLACEMENT	There has been a major increase of 'impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement' compared to the last publication of the Global Protection Update. 78% of cluster operations report the situation as severe or extreme compared to 58% in September 2021.
There has been a major increase of 'theft, extorsion, eviction or destruction of personal property' compared to the last publication of the Global Protection Update. 52% of cluster operations report the situation as severe or extreme compared to 36% in September 2021.	2. EXTORSION, EVICTION OR DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY
3. SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	There has been a major increase of 'sexual and gender- based violence' compared to the last publication of the Global Protection Update. 95% of cluster operations report the situation as severe or extreme compared to 80% in September 2021.
There has been a major increase of 'child, early or forced marriage' compared to the last publication of the Global Protection Update. 52% of cluster operations report the situation as severe or extreme compared to 42% in September 2021.	4. CHILD, EARLY OR FORCED MARRIAGE



PROTECTION RISKS

Based on the results of surveying protection risks in 23 Protection Clusters.

OVERALL RISKS AND CONCERNS	MINOR	STRESSED	MODERATE	SEVERE	EXTREME	N/A or no answer
Sexual and gender-based violence	0	0	1	15	7	0
Impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement	1	0	3	13	5	1
Abduction, kidnapping, forced disappearance, arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention	1	2	6	11	2	1
Psychological/emotional abuse or inflicted distress	0	1	4	11	7	0
Child, early or forced marriage	0	2	9	11	1	0
Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings, attacks on civilian infrastructures	2	3	2	10	5	1
Theft, extorsion, eviction or destruction of personal property	0	3	7	10	2	1
Forced recruitment, including recruitment of children in armed forces and groups	2	2	10	8	0	1
Discrimination and stigmatization, denial of resources, opportunities, services	0	3	11	8	0	1
Forced family and child separation	0	4	11	7	0	1
Impediments and/or restrictions to access to documentation, remedies and justice	1	2	8	7	4	1
Presence of mines and other explosive ordnance	3	1	10	7	1	1
Torture or inhuman, cruel, degrading treatment	2	2	11	6	1	1
Forced labour, slavery, trafficking in persons	2	8	8	3	1	1
Misinformation and denial of access to information	2	8	7	3	2	1



Sexual and Gender- based Violence	AFGHANISTAN	DRC	ETHIOPIA	GUATEMALA	PACIFIC	SUDAN
	SYRIA	BURKINA FASO	BURUNDI	CAMEROON	CAR	CHAD
	COLOMBIA	IRAQ	LIBYA	MOZAMBIQUE	MYANMAR	NIGER
	NIGERIA	oPt	SOMALIA	YEMEN	VENEZUELA	

Mali reported a 40% increase in GBV cases in 2021. In CAR, GBV-related incidents have been on the rise in January 2022 and since 2020, there has been a 26% increase. In Iraq, over 22% of persons are in need of GBV services are children. Violence against women and girls in Afghanistan have increased due to restrictions to women and girls' rights and freedoms, while access to essential services for survivors of violence have been greatly impacted. Women are targeted and kidnapped (taken as "forced brides") in Mozambique and endure continuous GBV. The number of SGBV incidents was very high in the last two quarters of 2021 in Sudan. In Haiti and Colombia, sexual violence is used by gangs or NSAGs as a weapon to humiliate, terrorize local populations and reinforce their territorial control. In Haiti, impunity is so pervasive that rapes are perpetrated in broad daylight. In Colombia, sexual exploitation and trafficking networks remain widespread. Risk of trafficking remained high in Venezuela, with an increasing number of human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation cases reported highlighting the need to strengthen protection services for victims of trafficking. In oPt, severe level of GBV are reported due to the impact of lockdowns, recent and recurring escalations of violence, as well as a lack of high quality services and inconducive social norms.

Psychological/ emotional abuse or	DRC	LIBYA	MOZAMBIQUE	PACIFIC	SUDAN	SYRIA
	YEMEN	AFGHANISTAN	BURKINA FASO	CAR	CHAD	ETHIOPIA
inflicted distress	IRAQ	MYANMAR	NIGER	NIGERIA	oPt	SOMALIA
	CAMEROON	COLOMBIA	GUATEMALA	VENEZUELA	BURUNDI	

In CAR, 94% of the population need MHPSS services. In Iraq, 800,000 individuals display signs of psychosocial distress, with women, persons with disabilities and children most affected. Escalation in hostilities and armed violence have exacerbated psychological stress and trauma in places like Gaza, Ethiopia, and Myanmar with populations requiring immediate MHPSS support. Continued hostilities supplemented by deteriorating socio-economic conditions are aggravating psychological distress in Syria. Due the violent nature of attacks against civilians in Mozambique, IDPs report severe psycho-social support needs in areas that lack this type of specialized support. Women, children and people with disabilities continued to stay under accumulated trauma and stress in Sudan. Mental health needs in Somalia are reportedly higher than other worn torn countries. In Tonga, psychological support was reported as the greatest need following the volcanic eruption. oPt faces a severe mental health crisis, which has been exacerbated by the impact of the May 2021 conflict in Gaza.

