

BUILT TO HOLD – PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH HUMANITARIAN AND CLIMATE CRISES

2ND MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON EVAC
Manila, Philippines

17 November 2026
13:30 - 17:00 PHT
Manila Ballroom C

WE ARE LIVING THROUGH AN UNPRECEDENTED MOMENT. MORE CHILDREN TODAY ARE GROWING UP AMID CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT AND CLIMATE-DRIVEN EMERGENCIES THAN AT ANY POINT IN RECENT MEMORY.

Humanitarian crises are violence multipliers for children: **conflict, displacement, and climate shocks** don't just disrupt children's lives — **they strip away the systems meant to protect them** and open the door to heightened and new violence, exploitation, neglect, and abuse.

Yet children affected by crises remain too often at the margins of the fight to end violence against children. This session makes the case for centring them instead: these are the children facing some of the highest risks and the most fragile protection — which is exactly why they **belong at the heart of EVAC**, not its edges.

But violence is not inevitable. The evidence is clear: **when child protection systems are built to bend without breaking, children stay safer** — before, during, and after crisis.

This session **puts that evidence on the table alongside the people living and driving the solutions:** researchers, practitioners, governments, and above all - young people with direct, lived experience of crisis and displacement. Together, they will make the case for what needs to change — and what it will take to fund and strengthen systems children can rely on, whatever the shock.

Part 1 — Reality Check and Solutions (13:30–15:00): New evidence, a first-hand account of what crisis does to children, and one bold conversation on what actually works.

Part 2 — From Evidence to Action (15:30–17:00): Five technical action labs turn today's evidence into commitments participants carry into the Ministerial and home with them.

Refreshments provided! During the break, grab a snack and visit our research showcase to explore the evidence presented during the session.

Interpretation will be available in **French, Spanish, and Arabic.**

As humanitarian and climate crises intensify, protecting children has never been more urgent.

Register now and join the conversation.

For more info, please contact
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EVERY CHILD PROTECTED



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AGENDA

13:30: Welcome and Framing

13:40: Keynote Address – Protecting every child in a world of escalating crises

13:50: Reality Check – What's Actually Happening to Children Right Now

14:30: Panel – Solutions that Meet the Moment

15:00: Break – Evidence on Display + Refreshments and Snacks

15:30: Technical Action Labs
- Lab 1: Crisis Proof Child Protection Systems
- Lab 2: Prevention amidst Humanitarian Crises
- Lab 3: Financing that Doesn't Wait for the Headlines
- Lab 4: Child and Youth-Led Solutions
- Lab 5: Climate-Resilient Child Protection

16:30: Plenary – What are you taking home?

16:50: Closing – From Evidence to Commitments

SPEAKERS

Master of Ceremonies: Cornelius Williams

Keynote: Dr Najat Maalla M'jid – UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

Reality Check: What's Actually Happening to Children Right Now
- **Moderator:** *Prof Lucie Cluver, University of Oxford*
- **Yashiba Sanil** – Policy and Operations Manager, MYCP
- **Lara van Kouterik** – Interim Co-CEO & Director of Strategy, Evidence, and Impact, Girls Not Brides
- **Prof. Ilan Cerna-Turoff** – Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Cornell University
- **Jing Pura** – Country Director, Educo Philippines, ChildFund Alliance
- **Elspeth Chapman** – Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy Specialist, The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

Panel: Solutions That Meet the Moment
- **Moderator:** *Bill Forbes, Global Director, Child Protection & Participation, World Vision International*
- **Neera Abigail Carrizales** – Children on the Move Programme Assistant, UNICEF Trinidad and Tobago
- **Weslie Ting Gatchalian** – Mayor of Valenzuela City, Philippines
- **Musa Gambo** – Programme Director, Grow Strong Foundation, Nigeria
- **Government Representative**, Somalia

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