

Session Booklet: 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

OVERVIEW:

This booklet contains summaries for the sessions of the 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action in Panama City from June 4th- 6th, 2024. The theme of this meeting is “Protection Children in Escalating Conflict and Crises: Armed Violence, Climate Shocks, and Displacement”. The summaries are organised by the agenda of the Annual Meeting and are searchable by session number, session type, and session title.

If you are interested in learning more about a presentation during the annual meeting, please reach out to us at annualmeeting2024@alliancecpha.org. You will also be able to view all the session recordings from the Annual Meeting on the Alliance YouTube Channel in the weeks following the meeting.

We hope you will be inspired by these sessions!

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TUESDAY, 4 JUNE:

Plenary Session 1: Welcome and Keynote

Our 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action will commence with a keynote speech from a Brazilian girl who is a climate activist to situate the meeting theme from her perspective as a child from the Latin America region affected by some of the issues of concern.

This will be followed by a welcome address from the organisers at the Alliance Secretariat, to greet participants, and provide an overview of the days ahead.

Plenary Session 2: Taking Action to Protect Children in Escalating Conflict and Crises: Armed Violence, Climate Shocks, and Displacement

Join the opening ceremony of the 2024 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action to explore the meeting theme - Protecting Children in Escalating Conflict and Crises - and background paper with speakers from the Alliance's co-lead agencies and Secretariat.

What trends are we seeing in relation to armed violence, climate shocks and displacement? How might they impact on children's safety, wellbeing and protection, and our capacity to prevent and protect?

How might the content of the meeting, and the networking and collaboration opportunity that it presents, help the CPHA sector to come together and meet the needs, and advocate on behalf of affected children?

Links to key resources:

- Background Paper on Protecting Children in Escalating Conflict and Crises: Armed Violence, Climate Shocks, and Displacement [[EN](#), [ES](#)]

Plenary Session 3: Protecting Children in Escalating Crises in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

This session will explore the meeting theme - Protecting Children in Escalating Conflict and Crises - and background paper - with a specific focus on the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region.

Join us for an interactive panel discussion, where we will hear directly from diverse actors across the region and their experience and perspectives on the current regional context and impact on children's wellbeing, safety and protection, as well as the role of diverse actors to protect them.

It will contribute to setting the scene for the meeting moving ahead. Many of the Annual Meeting's conferences have a specific focus on the LAC region and this session will support in outlining the key themes and paving the way for the rich discussions to follow.

Links to key resources:

- Background Paper on Protecting Children in Escalating Conflict and Crises: Armed Violence, Climate Shocks, and Displacement [[EN](#), [ES](#)]

Interactive / Panel Session 1.1: Listening to Children’s Voices – Experiences and Perceptions of Displaced Children

The session presents children’s perspectives on their well-being and adaptation to live as internally displaced in Ukraine, and as refugees in neighbouring countries, and how their views have been incorporated into the programmes supported by World Vision Ukraine.

In 2024, the conflict in Ukraine is entering its third year, continuing to threaten and erode protective factors in children’s ecosystems. While 4.6 million people have returned to their place of origin, more than 3.7 million people including an estimated 1.1 million children¹ remain internally displaced (IOM Ukraine, 2023).

Child participation is a strategy to enhance the protective environment around children. It is crucial for CPHA actors as well as wider humanitarian actors to ensure that children are informed, consulted, and involved in the planning and implementation of programmes.

The speaker for the session is a Ukrainian adolescent girl who has taken part in child protection activities implemented by the World Vision International Ukraine Crisis Response and its local partners. She will share her experience of displacement whilst also representing the voices of displaced children (both internally displaced and refugee children). The adolescent girl will explain how the activities in the child friendly spaces have helped her and her peers to build the skills and confidence of expressing themselves on particular issues, concerns, and difficulties they were and still currently are facing.

Her session will as well focus on the systems and mechanisms put in place by World Vision International and its implementing national partners in ensuring children’s participation and accountability to children, including through child friendly accountability mechanisms. The presentation will include documented feedback and messages shared by children engaged in child protection programming across WVI Ukraine Crisis Response and will show how children’s opinions and observations have been considered in planning and project adaptation. The session will be followed by a Q&A, in which participants from the audience will be able to interact with the child speaker and the support facilitator and exchange experiences and ideas to further advance children’s participation and its applicability in different contexts.

¹<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoieYjdjYjFhNjctOTA5Ny00MzZjLTg2MzMtODZiNmYyOTQ3MmM3IiwidCI6IjE1ODgyNjJkLTlzZmItNDNiNC1iZDZlLWJjZTQ5YzhINjE4NiIsImMiOiJh9>

Links to key resources:

- [World Vision Reports: Ukraine Crisis Response. Two years on: an urgent call for peace to protect the future of Ukraine's children](#)
- [Spotlight on children & youth: Experiences and perceptions of displaced Ukrainians](#)

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 3.2: Working Across Sectors for Children's Protection and Wellbeing: Emerging good practice in collaboration and partnership

Cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination is critical to responding, preventing child protection violations, and reducing harm in contexts of escalating conflict and crises. This session will share emerging good practice from cross-sectoral initiatives, integrated programs, and advocacy work in diverse humanitarian contexts. It will also provide space for participants to exchange experiences on working across sectors for children's protection and well-being, and to suggest priorities for future Alliance work. The session will include a panel discussion with contributions from UNHCR, Plan International, the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies, and UNICEF. It will be facilitated by the Working Across Sectors Advisory Group.