Impediments	AFGHANISTAN	CAMEROON	DRC	ETHIOPIA	MOZAMBIQUE	BURKINA FASO
or restrictions to freedom of	CAR	COLOMBIA	LIBYA	MYANMAR	GUATEMALA	NIGER
movement, siege,	NIGERIA	SOMALIA	SUDAN	SYRIA	VENEZUELA	YEMEN
forced displacement	CHAD	IRAQ	PACIFIC	BURUNDI		

In January 2022, 45,000 people were newly displaced in CAR while Burkina Faso recorded a 10% increase in the total number of IDPs amounting to 1.7M. Intercommunal clashes led to the displacement of 35.000 IDPs and 100.000 refugees in Far North Cameroon. In Colombia, forced displacement increased by 196% and restrictions to freedom of movement affect 57.000 people under confinement of armed groups. Regular lockdowns imposed by NSAGs also affect the freedom of movement of civilians in NWSW region of Cameroon. Following the record displacement of nearly 700,000 people in 2021, an estimated 9.2 million IDPs and returnees remain in some form of displacement in Afghanistan. Movement of populations have been controlled and restricted via gangs' mobile checkpoint, in turn having severe impacts on access to basic services in Haiti. The last four months of 2021 saw the displacement of movement are reported in 51% of assessed communities in Syria. The last quarter of 2021 showed a steep increase of IDPs in Somalia due to drought and flooding which exacerbated acute food insecurity and malnutrition rates.

Attacks on	CAMEROON	DRC	MOZAMBIQUE	MYANMAR	NIGER	BURKINA FASO
civilians, killings,	CAR	COLOMBIA	ETHIOPIA	GUATEMALA	SOMALIA	SUDAN
attacks on civilian	SYRIA	VENEZUELA	YEMEN	LIBYA	NIGERIA	AFGHANISTAN
infrastructures	BURUNDI	CHAD	IRAQ	PACIFIC		

In Colombia, attacks on civilian population increased by 31%. In Ethiopia, 700 fatalities were recorded since the beginning of 2022 – although the death toll could be higher due to constraints to access and communication. Over the past three months, 138 civilians were killed in intercommunal clashes in Far North region of Cameroon and 93 civilians including children were killed in the NWSW region. Violent attacks have been carried out against IDP sites since May 2021 in the Ituri region of DRC. Myanmar reports the use of human shields and indiscriminate attacks on civilians. In the last quarter of the year, at least 836 civilian casualties were documented in Afghanistan – with explosive devices as the leading cause. In Haiti, at least 2,344 people were killed, injured or kidnapped due to increasing gang-related armed violence. In Niger, 1,732 persons were killed in 2021. In January 2022 alone, violence in several frontlines in Yemen resulted in more than 650 civilian casualties – with an average of nearly 21 casualties per day, the highest monthly count over three years. Airstrikes, shelling, armed clashes and explosive ordnance incidents have continued to cause death and injury and destruction of civilian infrastructure in Syria. The threat of NSAG continued against civilians, including returning IDPs in Mozambique. In the majority of the 73 hotspot localities of Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states in Sudan, attacks on civilians by different armed actors, killing on tribal grounds as well as attacks on civilian infrastructures were reported during the first months of 2022.

Theft, extorsion,	AFGHANISTAN	SOMALIA	BURKINA FASO	CAMEROON	CHAD	ETHIOPIA
eviction or	GUATEMALA	LIBYA	MYANMAR	NIGER	SUDAN	SYRIA
destruction of	CAR	COLOMBIA	DRC	IRAQ	MOZAMBIQUE	PACIFIC
personal property	YEMEN	BURUNDI	NIGERIA	VENEZUELA		

In the oPt, 2021 witnessed the highest number of property destructions with a total of 898 structures demolished or confiscated. In Cameroon, destructions of property increased due to inter-communal clashes which took place in December in the Far North region. Extortions remain a deeply rooted protection risk in Myanmar and have become exploitative means exercised against Rohingya communities (45%) and IDPs (41%), representing the largest number of victims. Throughout the Sahel and particularly in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Chad, attacks on villages, destruction of livelihoods, theft of livestock have been the modus operandi of NSAGs. In Guatemala, gang-related violence is characterized by organized crime mostly though extortion and theft. In Afghanistan, there has been several reports of systemic forced evictions by the de facto government. In Syria, 61% of assessed communities report HLP concerns, including illegal occupation of private property, land disputes and forced evictions. In Somalia, 696 incidents of forced eviction reportedly affected 143,815 persons in 2021. In Libya, as coping capacities of IDPs deplete, evictions from privately rented properties are becoming an increasing threat – with a number of large-scale evictions observed in January 2022 in Tripoli.

