



Global Protection Cluster

**GLOBAL  
PROTECTION  
CLUSTER  
ANNUAL  
REPORT 2022**



# THE ANNUAL REPORT



The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is a network of local responders and actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and United Nations (UN) agencies, engaged in protection work in humanitarian crises, including conflict and disasters.

The GPC is mandated by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), coordinated by a Global Coordinator, led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), governed by a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), and serviced by a multi-partner Operations Cell.

The GPC unites members, partners and communities working on the full range of protection activities, including through four specialized Areas of Responsibility: Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Housing, Land and Property and Mine Action, as well as through Task Teams and Working Groups: Advocacy, Anti-trafficking, Cash for Protection, Human Rights Engagement, Information and Analysis, and Law and Policy.

The Annual Report presents the work carried out by the GPC in 2022 to protect and improve the lives of tens of millions of people in need of protection. It highlights the year's achievements, as well as challenges faced by the cluster and its partners, in responding to life-threatening crises in 32 operations.

For any inquiries, please contact: [gpc@unhcr.org](mailto:gpc@unhcr.org).

For more information on who we are, our work and operations, as well as key documents please visit our website: <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org>.



# CONTENTS



THE ANNUAL REPORT .....	2
1. THE GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER .....	4
2. REFLECTIONS ON 2022 .....	8
3. PROTECTION TRENDS THAT MARKED 2022 .....	11
4. PROGRESS AGAINST STRATEGIC PRIORITIES .....	14
5. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY KEY ACHIEVEMENTS .....	26
6. CLOSING COMMENTS .....	34



# 1. THE GLOBAL PROTECTION CLUSTER



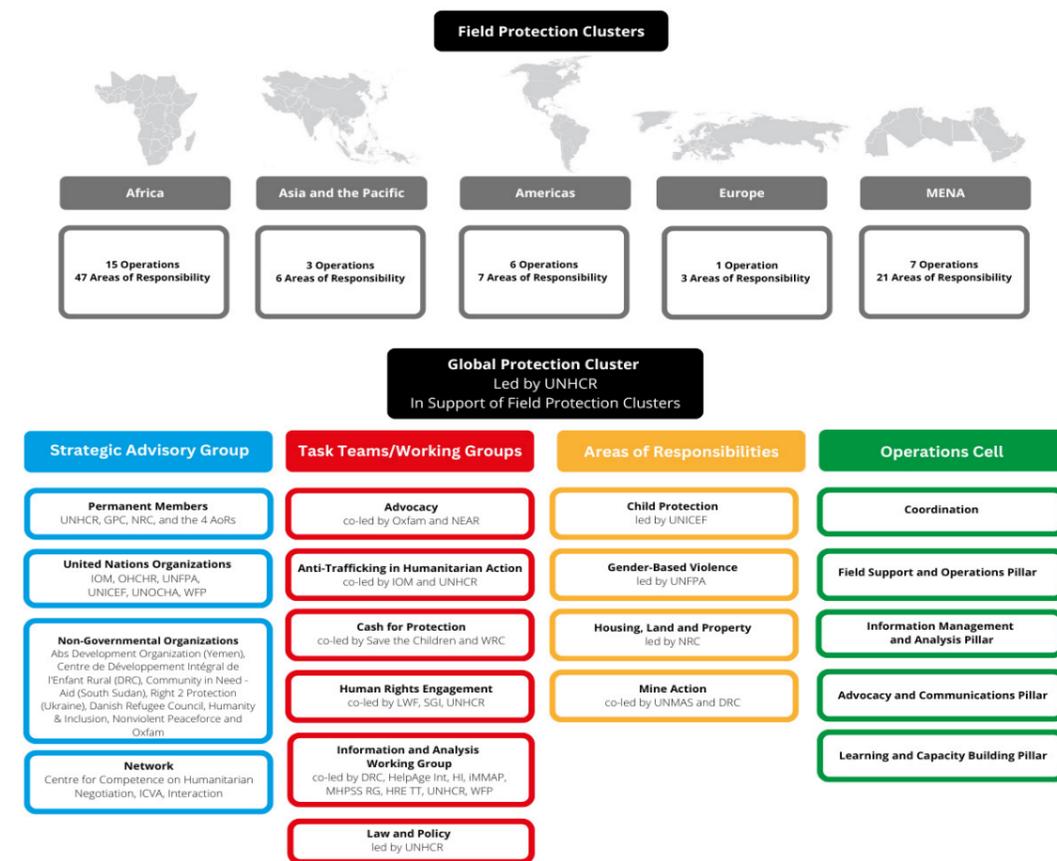
## OUR VISION

People are protected in humanitarian crises and their rights respected and solutions found in accordance with international law.

## OUR MISSION

Ensuring 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.