Thematic Session 1.1: Protecting Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Protracted Humanitarian Situations in Latin America

The three presentations in this session will address the different aspects of the response, focus, and challenges in protecting children and adolescents who are unaccompanied and/or separated in the context of human displacement in the three countries of the Latin American region that are affected by protracted humanitarian situations: Brazil, Colombia and El Salvador.

Firstly, we would like to highlight the urgent need to provide specialised and tailored care to Unaccompanied and Separated Children. Children and adolescents face situations of vulnerability that are exceptionally challenging in contexts that are impacted by anthropogenic and natural disasters, contexts of forced internal displacement (like in the case of Colombia and El Salvador), and cross-border migration (into these three countries). These efforts require effective partnership and coordination among several actors including community-based organisations, international organisations, and governments to ensure that protection and service provision are adequate and efficient.

Among the most significant challenges highlighted is the lack of public policies that directly address these situations, cases of displaced children and adolescents being under-registered, and the urgent need to adapt available services to the changing and dynamic realities. The experiences shared in the presentations will also provide valuable lessons. For example, the effectiveness of community-based protection mechanisms, the importance of interagency coordination at the local level, and of responding to specific needs from a rights-based, gender-based, and do-no-harm approaches., As well as the

importance of applying a socio-ecological perspective that integrates children, families, communities and government authorities. These elements do not only facilitate faster and more agile responses but they also promote a safer and more adequate environment of care for children in complex and protracted humanitarian contexts.

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

Children are increasingly caught in the crossfire of armed violence, worsening security, and climate shocks. To safeguard their well-being, we need to continue to work towards strengthening child protection systems and response mechanisms, prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable.

As violence and protection risks for children in crisis settings reach new highs, different organisations are stepping up, each with its own unique approach to addressing these complex problems. At the global level a critical gap exists in humanitarian responses with a lack of focus on the specific needs of LGBTQI+ children and families. Existing evidence highlights the unique challenges they face regarding protection and mental health in crisis settings. This not only marginalises these already vulnerable populations but also increases their risk of developing mental health issues. There is a need to focus on the critical issue of protecting LGBTQI+ children in humanitarian crises. Findings from a global scoping study in relation to the availability and accessibility of CP case management which will shed light on specific challenges to lead to the development of new resources for child protection teams and non-specialists working in refugee settings.

The LAC region is known for its unsafe migration routes; the Mexico-U.S. border, the deadliest land crossing worldwide, exemplifies this danger. Current migration policies prioritise border security over human rights, leaving children vulnerable. Policymakers are also hesitant to implement protections for children, fearing it will attract more migration as a pull factor. Therefore, protecting children on the move in Mexico poses significant challenges. However, there are opportunities to improve this situation. Existing legal frameworks focused on child protection can be used to develop joint mechanisms between the US and Mexico. Collaborative efforts between government agencies on both sides of the border, promoting advocacy and technical assistance, can lead to faster progress. The proximity of US-Mexico border cities allows for direct communication, facilitating a quicker response, and connecting consular services with child protection services in both countries can create a more robust safety net for these vulnerable children.

Finally, strong data and case management systems are essential for ensuring vulnerable children are protected. These systems empower decision-makers and stakeholders to track progress, identify gaps, and ultimately achieve the best possible outcomes for these children. For example, in a federal country like Mexico, where humanitarian crises such as international migration, forced displacement and armed violence coexist, it is essential to have data that allows for analysing the situation and making decisions based on evidence. In the process of building a functional information system that effectively responds to

humanitarian and child protection needs, we must prioritise disaggregated data to identify the specific vulnerabilities of different child populations. This data should inform the development and deployment of targeted protection services, while also enabling robust monitoring and evaluation to ensure their effectiveness and continuous improvement.

WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE:

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 1: Hot Off the Press with the Alliance Working Groups, Task Forces, and Initiatives

Join this quick-fire session to find out about the Alliance's recent resources: hot off the press! The leads of each technical group will share the key information you need to access their latest training, guidance, and tools to protect children in humanitarian action. From tools targeting other sectors, to CPHA competency development, we've got it covered and welcome your feedback.