Abduction,	AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA	BURKINA FASO	CAMEROON	DRC	ETHIOPIA
kidnapping, disappearance,	MOZAMBIQUE	MYANMAR	NIGER	SOMALIA	SUDAN	SYRIA
arbitrary arrest,	YEMEN	CAR	CHAD	COLOMBIA	IRAQ	NIGERIA
detention	VENEZUELA	BURUNDI	GUATEMALA	PACIFIC		

In the past three months, 108 arbitrary arrests and/or unlawful detentions of civilians were reported in the NWSW region of Cameroon. Boys and men are particularly at risk of being arrested, based on perceived allegiance to NSAGs. In Niger, 926 people have been abducted in the regions of Diffa and Maradi. Arbitrary arrest remains one of the most critical protection risks in Myanmar with a notable trend of people arrested because of suspicious connections to opposition armed groups. Unlawful detentions and extrajudicial killings of personnel from the previous government, human rights defenders and civil society activists have been reported in Afghanistan. Human rights activists including IDP community leaders were subject to arbitrary arrest and detention in Sudan.

	SYRIA	AFGHANISTAN	BURKINA FASO	CAR	CHAD	DRC
Child, early and	IRAQ	LIBYA	MYANMAR	NIGER	SOMALIA	YEMEN
forced marriage	CAMEROON	COLOMBIA	ETHIOPIA	GUATEMALA	MYANMAR	NIGERIA
	PACIFIC	oPt	SUDAN	BURUNDI	VENEZUELA	

In Iraq, 26% of GBV incidents relate to forced marriage and 7% to early marriage. These incidents can be attributed to a surge in negative coping mechanisms in the context of the declining economy during COVID-19. 71% of communities assessed in Syria mentioned that child marriage is an issue for adolescent girls. Child and early marriage are the highest reported protection incidents in Somalia in 2021.

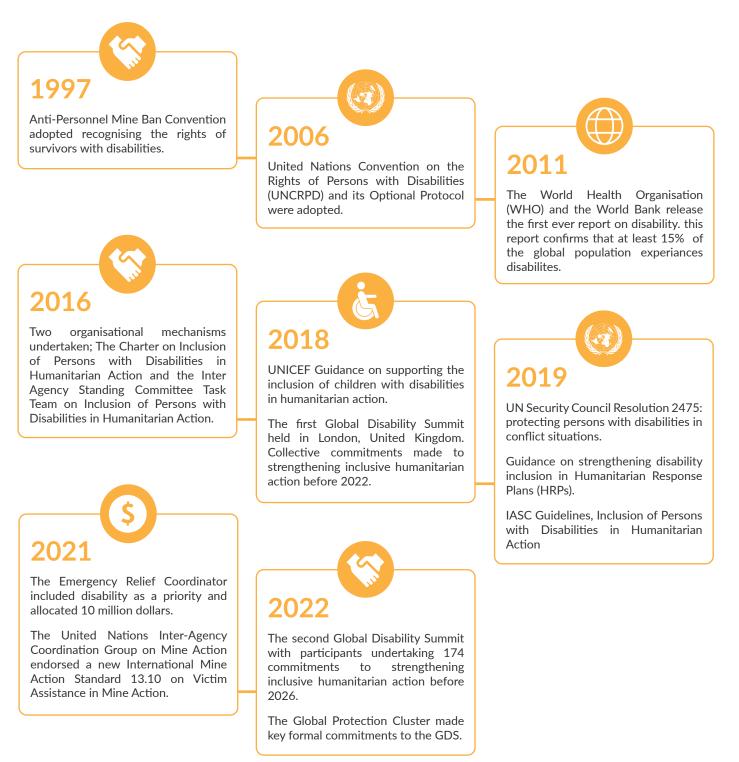
Impediments/	AFGHANISTAN	CAMEROON	SUDAN	SYRIA	BURKINA FASO	CAR
restrictions to access	CHAD	IRAQ	LIBYA	SOMALIA	YEMEN	COLOMBIA
to documentation,	DRC	ETHIOPIA	MOZAMBIQUE	MYANMAR	NIGER	PACIFIC
remedies and justice	VENEZUELA	GUATEMALA	NIGERIA	BURUNDI		

In Iraq, it is estimated that over 1 million IDPs and returnees remain without at least one key identity or civil document, including over 500,000 individuals who are missing two or more documents, destroyed, lost, damaged or confiscated during the armed conflict. In Far North region of Cameroon, 70% of IDPs lack birth certificates and/or national ID cards. In Libya, displaced communities have dealt with many difficulties in obtaining or replacing documentations in their current location of living. Lack or loss of civil documentation is reported in 76% of assessed communities in Syria.