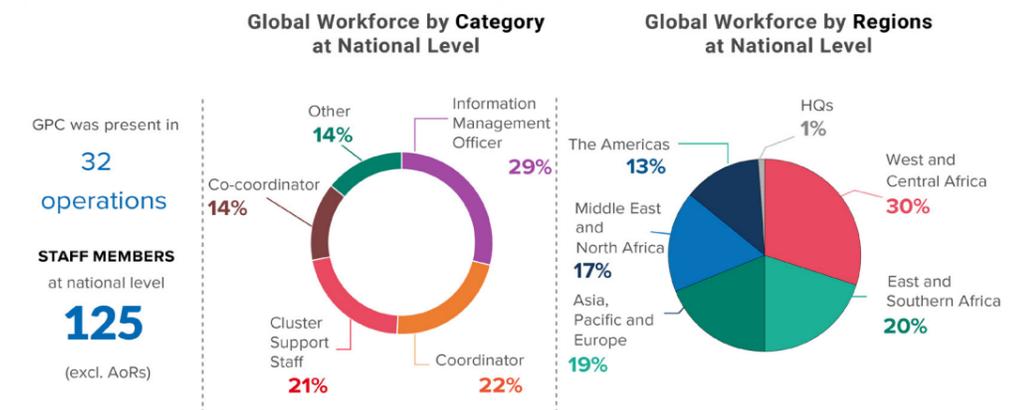
## OUR STRUCTURE



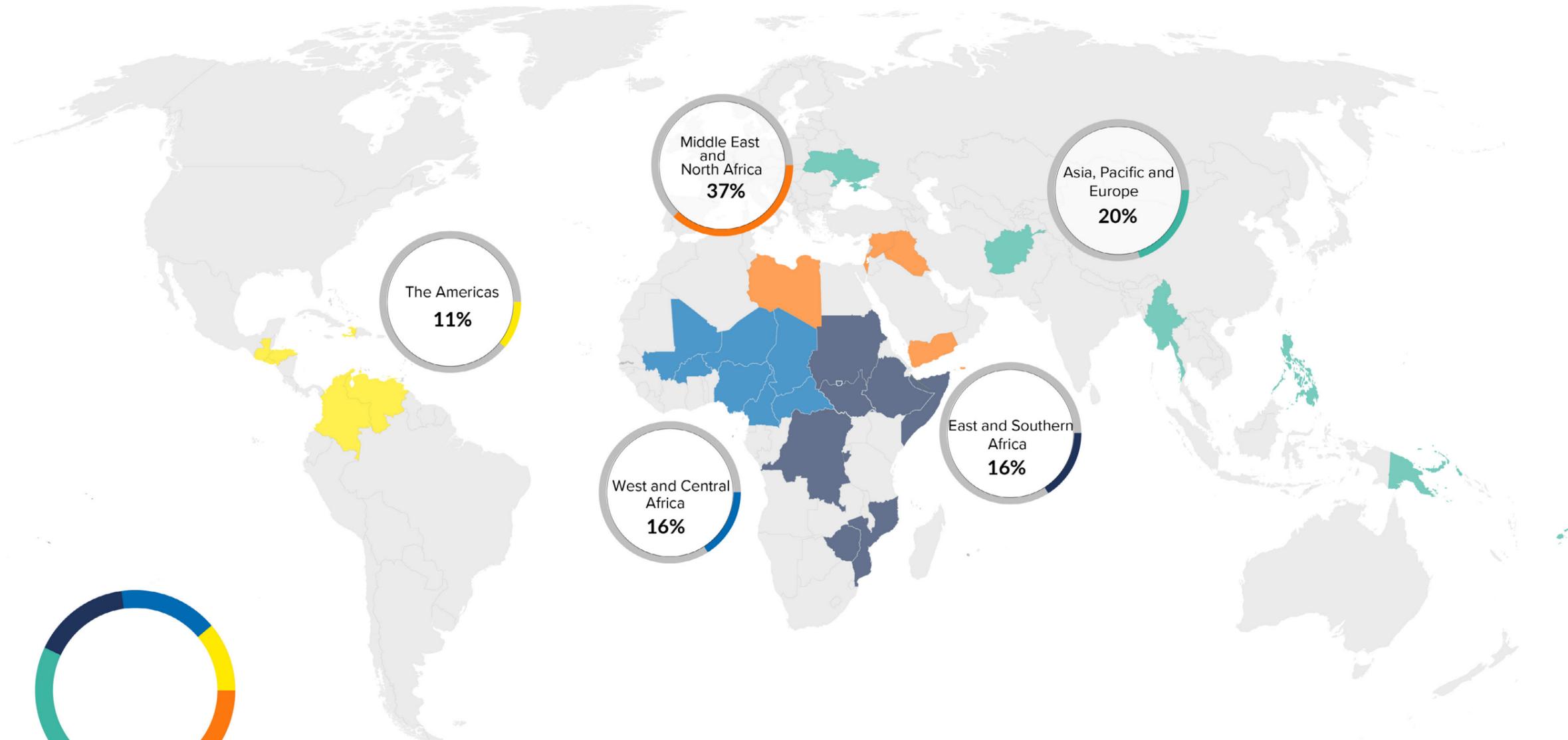
## OUR ACTIONS

1. Support Protection Clusters in fulfilling their core responsibilities in humanitarian emergencies around the world. This includes supporting humanitarian response actions that reduce and prevent people's exposure to protection risks, such as violence, coercion or deprivation, so as to ensure that the rights of affected persons and the obligations of duty bearers under international law are understood, respected, protected and fulfilled without discrimination.
2. Advocate with and on behalf of affected persons to amplify their voices and support Clusters and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) so that critical protection issues are acted upon in relevant national, regional and global fora.
3. Promote the Centrality of Protection, including through the mainstreaming and integration of protection, and support other humanitarians to do the same including across the humanitarian, development, peace and security nexus.
4. Influence protection standards and policy development in ways that uphold international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) in complex emergencies.

## OUR PROTECTION CLUSTERS



# NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED PER REGION IN 2022



- Middle East and North Africa **37%**
- Asia, Pacific and Europe **20%**
- East and Southern Africa **16%**
- West and Central Africa **16%**
- The Americas **11%**

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE REACHED
<b>138 M</b>	<b>72 M</b>	<b>44 M</b>
REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	FUNDING (US\$)	OPERATIONS
<b>\$ 3.1 B</b>	<b>\$ 1.3 B</b>	<b>32</b>



## 2. REFLECTIONS ON 2022



Southeast Afghanistan, © UNHCR/Chinar Media

**2022 was marked by protection risks which increased both in magnitude and complexity. Ukraine was invaded and engulfed in war, the Horn of Africa ravaged by drought, Ethiopia witnessed resurgent hostilities, rights in Afghanistan remained at threat, not to mention the many other visible and invisible crises around the world. In each, vulnerable and marginalized people faced relentless protection risks.**

In 2023, we carry forward the commitments to collective aims and actions that fueled our work in the Global Protection Cluster last year, when there were a staggering 140 million people estimated to be in need of protection. We expect this year to be even more challenging, with multiple crises set to continue, foreseen and emerging protection risks and limited resources demanding an even more joined-up and integrated protection response.

Against this backdrop, we reaffirm our

commitment to harness the expertise of our Protection Clusters and their members, galvanize our key stakeholders, and move forward in advancing protection outcomes for crisis-affected communities.

We are pleased to share our second Global Protection Cluster Annual Report, designed to (i) take stock of the results achieved against the our 2020-2024 Strategic Framework, (ii) show how the many contributions from a range of protection actors and allies come together for shared impact around our collective priorities, and (iii) identify the gaps and identify how to best focus our shared efforts going forward.

Mid-way through our strategic cycle, we recognize the achievements made by all in contributing to advancing protection around the world, and meanwhile reflect on the ever-present need to be agile and adaptive to the increasingly complex protection landscape.

Here are examples of actions we took in 2022 to advance these efforts:

### **Focusing our efforts on supporting protection coordination and response on the frontlines.**

We continued investing in supporting our 32 field operations through remote and in-person missions to provide technical support, guidance, trainings and workshops, as well as dedicated staff to fill critical gaps.

We continued professionalizing support for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and the elderly, defining how to work in contexts of climate change, combating trafficking in persons, using cash for protection, targeted mental health and psychosocial support, and efforts to strengthen laws and policies that protect.

### **Tapping into the wealth of knowledge and experience of our network.**

We strengthened support to operations through multi-agency Task Teams, gathering over fifty specialists that supported over two dozen operations, both virtually and in-person, as well as welcoming a new Strategic Advisory Group to guide the ongoing implementation of our Strategic Framework.

Our strength lies in the diverse expertise and leadership of our members. One of the main achievements this year was a push forward to optimise co-ordination and an even wider push to recognise, support, learn from and ensure the leading role of local actors, responders and communities, supported with access to ever-increasing resources.

We built on strong mutual support among our four Areas of Responsibility. We continued diversifying our Operations Cell that comprises deployments from multiple organizations and donors in one team, and continued advocating for the Protection of Civilians, and joined efforts

with UNHCR and the Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of IDPs, as well as supporting the IDP Protection Expert Group to further advance protection in situations of displacement.

### **Bringing protection priorities to the forefront of the narrative through a range of public and private advocacy efforts.**

Underpinning effective protection efforts requires a full spectrum of collective advocacy efforts. We have continued supporting operations in their advocacy, amplifying key frontline perspectives and influencing humanitarian leadership at global level.

Building on our Protection Analytical Framework, we advanced collective analysis that supports evidence-based action to effectively address protection risks. We ensured these protection priorities and experiences were shared through global, national and sub-national protection updates.

### **Focusing on securing and expanding meaningful access to affected communities, advocating for protection's place at the core of access negotiations.**

The past year witnessed a concerning increase in access constraints, with profound reverberations on protection actors' access to affected communities, and the access of those communities to humanitarian and protection relief.

We recognized the foundational role that protection by presence plays in supporting effective protection responses and pushed to reinforce linkages between access and protection. This included a campaign on Access that Protects, culminating in the publishing of an Agenda for Change in collaboration with OCHA. In 2023, we look forward to working further with OCHA, Protection Clusters, Access Working Groups and other stakeholders to move the needle on access that provides the critical, sustained, and quality space for protection.



**While we have achieved meaningful progress throughout 2022, challenges and gaps remain. We see three cross-cutting challenges to contend with as we move into 2023:**

1. The weakening of multilateralism and ongoing political instability and violence mean that we will need to be agile, with a continual focus on the frontlines and faultlines for protection. This will require strengthened collective analysis and the ability to act quickly so that we can respond to emerging and neglected areas of protection in a principled manner.
2. Collective efforts to achieve durable solutions and strengthen work on the humanitarian, peace and development nexus, need to bring together preventing, reducing and addressing immediate

protection risks, while advancing longer-term transformation and institution building. This will require protection, development, and peace actors to better collaboratively problem solve deep-rooted protection issues.

3. Protection has been recognized as the overarching objective of humanitarian action. Given the tremendously challenging and complex operational situations on the ground, our challenge, and opportunity, will be to continually innovate and strive toward toward more effective and impactful protection action.

We have much to build on to keep moving forwards, and we hope that this report will contribute to a reflection that allows us to do so in a conscious and accountable way.

### 3. PROTECTION TRENDS THAT MARKED 2022



Ethiopia © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

In 2022, our 32 Protection Cluster operations experienced protection risks increasing in complexity and severity, with people living through crisis facing the multi-dimensional **impacts of armed conflict, climate change, economic instability, food insecurity and the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

This was particularly true for the most vulnerable groups, those already facing specific and intersecting forms of exclusion and barriers in accessing necessary services, including women and children, ethnic and religious minority groups, and those living with disabilities.

Displacement reached record highs throughout 2022, with UNHCR estimating that global forced displacement surpassed 100 million people at mid-year. **27 Protection Clusters reported forced displacement and impediments to freedom of movement, with 88% classifying these as severe or extreme.**

Behind this staggering number, each forcibly displaced person faced complex protection risks, with displacement often eroding coping capacities while creating new risks, including trafficking, sexual violence and child marriage.

