



AN OVERVIEW OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Introduction of 2024 Annual Meeting

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (the Alliance) organised the 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action in Panama City, Panama from the 4th to 6th of June. The Annual Meeting focused on protecting children in escalating conflict and crises, with a specific focus on armed violence, climate shocks, and displacement in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The meeting was held in both English and Spanish and served as an interactive forum for practitioners around the world to collectively advocate for real change, as well as an opportunity to share and discuss their evidence, lessons learned, and successes in protecting children in escalating conflicts in crises at the global and regional level.

This year's theme was selected based on input from over 300+ members and key stakeholders, who predominantly selected “**protecting children in escalating conflict and crises**” as the top priority for discussion at the 2024 Annual Meeting, along with armed violence/conflicts, the climate crisis, and displacement. Explore the recommendations made by participants regarding the meeting theme [here](#).

The Annual Meeting serves as an opportunity for humanitarian actors to come together and exchange knowledge and experience, while networking with other agencies, academics, policy makers, and donors. This year's annual meeting hosted 148 participants in Panama City. The meeting also engaged 594 viewers during the live streamed sessions on YouTube and Facebook.



Facilitator and Speaker Organisations:

All Survivors Project	Government of Mexico
Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental (ACISAM)	HIAS
Bureau for Information, Exchanges, and Research for Development (BIFERD)	Hurras Network
Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Casa Alianza de Honduras	International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
ChildFund International	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Chronique Droit et Enfants	Jesuit Refugee Services
CONACMI	Legal Services for Children
Community Initiative for Development Organisation (CIDO)	Plan International
Dallaire Institute	RET International
ECHO	Save the Children
ECPAT International	Street Child
Educo	SOS Children's Village
Fundación Ranacer	UNICEF
Global Affairs Canada	UNIANDES (Universidad de los Andes)
Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR)	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Global Communities	University of Port Harcourt
Global Education Cluster	World Vision
	War Child

Alliance Working Groups, Task Forces, and Initiatives Represented:

Advocacy Working Group (Street Child)	Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Task Force (Plan International)
Assessment, Measurement, and Evidence Working Group (UNICEF Innocenti Global Office of Research and Foresight)	Community-Level Child Protection Task Force (World Vision)
Child Protection Minimum Standards Working Group (IRC & Save the Children)	Accountability to Children Initiative (IRC)
Learning & Development Working Group (Plan International & UNICEF)	Prevention Initiative (Plan International)
Case Management Task Force (Save the Children)	Working Across Sectors Advisory Group (Save the Children)



2024 Annual Meeting Key Materials:

Explore the links below to find the key material outputs from the 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

- **2024 Annual Meeting Recordings Playlist in [English](#)** - with translated captions in Spanish, French, and Arabic!
- **2024 Annual Meeting Recordings Playlist in [Spanish](#)** - with translated captions in English!
- [Live Drawings](#) from the 2024 Annual Meeting
- [Session Booklet](#) from the 2024 Annual Meeting
- [Facilitator and Speaker Bios](#) from the 2024 Annual Meeting
- Background Paper from the 2024 Annual Meeting - [Taking Action to Protect Children in Escalating Conflict and Crises: Armed Violence, Climate Shocks, and Displacement](#)
- Use the [2024 Annual Meeting Agenda](#) to guide you through this report!

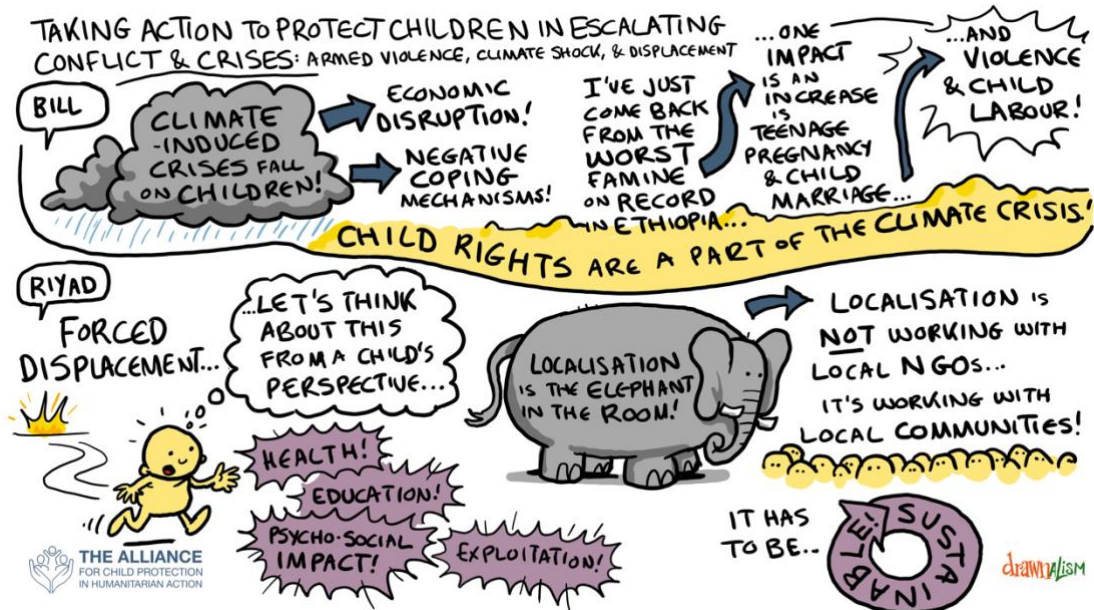
Missed the Annual Meeting? Find the links to the selection of recordings in English and Spanish below, along with select drawings and key takeaways from the sessions!¹

TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH

Plenary Session 1 & 2 |
Welcome, Keynote,
and Taking Action to
Protect Children in
Escalating Conflict and
Crises: Armed Violence,
Climate Shocks, and
Displacement –
[English](#) & [Spanish](#)