IN FOCUS - DISABILITY AND INCLUSION

The term 'disability' in humanitarian contexts, can be defined as the disproportionate deprivation of fundamental freedoms and rights for persons with impairments, due to attitudinal, institutional, communication and physical environmental barriers. The experience of disability in humanitarian crises can be directly linked with our own operational priorities, as we are part of the communities in which we operate.

Towards the full realization of rights for persons with disabilities impacted by humanitarian crises:







A Disability Inclusion baseline: inclusive coordination in Protection Clusters in 2022

During December 2021 and January 2022, a survey was shared among all protection cluster field operations, to enable an overview of inclusion resources and practices and to highlight gaps, indicating needs for technical support. Of the 32 field operations, 14 participated¹. One -on -one consultations with certain operations were also carried out during this time.

Almost all operations reported that fully implementing inclusion mechanisms in protection cluster operations, is largely undermined by a lack of primary data, which is cited as due to a lack of technical expertise. Results demonstrate that the collection of data on persons with disabilities, including qualitative information on barriers to services and safety is occurring, however, for the most part, this is not yet systematic in operations. Challenges to collecting disaggregated data include lack of familiarity with the Washington Group Questions (WGQs), lack of partner technical capacity, unreliable data sources, lack of time and IM resources and exclusion of disability information in MSNA surveys.

Therefore, the absence of data remains a key challenge in supporting partners to remove barriers to services and to advocate towards humanitarian leadership and other sectors to implement inclusive humanitarian action. This absence of information proliferates exclusion of persons with disabilities, as their needs remain invisible.

Many operations report to have either a dedicated working group for disability and age inclusion or are reliant on inter cluster groups or inclusion focal points. Four operations report that they actively seek consultation with persons with disabilities as experts or in other operational roles, to strengthen their coordination and overall response. Challenges to including persons with disabilities in this way were cited as lack of time and resources.

Finally, the lack of visibility of the barriers and subsequent protection threats in operational contexts, impacts access to funding opportunities. Participants reported limited funding opportunities available to specialist partners or those who look to mainstream inclusion in protection programming. Donors do not systematically demand mandatory inclusion components in program proposals and disability specific programming is not always prioritised in Humanitarian Funds. Therefore, practical promotion of inclusive programming among donors is required to operationalise inclusion throughout the project cycle.

Good practices in Protection Clusters

Ukraine: The Age and Disability Technical Working Group (ADTWG) was established under the Protection Cluster in 2015 in partnership with HelpAge International and with the support of Humanity & Inclusion. The group has been actively working to support persons with disabilities and older persons residing inside Ukraine during the recent crisis. The focus of the working group has been to determine the critical risks for older persons and persons with disabilities during the escalation of conflict, especially for those living near the line of contact. The group also provides access to clear information on possible evacuations and accommodation, ensuring that information is provided in different accessible formats. The group is coordinating with Ukrainian OPDs and Older Persons Associations (OPAs) to ensure efforts are evidence based and that sharing of information and resources is optimised.

Yemen: The Yemen Inclusion Task Force (ITF) was established by the Protection Cluster and Humanity & Inclusion in 2018 and, in 2020, the ITF was formally linked to the ICCM and integrated into the ICCM workplan, which reinforced inclusion as a cross-cutting issue for all clusters. In early 2021, the ITF invited the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) to become a member of the ITF and in July 2021, the YHF dedicated its first standard allocation, totalling US\$50 million, to specifically support inclusion-focused programming. In subsequent YHF allocations, ITF members with specific expertise were invited to serve on Standard Technical Review Committees, reviewing proposals for the YHF in various sectors. In 2022, YHF and ITF will continue to expand their collaboration.

Venezuela: The Venezuela Protection Cluster created the Age and Disability Working Group in 2021 to address the specific needs and protection risks faced by older persons and persons with disabilities. The working group aims to strengthen accountability to persons with disabilities and older persons and to support advocacy, capacity-building and preparedness measures on age and disability across the humanitarian system. The group has also served as an advisory body to OCHA to support the mainstreaming of disability inclusion in wider coordination processes. In collaboration with OPDs, the cluster has developed tools and methods to facilitate disability rights monitoring, as well as supporting materials and courses to mainstream inclusion into the humanitarian action in Venezuela.