The impacts on millions of people living through the realities of these protection risks ran deep. With over **90% of Protection Clusters operating in active conflict settings**, the need to uphold international humanitarian law and prioritise the Protection of Civilians remains ever pressing.

**In the third quarter of the year, 27 Cluster operations reported attacks on civilians or infrastructure, with 82% reporting these as severe or extreme.** Heavy artillery and airstrikes continue to bombard **Ukraine**, leaving over 6.5 million people internally displaced by the end of December 2022, with millions in need of life-saving protection assistance.

**Samuel Cheung**  
Coordinator,  
Global Protection Cluster



**Anthony Nolan**  
GPC SAG Co-Chair,  
Norwegian Refugee Council



**Ron Pouwels**  
Coordinator,  
Child Protection  
Area of Responsibility



**Bruno Donat**  
Coordinator,  
Mine Action  
Area of Responsibility



**Jennifer Chase**  
Coordinator  
Gender-Based Violence  
Area of Responsibility



**Jim Robinson**  
Coordinator  
Housing, Land and Property  
Area of Responsibility



In [Syria](#), the cross-border resolution allowing aid to reach around 2.4 million people per month expired in July, prolonging the resolution for half the time originally requested by the UN and NGOs. Already vulnerable communities faced soaring food prices, a harsh winter and a cholera outbreak in the third quarter of the year.

[Burkina Faso](#) experienced the second largest wave of displacement since the crisis began, following a 220% increase in the number of security incidents in comparison to the previous year, leaving almost one fifth of the population in need of humanitarian aid and 1.7 million people displaced.

In [Ethiopia's](#) Tigray region, fighting continued to spread, limiting humanitarian convoys' access to affected populations. A ceasefire in November 2022 kindled hopes of an end to the conflict, which has killed hundreds of thousands and left millions with few options for healthcare and extreme food shortages.

**In 2022, all operations reported psychological and emotional abuse or inflicted distress amongst the affected populations, with 71% rating the risk as severe or extreme.**

More than three quarters of [Yemen's](#) population, an estimated 23.4 million people, were in need of emergency aid, with over 17 million in need of protection, including for widespread psychological distress and mental health impacts.

**Throughout 2022, climate change continued to drive floods and drought-related food insecurity, impacting millions of people, causing displacement, conflict and increased protection risks, including exacerbated land issues and resulting in insecurity of tenure.**

The [Horn of Africa](#) faced unprecedented levels of food insecurity, following a fourth

consecutive drought as spring rains failed. Aid agencies warned of a risk of extreme hunger and starvation for 26 million people in the region. In [Somalia](#), 926,000 displaced individuals were recorded between January and September 2022, owing to the severe drought resulting in subsequent loss to livelihoods, conflict and forced evictions, with a recorded total of 109,461 forced evictions.

**Grave violations of children's rights were also reported as a major concern across operations, particularly forced recruitment.**

Despite the signing of a peace agreement, [South Sudan's](#) population bore the brunt of intercommunal clashes and widespread new violence, as well as extreme flooding, creating a new famine risk and leaving over 60% of the population hungry. Negative coping strategies were compounded, with 52% of marriages either children getting married or being forced to marry.

**38% of Protection Clusters rated the presence of mines and other explosive ordnance risk as severe or extreme. In 2022, the number of people endangered by explosive ordnance contamination increased from 50 to 60 million.**

In May 2022, 60 square kilometres of minefields, 77 suspected hazardous areas and 19 battle areas had been recorded in [Somalia](#), with civilian population accounting for 50% of all casualties registered.

All 15 states and regions of [Myanmar](#) are now believed to be contaminated with explosive ordnance, with around 30% of conflict-related deaths and injuries a result of explosive ordnance, with incidents involving children between 2020-2022 increasing by 288%.

**Gender-Based Violence was continuously reported as being a top protection concern across Clusters in 2022, with 94% describing the risk as severe or extreme.**

Spiralling socio-economic conditions in [Afghanistan](#) left record numbers facing hunger, threats to or lack of livelihoods and ever increasing levels of childhood malnutrition. Of the 14 million people in need of protection, women, girls and female-headed households were particularly impacted, notably through a ban on women obtaining higher education and barring them from working for non-governmental organisations.

In [DR Congo](#), 450,000 people were displaced as a result of the re-emergence of the armed group M23. GBV perpetrations by armed groups were observed on a daily basis. In the month of April alone, 6,200 protection incidents were recorded, the majority of which were GBV, abductions and physical assault.



Ukraine © UNHCR



## 4. PROGRESS AGAINST STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



2022 marked the mid-point of our four-year [Strategic Framework](#), with the first two years seeing an incremental increase in the size of our workforce and operational partnerships. The year saw the bulk of our investments in objectives 1, 2 and 3, with notable progress made on better structure, responsiveness and proactiveness in our field support, and amplified frontline perspectives using a range of advocacy tools developed and initiatives. Advocacy efforts were complemented and supported invaluable by significant progress made on analysis methodology and guidance. In the second half of our strategy's life cycle, we envisage a continuation and stabilization of progress on these first three objectives, accompanied by renewed investment in progress on objectives 4 and 5, the latter of which saw key contributions to emerging trends and processes that will continue into 2023.

<p><b>SO1 We will put basics of coordination and collaboration in place in all our operations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32 operations supported</li> <li>Field Coordination Package</li> <li>5 Specialised Protection Coordination Trainings</li> <li>38 Protection Analysis Updates</li> <li>Protection and Health Clusters Joint Operational Framework</li> <li>Emergency Field Cell Support</li> <li>4 Regional Technical Workshops</li> <li>Guidance on Co-Coordination Agreements</li> <li>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</li> <li>Disability and Inclusion</li> <li>Anti-Trafficking</li> <li>Cash for Protection</li> </ul>	<p><b>SO2 We will ensure voices of crisis affected persons and communities are heard, especially the forgotten ones.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 operations extensively supported</li> <li>13 Member State Engagements</li> <li>Full range of advocacy methods activated</li> <li>Advocacy Toolkit</li> <li>Global Campaign on Access that Protects</li> <li>Global Protection Updates</li> <li>Stronger social media outreach</li> <li>Global Protection Forum</li> <li>New GPC Website</li> <li>Mid-year Protection Funding Review</li> <li>End-of-Year Event</li> <li>Grants to Local NGOs</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO3 We will meet the challenges to make protection actions contextually appropriate and complementary.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Protection Analysis Framework</li> <li>Protection in Armed Conflict Toolkit</li> <li>Human Rights Engagement</li> <li>Information and Analysis Working Group</li> <li>HCT Protection Strategies</li> </ul>	<p><b>SO4 We will champion and advance durable solutions that meet protection standards through a nexus of humanitarian, peace and development action.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law and Policy Engagement</li> <li>Global Report on Law and Policy in Internal Displacement</li> <li>IDP Protection Expert Group</li> <li>Nexus Approaches in Humanitarian Settings Guidance</li> </ul>
<p><b>SO5 We will continue adapting to the shifting operational environment and keep looking forward.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change and Adaptation</li> <li>Cluster System Review</li> <li>New GPC SAG</li> </ul>	

### Strategic Objective 1: Put basics of coordination and collaboration in place in all our operations

For this objective, we pledged to consistently put in place principled and effective coordination, collaboration, and analysis to meet Cluster responsibilities and to contribute to timely and informed decisions by Humanitarian Coordinators and HCTs.

How was the GPC engaged?	Progress
Supporting operations to have minimum coordination and responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31 operations supported through in-person missions/ deployments (28), remote dedicated support (15) and ad hoc help desk requests (28)</li> <li>47 trainings, workshops, and webinars</li> <li>100% operations with 3-5Ws system tracking</li> <li>Field Coordination Package developed and rolled out in 3 regional trainings</li> <li>Guidance Note on Protection Cluster Co-Coordination</li> </ul>
Supporting operations for Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 operations extensively supported on HPC<sup>1</sup></li> <li>21 operations with high quality 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)</li> </ul>
Supporting operations to have regular protection analysis guiding Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>71% of operations with collective protection analysis</li> <li>38 Protection Analysis Updates (PAUs) developed across 22 operations (58% national, 40% sub-national and 2% thematic)</li> <li>Operations provided analysis on 190+ protection risks and elaborated 550+ recommendations to address them</li> </ul>
Training operations on protection coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 protection coordination trainings delivered to 103 experts from 27 operations</li> </ul>
Supporting operations to better engage on combatting trafficking in persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-trafficking guidance rolled out</li> <li>2 operations received multi-month expert deployments</li> <li>29 protection specialists trained on anti-trafficking</li> </ul>
Improving integrated planning, programming and response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection and Health Clusters Joint Operational Framework in progress</li> </ul>
Supporting operations in contributing to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Services Package for MHPSS shared and rolled out in 5 regions</li> <li>Advocacy on MHPSS emphasized in publications and events</li> <li>Active collaboration with MHPSS Reference Group Members</li> </ul>
Supporting operations in contributing to disability and inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert disability and inclusion field support team established</li> <li>2 operations extensively supported on disability inclusion</li> <li>6 trainings for 54 participants on disability inclusion conducted</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> This figure reflects less reliance on GPC for support than in 2021, since operations were able to produce PAUs which eventually fed into the 2023 HNOs.