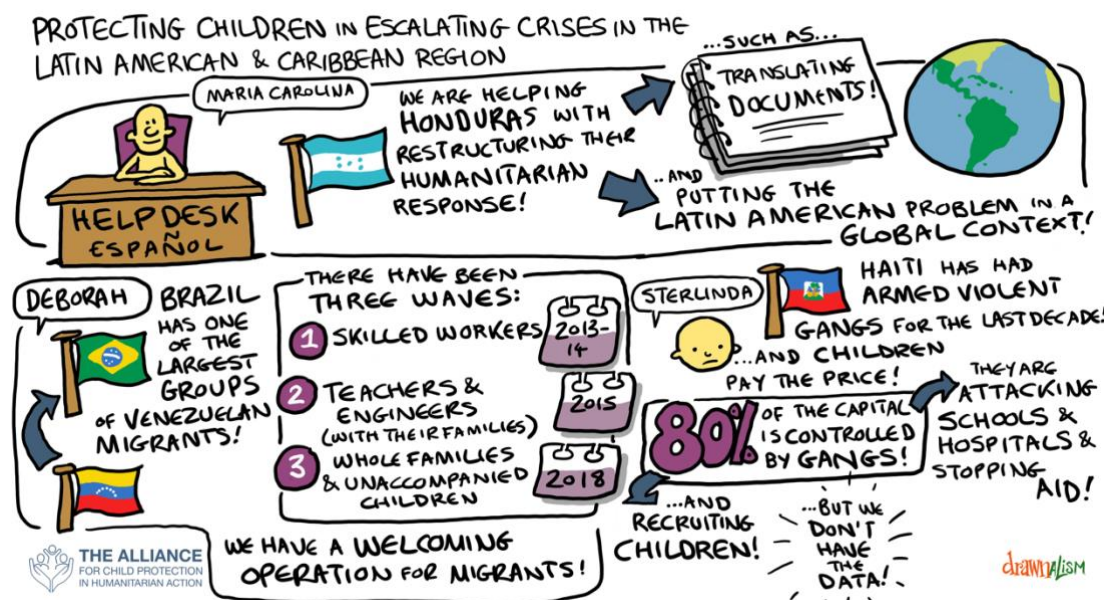
¹ Please note that due to technological errors, certain session recordings are not available at this time. We appreciate your patience and will send further communications when recordings become available.



Plenary Session 3 | Protecting Children in Escalating Crises in the Latin America and Caribbean Region – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. The Spanish Help Desk (or mesa de ayuda) for Latin America and the Caribbean on child protection provides countries and organisations with technical resources and support;
2. Thanks to the cooperation between the government, UN agencies, INGOs, and national NGOs, Brazil conducted coordinated responses to the Venezuelan crisis;
3. Children in Haiti face a dire humanitarian situation, with armed violence, recruitment, lack of access to schools and hospitals, and abduction and killing of children.



Interactive / Panel Session 1.1 | Listening to Children’s Voices - Experiences and Perceptions of Displaced Children – [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. “Children want to feel safe, without air alarms and fear of death (because of the war in Ukraine). Even if children fled abroad and now feel safe in a new place, it is painful to know that their homeland is at war and their friends, family and relatives are in danger.”
2. Practice hobbies and recreational activities are helpful for children to cope with stress, while sometimes there are less or affordable options for after-school activities. Also, some children are reluctant to participate due to a fear to plan a mid/long-term future because of the war.
3. Activities at Child Friendly Spaces are developed based on children’s opinion and needs. By being heard and involved in planning, children regained their confidence and strengthened their resilience.

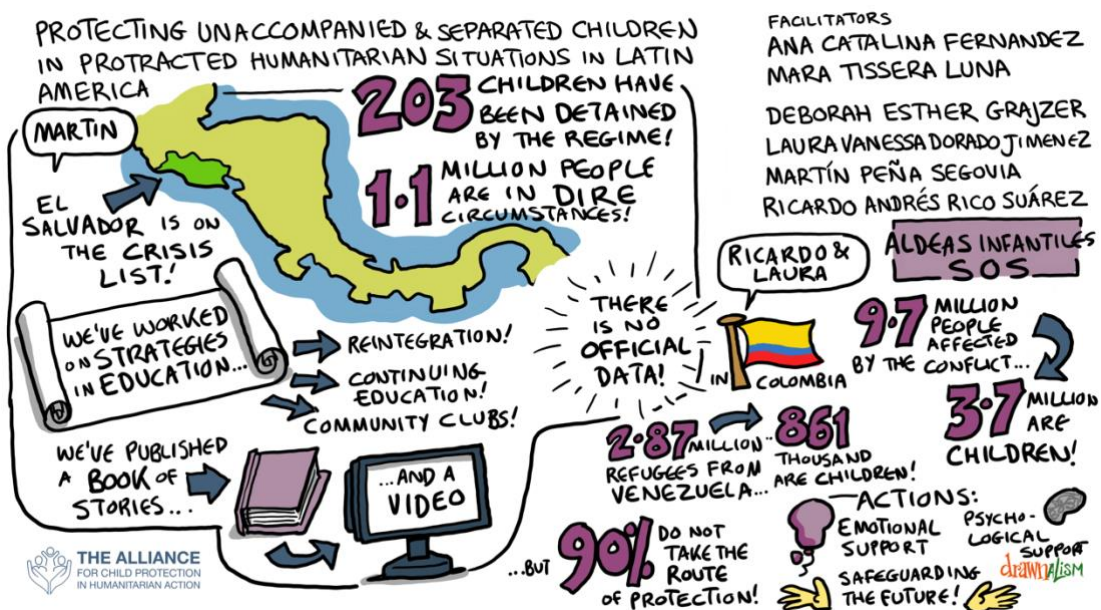
Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 3.1 | Working Across Sectors for Children’s Protection and Wellbeing: Emerging Good Practice in Collaboration and Partnership – [English](#)



Thematic Session 1.1 | Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Protracted Humanitarian Situations in Latin America - [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. El Salvador is a forgotten crises - Educo works with UASC including returnees as well as those internally displaced due to threats and extortion.
2. Aldeas Infantil in Colombia emphasises the need to work collaboratively across multi stakeholders to ensure children affected by humanitarian crises can grow up in families rather than institutions, as the Colombian protection system is overwhelmed by protracted crises
3. Brazil has a strong legal framework for child protection, including policies for the identification, family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied migrants, as well as initiatives for their education and integration.



