

2025 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

Abstract Submission Guidance

Dates to be confirmed between 2 - 13 June 2025

Theme: Protection of Children from the Ground Up - Enhancing Localised Approaches in Conflict and Crises

You are welcome to contribute your valuable experiences, approaches, and innovations at the upcoming 2025 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Your insights are crucial in enhancing our efforts to ensure the protection and well-being of children in the context of enhancing localised approaches in conflict and crises.

The 2025 meeting will be held online. It is expected to emphasise local, national and regional humanitarian contexts, while retaining its global focus.

The 2025 theme is: **Protection of Children from the Ground Up: Enhancing Localised Approaches in Conflict and Crises**. This theme was informed and selected by over 200 key stakeholders across the Alliance.

It enables a focus on locally-led child protection prevention and response actions, actions that are driven and informed by children and their communities, and contextualised approaches that work with local systems. It will extend a focus on localisation and local actors, to include the agency and meaningful participation of children, families and communities, and the role of international and local actors in facilitating this. As well as grounding these considerations in the realities of humanitarian action, and its evolving nature.

The instances and severity of conflict and crises, including climate crises, have escalated significantly in recent years.¹ This can increase risk to children, and erode the protective environment they need to survive and thrive; an environment that in normal times enables families, communities and local actors to provide for children's protection and wellbeing. This meeting will explore the measures that can be taken from the ground-up to address these gaps to prevent and respond to harm to children.

¹ <https://alliancecpha.org/en/annual-meeting-2024/background-paper>

Note: In this document we are using the following working definitions, which may be updated during this drafting of the background paper²:

- **Community:** For framing of what a community is see Standard 17 of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action³. We are including within the term ‘community’, “children, caregivers, extended family members, community leaders including religious leaders, organized community groups (i.e., women’s groups, adolescent clubs), etc.”⁴
- **Local actor:** In using the term ‘local actor’ we are primarily focused on national governments and national non-governmental organisations. We acknowledge that some include children and communities within the term local actors. We are not considering national offices of international regional NGOs as local actors.

The 2024 Global Humanitarian Overview flagged that, in light of a system that is severely under-resourced it is more cost efficient to work through local and national actors;⁵ a finding further explored in analysis from Ukraine.⁶ The meeting will feature actions that have already been taken by communities and local actors as first responders. It may also consider the role of communities and local actors in contexts that are not typical ‘humanitarian settings’ and that lack the ‘architecture’ this brings.

As part of any reforms and shifts in our ways of thinking and doing to achieve this, it is imperative to observe the principle of subsidiarity - that decisions are made and actions taken as close as possible to those they affect. Which includes lobbying others to see children and adolescents as capable of self-protection and informing protection actions, and investing in harnessing these contributions to ensure better quality actions. As well as strengthening coordination mechanisms and responses, including local leadership, from local to national.

The meeting will be grounded in a recognition of the value of community-led and locally-led action for context specificity, impact and sustainability. As well as the challenges of this in some conflict and crisis contexts. We are aiming to achieve higher levels of community ownership in our child protection actions.⁷ To achieve this ground-up approach, we need to consider which obstacles need to be overcome and the approaches that need to be adopted.

² For this we drew upon the following: https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/migrated/2021-07/IASC%20Guidance%20on%20Strengthening%20Participation%2C%20Representation%20and%20Leadership%20of%20Local%20and%20National%20Actors%20in%20IASC%20Humanitarian%20Coordination%20Mechanisms_2.pdf

³ https://alliancecpha.org/en/CPMS_home page 189

⁴ https://alliancecpha.org/sites/default/files/technical/attachments/Theory%20of%20Change_CCP.pdf page 3

⁵ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2025-enarfres> pages 8-9

⁶ https://d3jwam0i5codb7.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/PTB_Ukraine_FINALREPORTv10.pdf

⁷ <https://alliancecpha.org/en/technical-materials/theory-change-ccp>

Protecting children requires a strong investment in people⁸: in principled, competent and well supported staff, engaged local communities, as well as families and children themselves. It is the interaction between people, across the social ecology of the child, that makes the difference between a child that is harmed or at risk and a child that is safe and well.

Guiding Questions:

We invite you to submit abstracts for a short thematic talk, or an in-depth session, that is clearly linked to the meeting theme. You may want to consider responding to one of the following questions.