During 2022, we professionalized our field support through a number of actions, including:

**Establishing regional help desks and regular points of contact:** The GPC formalized its helpdesk modality, building on experiences from some of its AoRs, who have decentralized their field support functions to a regional model. Operations Cell Regional Focal Points were appointed to work with all operations in each region on a day-to-day basis, referring to the Thematic Focal Points for areas that require expert support. This modality is complemented by monthly regional meetings with all coordinators and bi-weekly written operational updates. For the third year running, the GPC Coordinator sent mid-year operations letters to Cluster Lead Agencies, highlighting annual priorities and encouraging further investment in coordination.

In 2022, the GPC opted for a modality of [regional technical workshops](#) in four different locations over the course of five days. The forums were operationally oriented and provided opportunities for field coordination teams to engage and exchange on a range of protection coordination priorities and identify a few key strategic priorities to improve Cluster coordination, as well as GPC support required to achieve this. Over 265 participants joined, including global, national and sub-national Coordinators, Co-coordinators and Information Management Officers (IMOs) from 34 operations and coordination hubs, AoRs Global Coordinators, colleagues from UNHCR regional bureaux and from regional Protection Working Groups, Global Coordinators of other Clusters, and donors.

**Responding to requests for support from operations** remained the primary modality of engagement with the field. Our Operations Cell responded to and engaged with 100% of requests. The top areas of requests for 2022 were related to: Advocacy, Protection Analysis, Human Resources and HNO/HRP support. This was trackable through the establishment of a Field Support Tracker. The team conducted remote and in-person support missions and gap filling to Afghanistan, CAR, DR Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Niger, Nigeria, NW Syria, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

**Activating an Emergency Field Cell Support for Ukraine** to strengthen effectiveness and coherence of field coordination, collective planning, analysis, and advocacy. This meant a de facto merger of capacities between the GPC and the national coordination teams.

**Developing and delivering the Specialization Programme on Protection Coordination (SPPC)** through our partnership with the Institute of International Humanitarian Law. The Programme, conducted in either English or French, completed its second year with a total of 103 participants, including Protection and AoRs Coordinators, Co-coordinators, local partners and other professionals, with coordination capacity from 27 country operations, including, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen. At the end of 2022, a curriculum mapping event was organized to strategically review and improve the learning content and methodology of the programme.

**Developing the [Field Coordination Package](#):** an online, user-friendly, one-stop shop that brings together guidance, tools, templates and best practices to support the Protection Cluster coordination teams with ensuring effective coordination and delivery of protection services in emergencies. It is designed around the six inter-agency standing committee (IASC) core functions of the Cluster and lays out key deliverables/minimum requirements for each of these core functions. It is addressed both to new coordinators, with the starter pack, as well as current coordinators who need support delving into technical topics of Cluster coordination. It complements the AoR already existing handbooks, and will be integrated with the community of practice for coordination teams to exchange on best practices.

**Releasing [MoU guidance](#) for field co-ordination agreements between the Cluster Lead Agency and co-coordinating organisations**, to optimise co-ordination and as part of an even wider push to recognise, support, learn from and ensure leading role of local actors, responders and communities.

Our field support also focused on four thematic areas:

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):** The GPC made considerable progress in upgrading its capacities to contribute to multi agency and Cluster delivery on MHPSS services. The GPC took a leading role in the development and review of the [MHPSS Minimum Services Package](#), which included the roll out of webinars for English, French and Spanish-speaking operations over the course of three days in February 2022, and review of the final version during the last quarter of 2022.

**Disability and Inclusion:** In 2022, the GPC tailored support for Protection Clusters and partners to improve understanding of inclusive humanitarian response and defining inclusive actions in targeted countries. This included organizing in-person and online trainings, revising key tools to be sensitized toward disability and age, and organizing a global working session to share good practices and lessons learned on disability inclusion. The team worked to influence HNO reports toward collecting disability data to define risks facing persons with disabilities and to improve HRP toward inclusion objectives. In December, a training workshop on reinforcing disability and age inclusion to improve protection analysis and programming was held in Amman. The Protection Cluster in Venezuela also received training on how to create materials that are accessible and inclusive, with the goal of influencing the Cluster's communication strategy for 2023.

**Anti-trafficking:** In 2022, the [Anti-trafficking Task Team](#), with its 18 member organizations co-led by UNHCR and IOM, continued to disseminate the [Introductory Guide to Anti-Trafficking Action in Internal Displacements Contexts](#). The Guide is now available in French and Spanish. In addition, the Task Team supported the Protection Cluster in Ukraine to establish a Task Force on trafficking to address related protection risks from the outset of the conflict. Further, two anti-trafficking specialists were deployed in Afghanistan and Venezuela to support colleagues to build and integrate anti-trafficking action into protection efforts. Other flagship moments included an online training course on trafficking delivered to 10 operations and a strong collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking to support advocacy on addressing trafficking in humanitarian crises.

**Cash for Protection:** With over 50 members across 30 organisations, the [C4P Task Team](#) is co-led by the Women Refugee Commission and Save the Children. In 2022, the TT conducted online trainings for protection and GBV practitioners in organizations operating in Iraq, oPt, and Syria. Additionally, in-person regional trainings were conducted in Asia, Europe, East and Southern Africa, and the Middle East. A priority focus in 2022 was [gathering evidence on the impact of cash on protection outcomes](#). Another accomplishment was support to the Ukraine response on prioritizing cash for protection since the outset of the response. Key highlights include producing, publishing and disseminating the [Guidance Note on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Child-headed Households \(CHH\) and Unaccompanied Children \(UAC\)](#) (in collaboration with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action) and the [Cash Voucher Assistance \(CVA\) and Child Protection MEAL Adolescent Toolkit](#).



**Strategic Objective 2: Ensure that the voices of crisis affected persons and communities are heard**

For this objective we pledged to amplify the voices of persons affected by humanitarian crises and ensure consistent and predictable representation of their issues, so they can be addressed by the relevant responsible parties.

How was the GPC engaged?	Progress
Supporting at least 9 forgotten crises in their advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 operations provided with focused advocacy support</li> <li>13 closed-door donor/Member State briefings</li> <li>4 country missions and 1 lobby trip to capital</li> <li>17 advocacy messaging document</li> <li>3 public statements on protection crises</li> </ul>
Reporting comprehensively on protection crisis and response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Global Protection Updates</li> <li>14 global social media campaigns reaching 4,700 followers</li> <li>3 public statements on critical thematic protection issues</li> <li>Mid-Year Review of Protection Funding report and event</li> <li>New GPC website launched and further developed</li> </ul>
Emphasising and recognising leading role of local actors in and communities in protection response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17% of operations resources directed to local actors</li> <li>GPC flagship events featuring national protection leaders</li> <li>4 local actors elected in new GPC SAG</li> </ul>
Leading advocacy on Access That Protects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leading narrative on access and protection</li> <li>3 roundtables with experts, practitioners and Member States</li> <li>Launch of an Agenda for Change: Access That Protects at GPC End of Year Event</li> <li>Global Protection Forum with 2,220 protection professionals</li> </ul>
Collaborating or leading on advocacy research pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 research pieces on Protection of Civilians and protection advocacy</li> </ul>

In 2022 we continued to prioritise supporting operations in their advocacy with key stakeholders to project key frontline perspectives and influence leadership at the global level, including:

**Focusing on where it matters:** In 2022, we focused our advocacy efforts on nine priority operations (Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Syria) through varied GPC tools and approaches. Haiti, South Sudan, and Ukraine, or clusters in transition, like Iraq, also received targeted support. Several operations benefitted from public advocacy events, bringing together HCTs, Protection Clusters and AoRs, donors and Member States. Global advocacy messages were drafted ahead of the [Afghanistan](#) and [Yemen](#) Pledging Conferences, Senior Official Meeting for the [Sahel](#), UNAMA mandate renewal and Cross-Border Resolution in Syria to amplify country-led messaging. Public statements were released for [Ukraine](#), [Haiti](#) and [Afghanistan](#). We continued to organize closed-door meetings with Member States to influence and strengthen protection related actions, grounded in the priorities of affected communities and protection partners. Brokering engagement and information sharing with Special Mandate Holders were conducted on Myanmar and Afghanistan.