Thematic Session 1.2 | Beyond Borders and Identities: Inclusive Case Management Approaches for Children on the Move and LGBTQI+ Children

Key Takeaways:

1. Following agreements with the US government, reforms in Mexican immigration law now prioritise children's best interests in cross-border policies and processes;
1. Formalised agreements between US and Mexico expand child protection to multiple ports, led by Immigration authorities;
2. Tailored case management and MHPSS approaches for LGBTQI+ children emphasise local partnerships and inclusive education.

Plenary Session 6 | Closing – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH

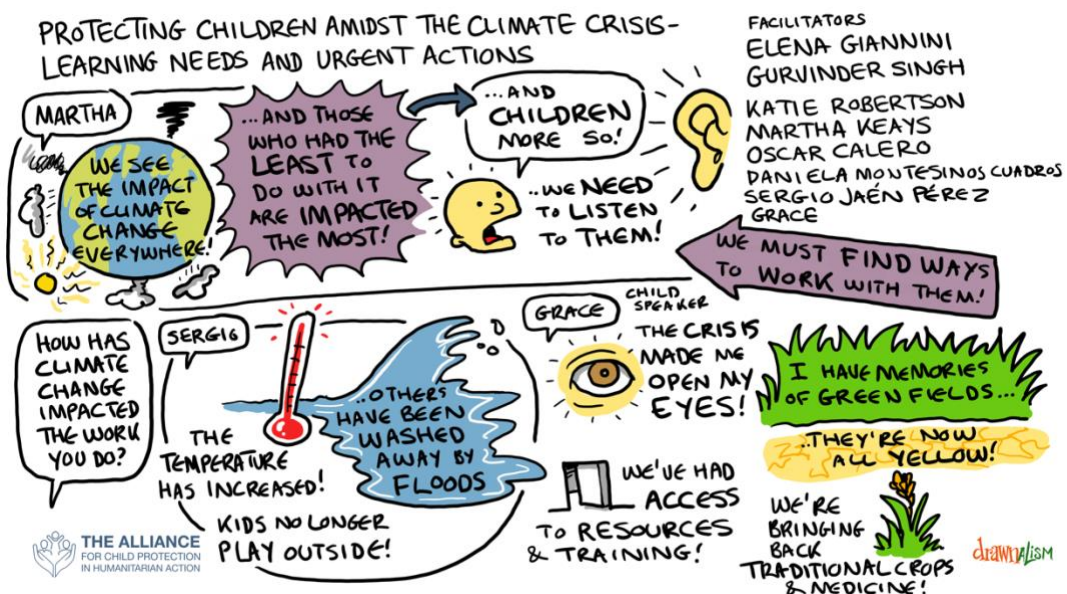
Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 1 | Hot Off the Press with the Alliance Working Groups, Task Forces, and Initiatives – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)



Interactive / Panel Session 2.1 | Protecting Children Amidst the Climate Crisis - Learning Needs and Urgent Actions

Key Takeaways:

1. Importance to recognise children as change agents; learn from youth activists to achieve climate-related child protection outcomes.
2. Localised actions improve child protection, mental health, and education amid climate crises, addressing local realities.
3. Prioritise anticipatory action for child protection in climate disasters; develop unified support packages and learning pathways.



Interactive / Panel Session 2.2 | Protecting Children in Displacement and Migration through Integrated Programming: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Integrated, multisectoral approaches are crucial for addressing the varied needs of children on the move.*
- 2. Coordination among sectors like health and education is essential to identify and refer to child protection concerns. Services provided to children on the move by other sectors can be key entry points to identify protection concerns, in addition to Child Friendly Spaces.*
- 3. Donors must support integrated programming to overcome competition for sectorial funding and enhance child protection efforts.*

Interactive / Panel Session 3.1 | Migration Experiences in Central America to the United States – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

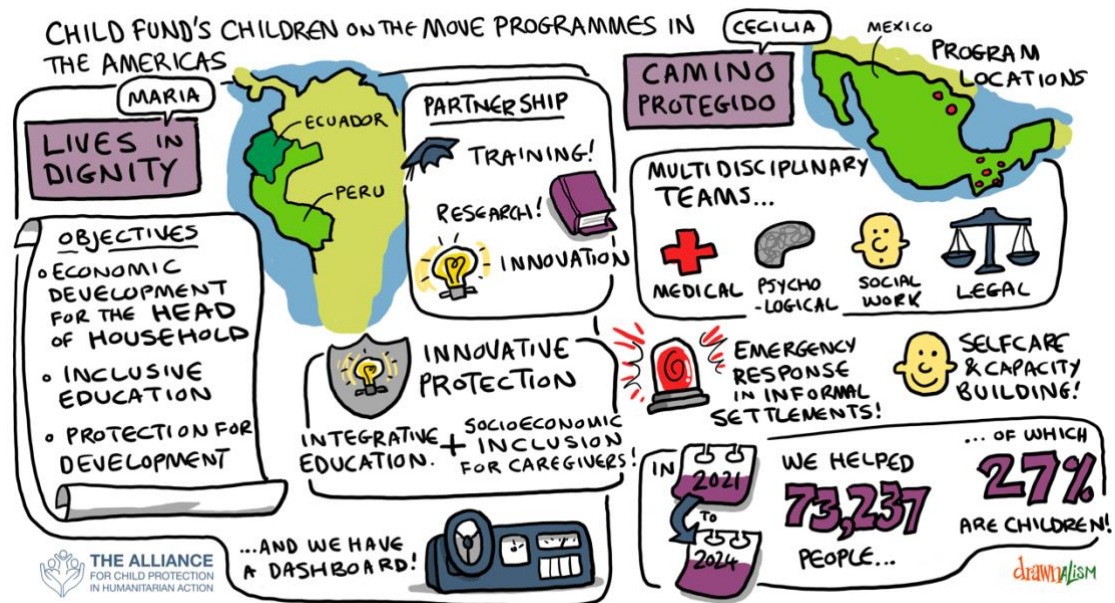
Key Takeaways

- 1. Charity is humiliating because it is exerted vertically from the top down. However, solidarity implies mutual respect. 'I have a lot to learn from others.' The Photovoice project has been running since 2019 and it has been done with a great sense of solidarity. Virtual gallery can be seen [here](#).*
- 2. The first thing adolescents in Guatemala want to do is leave to go to the United States, as the state is absent, with the highest rates of malnutrition in Latin America. In 2023, 42% of children reaching the United States were from Guatemala.*
- 3. "I wanted to change my future. I wanted to change the future of my little sisters. I just kept saying to myself, I have to get there so I can come back and help. And at some point I wanted to give up. I wanted to say "I need to go back to my home. I want to go back to my mother". I was a girl. I was only 14. But I know if I went back to that little town: No future. Getting married at a very young age and just bearing children." Young woman recalling her experience of migrating alone at 14 years old.*