Links to key resources:

- [Working Groups, Task Forces, and Initiatives of the Alliance](#)

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

The session is motivated by the urgent need to address the exacerbated risks to children posed by climate crises, which compromise child protection systems and increase vulnerabilities within families and communities. UNICEF analysis provided in the "Children Displaced in a Changing Climate" report estimates that there were 43.1 million internal displacements of children linked to weather-related disasters over the last six years – the equivalent to approximately 20,000 child displacements per day. Climate crises can also contribute to increased conflicts and even lead to the escalation of tensions between communities where resources are already limited. Latin America and the Caribbean is the second-most disaster-prone region in the world. From 2014 to 2018, 3.4 million people were internally displaced across the Caribbean alone due to a series of catastrophic tropical cyclones. With a focus on understanding the intersectionality between child protection and climate crises, the session will:

- Offer an opportunity to feature a regional dialogue on the impact of climate shocks on child protection and continue the path of reflection on this theme that has been initiated with a global dialogue through online webinars.
- Share and validate preliminary findings on the learning needs analysis on child protection and climate crisis intersectionality conducted by the Alliance's Learning and Development Working Group in collaboration with the Alliance's Climate Group of Friends.
- Generate a commitment to practical next steps aimed at enhancing both action and learning in this critical area.

Interactive / Panel Session 2.2: Protecting Children in Displacement and Migration through Integrated Programming: Perspectives from Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the sharp escalation of child displacement due to conflict, armed violence, climate-related disasters, and poverty is accompanied by aggravated protection risks and increased needs. Crossing extremely dangerous migration routes, children and their families are exposed to dire risks during their journey. The multiple and diverse individual needs that children have at different stages of the route should be addressed in a holistic manner, respecting humanitarian child protection standards.

However, the humanitarian system is confronting significant challenges in meeting the specific needs of displaced children in the region. Integrated programming can be an essential method of addressing their diverse needs comprehensively. Through systematic coordination and operational alignment, the goal of humanitarian actors is to ensure more effective responses that prioritise the safety and well-being of displaced children and their families in the region. Despite resource constraints, adherence to Pillar four of the Child Protection Minimum Standards is indispensable for establishing robust protective mechanisms for children in crisis situations.

The session will focus on exploring challenges and opportunities in developing and implementing integrated approaches in the region to address the complex and diverse needs of children in migration and displacement. Bringing together expert voices from organisations that have been leading child protection efforts in displacement settings, the objective is to articulate collective solutions and foster collaborative efforts to address the region's unique humanitarian challenges.

Interactive / Panel Session 3.1: Migration Experiences in Central America to the United States

Family for Every Child is a global alliance comprising 46 local civil society organisations (CSOs) across 36 different countries, dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children, youth, and their families worldwide. Among its working groups is Children on The Move, which focuses on supporting children and adolescents in various migration corridors globally. Notably, one of these corridors is situated along the southern border of the United States and involves collaboration with CONACMI in Guatemala, Fundación Juconi Mexico, and Legal Services for Children (LSC) in San Francisco, California. Together, these organisations have implemented a participatory research project utilising Photovoice, a method that harnesses photography to gather data and visually convey the experiences of participants and their communities, serving as a psychosocial support tool for complex trauma situations. The initial phase of the project involved engaging unaccompanied children and youth in the Central American corridor, during which they not only shared their migration experiences but also provided valuable recommendations for safer migration practices, policy enhancements, and improved health and well-being support for future

youth on the move and their families. Furthermore, these three organisations will present the outcomes and significant findings of the ongoing Photovoice Project at a panel forum. The forum will feature the participation of a young woman who migrated to the United States, actively contributed to, and co-led the Photovoice Project with LSC in 2022.

Interactive / Panel Session 3.2: Child Fund's Children on the Move Programmes in the Americas

ChildFund aims to share the findings and compelling narratives driven from ChildFund's evidence review of its Children on the Move programs in Central America and Mexico implemented between 2017 to 2024. Our objectives are threefold: a) generate individual and cross-program learning about implementation characteristics and related evidence on key outcomes for the completed programs; b) to use the synthesised information and learning to inform best practice for delivering Children on the Move programs in the specific contexts; and c) inform the expansion and scaling of successful programmatic approaches and the design of new pilot programs in other countries across the Americas and other regions.

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 1.1: Spotlight on CAAFAG Resources and Socialisation Strategies

Since 2020, the Task Force has contributed to the development of seven new resources that provide guidance and training materials to child protection actors to design quality gender sensitive programs with the involvement of former Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG). The development of these resources contributed to fill a gap in inter-agency global guidelines for CAAFAG programming, endorsed by the Alliance. These resources include:

- CAAFAG Programme Development Toolkit [\[EN, ES\]](#)
- Girls Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Technical Note [\[EN, ES\]](#)
- Livelihood Interventions for CAAFAG Technical Note [\[EN, ES\]](#)
- Education Interventions for CAAFAG Technical Note [\[EN, ES\]](#)
- [Operational Guidance on MHPSS for CAAFAG](#)
- [Operational Guidance on Handover protocols](#)
- [Growing Stronger Together: Parenting Skills Curriculum for Caregivers of CAAFAG](#)

A survey conducted with 73 child protection actors from 18 countries revealed that a majority of respondents recommended prioritising the dissemination of existing resources rather than the development of new ones. As a result, the CAAFAG Task Force is now focusing on the socialisation and training on these resources at national, regional, global, and organisational levels.

