



# GPC Task Team on Advocacy Terms of Reference

January 2022

## 1. Background

In 2020, the Global Protection Cluster launched its [2020-2024 Strategic Framework](#), which identifies priorities to make the GPC and National Protection Clusters fit for purpose in a rapidly changing and increasingly challenging global operational context in armed conflicts, disaster, and health emergencies. Protection advocacy sits at the core of the GPC's purpose as well as at the core of this Strategic Framework, representing both a cross-cutting and stand-alone priority.<sup>1</sup>

Recognizing the criticality of protection advocacy and the particular role it can play in strengthening it, the GPC is focused on advancing collective protection advocacy together with a range of protection actors, Clusters and humanitarian leaders to ensure critical protection issues are acted upon in relevant national, regional and global fora.

The GPC itself is not an advocacy and campaigning platform, however it is well positioned to convene a powerful collective voice through its broad membership, leverage the particular relationships and decision-makers it has access to and by supporting 'from behind' when others are positioned to lead and have the most influence. The GPC has a particular role to play in amplifying advocacy efforts being led at the national level, based on the analysis of key protection risks and trends, identifying and leveraging related 'openings' for influencing, and playing a powerful convening role that enables it to bring together diverse protection actors to collectively drive evidence-based advocacy efforts around priority protection issues.

To make this work a success, the GPC decided to embed new ways of working on advocacy to leverage its diverse membership, enable collective approaches and advance strategic opportunities that better connect local, national and global advocacy efforts, all with the aim of supporting strengthened protection outcomes for communities in crisis. This approach is being advanced via the GPC's Advocacy Task Team which is comprised of a range of GPC members, including NGOs, INGOs, networks, UN agencies, field Protection Cluster coordinators and members and AoR/other Task Team representatives, with advocacy expertise and interest.

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the GPC's Strategic Framework and in particular the second priority: *The GPC is committed to ensure voices of crisis affected persons and communities are heard, predictably and consistently, especially the forgotten ones.* [https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/GPC-Strategic-Framework\\_digital\\_version-1.pdf](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/GPC-Strategic-Framework_digital_version-1.pdf)



## 2. Objectives

The overall goal of the TT is to collectively influence key decisions, policies and behaviours that contribute to the strengthened protection of crisis affected populations, through the GPC and in collaboration with a range of diverse protection allies and partners, duty bearers and other stakeholders at local, national and global levels.

Specific priorities include:

- Based on robust protection analysis and evidence, collectively identify key issues and opportunities, advocacy targets and related strategic approaches for collective protection advocacy that reflect context specific needs and the value-add of GPC and ATT members.
- Take forward collective influencing efforts that can include private and public efforts, under the umbrella of GPC or via other collective channels, where GPC and ATT leadership or involvement has a clear 'value add'.
- Promote consultation and collaboration with, and the leadership of, field Protection Clusters and their membership and other local/national protection actors engaged in protection advocacy, seeking to amplify and complement their influencing efforts through country-driven approaches.
- Engage with and support shared advocacy efforts across Protection Clusters, AoRs and other Task Teams, all with the aim of advancing strategic protection priorities.
- Contribute to, promote and lead the development of research, analysis, dialogue and engagement with key stakeholders in relation to priority protection risks, trends and approaches.
- Support critical reflection, learning and capacity building efforts in relation to protection advocacy, including through tailored supports and training, learning events and the development of advocacy-focused tools and guidance.

## 3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Task Team is co-led by Oxfam and NEAR.

**The Co-leads are responsible for:**

- Supporting the development of and significantly contributing to the implementation of the GPC/ATT Advocacy action plans and strategy.
- Liaising with GPC Ops Cell, Protection Cluster coordinators and members as well as other key protection advocacy stakeholders at global and national levels to identify key protection advocacy issues and opportunities.
- Leading on and supporting the development of key protection advocacy strategies, plans, engagement, tools and products/events with ATT members. Facilitating sign off on advocacy products.
- Representing the Advocacy TT in global fora, including by attending other Task Teams & AoRs of the GPC, as well as meetings and events led by key stakeholders.
- Reaching out to key actors to join and participate in the work of the Task Team and updating the list of members and their contact information.
- Organizing regular monthly meetings, ad hoc learning events and dialogue on key issues, setting the agenda in consultation with members and sharing any key action points.



- Regularly sharing relevant information, updates, resources and tools with ATT members and via the GPC website and other networks.

#### 4. Membership and ways of working

The Advocacy TT is open to diverse civil society actors including L/NNGOs, INGOs, research organizations, academics, human rights organizations, UN agencies or clusters that wish to engage in and help drive collective protection advocacy. The Task Team will be composed of members with a diverse range of skills, including protection experts as well as advocacy/policy/campaigns specialists from across the GPC membership who work for agencies/organisations interested in furthering protection advocacy in collaborative ways.

All members are expected to actively participate and support the work of the TT to the extent possible, which may include:

- Regularly attending and actively engaging in monthly meetings and/or ad hoc dialogue sessions and learning events.
- Contributing to the development and implementation of the GPC Advocacy Action Plan and related ATT priorities and workplans.
- Sharing protection related insights and analysis, helping to identify collective influencing opportunities and contributing to collective protection advocacy efforts (including via inputs or leadership with particular products, events, research, tools and initiatives)
- Helping to identify and action opportunities to further integrate local, national and global protection advocacy efforts and support country-drive approaches, including through member partners and networks.
- Bringing forward relevant protection advocacy efforts being led by member organizations and reporting back to respective organisations/agencies at global and field level on the latest advocacy work and opportunities.

The Task Team will hold a monthly meeting with members, as well as ad hoc learning and dialogue sessions and other meetings and events as relevant. The monthly meeting will be 1-1.5 hours and the proposed agenda will be shared by co-Leads with members in advance, allowing for all members to input and suggest modifications. The general agenda will include the following key points:

- Update on latest protection crises, trends and advocacy priorities
- Identifying upcoming opportunities and agreements/actions for joint advocacy
- Open space for deeper dive into a priority thematic or country context, peer learning, external speakers etc.
- AOB

Members of the Task Team are welcome to propose extended time and particular focus for ATT meetings – for example if working towards a joint advocacy moment, the team can spend the majority of the meeting focused on agreeing tactics, ways of working, leads, and next steps in developing strategy around these moments. Co-leads will prepare a summary of key action points from each meeting and share with members and other interested parties.



## 5. Accountability and Communications

The Advocacy TT will be accountable to the GPC's Coordinator, who is in turn accountable to the SAG. The co-leads will facilitate a transparent and collaborative decision-making process and will report to the SAG and National Protection Clusters, with updates on decisions, plans for future work as well as monitoring and outcomes of previous advocacy initiatives.

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