Interactive / Panel Session 3.2 | ChildFund's Children on the Move Programs

Session – [English](#)



Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 1.1 | Spotlight on CAAFAG

Resources and Socialisation Strategies – [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. The seven resources developed by the CAAFAG Task Force are being disseminated at national, regional, global, and organisational levels through online webinars and workshops and in-person training.
2. Actors from the LAC regions showed a lot of interest about the application of these resources in a context of armed violence, as opposed to armed conflict.
3. Countries such as Mexico have already used the programme development toolkit to measure the risks of recruitment by organised criminal groups.

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 3.2 | Working Together to

Improve Implementation and Advocacy on Accountability to Children – [Read the Overview Report](#)

Key Takeaways:

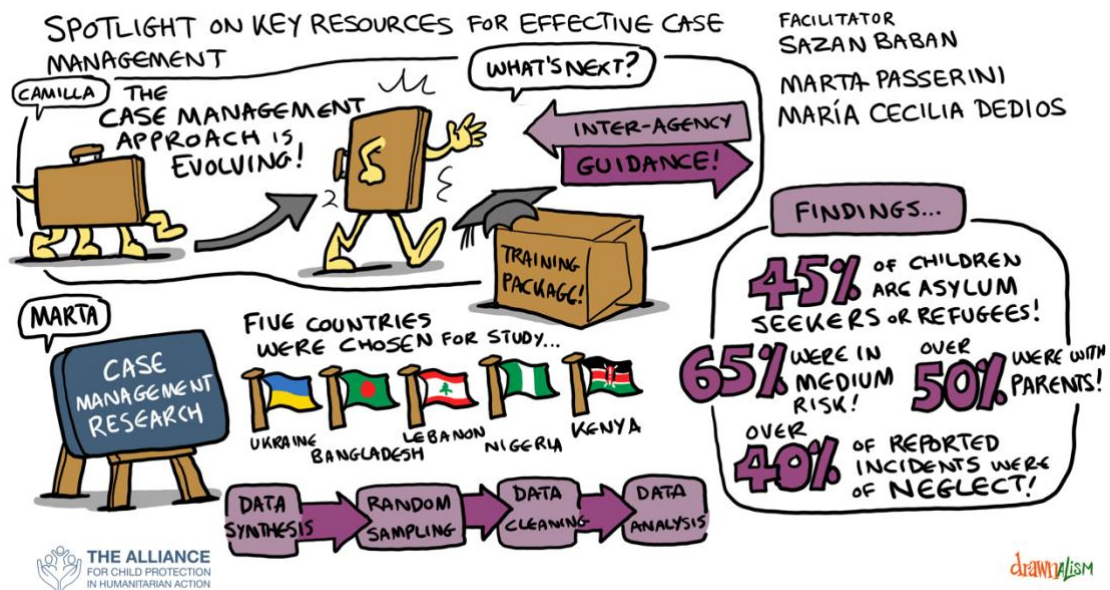
1. Ensure governments fulfil responsibilities using international Human Rights measures for effective child protection.
2. Focus on adolescent girls' abilities and vulnerabilities to prevent school dropout, early marriage, and exploitative work.

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION & ADVOCACY ON ACCOUNTABILITY TO CHILDREN

FACILITATORS
YVONNE AGENGO
CAMILLA JONES



Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 2.1 | Spotlight on Key Resources for Effective Case Management – [Read the Overview Report](#)



Key Takeaways:

1. There is now an opportunity to more systematically use the data generated from child protection case management to improve program quality, inform humanitarian response planning and to drive global advocacy on child protection risks and vulnerabilities and the resources that are required to address them.
2. Data from case management information management systems has been analysed in five countries, with learning around how case management is

done and improvements that can be made, with projects ongoing to address these gaps.

- 3. The Child Wellbeing Matters Project aims to identify the most effective parts of case management at improving child wellbeing. This will lead to the development of practical tools and resources to help frontline workers better support children in crisis situations.*

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 2.2 | Unpacking the Child Protection Funding Analysis - [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Emerging findings from the upcoming edition of "the Unprotected", the annual child protection funding analysis shows that: child protection disproportionately funded across HRPs (average 30% compared to 40% for all sectors), and there is inconsistency across HRPs and RRP, negatively impacting the quality of and reach of child protection efforts.*
- 2. Funding tracking, especially the Financial Tracking System, has seen major improvements since the analysis started five years ago. It is now able to capture child protection funding as part of multi-sector programmes for the first time, giving us a more accurate picture of child protection funding and donors.*
- 3. The Unprotected Funding Analysis is an important advocacy effort and practitioners and advocates are encouraged to draw from in their day to day advocacy efforts. Messaging to this end should focus .on what we can achieve when child protection is consistently and sufficiently funded*

Thematic Session 2.1 | Working with Communities - Supporting Local Solutions for Child Protection in Neglected Crisis - [Spanish](#)

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Community structures, like women's groups in Nicaragua, crucially support child protection during disasters by providing data and organising prevention campaigns.*
 - 2. Need to enhance disaster preparedness by better equipping communities to protect children effectively.*
 - 3. It is important to involve local actors in strategic discussions and connect them to donors to address power imbalances and support their efforts.*
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Thematic Session 2.2 | Towards Shifting Power to Local Actors, Lessons from the Ukraine Crisis Response – [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. Localisation should start immediately; low administrative capacity isn't a valid excuse to delay it.
2. Need to simplify financial and administrative processes for humanitarian protection grants to avoid start-stop disruptions.
3. Improve communication skills and channels for LNGOs to share their stories and generate independent funding.