Syria: In 2020, a Victim Assistance Working Group was established in Damascus under the Mine Action AoR umbrella with the primary goal to improve access to services and social protection for survivors and indirect victims of explosive ordnance. So far, the group has identified over 250 services. The group has developed a service mapping dashboard that includes information on relevant service providers, their contact information, and the types of services provided. They are categorized in psychosocial, socio-economic services and specialized services. This initiative is in line with the <u>Mine Action Area of Responsibility 2022-2024 Strategy</u> which aims to strengthen partnership and collaboration on equality, diversity and inclusion through sharing of best practices.

In 2021, an <u>inclusion pilot project</u> was initiated between the Syria Protection Cluster (Turkey) (in collaboration with the Inclusion Technical Working Group [ITWG]) and the Cross Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF). The project includes 14 partners implementing projects under SCHF funding in the sectors of Health, Education, CCCM, Shelter and NFI, FSL, WASH, Protection and Child Protection. All partners were requested to assess attitudinal, internal organisational, and physical environment barriers relevant to their project and accordingly develop a barrier mitigation plan to ensure an inclusive intervention. The multi-criteria self-assessment has enabled identification of barriers related to specific activities within projects and contributes to ensuring a more inclusive humanitarian response.

Somalia: In 2021, the multi-sector cluster inclusion focal point positions were created. The focal points provide advisory and guidance to ICCG and clusters on strengthening inclusion in coordination and services. In February 2021, Humanity and Inclusion supported the development of Cluster Guidelines for collecting data on persons with disabilities in Somalia which have contributed to strengthening inclusive data within the response.

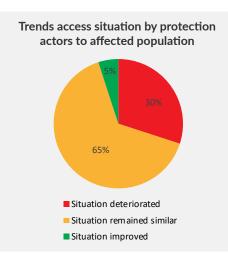
oPt: The oPt Protection Cluster engages in direct consultations on disability issues through participation in an existing Disability Working Group, which is part of the ICCG with a representative from each cluster participating in its formation. A Disability Inclusion Checklist was developed by the oPt Protection Cluster in connection with the HRP 2022 process. The checklist aims to act as a prompt, helping partners to reflect on how effectively disability is mainstreamed in projects and support the overall HRP vetting process. It was adapted from the Disability Inclusion Lab Light for the World Project.

"One key principle of Victim Assistance (VA) is that services supported with VA earmarked funding are non-discriminatory. Therefore, such support should not lead to the development of a parallel system of services, but instead, should design programmes for the wider population of persons injured and persons with disabilities, including survivors of explosive ordnance. Multi-year funding is required to support a consortium of organizations that can provide a continuum of multisectoral services with a large cash assistance component, for health, education, land, livelihood and accessible housing. A long-term vision to inclusion is necessary, which spans across the humanitarian and development phases, ensuring also that practical and durable solutions are developed in partnership with persons with disabilities: Nothing About Us without Us" The Mine Action AoR Deputy Global Coordinator, Christelle Loupforest, 2022.



PROTECTION ACCESS

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 report that the access situation by protection actors to affected populations remained similar in most operations (65%)², while it deteriorated in Burkina Faso, CAR, Colombia, DRC, Myanmar, Niger 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 operation reports 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. 4 operations (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Mozambique) can reach between 50% and 75%% of affected populations. people to access protection assistance and services in a timely and unimpeded manner.

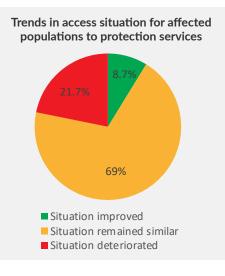
Percentage of affected population that can be reached by protection actors								
>75%	75-50%	50-25%	<25%	Do not know				
Iraq, Guatemala	Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon,	Burundi, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Libya, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pacific, Somalia, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen	Ethiopia, Sudan	oPt				

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 19 operations³, environmental and logistical constraints for 13 operations⁴, bureaucratic and administrative constraints for 13 operations⁵, interference into implementation of protection activities from local authorities or non-state actors for 11 operations⁶, direct attacks or threats against protection actors, facilities and assets for 9 operations⁷.