During this session, you will learn about the resources available, how to use them, and learning opportunities planned in 2024 and 2025.

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 3.2: Working Together to Improve Implementation and Advocacy on Accountability to Children

This session will spur discussion and reflection on:

- Why accountability to children is important, within the broader framework of accountability to affected persons and;
- What we can contribute and advocate for as a sector that works closely with children and communities.

Participants will have the chance to reflect on their agency's work in this area and identify what works / enablers and barriers, positive examples and entry points for influence and amplification. This will help to shape the Alliance's Accountability to Children Advisory Group priorities moving forward. The session will also inform participants about how they can get involved and contribute.

The session will be informative and participatory. So be ready to learn, reflect, discuss, and strategize with us in a fun, relaxed way.

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 2.1: Spotlight on Key Resources for Effective Case Management

Child Protection Case Management was defined as a core approach to child protection in humanitarian action during the development of the 2012 Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS). A lot of progress has been made to improve and standardise the quality and delivery of case management services in child protection since the development of the Case Management Child Protection Guidelines in 2014, especially in humanitarian crises. Since its formation, the Case Management Task Force through the inter-agency approach to case management has been leading the development of standard tools such as the quality assessment framework, inter-agency forms, standard operating procedures and data protection and information sharing protocols. It has been professionalised through the development of capacity building packages, a strengthened focus on coaching and supervision, on the engagement of community volunteers, and through the development of the Primero-based CPIMS+ and associated data protection and privacy framework.

Given the available tools and guidelines, 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.

The session will focus on a presentation of a research project 'Child Wellbeing Matters' which aims to fill the evidence gaps in understanding the experiences of children, caregivers, and caseworkers to identify the most effective parts of case management at improving child wellbeing which will lead to the development of practical tools and resources to help frontline workers better support children in crisis situations. In addition, some key tools and resources which have been developed will be presented to support and inform response plans and programming, with an opportunity to discuss any key gaps.

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 2.2: Unpacking the Child Protection Funding Analysis

Join us in shaping our child protection funding narrative! During this session, the Alliance's Advocacy Working Group, Save the Children, the Global Child Protection Area of Responsibility and UNHCR will present the emerging findings from the 2023 Child Protection Funding Analysis, which is due to be published later this year.

After a presentation from the funding analysis partners, with specific focus on general trends, funding across Humanitarian Response Plans and Refugee Response Plans, there will be space for questions and answers before moving into working groups to hear your feedback as we validate the findings and fine/tune our narrative.

Thematic Session 2.1: Working with Communities - Supporting Local Solutions for Child Protection in Neglected Crises

In Central America, children, their caregivers, and families face severe impacts from entrenched socioeconomic and political injustice, the long-term effects of climate change, the impacts of natural and man-made disasters, displacement, violence, organised crime, social conflict, and limited access to services at the community level. Experiences of climate change are worsening in Central America, with children facing the impacts of natural disasters, displacement, violence, and limited access to services at the community level. Despite the number of persons affected, these crises are often overlooked. As a result, local organisations, such as local indigenous groups, play a critical role in responding to protection needs after an emergency. While these organisations are well positioned to reach and respond to the most vulnerable, they face increasing challenges to doing so. In such scenarios, compounded issues create more protracted crises, challenging the protection system, especially for local organisations with limited resources and capacities to respond for protection.

The internal displacement crisis in Latin America has intensified over the past decade and is increasingly overlooked. In Guatemala, hundreds of thousands of children and their families are displaced, largely ignored by the international community unless related to migration to the US. These children are suffering from multiple crises. With limited governmental protection services available, community-level structures and organisations are crucial in supporting these affected children and families. To deepen our understanding of local protection mechanisms, the Collaborative on Global Children's Issues at Georgetown University conducted a desk review and 37 interviews with diverse stakeholders in early childhood development (ECD), child protection, and migration in Guatemala City and the Western Highlands. Key findings highlight the challenges faced by community organisations serving those affected by displacement, migration risks, and/or returnee families and children, both accompanied and unaccompanied. The specific needs identified by local organisations will be shared.

Following Hurricanes Eta and Iota, women's indigenous groups in the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua played a critical role in providing support and accessing protection services for victims and survivors of violence. With limited presence of the protection system at the local level that was exacerbated by such climate change induced disasters, women and children face increased protection risks, including the risk of gender-based violence and sexual violence. By integrating community leaders in women's movements, local indigenous structures effectively mobilised to reach vulnerable women and children and provide psychosocial support and guarantee access to specialised services including health, justice, and protection. These women's movements were fundamental in responding to protection needs. However, they need resources and capacity strengthening to enhance their responses. Local structures, especially those representing marginalised individuals and groups need to be actively included in disaster preparedness planning processes. Strengthening the coordination of alliances at the local and national levels is also needed to provide assistance to children and families during times of emergencies and crises. Recognising the unique and challenging dynamics affecting the Northern Coast, regional documentation was modified to officially recognize the role of such organisations in emergency response.