**Reporting on protection risks globally:** Three Global Protection Updates were published this year covering the topics of [Persons with Disabilities and Older People](#), [Access That Protects](#), and the [Climate Crisis](#). We further strengthened our monitoring of 15 protection risks across emergencies crisis – through surveys carried out quarterly across 28 operations and triangulated with the country-specific Protection Analysis Updates. We closely worked with AoRs to better define the 15 [protection risks](#) and elaborated hands on guidance for Protection Clusters.

**Bringing the community together:** We organized a virtual and highly inclusive annual [Global Protection Forum](#) in October, including over 2,220 participants in a series of twelve virtual events, aimed to provide a platform through which key partners, field practitioners, donors, Member States, academics and many more came together to discuss behaviours, policies and practices related to access and protection. Registrants came from 135 different countries, reflecting more diversity in terms of region and organisation type than ever before. It presented an opportunity to showcase frontline work and also hear from local voices on the theme Access that Protects. A [Forum report](#) highlighting the key messages and takeaways from each session was published following the event.

**Campaigning for an Agenda for Change:** In 2022, the GPC, in collaboration with a range of protection allies and partners, led a campaign for change to strengthen understanding with regards to current trends around access and protection and to identify needed shifts in behaviours, practices and policies that would enable a system-wide and strengthened approach to access for protection. Alongside the Global Protection Forum dedicated to this theme, other activities have included the Mid-Year Stocktaking Event on protection funding and its accompanying report [Protection Funding: Where Do We Stand Mid-Year 2022? A Spotlight on Operational Access for Protection](#). June’s Global Protection Update [Beyond Trucks, Access That Protects](#) and three roundtable discussions with experts, Member States and practitioners on the topic of Access that Protects, which took their place amongst a series of ongoing wider consultative processes to develop key messages for the conceptualisation of an [Agenda for Change on Access that Protects](#), launched on 13th December during the [GPC End of Year Event](#).

**Strengthening our Advocacy Task Team:** The [Advocacy Task Team \(ATT\)](#), with more than 50 members from 25 different organizations, groups and networks, was co-led by Oxfam and Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) in 2022. Flagship achievements included the development of protection advocacy tools and SOPs for a more collaborative approach to GPC advocacy, the development of a toolkit and trainings on protection advocacy and ODI-led research that sought to further shared understanding of what enables effective protection advocacy. The ATT also helped organized a range of events and learning sessions throughout the year, including the [Peer Exchange Webinar on Advocacy in Communities under Control of NSAG](#), a sharing session on the ‘From Words to Deeds’ research initiative, a Peer Exchange Webinar on engagement with the Security Council’s Independent Expert Group on the Protection of Civilians with OCHA, and a public event and panel discussion on ‘[Advancing Risk-Informed Protection Advocacy](#)’ as part of the Global Protection Forum.

Advocacy partners and HPG/ODI also led on research pieces including: [Complementary approaches between international and local protection advocacy](#), [Influencing States’ policy and practice on the protection of civilians](#), [Advocating together to strengthen protection: Collective efforts of international and national organisations](#), [Advocating for better protection of civilians: From stagnation to action](#), and [Collaborative advocacy on the protection of civilians: Children and armed conflicts and explosive weapons in populated areas](#).



**Supporting advocacy efforts of local actors:** Through its partnership with the GPC, NEAR distributed small grants in 2022 to 12 local and national NGOs who are championing remarkable advocacy efforts in 10 of the most complex protection crises - Afghanistan, Colombia, DR Congo, Nigeria, oPt, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. With the grants, these organizations have been encouraged and resourced to actively participate in the dissemination of the protection advocacy toolkit, and expand their engagement with the Protection Cluster at country or global level.



Myanmar © UNHCR/Dumhpau Hkunring

### Strategic Objective 3: Meet the challenges to make protection contextually appropriate and complementary

For this objective we pledged - through joint analysis – to achieve effective and appropriate collective protection outcomes with development, human rights, peace and security actors especially in mixed, climate change response and violent extremism situations.

How was the GPC engaged?	Progress
Developing and rolling out a standard Protection Analysis Framework (PAF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 PAF capacity building workshops</li> <li>5 protection analysis training modules developed</li> <li>21 joint analysis sessions with national and international partners</li> </ul>
Supporting the promotion of Centrality of Protection (CoP) in inter-sectoral and other clusters' needs analysis and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All operations promoted the CoP in inter-sectoral planning</li> <li>Operations supported to produce and implement HCT Protection Strategies</li> </ul>
Supporting operations to better engage with and use human rights mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 operations supported on human rights engagement</li> <li>170 partners trained on human rights engagement and advocacy</li> <li>Collaboration with 6 special procedures and rapporteurs</li> <li>Active support to the Secretary General Agenda for Protection</li> </ul>
Supporting operations to better engage on Protection of Civilians (PoC) issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection in Armed Conflict Toolkit developed and rolled out in 7 operations during regional workshop and webinars</li> <li>Strategic engagement with UNSC, particularly on PoC related issues</li> </ul>
Strengthening capacities of non-protection actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 self-learning modules on protection for private, peacekeeping, and development actors</li> </ul>

In 2022, ramping up efforts to support evidence-based protection strategy and programming, as well as targeted advocacy efforts included:

**Developing a global framework to analyse protection risks:** In 2021, the GPC produced for the first time a Protection Analytical Framework (PAF) with the leadership of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and the corresponding PAF guidance which guides all operations to produce quarterly PAUs. This major step forward supports consistency and predictability of protection analysis. In 2022, 24 operations produced 38 PAUs and several additional operations used the PAF logic to present analysis to HCTs. Between September and December, the GPC held more than 45 consultations to capture challenges, lessons learned, and best practices from the PAF roll out.

**Connecting globally and nationally to ensure that protection is central:** The GPC has actively contributed to the work of the IASC Task Forces with their focus on Centrality of Protection, accountability to affected populations, collective advocacy and humanitarian and development collaboration. During 2022, we supported operations with their HPC processes to ensure that protection is reflected throughout, including protection analysis and strategic objectives on protection. Operations were also supported with protection mainstreaming trainings for non-protection actors.



**Prioritising the Protection of Civilians:** Protection Clusters signaled to the GPC the need for guidance to address the challenges they face in interacting with military actors. Intended to support staff on the frontline and at headquarters and offering simple and practical guidance on protection during armed conflict, the [Protection in Armed Conflict Toolkit](#) is a live document that is regularly updated with good practices from the Clusters. This Toolkit was rolled out in webinars and a regional workshop with 7 operations in 2022. It will be accompanied by an e-learning on protection in armed conflict in 2023. The GPC also strengthened its strategic engagement on PoC issues, supporting 3 operations (Afghanistan, Haiti, Syria) in influencing UN Security Council resolutions, UN mission mandate renewal and other key areas of action on protection and PoC. With the aim of fostering joint capacity-building opportunities for Coordinators and Co-coordinators, the GPC continued to further develop its [Field Coordination Package](#), where guidance on PoC, access, and civil-military coordination were integrated. Additionally, the GPC organised, in coordination with OCHA and UNHCR, a session on Protection Cluster engagement with the Informal Expert Group (IEG) on the PoC in armed conflict. Following the session, the GPC developed guidance for Protection Clusters on effective engagement with the IEG.