Examples: Hospitals, schools and IDPs camps have been targeted in DRC while protection actors face increasing challenges to operate due to the continuous threat of explosive devices in Burkina Faso, CAR. Phone coverage is poor in Far North of Cameroon and Chad, and limited due to destruction of networks in Burkina Faso, negatively impacting partners' means to communicate with communities. Community-based structures are important allies for protection actors in areas where they have no access. Kidnapping of staff in Burkina Faso, attacks on physical integrity of staff deployed in the field in DRC or generalized insecurity in CAR resulted in temporary suspension of activities in certain areas of these countries. In Colombia, two UN Verification Mission vehicles were attacked by an NSAGs in the Guaviare area. The protection response is undermined by ongoing military operations, armed clashes and ongoing conflict in CAR, Myanmar, Yemen and DRC. The presence of NSAGs in Chad, the lack of respect of IHL in Colombia and the lockdown imposed by NSAGs in NWSW of Cameroon heavily impact access for protection actors. Security has improved significantly in parts of Adamawa and Yobe States while the delivery of protection in Borno State in Nigeria remains dangerous. Administrative and bureaucratic barriers are placed on protection actors in Iraq with access letters not being recognized by some army and security personnel stationed at checkpoints as well as in oPt where longstanding occupation-related policies continue to hinder the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver services. In Libya, visa issuance to international NGOs staff process is on hold again as a new system Is being implemented. Heavy administrative impediments are also reported in Cameroon, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Myanmar due to registration of organisations with government (or de-facto authorities) or obtention of travel authorizations. Bureaucratic requirements in Ethiopia hinder the deployment of specialized protection personnel (social workers, lawyers, case workers, psychologists, human rights monitors and other experts). In Venezuela, implementation of cash-based interventions have been officially suspended. Checkpoints and entry permit systems continue to undermine access to services across the oPt. The greatest impact is on the most vulnerable, including women and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities, Bedouins communities, households isolated by the West Bank Barrier and undocumented residents of East Jerusalem. In Syria, government



restrictions prevent the direct implementation of certain types of protection activities, especially legal assistance and case management, which must go through government-approved implementing partners, compromising the impartiality of service delivery. The mandatory reporting of GBV incidents by service providers, in addition to social stigma, deter individuals from seeking GBV assistance. In Cameroon and Chad, the rainy season can isolate some areas for several months a year due to poor road infrastructures.



Access by affected populations to protection services

During the reporting period, Protection Clusters report that access situation for affected populations to protection services has remained similar in 69% of our operations⁸. The situation deteriorated in Burkina Faso, Colombia, DRC, Myanmar, and Yemen. Only in Niger and the Pacific did the situation improved.

Most operations (56%) report that between 25% and 50% of the affected population can reach protection services. In Ethiopia, Yemen, Sudan and Mozambique, 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 Faso	Afghanistan, Burundi, CAR, Chad, Colombia, Libya, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pacific, Somalia, Venezuela, Syria	Ethiopia, Mozambique, Yemen, Sudan	Cameroon, oPt, DRC

The **most critical barriers for affected populations to access protection services** relate to ongoing insecurity or hostilities for 16 operations⁹, direct attacks or threats against affected populations for 15 operations¹⁰, unavailability of protection services for 15 operations¹¹, restriction and obstruction of access to protection services by local authorities and non-state actors for 12 operations¹², environmental and logistical constraints for 12 operations¹³.

Examples: Restrictions on freedom of movement is imposed on communities in Cameroon and in Colombia, with a fro-Colombian and indigenous communities being the most affected. Unavailability or insufficient coverage of protection services is reported in Burkina Faso, Chad and Cameroon while protection services are concentrated in major urban areas of Libya. The lack of information on available protection services is reported in Cameroon. In hard-to-reach areas in CAR assistance and services are provided mainly through mobile teams which hamper the delivery of a comprehensive protection response. Persistent insecurity in CAR due to armed clashes force people to flee moving further away from basic services and relief aid. In Iraq, the lack of legal documentation and the need of affected individuals to present a security clearance (especially for IDPs in camps) are the main obstacles faced by affected population to access protection services, likewise in NWSW of Cameroon where individuals fear being arrested due to lack of documentation. In Somalia, the Protection Cluster reports that 15,980 IDPs were forced to

Ethiopia Alert

In many conflict-areas of Ethiopia, specialized protection services are not available due to limited operational presence of protection actors. This limited protection footprint is a result of funding and access constraints, vast amount of needs and territory to cover. In Tigray, an estimated 846,000 children (94% of the total children living on IDPs sites) have no access to protection or child protection services. More than 60% of children outside of Tigray live in areas where no protection services are available. 80% of the sites covered by DTM in Tigray do not have access to core GBV services.

move from their place of origin due to lack of humanitarian assistance. In the Far North of Cameroon and in Chad, access to protection services by affected population is mainly impacted by long distances or poor road infrastructures. In Syria, the population is increasingly unable to afford transportation costs due to increase in price of fuel. In Myanmar, the preventive measures put in place to limit transmission of COVID-10 also hinders communities' access to services and livelihoods. Newly displaced persons who are in need of emergency and life-saving services including protection have been suffering significantly. Tonga received a significant amount of resources and support from regional and international actors which will enable improvement in access to services for people in outer islands and vulnerable groups.