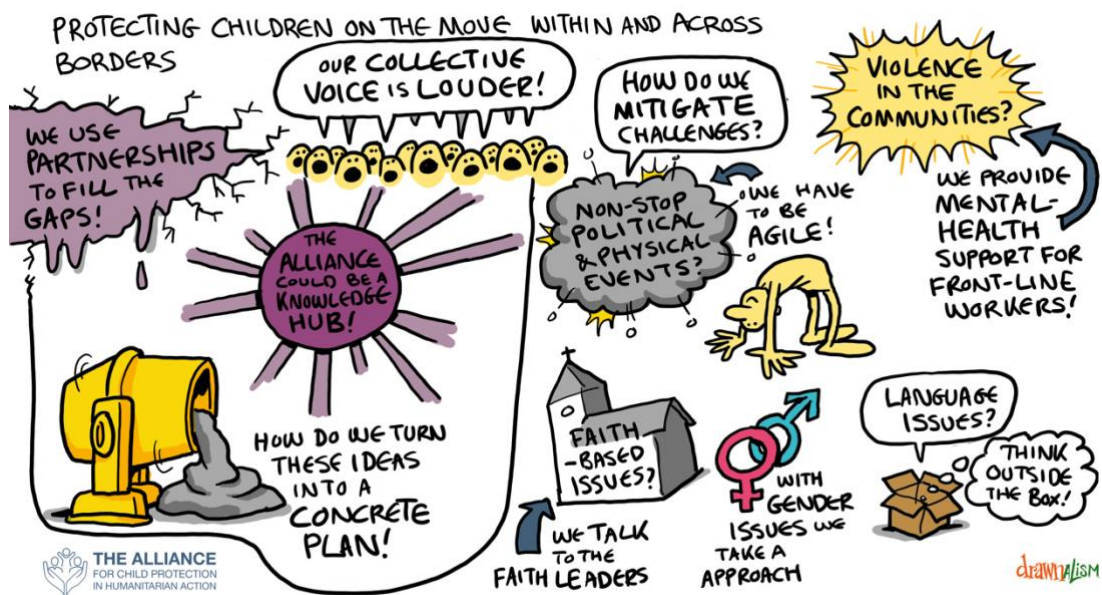
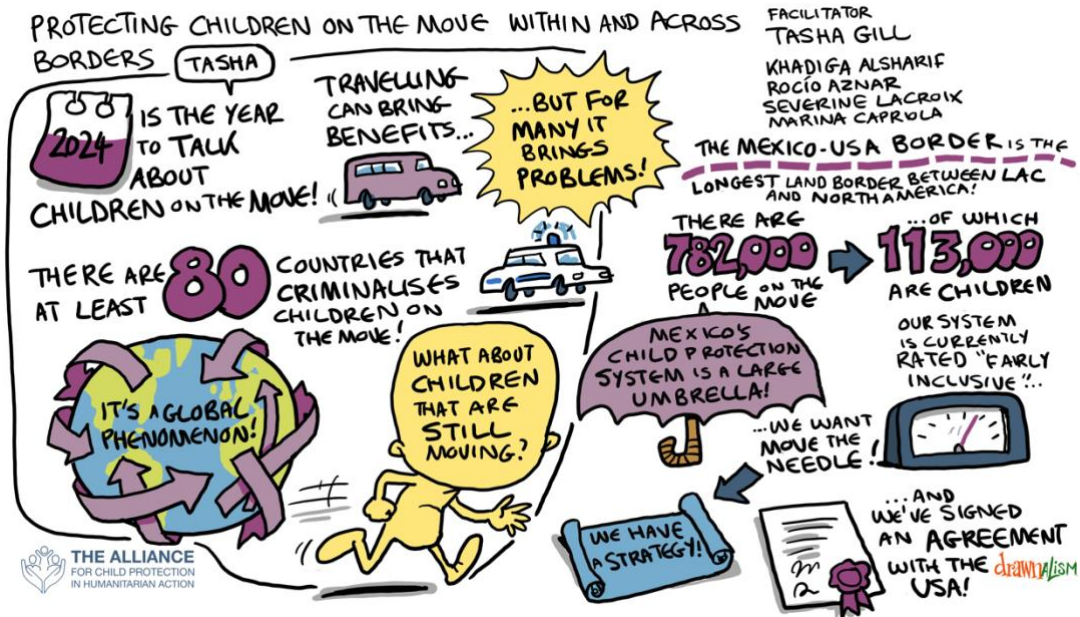
Thematic Session 2.3 | Same region, different experiences! Children on the Move in Venezuela and Mexico – [Spanish](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. In Venezuela, IRC partners with local organisations to provide health, education, food security, and protection services, mainly in border states. Programs include sexual and reproductive health, primary healthcare, and nutrition for children, along with trauma resilience and parental skills methodologies.
2. Plan International aids migrants at Mexico's borders with information dissemination, cash for protection for GBV victims, shelter support, case management, and psychosocial activities for children. They also conduct research and mobile education projects.

- Both programs focus on identity restitution, case management, and referrals for health and legal aid. Strengthening protection systems, especially within 72 hours for sexual violence survivors, is crucial. Coordinated efforts involve other NGOs and government actors as well.