Links to key resources:

- Georgetown University's program "[Promoting Early Childhood Development for Young Children on the Move in Northern Central America](#)"

Thematic Session 2.2: Towards shifting power to local actors, Lessons from the Ukraine Crisis Response

"Localisation" is only a concept until it is tested by our actions. In this interactive session, two international NGOs (Global Communities and Street Child) will discuss their experiences of partnering with Ukrainian child protection organisations. They will unpack the challenges and opportunities of identifying good partners, the co-creation of programming, the identified need to strengthen data collection, the ethics of downgrading risk, and effective capacity development strategies. Together, we will have a chance to reflect on the efforts local actors make in conflict settings to reach and provide quality services to the most inaccessible children and their families. In so doing, the presenters will share some of their local partners' concerns and confidence.

Thematic Session 2.3: Same region, different experiences! Children on the Move in Venezuela and Mexico

The session presents the experiences of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Venezuela alongside Plan's Camino Protegido project in the Northern Triangle and Mexico, addressing significant migration challenges impacting children and adolescents.

The Venezuelan crisis has led to a substantial movement of populations, exposing numerous children to risks and vulnerabilities. IRC interventions prioritise understanding the profiles and risks faced by children on the move, particularly unaccompanied and separated children. Their strategies focus on collaborating with local actors and governments to address risks such as caregiver roles, child labour, and recruitment by armed groups.

Similarly, Plan's response to the migration crisis emphasises the well-being and protection of children and adolescents. Their approach amplifies the voices of migrant children, provides tailored support, promotes sector-wide collaboration, and implements preventive measures to enhance resilience and child protection systems.

Both organisations acknowledge the profound emotional impact on migrant children, including distress due to caregiver abandonment and instances of abuse and exploitation. Challenges persist in child protection due to limited expertise, resulting in inadequate participation in protective activities. Lessons learned stress the importance of comprehensive, multisectoral approaches and active involvement of children in program design and implementation to safeguard their rights and well-being in complex migration contexts.

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

In recent years, there has been a troubling rise in the number and severity of humanitarian crises, leading to more children experiencing different forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation. The percentage of children living in conflict zones worldwide has nearly tripled, rising from less than 5% in 1990 to over 14% in 2019.² In 2023, a record 400 million children lived in conflict settings and faced severe violations such as killing, maiming, and sexual violence, amongst others.³ In 2023, the number of forcibly displaced people globally reached a record high of over 114 million people,⁴ including 43.3 million children (or 40%) due to violence, climate-induced disasters, or both.⁵

During economic crises, armed conflict, and in forced displacement settings, risk factors of harm are heightened, while protective factors in a child's ecosystem are weakened or eroded, leading to increased vulnerability and risk of harm. This is often combined with a lack of or limited availability of protection services. Many times, the threats to children's safety stem from a combination of factors, such as armed violence, political unrest, economic downturns, and both natural and human-caused disasters. The cumulative effects of the climate crisis are exacerbating pre-existing crises.⁶

² <https://www.prio.org/publications/12527>

³ <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/children-live-world-increasingly-hostile-their-rights>

⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/10/1142827>

⁵ <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>

⁶ <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Climate-Insecurity-and-CAAC-Discussion.pdf>

Stretched thin and facing reduced funding, in part because of the global economic downturn, the humanitarian system is struggling to meet the growing need for child protection in escalating conflict and crises. Funding shortfalls in 2023 and the beginning of 2024 leave populations in need vulnerable worldwide. The gap between stated funding needs and funding received demonstrates that child protection is significantly under-funded compared to the overall funding levels of humanitarian appeals. In 2022, only 19% of the funds were received.

Overview of the Session: Downward humanitarian funding trends despite escalating crisis and conflict are a concern for the humanitarian sector. With a history of being chronically and disproportionately underfunded, the ability of the Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPHA) sector to implement quality child protection response and prevention programming for the increasing numbers of children in need is severely hampered. While the future of humanitarian funding in the long term is uncertain, one thing is clear: child protection actors will increasingly need to make difficult decisions about the most impactful use of dwindling resources in the short and medium term.

This session provides an opportunity for the CPHA community:

- **To hear the perspectives from key stakeholders, including donors, on decreasing funding and increasing needs:** Panellists will share their reflections on the juxtaposition of growing humanitarian needs and decreasing resources from their specific vantage points. Based upon the impact this is having within their agencies and on child protection projects and the partners they support, as well as what they are seeing across the humanitarian sector, they will share specific areas of concern as well as new and/or adapted approaches being adopted.
- **To collectively explore solutions and approaches:** Breakout groups on different topics will explore what we can do as a sector to ensure we are meeting the needs of children against this backdrop. This includes exploring areas we can continue with business as usual, and others where we need to explore new approaches and strategies.