**Engaging on Human Rights:** The [Human Rights Engagement Task Team \(HRE TT\)](#), with its 57 members, is co-led by UNHCR, Soga Gakkai International (SGI) and Lutheran World Federation (LWF). In 2022, the TT developed an HRE training series for all Protection Clusters and conducted pilot in-person trainings in DR Congo, Iraq, and Nigeria for 170 protection actors. It also published various [materials](#) to support Protection Clusters and other actors on HRE, including with National Human Rights Institutions, the African human rights mechanisms, as well as global UN mechanisms (Special Procedures, UPR, Treaty bodies, Human Rights Council). It developed the human rights minimum requirements to support Protection Clusters in mainstreaming human rights in the HNO and the HRP, in cooperation with OCHA and OHCHR and produced two mid-year updates on HRE with [good practices](#) gathered from different Protection Clusters on HRE. Furthermore, it supported 4 Protection Clusters to engage with human rights mechanisms and organized confidential briefings with Special Procedures to support them in raising awareness on protection issues in their operations. Finally, the TT led 5 webinars and 2 peer-to-peer exchange on several human rights issues for Protection Clusters and HRE TT members.

**Information and Analysis Working Group:** This [Working Group](#), with 122 members, is co-led by the GPC Operations Cell and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Support was given to all operations where the Cluster is active through the establishment of standards and training on good practices. The Working Group acted as a space for partners and protection analysis practitioners to share best practices, experiences when utilising protection analysis tools, and finding synergies between actors. Flagship moments included Protection Clusters presenting their own PAU experiences, submission of guidance on human rights inclusion to the GPC’s Field Coordination Package by the C2A for Human Rights workstream in partnership with the HRE TT, and sharing of major protection analysis projects from partners, such as the IRC-DRC Results-Based Protection Analysis Project.

#### **Strategic Objective 4: Champion and advance durable solutions to meet protection standards through a nexus of humanitarian, peace, and development action**

This objective pledges to promote protection as central to humanitarian work to address protection problems and to create conditions conducive for durable solutions that are recognized as essential in development and peacebuilding-related actions.

How was the GPC engaged?	Progress
Supporting operations to better engage on and use laws and policies for protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations supported through missions (7) and remote support (5) on Law and Policy</li> <li>• 17 ongoing national IDP-specific normative processes worldwide in line with the Guiding Principles and the Kampala Convention</li> <li>• E-learning Course “Introduction to Law and Policy on Internal Displacement” developed</li> <li>• 3 Sanremo Courses on Internal Displacement supported</li> <li>• Updated Global Law and Policy Database</li> <li>• 2 senior-level IPEG missions to provide strategic advice and advance the work on protection, including Law and Policy</li> <li>• First ever Global Report on Law &amp; Policy on Internal Displacement developed and launched</li> <li>• Research on arbitrary displacement conducted and report produced</li> <li>• Development, launch and piloting of the Legal Aid Analysis Framework and accompanying tools</li> </ul>
Developing tools to advance nexus approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance Note for Protection Clusters on Nexus Approaches in Humanitarian Settings</li> </ul>

Providing strategic advice, training and developing accompanying tools to help pave the way for meeting protection standards in 2022 included:

**Strengthening Law and Policy:** The [Task Team on Law and Policy](#), with over 30 members and led by UNHCR, provided support to El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Nigeria, and South Sudan through technical support missions in 2022. Flagship moments at the global level included the launch of the study: [Making Arbitrary Displacement a Crime: Law and Practice](#), and of the [Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement: Implementing National Responsibility](#), as well as the update of the [Global Database on Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement](#). The focus was to ensure that Protection Clusters are active in promoting and supporting the development and use of national laws and policies that protect. To that purpose, the GPC united law and policy experts in a Task Team that supports negotiations with governments and parliaments, legal and policy analysis relating to the protection of IDPs, as in the case of the legal aid analysis in Somalia. The TT also co-organizes capacity-building activities, such as workshop on the Kampala Convention domestication in Nigeria, and promotes action and capacity-sharing in this area including through peer exchanges.

**Supporting the IDP Protection Expert Group (IPEG):** The IPEG, co-led by UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs and the GPC, mobilizes high-level interventions and collaboration to champion protection in situations of internal displacement. In 2022, the IPEG undertook missions to Honduras and South Sudan.



**Seeking opportunities to identify and collaborate with actors beyond the humanitarian sphere and address deep-rooted protection issues:** Published in 2022, the [Nexus Approaches in Humanitarian Settings - A Guidance Note for the Protection Clusters](#) guides Protection Cluster Coordinators to apply Nexus approaches in a practical way by providing concrete steps and means to address prevalent or longstanding protection issues, risk patterns, trends and chronic vulnerabilities.



South Sudan © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

**Strategic Objective 5: Continue to adapt to the shifting operational environment and keep looking forward**

For this objective, we pledge to contribute to the identification of protection response gaps and challenges, including emerging and growing trends and engage partners to respond creatively.

How was the GPC engaged?	Progress
Integrate climate change and adaptation into protection responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational Guidance on Preparedness for Protection in the Context of Climate Change and Disasters and accompanying toolkit published</li> <li>Training of Trainers on the Guidance and Toolkit developed and piloted with 11 partners</li> </ul>
Reviewing the cluster and GPC systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to IASC Cluster Review process and WFP-UNHCR Cluster Review</li> <li>New SAG established</li> <li>4 products jointly done with SAG</li> </ul>

Tapping into the network and key partnerships, in 2022, we stayed abreast of developments and trends shaping the protection sphere, including:

**Integrating climate change and adaptation in protection responses:** The [GPC Guidance for Field Protection Clusters and AoRs on Preparedness for Protection in the Context of Climate Change and Disasters](#) and its [accompanying toolkit for field Protection Clusters](#) was rolled out to Protection Clusters in 2022. This guidance document is intended to provide guidance that will enable the implementation of appropriate protection responses in relation to the impact of climate change and disasters. The toolkit is also available in French and Spanish. In late 2022 in Nairobi, a Training of Trainers course based on the toolkit and guidance was developed and delivered to a group of Cluster colleagues drawn from Eastern and Southern Africa.

**Reviewing the Cluster system:** UNHCR and WFP initiated a joint review of the Clusters that are led or co-led by UNHCR and WFP, between April and November 2022. The findings and recommendations of this review focused on Cluster ‘fitness for purpose’, in light of future challenges. The review took account of the broader humanitarian system, including the Cluster landscape as a whole. This exercise took a bird’s eye view of the performance, management, and leadership across the six Clusters, recognizing their differences and drawing out common strengths and challenges.

**Introducing a new SAG structure:** The GPC also reviewed its own governance structure, electing a new [SAG](#) for the upcoming two year term, including four local partners as permanent members. Selection was intended to ensure balanced representation at both global and local levels, a mix between new and previous experience with the SAG and diversity between operational, advocacy or policy engagement on protection. With this membership, we are confident that this group will continue to embody the collective diversity and strength of the GPC.



## 4. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



### Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR), led by UNICEF.

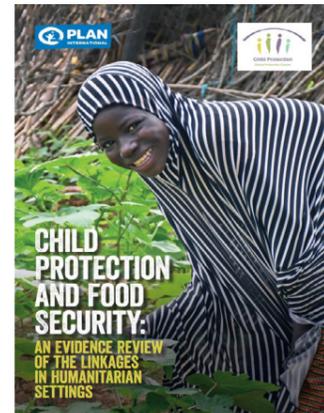
Field presence in 30 operations with extensive support given to all operations through the Global, Arabic, French and Spanish Help Desks and the Global Team.

#### 2022 Achievements:

Through deployments of the Rapid Response Team, the Global CP AoR supported new and protracted crisis by deployment of coordination, information management and thematic specialists to 12 contexts. Contexts supported included Colombia, Cox’s Bazar (Bangladesh), Ethiopia, Honduras, Iraq, North-West Syria, the oPt, Pakistan, Somalia and Ukraine. In addition, the Global CP AoR conducted training on child protection coordination and information management for Coordinators, Co-coordinators and IM staff, including staff from national and local organizations, in June 2022. A total of 41 countries were supported through the Global, Arabic, French and Spanish Help Desks, which provide timely and tailored technical support/advice on child protection coordination, information management, and thematic areas.

With the objective of improving the systematic collection of data and evidence around CP risks in humanitarian settings, the Global CP AoR supported Burkina Faso and Mozambique to set up child protection situation monitoring systems. Gaps in monitoring the needs and risks of children as well as existing limitations and challenges in needs monitoring were identified and this was followed up by conceptualization, development and testing of tools for data collection at the community level. Community-based actors and focal points were trained on data collection and usage of the tools. The Global CP AoR will continue to provide technical support for data and information collection analysis and reporting in 2023.