1. What is the impact of locally led/driven action on child protection, including sustainability of positive outcomes?
2. How have efforts to better understand and adapt to context-specificities, including through deep listening and reflection with the community, led to better child protection outcomes?
3. How have we, and could we, connect the local to the global for strengthened child protection outcomes?
4. How is the concept of 'as local as possible, as international as necessary' being translated into action within humanitarian child protection?
5. How can we facilitate more equitable partnerships to strengthen (or support) local actors in humanitarian child protection and shift power to them?
6. How can a 'ground-up' approach to child protection ensure timely and effective responses, and how have communities, governments and local NGOs acted as first responders for child protection in a crisis?
7. How has strengthening of local and national child protection systems led to stronger child protection outcomes during crises, and stronger, more sustainable, systems post-crisis?
8. How have children, communities and local and national actors led and collaborated in advocacy for the protection of children?
9. What is needed to facilitate child and community engagement in project cycles to achieve accountability to children?
10. How are child protection actors, and other sector actors, engaging and supporting the leadership of children, communities and local actors in child protection programming?
11. What role have, and could, the local and national private sector and academic institutions play in child protection interventions in humanitarian and fragile contexts?
12. To what extent are child protection actors engaging diverse national and local actors, including child and women-led groups, or those representing or led by vulnerable and often excluded groups such as persons with disabilities, refugees, LBTQI+ community?

Please also feel free to take a look at the [Alliance's 2021-2025 Strategy](#) for inspiration!

⁸ https://alliancecpa.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/Technical%20Annex_Recommendations%20to%20Support%20the%202023%20Overview%20of%20the%20Impact%20of%20Crises%20on%20Children%20and%20Their%20Protection_English_FINAL.pdf

Virtual Attendance:

Registration will be open to all that would like to participate, with the meeting being held on Zoom. With additional content provided via [our website](#) and [CPHA Community of Practice](#).

It is expected that interpretation into our core languages (French, Spanish, Arabic) will be provided for opening and closing sessions and special events. We will strive to provide interpretation services to enable those who would like to speak in these core languages. Due to limited budget, interpretation beyond this is likely to be limited to additional sessions that require it, to facilitate the participation of a speaker.

Types of Submission: We are inviting you to share your contributions on the meeting theme in one of 2 ways:

1) CONTRIBUTE A SHORT TALK TO A THEMATIC SESSION:

- Submit a brief 10-minute talk. If selected, your talk 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.
- Session will be led by an Alliance facilitator.
- Please highlight the one key message your talk will provide. This can include a good, new, or emerging practice, unexpected outcome or solution, challenge, lesson learned, 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 you⁹; simple training would be provided.

2) LEAD AN IN-DEPTH SESSION:

- Submit a 60 or 90 minute session to drive strategic discussion and collective action. If requesting a 90-minute session, please include a justification and an alternative plan for a 60-minute session in case the full time is not available.
- Please indicate the format of your session (to the best of your knowledge): panel discussion,¹⁰ workshop,¹¹ interactive session,¹² roundtable.¹³
- Sessions should have a clear objective and intended outcome.
- Sessions should have an identified facilitator and speakers.

⁹ Via the Submission Form

¹⁰ Panel discussion: A group of experts who exchange insights and views, facilitated by a moderator who coordinates interaction with the audience.

¹¹ Workshops: On a given technical theme and are interactive.

¹² Interactive Session: Updates and group discussion to exchange views and to achieve improvement on a given topic.

¹³ Roundtable: Several speakers discuss various parts of the subject from different perspectives. A moderator facilitates the discussion. Participants may be invited to engage. Ideal for smaller groups.

- Sessions should have an identified focal point from the submitting entity, who will be responsible for coordinating with all involved, including the Alliance focal point.
- We welcome submitting agencies providing interpretation for these sessions, as we may need to prioritise available budgets for other sessions.

Note: We are aiming to select a smaller number of abstracts in 2025 than in past meetings, to ensure a tight focus on the meeting theme. As such, we will open the opportunity to present any non-selected, quality,¹⁴ abstracts via a poster instead. Please find the 2023 Poster Gallery (previously *Infographic Gallery*) [here](#) for reference. However, we would give quality abstracts from international or regional NGOs from the 'majority world' preference over those from international NGOs.

Next Steps:

1) Mentorship: If you are a local / national / youth actor and would like a mentor to accompany you through abstract submission process, please contact achieng.kokonya@alliancecpha.org copying annualmeeting2025@alliancecpha.org as soon as possible and no later than 31 January, 2025.

2) Submission: Use [THIS LINK](#) to complete and submit your abstract by **7 February 2025**. If you have any difficulties accessing or completing the online form, please contact us at annualmeeting2025@alliancecpha.org.

Please remember! Many sessions will be recorded and live streamed. Please ensure that the content of your session 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 below 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.

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

¹⁴ See criteria below.

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 wider humanitarian and development actors can benefit from the gap in knowledge that the session addresses.
- Clarity and presentation: The abstract clearly describes key messages, outcomes, and target audience of the session.

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

Key Dates for your Diary:

- **24 January 2024:** Deadline to request for mentorship support for your abstract submission.
- **7 February 2024:** Deadline for abstract submission.
- **17 March 2024:** Confirmation of selected abstracts (latest expected date).
- **Week of 7-11 April 2024:** Briefings for session speakers and facilitators.
 - After this you need to be available for some online meetings to prepare.
- **9 May 2024:** Deadline for draft session material.
- **30 May 2024:** Deadline for final session material.