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. Protection Clusters report enhanced engagement with OCHA-led coordination forum (e.g. Access WG, CMCoord) to strengthen common analysis, identify priority issues for joint action and tailored approaches to negotiations and advocacy. Protection Cluster also report engaging with HC/HCT, UN Agencies, and national or local authorities on access for protection. Types of efforts undertaken to enable access for protection includes monitoring/tracking access (18 operations)¹⁴, global advocacy (14 operations)¹⁵, and negotiation with duty bearers/armed actors (13 operations)¹⁶.

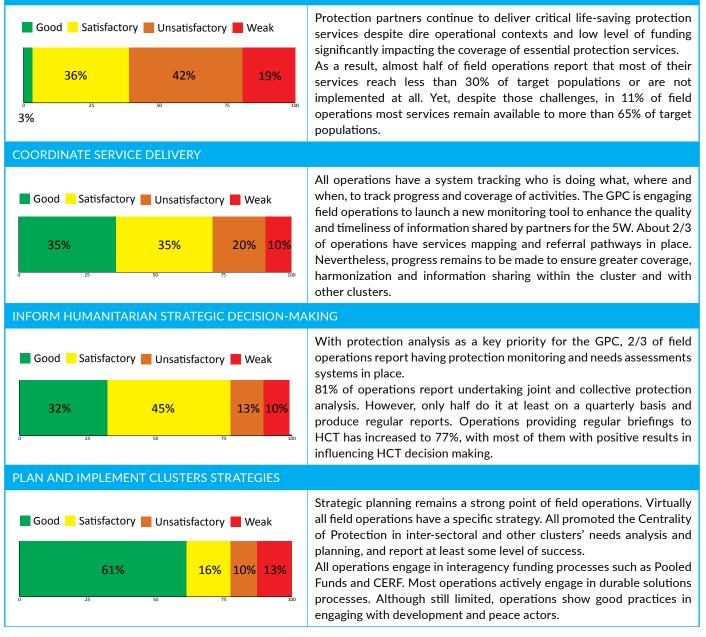


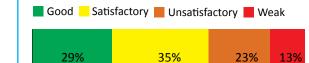


FIELD COORDINATION AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

In Q1 2022, the GPC launched the process of developing the GPC Field Cluster Coordination Package to become an online onestop-shop providing field operations with all necessary information to fulfill the IASC Cluster coordination core functions. It will include all minimum requirements and deliverables, related guidance, tools, and best practices. The draft Package will be presented and discussed with field operations during the upcoming GPC regional forums taking place in Istanbul (28 March – 1 April), Dakar & Nairobi (4-8 April), Panama (25-29 April). Engaging with operations will ensure that the final product is tailored to the needs of field coordination teams. The Package is scheduled to be fully operational online by end of July 2022. The review and update of the GPC minimum requirements and deliverables for field cluster will serve as the basis for a review and integration of the GPC Operational Footprint and CCPM monitoring tools to be rolled out later in 2022. Finally, the GPC has engaged in discussions with its AoRs and stakeholders to consolidate and enhance common approaches to collect accurate data on protection & AoR funding in field operations ahead of the mid-year review scheduled for June 2022.

DELIVER ESSENTIAL QUALITY SERVICES TO POPULATIONS IN NEED



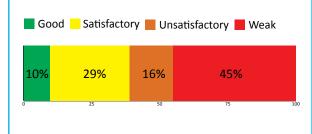


MONITOR AND EVALUATE RESPONSE

76% of operations conduct reviews of progress against objectives, targets and requirements, 2/3 of those do it at least quarterly. However, there are important gaps in relation to mechanisms to monitor the quality of protection services. 60% of field operations completed

their 2020 CCPM process with active participation and contributions from operational partners marking a major increase from previous years.

BUILD NATIONAL CAPACITIES IN PREPAREDNESS AND CONTIGENCY PLANNING



More attention needs to be given to ensuring preparedness and contingency plans, with a strong component of localisation 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).

Over the next quarter, the GPC will be conducting a series of regional consultations with field 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. About half of field operations conduct multilateral meetings with donors, but only a third at least quarterly. The GPC produced a 2-pager of best practices and recommendations to be disseminated with field operations to support donor meetings during Q3 & Q4 of 2021.

ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS AND STRONG ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES



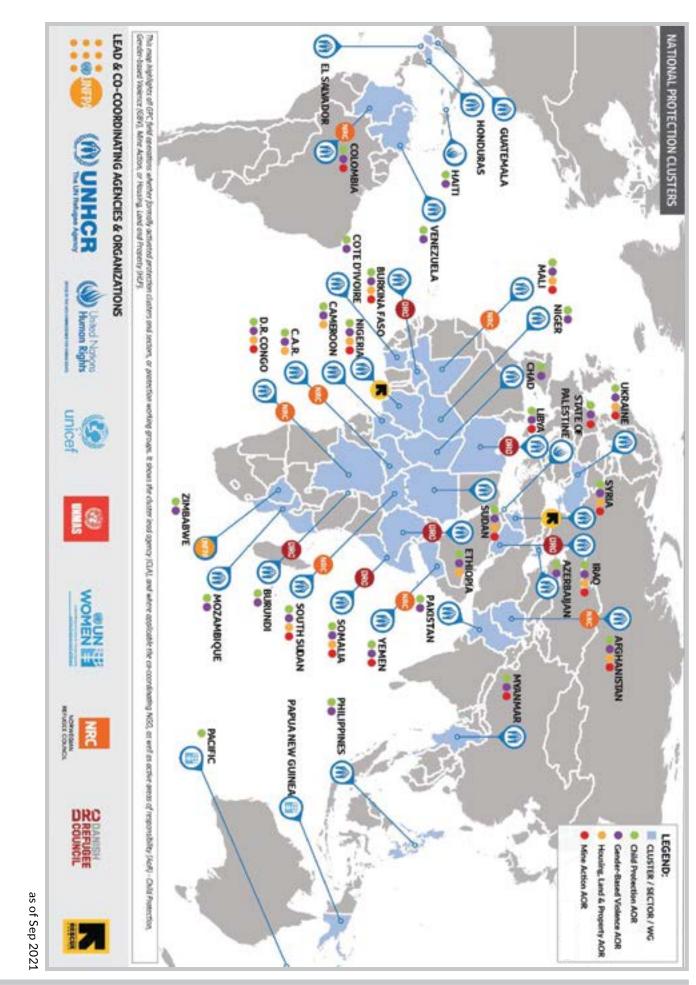
3/4 of operations report facilitating training for partners on Code of Conduct, PSEA or Child Safeguarding. Less than half required adherence to at least one of those policies as a condition for cluster membership. A quarter of field operations report facilitating trainings on AAP and feedback mechanisms 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. 72% of field Protection Clusters & Sectors have a dedicated coordinator and 55% have a dedicated IMO (up from 38%). These numbers are balanced by lower number of coordinators (55%) and IMOs (28%) on FTA leading to high turnover and regular gaps in field capacity and resulting in reliance on short-term deployments. Half of field operations have established UN-NGO co-coordination.

The Global Protection Cluster is a network of NGOs, international organizations and UN agencies, engaged in protection work in humanitarian crises including armed conflict, climate change related and natural disaster. The GPC ensures well-coordinated, effective and principled protection preparedness and responses, and that protection is at the core of all humanitarian action and recognized as essential in any nexus with development and peace. The GPC unites members, partners and communities working on the full gamut of protection activities, including in four specialized Areas of Responsibility: Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Housing, Land and Property and Mine Action. The GPC contributes to and benefits from the broader IASC system.





Endnotes

Somalia, Mozambique, DRC, CAR, Venezuela, Haiti, Ukraine, oPt, Syria Hub, Northwest Syria, Yemen, Iraq, 1 Afghanistan, Philippines, Myanmar

2 Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Nigeria, oPt, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela

Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Libya, Mozambigue, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, oPt, Somalia, Sudan, Venezuela, Whole of Syria, Yemen

4 Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Mozambique, Niger, Pacific, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela

5 Burundi, Cameron, DRC, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, oPt, Sudan, Syria

6 Afghanistan, Cameroon, DRC, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Niger, Venezuela, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

7 Cameroon, Colombia, DRC, Mozambique, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Iraq, Libya, oPt, Mozambique, Nigeria, 8 Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela

9 Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, oPt, Somalia, Sudan, Venezuela, Syria, Yemen

10 Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Libya, Mozambigue, Myanmar, Niger, oPt, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Libya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Pacific, 11 Sudan, Venezuela, Yemen

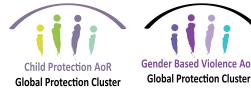
12 Afghanistan, DRC, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, oPt, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

13 Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Guatemala, Mozambigue, Myanmar, Niger, Pacific, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela

14 Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Irag, Libya, Myanmar, Niger, oPT, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen

15 Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pacific, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

Afghanistan, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Niger, Pacific, Sudan, Syria, Yemen 16









Global Protection Cluster

Housing land and Property AoR Global Protection Cluster