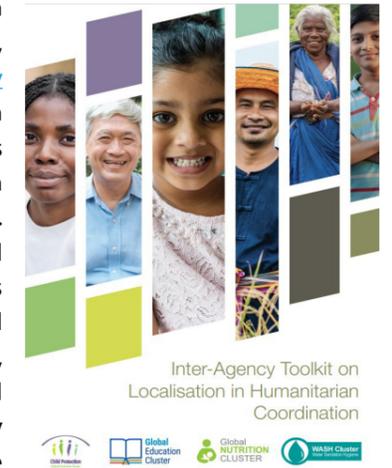
The Global CP AoR, in partnership with Plan International and in collaboration with the Global Food Security Cluster launched [a global initiative to strengthen collaboration between child protection and food security actors in humanitarian settings](#). As part of this initiative, an evidence review was conducted on the linkages between child protection and food security in humanitarian settings. Key findings on how children’s protection is affected by food insecurity include: (i) food insecurity is linked with poor mental health and psychosocial distress of children and caregivers and this triggers various forms of violence against children; (ii) when children and families do not have enough to eat or money to buy food, they may resort to extreme coping mechanisms; (iii) children are exposed to various child



protection risks while producing, searching for, or preparing food and (iv) interventions to address food insecurity can also expose children to various risks. [The evidence review is available in Arabic, English, French Portuguese, and Spanish.](#)

The Central African Republic, North-East Nigeria and South Sudan were supported in the contextualization and development of tools and resources to integrate child protection and food security responses within the specific humanitarian responses. The impact of the global food insecurity on the protection and well-being of children was highlighted during a [global donor briefing call in October 2022](#), organized under this initiative, in collaboration with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

The Global CP AoR, in collaboration with the Global Education Cluster, the Global Nutrition Cluster, the Global WASH Cluster, Save the Children and other partners, launched the [Inter-Agency Toolkit on Localisation in Humanitarian Coordination](#) which aims to equip inter-agency humanitarian coordinators, co-leads and partners to invest in local and national actors’ participation and leadership in coordination in diverse humanitarian settings. The toolkit was piloted in North-East Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan where national and local cluster/AoR members were supported to enhance participation, representation and leadership in humanitarian coordination and decision-making, and selected organizations were provided with institutional capacity strengthening support. The toolkit is available for use by all cluster coordination groups at country-level and will be made available in Arabic, French and Spanish in 2023.



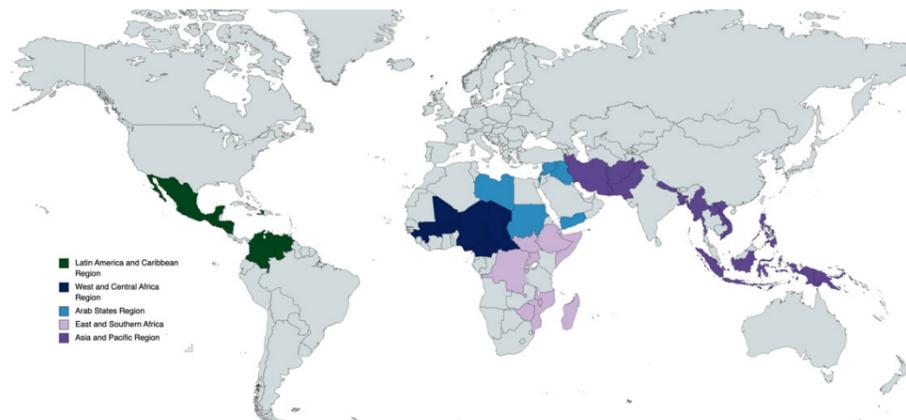


**Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR), led by UNFPA.**

The GBV AoR supports coordination teams in 42 contexts, with the vision of eliminating GBV in all humanitarian settings.

In doing so, the GBV AoR applies a feminist perspective in promoting collective action to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian action for the prevention and mitigation of and response to all forms of gender-based violence, to ensure that the agency and capacity of survivors in all their diversities is recognized and reinforced, and that prevention efforts are effectively employed to address and transform underlying gender inequality.

The GBV AoR provides this support through the [Global Coordination Team](#), the [Regional Support teams](#) across five regions (Asia and Pacific, Arab States, East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, and Latin America and Caribbean Regions), the [GBV AoR Helpdesk](#) and the [GBV AoR Community of Practice](#).



**2022 Achievements:**

The GBV AoR Global Coordination and its Regional Support Teams have provided technical support to the GBV Coordination Teams in more than 30 countries through in-person missions, or remote extensive support. The contexts included new emergencies such as Ukraine, to the exacerbated humanitarian situations as in Haiti, on-set emergencies induced by climate change as in the Philippines. The GBV AoR teams on the global, regional and country level have risen to the challenge and remained at the strategic position in coordinating the GBV interventions, through scaling up and adapting their services to the necessities of these changes.

As a way to harmonize the GBV response across all contexts, the GBV AoR brought the GBV Coordinators and IMOs together through its annual retreat in July 2022, to establish a shared understanding of the

principles and priorities of the GBV AoR in line with its Strategy (2021-2025), and to introduce newly developed tools and guidance ahead of the new Humanitarian Programme Cycle. The inclusion of GBV in HNO and HRP has been improved in 2022, with 100% of HNOs having a separate space for GBV (compared to 95% in 2021 and 71% in 2020), and 100% of HRPs had a separate space for GBV (compared to 82 % in 2021 and 2020).

GBV AoR has also continued the development of technical resources on GBV response. During 2022, the [Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming](#) was translated into additional languages, and it is now available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Ukrainian and Korean. The Facilitator’s Guide and Contextualisation Tool of this resource are also available in English, Arabic, French and Spanish.

In addition, the GBV AoR Helpdesk in 2022 responded to over 100 requests for technical and advisory support from GBV practitioners working in emergency contexts. These requests spanned more than 40 countries, with expertise provided in Arabic, French, Spanish and Ukrainian. The GBV AoR Helpdesk resources, such as [Understanding the core functions and differences between Women and Girls Safe Spaces and One Stop Centers](#), [Annotated Bibliography on Engaging Boys to Become Allies in GBV Prevention](#), and Secondary Data Review of GBV in Ukraine ([English](#) and [Ukrainian](#)) can be found [here](#).

The GBV AoR Community of Practice also offered a number of training and webinars in collaboration with partners such as the Whole of Syria GBV AoR, International Medical Corps, Resource and Support Hub for Safeguarding, and International Rescue Committee. The topics included Advocacy for GBV Actors, Understanding how GBV impacts people of diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) living in Humanitarian Emergencies (co-hosted with Mark Canavera of Columbia University), Trauma-sensitive mindfulness-based stress reduction for Frontline GBV workers, and GBViE Minimum Standards.





**Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR), led by UNMAS and co-led by the Danish Refugee Council.**

The MA AoR has field presence in 18 operations with extensive support given to all operations through the Global Team in Geneva.



MA AoR Strategy Launch 2022-2024

**2022 Achievements:**

The [Mine Action Area of Responsibility Strategy 2022-2024](#) was rolled out to seventeen countries.

The global MA AoR has aimed to **strengthen an effective coordination** platform for collaboration in in-country MA AoR operations to further enhance mine action coordination in humanitarian contexts. A priority was to develop a guidance to help Mine Action AoRs calculate People in Need of mine action, which, with the support of the GPC IM capacity, materialized in a step-by-step guide that was distributed to mine action actors. The MA AoR online repository of resources containing [policy, guidance and tools](#) was kept up to date to ensure mine action actors had access to harmonised global standards.

**Strategic partnerships are key** to promote innovation and attract new technical and financial resources for mine action. The global MA AoR ran two workshops to strengthen the effectiveness of mine action responses through increased coordination with partners.

The workshop on [Integrating Housing, Land and Property Rights in Mine Action](#) brought together 50 practitioners from both areas of expertise to facilitate an exchange of lessons learned regarding the integration of HLP considerations into Mine Action, leading to the creation of a [joint repository of resources](#).

A [Service Mapping and Referral Workshop](#) brought together coordinators to share best practices on fostering access to multisectoral services for conflict victims.

**Advocacy:** the MA AoR also collaborated with the GPC to produce a [Global Protection Update: Leaving Known Ones behind?](#) with a special focus on disability and inclusion. Advocacy for explosive ordnance survivors and other persons with impairments has remained a priority for the MA AoR. In 2022, the mine action sector started to implement the International Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance (IMAS 13.10) according to which victim assistance should be implemented and coordinated according to an 'integrated approach'. A strengthened focus on integrating victim assistance and a victim-centered approach in national action plans was a critical component of the global MA AoRs advocacy, as well as a concentrated effort to raise awareness about the devastating impact of Explosive Ordnance (EO) contamination resulting from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

**Capacity Building:** the global MA AoR has actively participated in the Specialization Programme on Protection Coordination selecting thirteen mine action coordinators to take part in the course in 2022 and working alongside the GPC and the Sanremo Institute to co-facilitate sessions on leadership. Furthermore, the MA AoR attended the GPC regional workshops in Dakar, Nairobi and Istanbul to exchange ideas and practices with peers.

