

2026 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

Abstract Submission Guidance

Dates to be confirmed between 8 - 11 June 2026

Theme: Child Protection in a Resource-Constrained World: From Challenges in Financing to Innovative Solutions

You are invited to contribute your experiences, expertise, approaches, and perspectives to the upcoming [2026 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#). At a time when humanitarian needs are escalating while resources are tightening and the global legal and normative framework for protecting children due to increasing violations of international humanitarian and human rights law is under strain, collective reflection and exchange are critical to sustaining and strengthening child protection outcomes. Participants who wish to present are warmly encouraged to submit an abstract aligned with this year's theme by 13 February 2026.

Reflecting the realities of this context and the priorities identified by Alliance members and key stakeholders, the 2026 Annual Meeting will centre on the theme: **Child Protection in a Resource-Constrained World: From Challenges in Financing to Innovative Solutions**.

For more information on this year's theme, please read the [2026 Annual Meeting Background Paper](#) and the Alliance's [Brief on the Global Impact of Funding Cuts on Children and their Protection in Humanitarian Contexts](#).

When preparing your abstract, please briefly describe the concrete impacts of funding cuts and the evolving political and legal context at the global level on child protection, and address at least one of the following guiding questions.

Guiding Questions:

Adapting Child Protection Programming Under Resource Constraints

1. How have funding constraints affected the ability of child protection actors to meet the Child Protection Minimum Standards (please specify which particular standard/s), and what strategies are being used to mitigate these impacts?
2. How are child protection actors adapting programme design, delivery, or prioritisation in response to reduced resources, while maintaining quality, ethics, and accountability to children?

3. What risks arise from abrupt programme closures, and what practices support ethical exit, continuity of care, and harm mitigation for children?

Local Leadership, Community Engagement, and Cross-Sector Collaboration

1. How are local and national actors navigating funding cuts, and what lessons can be learned about resilience, leadership, and locally driven solutions?
2. How are children, families, and communities being engaged as active agents in the protection of children when formal systems and services are under strain?
3. What examples exist of effective integration or collaboration across sectors that help protect children despite shrinking budgets?

Financing, Advocacy, and Systemic Transformation

1. What innovative financing approaches, resource mobilisation strategies, or funding models are being explored or implemented to sustain child protection programming in humanitarian contexts?
2. What role can advocacy, evidence generation, and collective action play in influencing donors, humanitarian leadership, and decision-makers to prioritise child protection in constrained environments?
3. What opportunities for reform, innovation, or transformation in the humanitarian system are emerging as a result of the current funding crisis, and how can these be leveraged to strengthen child protection outcomes in the longer term?

International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, and Accountability

1. How are increasing violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) affecting children and child protection responses in humanitarian contexts, particularly in situations of armed conflict and political instability?
2. What practical approaches are being used to document, prevent, or respond to grave violations against children when access, funding, and capacity are constrained?
3. What evidence or examples of advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy, or accountability efforts have led to tangible improvements in protection outcomes or respect for children's rights?

Virtual Participation:

Registration will be open to all who would like to participate, with the meeting being held on Zoom. Once registration is open, additional information will be provided [via our website](#) and [CPHA Community of Practice](#). You can also subscribe to our [Newsletter](#) to get timely updates on registration directly to your inbox.

It is expected that interpretation into our core languages (French, Spanish, Arabic) will be provided for selected sessions. Depending on available resources and demand, we will strive to provide interpretation services to enable those who would like to engage in these core languages.

The meeting will combine structured thematic sessions with participatory, open formats designed to maximise exchange, reflection, and collective problem-solving.

Part of the meeting will be held using an “open space” format. In this approach, participants themselves help shape the agenda by proposing discussion topics linked to the meeting theme. This format is intended to surface emerging issues, encourage peer learning, and enable deeper exploration of practical challenges and solutions in the current environment.

Abstract Submission:

Abstracts should clearly link to the meeting theme and contribute to shared learning, strategic discussion, or collective action related to child protection in a resource-constrained world.

How to contribute with a short presentation to a thematic session:

- Submit a brief 10-minute presentation. If selected, your presentation will be combined with 2-3 others on related topics to form a 60-90 minute session, which will also include time for discussion among presenters and participants.
- Sessions will be led by an Alliance facilitator.
- Please highlight which guiding question(s) you are responding to and one key message your presentation will provide. This can include a good, new, or emerging practice, unexpected outcome or solution, challenge, lesson learned, or even failure. Or you may wish to pose a question to participants to generate inputs.

Note: If your organisation can provide someone skilled to facilitate the session, your abstract is grouped into, we would love to hear from you¹.

Criteria for Reviewing Submissions:

Required:

- Presented in English, French, Spanish, or Arabic
- Relevance: to the meeting theme, including its child protection focus
- Usefulness: Child Protection actors and broader humanitarian and development actors can benefit from the knowledge gap addressed by the session.
- Clarity and presentation: The abstract clearly describes key messages, outcomes, and the target audience of the session, as per the guiding questions.

Preferable/Encouraged:

- Abstracts that share clear, relevant, and insightful challenges and lessons learned.
- Abstracts from local/national actors and/or highlighting the engagement of local/national actors in humanitarian action.

¹ Via the Submission Form

- Abstracts that include/provide a strong example from a women-led, child or youth-led, or local/national actor.

Next Steps:

1) Peer support for abstract preparation: If you are a local/national/youth actor and would like support through the abstract submission process, please contact annualmeeting2026@alliancecpha.org as soon as possible and no later than 24 January 2026.

2) Submission: Use [THIS LINK](#) to complete and submit your abstract by **13 February 2026**. If you have any difficulties accessing or completing the online form, please contact us at annualmeeting2026@alliancecpha.org.

Please remember that many sessions will be recorded and live-streamed. Please ensure that the content of your abstract does not put you or others you are working with at risk. This is particularly important for children and youth.

3) Selection: An interagency committee will review your abstract according to the following criteria to select those to be presented. Each year, we receive more abstracts than we can accommodate! It helps us to assess your submission against the criteria if you use the online form. **Please note that if your abstract is not selected, you will have other opportunities to contribute and participate in the meeting.**

4) Preparation: Please review the dates below before submitting to make sure you are available if selected.

Key Dates for your Diary:

- **24 January 2026:** Deadline to request mentorship support for your abstract submission.
- **13 February 2026:** Deadline for abstract submission.
- **27 March 2026:** Confirmation of selected abstracts (latest expected date).
 - After this, you need to be available for some online meetings to prepare.
- **Week of 6-10 April 2026:** Facilitator Training and Briefings for session speakers.
- **8 May 2026:** Deadline for draft session material.
- **29 May 2026:** Deadline for final session material.