THURSDAY, 6 JUNE:

Interactive / Panel Session 4.1: Supporting the Humanitarian Sector to Deliver Interventions, including Boys Affected by Sexual Violence

Often underreported and unaddressed, sexual violence against boys in humanitarian settings remains an invisible crisis. Research and voices from humanitarian actors highlight the urgent need for strengthening capacities of services for boy survivors. Boys are affected by sexual violence in migration and displacement, protracted crisis, and in communities with rising levels of violence. Child protection services are often not equipped to deliver responses tailored to these complex cases. Organised by the Global Alliance on the Protection of Boys from Sexual Violence, this session will identify opportunities for collaboration for the protection of boys while remaining accountable to the needs of girls. The session aims to raise awareness on sexual violence against boys in humanitarian settings while providing a space

to discuss the issue, challenges and opportunities based on key findings [\[SH1\]](#) from Latin America and the Caribbean as well as other humanitarian contexts. The session also aims to raise awareness on the work of the newly established Global Alliance and opportunities for collaboration on the way forward. [\[fr2\]](#)

Interactive / Panel Session 4.2: Facilitating Community Ownership: Learning from Evidence Informed Approaches to Preventing Violence Against Children

Community-level child protection approaches driven by external organisations show limitations in terms of sustainability and effectiveness. War Child and Save the Children are co-developing a community-led child protection methodology, called *Seeds*, that seeks to address this by fostering community ownership over the protective environment in their community. During this session, we want to share learning from *Seeds* implementation in an informal settlement in Colombia with a majority of Venezuelan migrants. The evaluation showed that: the community perceives themselves as stronger and more protective of children and with a greater agency to identify risks and act on it; children's perception of protection increased; and 3 out of 5 communities have continued to take action against identified risks after the external agency exited the community. By listening to involved community members, and War Child staff involved in the community-led action process, (the community coach, and the War Child Colombia implementing Child Protection and Monitoring Evaluation and Learning leads), we want to inspire session participants to reflect on how they can move towards a higher level of community ownership in their programmes.

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 3: What's Next for the Alliance Working Groups, Task Forces, and Initiatives?

Join the leads of the Alliance's technical groups to hear their exciting plans for the year ahead! From revised case management guidelines to ethics tools for participatory research with children, we have it in the pipeline. Join in the room or online to see how you can get involved!

Links to key resources:

- [Working Groups, Task Forces, and Initiatives of the Alliance](#)

Interactive / Panel Session 1.2: Advancing Legal Protections of Children through a Multidisciplinary Lens

Objective: Presenting an overview of a multidisciplinary model in support of recently arrived immigrant youth in the United States

Outcome: Greater understanding of how multidisciplinary teams can promote healing for immigrant children

Purpose: By partnering with social workers with a healing-centered approach in legal services delivery, children are invited to pause and consider their agency that will support them as they navigate their orientation and integration into their communities in the United States.

Specific Opportunities and Gaps: We advance the legal protections of these children through a multidisciplinary lens of social worker and attorney collaboration. We will share lessons learned from the institutional knowledge of 50 years of advancing the rights of youth through the holistic provision of legal services.

Links to the Annual Meeting: Legal Services for Children provides legal and social work services to children from across the globe fleeing conflict, intrafamilial violence and climate shock. The majority of the children we serve emigrate from South and Central America looking for safety and stability.

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 4.1: Updates on Prevention Initiative and Pilot Projects in Nigeria and South Sudan

In 2020, the Alliance launched the Prevention initiative, co-led by Plan International, in alignment with its priorities laid out in the 2021-2025 Strategy, "[The Centrality of Children and their Protection within Humanitarian Action: A Clarion Call](#)". As part of the Prevention Initiative, Plan, on behalf of the Alliance and with funding from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), led the development of the Prevention Framework, in coordination with an inter-agency Advisory Group, which was launched in 2022. The Prevention Framework details eight principles for effective primary prevention programming and outlines key actions at each step of the program cycle to implement primary prevention approaches that prevent harm and foster child well-being across the levels of the socio-ecological model and through a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach.

In 2022, Plan International was awarded BHA funding with two overarching goals to further advance the Alliance Prevention Initiative. The first is to pilot the Prevention Framework in Niger and South Sudan, including developing and testing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to inform further guidance on monitoring and evaluating primary preventive approaches. Second, the project seeks to further disseminate the Primary Prevention Framework and encourage adoption of primary preventive approaches by both Alliance members and the broader humanitarian community through a series of training, coaching, and mentoring opportunities for organisations seeking to adopt preventive approaches, and advocacy efforts within the Alliance community and beyond.

During this session, participants will hear about successes, challenges, and lessons learned from the primary prevention pilots ongoing in South Sudan and Niger, the recently developed Prevention Advocacy Roadmap and plans for implementation, opportunities for further support on adapting primary preventive approaches, and other ongoing pieces of work and upcoming priorities within the Prevention Initiative.

