Member States, Donors and Multi-Agency Engagement

How to support the work of the Global and Field Protection Clusters?

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) values the partnership with Member States and donors, who through their continuous engagement and constructive contributions, help strengthen a shared protection narrative and support the collective capacity to stay and deliver in protection crises. Predictable and sustained commitments and contributions to the GPC also benefit the humanitarian community as a whole, ensuring that protection is central to humanitarian action.

So far, the GPC was able to count on the support of a wide range of stakeholders acting and advocating at both global, regional and national levels. For the coming years, the aim is to enhance the quality of our programmes and impacts on the ground via further multi-agency, member state and donor deployments and contributions. While the GPC relies on traditional funding models, broadening the base of resource mobilisation partners and engaging partners to respond creatively is crucial to making protection contextually appropriate.

This paper offers a menu of prioritized activities and modalities for Member States and donors to engage with and support the work of the Global Protection Cluster, AoRs, Task Teams and 32 national Protection Clusters.

Support field cluster coordination and operational footprint
- Support protection projects in the Humanitarian Response Plans.
- Attend Protection Cluster meetings ahead of funding allocation/humanitarian response plans.
- Ensure appropriate level of funding is provided to the field Protection Clusters and their AoRs, to a level similar or above to other clusters.
- Set mandatory protection requirement in project proposals to ensure protection is mainstreamed and central to the humanitarian response.
- Contribute to Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) and other grant making mechanisms to increase access to funding by local actors.
- Set funding conditions to ensure that local actors are given equal footing to international actors.

Support advocacy for protection
- Engage in critical debates, active advocacy and diplomatic efforts on protection issues to support the achievement of quality protection outcomes.
- Help strengthen a shared protection narrative and support the collective capacity to stay and deliver in protection crises.
- Focus on improved funding commitments, actions and accountability from donors for protection across humanitarian response and advocacy efforts.
- Facilitate dialogue with donors on ensuring the Centrality of Protection into humanitarian action.
- Explore with the GPC how joined up strategy and action through funding and advocacy can be further realised in the protection work.
- Facilitate collective advancement on protection topics that effectively encourage and stimulate principled donor behaviour and, by extension, improved humanitarian action.
Engage in globally led protection events

- Participate in private briefings on country or thematic issues organized by the GPC with donors and/or Member States representatives at capital level. Intervene and provide a pledge or statement during the 30-min moderated dialogue between Member States and speakers, which often include Protection Cluster/AoR Coordinators and members, humanitarian leadership and other relevant protection experts, depending on format and focus.

- Co-host and/or participate in the GPC Mid-Year Event and Review of Protection Funding which presents tangible findings into protection resources at mid-year point and draws attention to underfunded operations or specialized protection areas. Intervene and provide a pledge or statement in plenary.

- Co-host and/or participate in GPC Roundtable Discussions and Events on key protection issues, including ad hoc roundtable discussions, dialogue and events linked to new research findings, policy analysis and advocacy priorities as well as annual advocacy events led by the GPC, including the Global Protection Forum (taking place in October).

- Participate in the GPC End-of-Year Event organized on the eve of the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview which includes a high-level segment dedicated to the intervention of 10 key protection champions (Government representatives, ambassadors and other partners from Member States and donors). Share a commitment to protection for the year ahead through a live 30 second statement.

Support the GPC Operations Cell, AoRs and Task Teams

- Contribute to the GPC-led initiatives and programmes originating from its Strategic Framework (2020-2024) and yearly budgeted workplan with key deliverables covering the areas of analysis, advocacy, field support or learning.

- Support the deployments/secondments of thematic experts to the GPC Operations Cell, AoRs or Task Team building on comparative advantages and expertise within the sector.

- Support the secretariat function of one of the five Task Teams, dedicated to human rights engagement, anti-trafficking, cash for protection, advocacy and law and policy.

- Participate in the GPC Annual Donor Meeting as an opportunity to take stock of the GPC achievements and discuss the GPC strategic direction and priorities. Share suggestions and views on contributions to the work of the GPC, room for improvement, or any other relevant topics of interest.

- Engage in/request to set up a regular/private consultation with the GPC Coordinator to maintain continuous dialogue and foster engagement on current activities, challenges and advocacy opportunities.

The GPC maintains a regular channel of communication with its wider network, including with Member States and donors with the aim of sharing new publications, reports and analysis from the 32 national protection clusters as well as global events. Member States and donor’s technical protection experts or other members can request to be added to the contact list. Please reach out to Celine Maret for any questions (maret@unhcr.org).

All key documents are accessible on the GPC website: https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/