Plenary Session 7 | Protecting Children on the Move Within and Across Borders – English



Plenary Session 8 | Can we do more with less? How to continue Serving Children in need of Humanitarian Assistance in the face of the Growing Gap between Needs and Resources – [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Donor representatives from BHA, BPRM and ECHO shared their honest and open insights, including practical tips, around the current status and future projects for child protection funding. During this session the importance of two-way dialogue between donors and practitioners and increased collaboration with child protection ‘donor champions’ was highlighted as critical to our advocacy efforts.*
- 2. The title of the session received feedback both before and during the session and it was felt our focus should not be about ‘doing less’ but how to influence decision making so that humanitarian funding is allocated to quality child protection prevention and response interventions. What is our narrative and what do we need to be doing better to support this - donor panellists highlighted using facts and evidence from the country level, advocating in clear simple language, and organisations coming together for collective advocacy, especially at regional level where this is currently weak.*
- 3. Participants shared their hopes and worries and ongoing advocacy efforts internally and externally in their organisations. Key themes emerging included concerns over how funding is allocated inconsistently across contexts with funds not going where it is needed; the importance of multi-sector programming but without diluting critical child protection services; and the importance of demonstrating the outcomes of child protection programming on child wellbeing as important way to advocate for child protection investments.*

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH:

Interactive / Panel Session 4.1 | Supporting the Humanitarian Sector to Deliver Interventions, including Boys affected by Sexual Violence – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Key Takeaways:

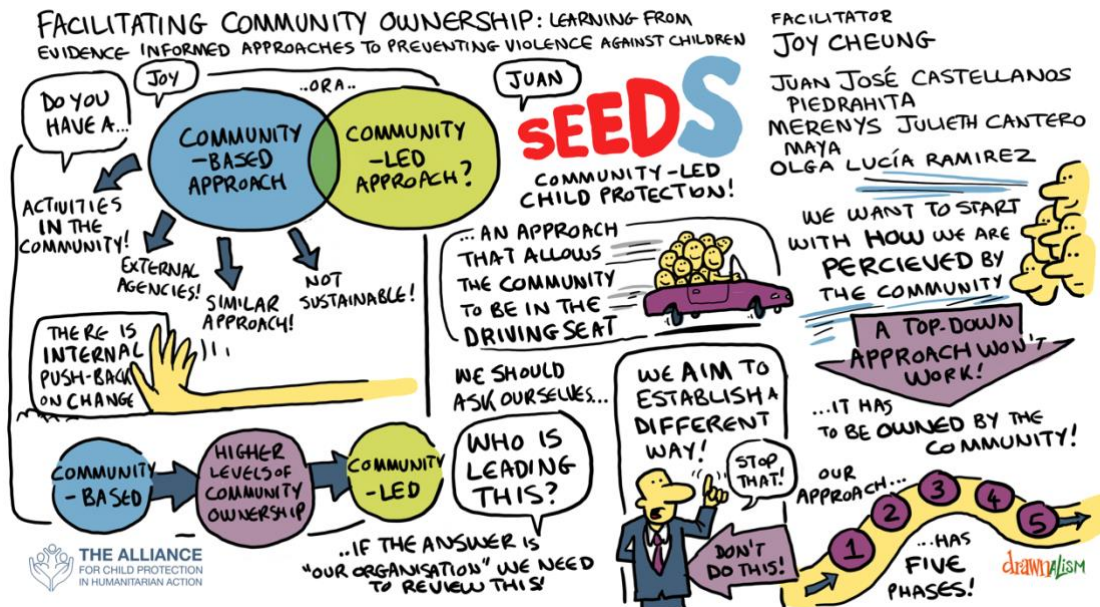
- 1. Addressing sexual violence against girls remains crucial alongside initiatives focusing on all survivors, including men and boys.*
 - 2. Global Initiative is actively developing a manifesto and welcomes inputs and feedback from stakeholders.*
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3. All Survivors Project's research highlights increased vulnerability of boys in conflict, necessitating inclusive legal frameworks and addressing social norms.

Interactive / Panel Session 4.2 | Facilitating Community Ownership: Learning from Evidence Informed Approaches to Preventing Violence Against Children - [Spanish](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. Shift from delivering solutions to facilitating community-led approaches in humanitarian interventions to foster sustainability and ownership.
2. Need to implement robust Accountability and MEAL systems to gather meaningful quantitative and qualitative data for evidence-based learning.
3. Embrace the CCP Theory of Change to guide program design, implementation, and advocacy, ensuring continuous learning and scaling up.



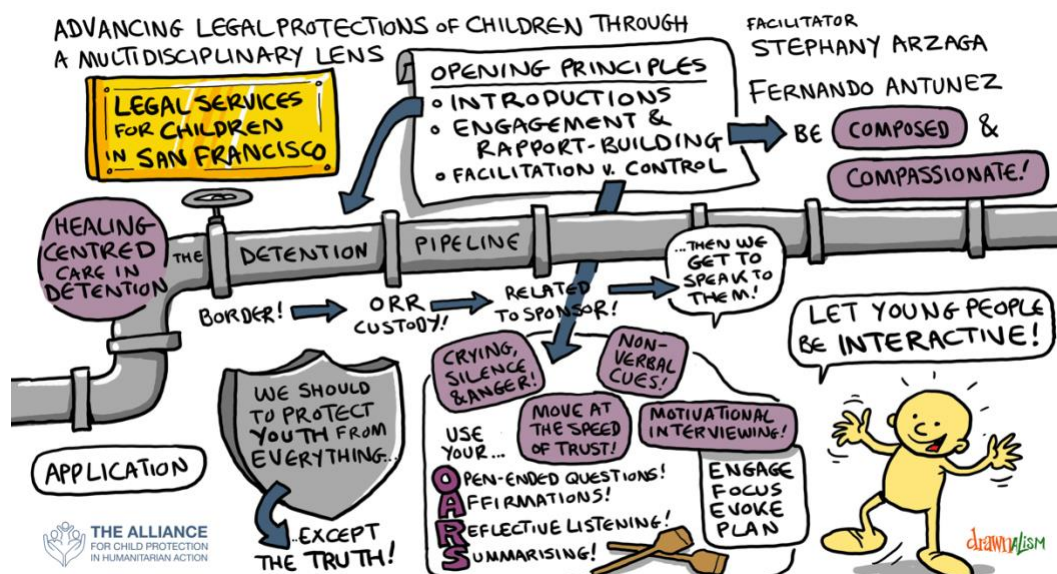
Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 3 | What's Next for the Alliance
Working Groups, Task Forces and Initiatives? - [English](#) & [Spanish](#)



Interactive / Panel Session 1.2 | Advancing Legal Protection of Children through a Multidisciplinary Lens – [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. *Multidisciplinary approach integrates expertise from various fields to enhance child protection strategies comprehensively.*
2. *Trauma-informed care crucial for supporting detained unaccompanied migrant youth, focusing on their emotional and psychological needs.*
3. *Call to explore how to integrate multidisciplinary methods into your work to improve child protection outcomes effectively.*



Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 4.1 | Updates on Prevention Initiative and Pilot Projects in Nigeria and South Sudan – [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Primary prevention programs are necessarily multi-sectoral and integrated in nature. Child Protection actors seeking to design, and implement primary preventive approaches must include colleagues from relevant sectors at all stages of the process.*
- 2. Primary prevention programs must be informed by an analysis of risk and protective factors in context. While there are common risk and protective factors across contexts, that does not mean that priorities for addressing such factors will defer based on context. Conducting a risk and protective factor ranking exercise, including a prioritisation process, is key to determining which factors your primary preventive program should aim at addressing.*
- 3. The Alliance has a wealth of resources to support its members in using primary preventive approaches. Starting in late summer, the Alliance's Primary Prevention Focal Point will be available to lead individual and group mentoring sessions for Alliance members interested in receiving tailored support to adopt primary preventive approaches in their programming.*

Thematic Session 3.1 | Protecting Children Crossing the Darien Gap - Sharing Challenges and Discussing Solutions – [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Thematic Session 3.2 | Accountability to Children for their Protection through Strong Legal and Participatory Frameworks - [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

- 1. IRC Ignite Project in Nigeria: Focus on inclusive education empowering girls and grassroots networks for transformative impact.*
- 2. Urgent need for laws protecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) amidst conflict-related sexual violence in Nigeria. Advocacy crucial for rights and against cultural barriers.*
- 3. World Vision Colombia highlighted the importance of emphasising on child participation, psychosocial support for unaccompanied children, and holistic case management integrating with other sectors.*

Thematic Session 3.3 | Strengthening Multisectoral Coordination and Mainstreaming of Child Protecting in Other Sectors - [English](#)



Key Takeaways:

1. *Child Protection Challenges in Mexico: Second most affected country in Latin America by climate change, strengthening child protection systems and civil protection actions. Advocacy, capacity building, evidence generation, and multisectoral coordination efforts underway, including PRONAPINNA implementation for emergencies.*
2. *Humanitarian Response in Venezuela: Established humanitarian architecture since 2019, emphasising child protection integration across sectors. Strengthened coordination among clusters, enhanced child protection actions, and leadership in thematic expertise through continuous capacity building.*

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 4.2 | Child Protection Minimum Standards: Best Practices and Priorities for the Latin America and Caribbean Region

– [English](#)



Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 1.2 | Do We Need “Needs” Assessments? When, how, why, and why not to use Rapid Assessments - [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. *To effectively advocate for child protection funding and inform responses early in conflict settings, there's a consensus on the need for stronger, more specific evidence. Opinions differ on whether this entails analysing existing data or collecting new primary data.*
2. *Challenges include poor coordination among actors, leading to information redundancy and assessment fatigue, and the lack of resources, which impedes*

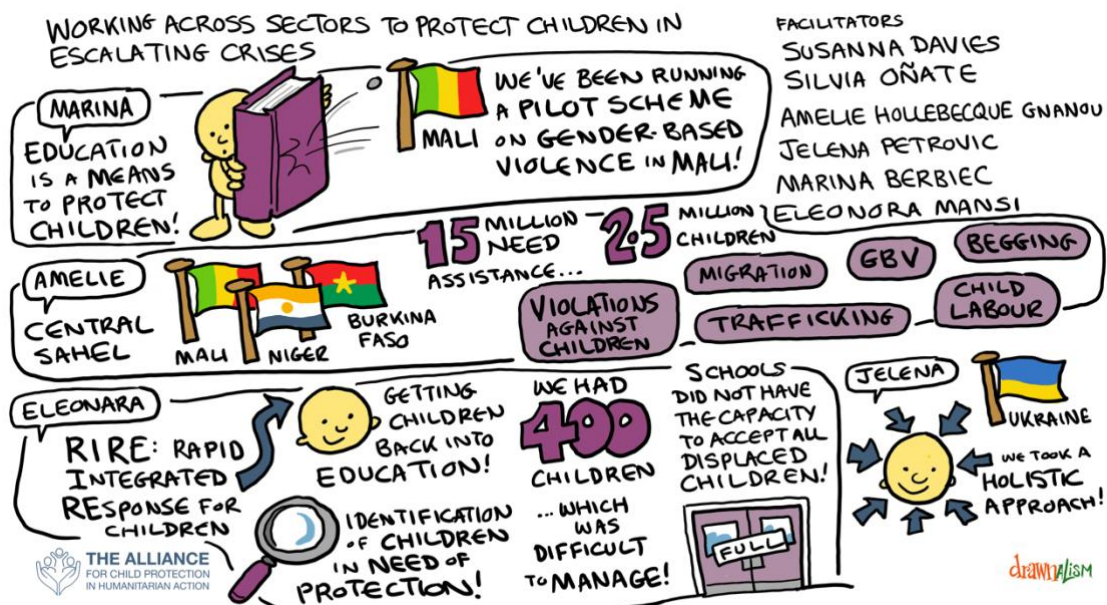
comprehensive data gathering. Problems also stem from data's poor quality and insufficient analysis, and inadequate assessment tools.

3. Recommendations for improvement include investing in the analysis of secondary data and creating an accessible evidence data bank, enhancing coordination and integrating CP questions into broader assessments, and providing better training and guidance for conducting meaningful, harmless assessments.

Thematic Session 4.1 | Working Across Sectors to Protect Children in Escalating Crises - [English](#)

Key Takeaways:

1. Education and Child Protection Integration: Emphasises collaboration between sectors, including GBV, crucial for effective programming and resilience funding initiatives.
2. Development of rapid response mechanism combining CP, education, and MHPSS based on joint analysis amid chronic underfunding in Integrated Response in the Sahel Crisis
3. Joint needs analysis enhances coordination, advocating globally for streamlined approaches replicable in diverse contexts.