Links to key resources:

- [Primary Prevention Framework for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#)
- [Primary Prevention Video Series](#)
- [Primary Prevention Framework Introductory Learning Package](#)
- [Position Paper | From Theory to Practice: Towards a Framework for Primary Prevention in Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#)
- [Guidance Note on Primary Prevention of Family Separation](#)

Thematic Session 3.1: Protecting Children Crossing the Darien Gap - Sharing Challenges and Discussing Solutions

Thousands of children have crossed the dangerous Darien jungle between Colombia and Panama. Half of these children on the move are under the age of five and have specific needs. This journey presents dangers for migrant families, including young children and pregnant women. Women and girls are particularly exposed to sexual and gender-based violence. Gang rapes, extortion and kidnappings are frequently reported. With more children on the move, there is an urgent need for a well-coordinated and well-funded humanitarian and migration response.

The session will highlight the protection risks for children in the region's largest displacement crisis. It will present identified strategies and opportunities to protect children forcibly displaced due to economic crises, climate change, disasters, violence, food insecurity, and political instability. Highlighting approaches and strategies developed on the ground, adapted to the context and increasing complexity of mixed migration flows in countries with limited experience in humanitarian response and protection of children on the move.

Among the highlights of the session are the presentation of case management as an essential protection service, the complementarity between humanitarian action and protection systems, intersectoral management and the need to make the crisis visible for resource management. Specific protection risks for children, such as trafficking and sexual violence, have been identified and documented on both sides of the borders, in Panama and Colombia. There are gaps in the protection of unaccompanied and separated children both in terms of legal frameworks, coordination and service delivery.

Mobile teams working across borders are better able to identify, monitor and respond to the needs of children on the move through specialised and life-saving child protection services, such as case management or psychosocial support. Functional coordination mechanisms with clear lines of communication are essential to avoid duplication, integrate child protection and become more efficient. Consequently, there is a need for a coordinated regional approach to children on the move and increased attention and investment by international and regional aid, as well as child-friendly migration policies.

Finally, the session will present strategies to respond to the growing complex crisis and highlight opportunities for child protection programming and advocacy, reinforcing strategies such as cross-border work, multi-sectoral mobile teams, and the provision of specialised child protection interventions in contexts such as the Darien.

Thematic Session 3.2: Accountability to Children for their Protection through Strong Legal and Participatory Frameworks

Our three panellists will take us to such diverse locations as makeshift Internally Displaced Persons camps in northern Nigeria, migrant routes through Colombia, and refugee settlements in Jordan and Lebanon. Each will share cases of children affected by localised – and often long-lasting – crises – and agencies’ efforts to assist them. Together, they create a compelling argument for greater attention to the legal framework to protect children (with a particular focus on adolescent girls), as well as the equally vital examination of children’s participation in project design. Our conversation will unpack some key learning on ways forward, such as the opportunities to co-create protection responses with children, different ways to work with local authorities and/or grassroots activist partners to protect girls from sexual violence and to increase their access to education, sustainable livelihoods, etc...

Thematic Session 3.3: Strengthening Multisectoral Coordination and Mainstreaming of Child Protection in Other Sectors

UNHCR Romania – Inter-agency coordination and integration of CP programming to broader humanitarian efforts: This session provides critical insights into effective multi-agency collaboration engagement in child protection, demonstrating a scalable model for the humanitarian sector. It highlights the importance of active participation of legitimate actors. The session addresses gaps in the integration of child protection within broader humanitarian efforts, focusing on the need for stronger oversight, accreditation processes, and the engagement of legitimate actors.

IRC Afghanistan – Advocating for maintaining female workers to ensure gender-responsive programmes (in response to the de-facto authority’s prohibition of female workers): The beneficiaries encompass individuals from various genders, with women constituting half of the global population. To establish a gender-responsive program and guarantee the active participation of women, it is imperative to prioritise the engagement of female workers in the humanitarian program. If a similar ban on women has occurred in other countries and contexts, the experience will undoubtedly serve as a valuable lesson for others to adhere to.

UNICEF Mexico – CP system strengthening and intersectoral coordination mechanisms to strengthen CP emergency preparedness: As a strategy to strengthen emergency preparedness, UNICEF in Mexico is working to position and generate mechanisms so that the protection of children and adolescents is included in the work agendas of the governing institutions. The progress, challenges and lessons learned

that we are having in working with SIPINNA SINAPROC will be shared. It will show how the process is going to influence the civil protection and child protection systems from an intersectoral work perspective. With preparedness actions that seek to strengthen government personnel, generate evidence of the impact of emergencies on children and adolescents, create coordination mechanisms, etc.

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

The Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) Working Group will host an interactive session exploring good practices on implementation of the standards in the Latin America region, identifying learning for other regions and contexts. Participants will have the chance to provide feedback on how they use the standards and participate in group work to identify gaps and areas where the Alliance could support. Key themes explored in both the good practice presentations and the group work will include: the CPMS and climate change, CPMS and support to refugees and migrants, and CPMS and support to national and local actors. Results of group discussions will be captured and inform next steps for the CPMS Working Group.