From humanitarian emergencies all the way to post-conflict peacebuilding, humanitarian mine action, operationalized in a conflict-sensitive manner, is critical to peace and **sustainable solutions**. Such criticality is demonstrable in Sudan, where mine action provided a gateway for other protection services to assist communities and support the operationalization of **the humanitarian-development-peace Nexus**. The global MA AoR organized an event to highlight this during the GPC Annual Protection Forum in October, with an event entitled [Gaining Access for Coordinated Protection with a Human Security approach in South Kordofan, Sudan](#).

Alongside this work, the global MA AoR continued its aggregation, visualization, and analysis of funding and beneficiary data to [highlight national and global funding gaps](#).

The MA AoR continued its collaboration and contributions to several GPC task teams, working groups, and reviews.

While this year was challenging for the mine action sector, with increased contamination and casualties, significant progress was made to strengthen coordination, partnerships, capacity, diversity, and sustainability at the global level. A new guidance on People in Need calculations, access to an aggregated platform containing policy, standards, and guidance, and several capacity-building workshops for mine action actors strengthened coordination and standardization, as well as consolidating new partnerships with stakeholders. Furthermore, proactivity towards the unfolding crises in Ukraine and Myanmar meant that the global MA AoR could effectively advocate for greater coordination capacity and provide practical technical support to in-country teams.





**Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility (HLP AoR), led by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). From 2023 the HLP AoR will be co-led by NRC and UN-Habitat.**

The HLP AoR continues to work closely with global and national colleagues from the protection, shelter and CCCM clusters to offer support to the HLP response in 21 humanitarian contexts, with more in the early stages of development. This includes newly activated AoR and Working Groups in South Sudan and Yemen. Support comes from the global coordinator and an active HLP expert roster drawn from the AoR's membership from NGOs, UN, Member States, practitioners, policymakers, and academia.

#### 2022 Achievements:

In 2022, the HLP AoR initiated bi-monthly **support sessions for all Coordinators and Co-coordinators** of country-level HLP AoR and Working Groups. The **HLP AoR's HelpDesk** continues to respond to technical and coordination requests from HLP practitioners. In 2022, this has included colleagues in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, CAR, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Philippines, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

For example, the HLP AoR participated in the GPC mission to South Sudan in June to clarify HLP coordination, leading to the activation of the HLP AoR for South Sudan in August. In November 2022, the [Protection Analysis Update on Housing Land & Property in South Sudan](#) was published, shedding light on the main risks relating to HLP rights in the country and providing recommendations for actions. In response to the crisis in Ukraine, the AoR facilitated a working group developing guidance and recommendations for the government of Ukraine on aligning their policy/legislation development with international best practice for mass claims and transitional justice for housing, land and property.

The **quarterly global meetings and global newsletter updates** continue to be a great opportunity to gather colleagues from across clusters and sectors to share resources, update on collaboration and to discuss specific issues related to HLP programming, practice and policy.

**Collaboration with other clusters** continues to better integrate HLP-sensitive approaches into programming across sectors. **Throughout 2022 and into 2023, the HLP AoR continued its partnership with the CCCM cluster to develop an HLP toolkit and guidance** for use in camp and camp-like settings. In early 2023, these resources will be disseminated in beta form, piloted and integrated within the new CCCM cluster website. The HLP AoR continues to work closely with the HLP Advisers and coordinators of the **Global Shelter Cluster** at global and country level, including participation at the UK Shelter Forum to discuss the significance of HLP in shelter response, and the need to consider HLP in the context of displacement linked with climate change.

The collaboration with the **Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR)** included a workshop organised in early 2022, which enabled over 50 practitioners from both areas of expertise to exchange

lessons learned regarding the integration of HLP considerations into Mine Action (report available [here](#)). Outcomes of this included a [Mine Action – HLP page](#), a session on working with HLP rights for the [25th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers](#) in Geneva, and a renewed commitment to better coordination at country level.



Key thematic areas of focus continue to be **Climate change and HLP, and Displaced Women's HLP rights**. Alongside NRC, the HLP AoR hosted a [hybrid side event](#) at the Humanitarian Network and Partnerships Week 2022 Geneva on the links between **climate change, displacement, and HLP** related issues featuring speakers from Mozambique, Somalia, and the Pacific.



The HLP AoR hosted the launch event for the [Key Messages on Women, Land and Peace: "Sustaining peace through women's empowerment and increased access to land and property rights in fragile and conflict-affected contexts"](#). These messages were developed based on the field experience of UN-Habitat, the Global Land Tool Network, the HLP AoR and their partners in fragile and crisis affected contexts. Animations based on the messages are to follow early 2023.

The HLP AoR in partnership with UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network piloted training on HLP rights and conflict sensitive land governance for peacebuilding. The four-day training in Cairo and Geneva drew participants from UN agencies, NGOs and Governments from across the world to reflect and learn about the links between HLP in emergency/humanitarian response, urban displacement, land management and administration – the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in practice. There are plans to adapt and develop this training in 2023.

#### From 2022 into 2023...

From 2023, NRC and UN-Habitat will collaborate to strengthen the work of the HLP AoR by building on their respective strengths, competencies and capacities. This includes increased capacity and expertise on HLP for development, nexus and urban contexts. As we all grapple with what the Nexus and durable solutions means for us as humanitarians, this partnership will be well placed to integrate HLP as a golden thread connecting, emergency, humanitarian, transitional, development responses and beyond.



## 8. CLOSING COMMENTS



We would like to thank all stakeholders for your constant support throughout 2022, acting and advocating at both global and local level. As we move into 2023, we aim to enhance the quality of our programmes and impact on the ground via further multi-agency and Member State deployments and contributions, with thanks to the European Union, Danish Refugee Council, iMMAP, Germany, HelpAge International, Humanity and Inclusion, Norwegian Refugee Council, NEAR, Oxfam, ProCap, Switzerland, Sweden, United States, Walk Free Foundation and UNHCR, amongst others – building on comparative advantages and expertise within the sector.

We would also like to express our thanks to our Member States and donors for their continuous engagement and constructive contributions that have helped strengthen our shared protection narrative and supported our collective capacity to stay and deliver in humanitarian crises. Thanks to your generosity and collective investment, our partners have reached collective protection outcomes through smarter funding, multi-sectorial approaches and integrated programming.

Our gratitude goes to our field colleagues, Protection Cluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators, IMOs, AoRs, protection and non-protection partners, HCs and HCTs who prioritized protection, raised the profile of forgotten protection crises and invested in advancing protection across complex crises contexts. Thank you all, frontline actors, for being there for those who needed it most, for those who were the most affected by discrimination and inequality on the ground.

We would like to express our gratitude to all Representatives of Cluster Lead Agencies and organisations that are heading the AoRs: NRC (HLP AoR), UNFPA (GBV AoR), UNICEF (CP AoR), UNMAS and DRC (MA AoR) and the GPC Task Teams, namely the TT on Law and Policy (UNHCR) the TT on Human Rights Engagement (UNHCR, SGI, the LWF), the TT on Anti-Trafficking (IOM, UNHCR), the TT on Advocacy (NEAR, Oxfam), and the TT on Cash for Protection (Save the Children, WRC).

We thank all SAG members who began 2022 with us, as well as those who joined the new SAG in the third quarter of the year, all ensuring a system-wide response to guide the GPC strategy. Thank you to NRC (Co-Chair), UNHCR (Cluster Lead Agency), IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, Abs Development Organization (Yemen), Centre de Développement Intégral de l'Enfant Rural (DR Congo), Community in Need - Aid (South Sudan), Right 2 Protection (Ukraine), Danish Refugee Council, Humanity and Inclusion, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Oxfam, IRC, NEAR, HelpAge International, War Child, WRC, Save the Children, LWF, SGI, Centre for Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation, ICVA, Interaction, ICRC and last but not least, the GPC Operations Cell.

A special thanks also goes to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in events, fora, and initiatives that were organized by the GPC this year.

We look forward to strengthening collaboration with you all in 2023.