Thematic Session 4.2 | Children Associated with Gangs and Organised Crime Groups in Latin America and the Caribbean - [English](#) & [Spanish](#)

Key Takeaways:

- 1. The differences between armed violence and armed conflict and the legal framework associated with each were explored.*
- 2. The urgency of the situation requiring a response, the visible and deep structural causes, and consequences and significant impacts, were discussed. The need for legal provisions to counter the use of children in the legal framework, the need to consider shared principles to inform the criminalisation, the lack of accountability, and the need for solidarity and hope, were highlighted.*
- 3. What can be done to support these children and prevent recruitment and use of children in the region was explored, with case studies from Brazil, Haiti and Honduras. We have to think about the factors that allow the armed groups to come in, what attracts children to the groups and direct and indirect prevention and response interventions.*

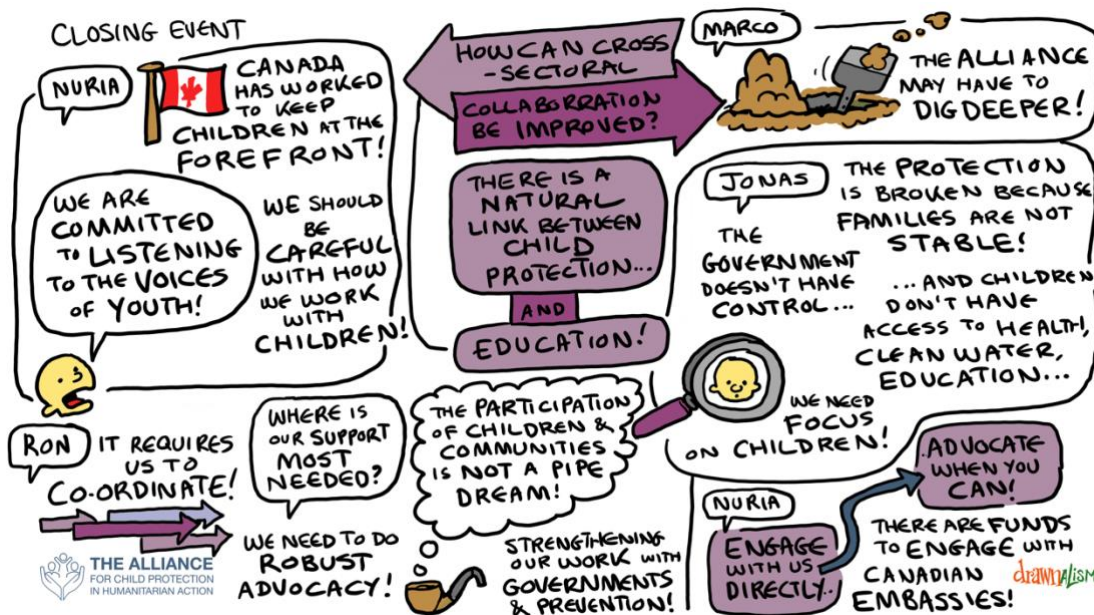
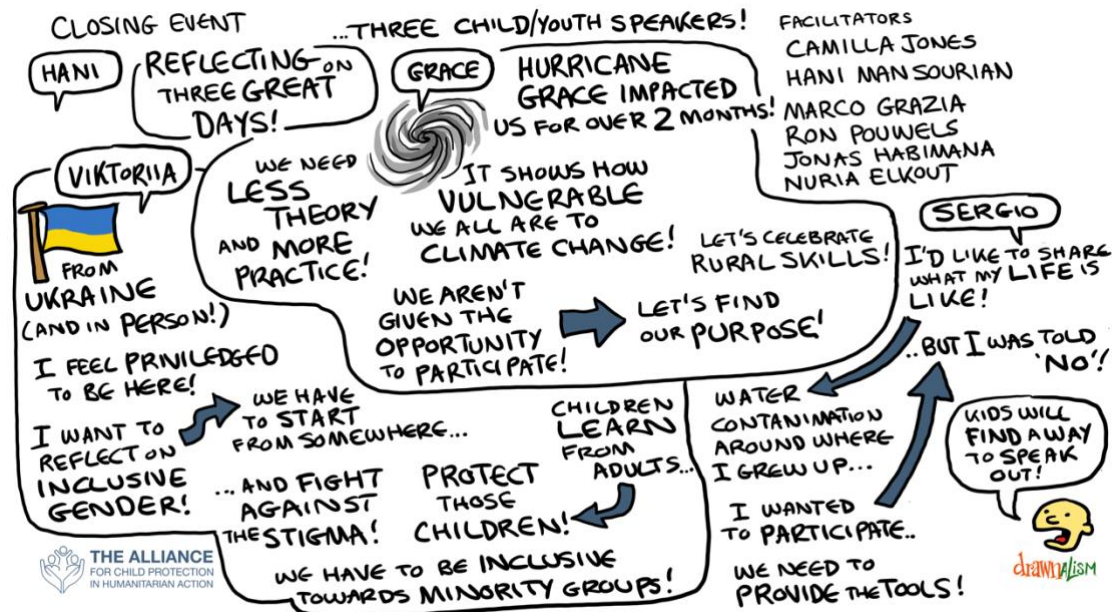
Thematic Session 4.3 | Facing the Surge: Addressing Violence Across Contexts and Gender

Key Takeaways:

- 1. Understanding drivers, social norms and power balance, stigmatisation, and changing roles and needs of children are key to take preventative measures and integrate contextualised and nuanced responses to sexual exploitation of children (SEC), while including SEC in CPMS and streamline SEC programmes as well as PSEA / safeguarding programmes are required.*
- 2. Challenges in addressing violence across contexts and gender include significant gaps in expertise and multi-sectoral support, highlighting the need for tailored interventions in reintegration programs as emphasised by the Colombia case.*
- 3. In Venezuela, current frameworks inadequately address the evolving dynamics of child sexual exploitation in humanitarian settings, necessitating the systematic integration of prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation strategies.*



Plenary Session 9 | Closing Event - [English](#) & [Spanish](#)



NEXT STEPS AND MORE INFORMATION:

Discover how you can [become a member](#) and participate in our [technical groups](#), including Working Groups, Task Forces, and Initiatives. Explore the opportunities to get involved, regardless of your proficiency in English. You can also [subscribe to our Newsletter](#) to stay engaged in future events!