Links to key resources:

- [CPMS Working Group Webpage](#)
- [CPMS e-Course](#)
- [CPMS Online Interactive Handbook](#)
- [CPMS Learning Videos](#)
- [CPMS Implementation & Contextualisation Toolkit](#)

Working Group, Task Force, and Initiative Session 1.2: We Need “Needs” Assessments? When, how, why, and why not to use Rapid Assessments

This session looks at the urgency and complexity of generating and utilising data to enhance child protection efforts in humanitarian crises. With escalating conflicts, climate crises, and displacement, understanding the vulnerabilities and capacities of children in crisis contexts is paramount for tailored interventions and resource allocation. However, despite the recognized importance and potential usefulness of humanitarian assessments, numerous challenges impede their effectiveness. Unclear guidelines, poor data utilisation, unnecessary information collection, inappropriate methods, and insufficient engagement with affected communities hinder effective assessments. Limited time and resources exacerbate the issue, leading to missing or unreliable data. This lack of evidence hampers CP actors' ability to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children. This session aims to allow participants to discuss common challenges, pitfalls, and promising approaches to using assessments in CPHA and identify some practical tools and ways to improve current practices.

Thematic Session 4.1: Working Across Sectors to Protect Children in Escalating Crises

This session will share different initiatives and existing work integrating work across different sectors (Child Protection, Education, GBV, MHPSS) in order to protect children in escalating crises around the world. From the The Rapid Integrated Response for Children (RIRE) Mechanism in the Sahel, a Unified Framework for Education, Child Protection, and GBV Collaboration in conflict zones to an integrated Child Protection, Education and MHPSS approach for refugee children in the Ukraine crisis. What works, challenges, opportunities and recommendations going forward for practitioners will be highlighted. The session will include a panel discussion with contributions from Save the Children in the Sahel, IRC in the Ukraine crisis and the Global Education Cluster in conflict zones.

Thematic Session 4.2: Children Associated with Gangs and Organised Crime Groups in Latin America and the Caribbean

Armed violence is spreading across Latin America and the Caribbean. One in 10 child deaths are the result of homicide, and it is the leading cause of mortality among adolescents aged 10 to 19. Children are insecure in their home, and it is also a driver of unsafe migration.

Armed violence, exemplified in gangs and organised crime, is the new face of the humanitarian sector. While the impact on children may look similar to conflict settings, its aim, characteristics and therefore programming is different.

During this session, we will explore the differences and similarities between armed conflict and organised crime related to the legal framework (the Dallaire Institute) and the impact on children with examples of interventions from Honduras (UNHCR and Casa Alianza Honduras), Haiti (Chronique Droit et Enfants) and Brazil (UNICEF).

Legal Framework: Despite the similarities in levels of violence, recruitment patterns, and the experiences of children recruited and used by both Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) and Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), the applicability of international rules and domestic regulations governing organised criminal violence becomes difficult to reconcile due to the high sensitivity of their legal, political, social, and humanitarian implications. The development that International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the children and armed conflict agenda have had can lead to a paradoxical situation. Although, in theory, the legal framework of protection provided by IHRL is broader than what IHL provides in situations of armed conflict, various civil society actors demand that children in these contexts of armed violence are enjoying less protection than the ones provided by IHL in armed conflict zones.

Haiti: Over the past three decades, Haiti has faced unbridled violence led by ruthless gangs that have proliferated in a context of political instability. Widespread violence has had a profound impact on the lives and rights of Haitian children. Children are abducted, victim of sexual abuse, internally displaced, recruited by gangs and used as spies or to commit acts of violence. Chronique Droit et Enfants will present the challenges faced by child protection specialists in accessing gang leaders without risking their lives to advocate for the release of children who have been recruited.

Honduras: In Honduras, the recruitment of children and adolescents is one of the main causes of forced displacement of children and their families coupled with the lack of effective prevention and protection mechanisms and policies. UNHCR and CAH will share good practices and challenges in the protection of children and youth at risk and displaced by the disproportionate impact of armed violence (maras, gangs and drug trafficking groups) in the Honduran context.

Brazil: In Brazil, addressing adolescent homicide faces resistance from governments, lawmakers, and the general public. As a result, the casualties from urban armed violence remain unaddressed and more deaths happen daily. The public policies are insufficient to address root causes and prevent those deaths. UNICEF Brazil will present an urban-centre strategy named #AgendaCidadeUNICEF that includes a territorial approach and a strong prevention approach.

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

Through this session we will explore various facets of escalating sexual and gender-based violence in different contexts.

From Colombia we will be hearing about addressing the challenges faced by boy survivors of child recruitment and sexual violence within reintegration programs. The study reveals gaps in expertise, guidance, and multi-sectoral responses, highlighting the need for tailored interventions to support these vulnerable children.

Turning to Venezuela, the spotlight is on the neglected crisis of child sexual exploitation within humanitarian settings. The study emphasises the inadequacy of current response frameworks in addressing the evolving dynamics of sexual exploitation, advocating for systematic integration of prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation strategies.

Lastly, in El Salvador, the lens is injustices faced by children amidst a protracted state of emergency, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive protection measures and a re-evaluation of governmental responses.

Panellists will offer insightful recommendations for tangible actions, and participants will have the opportunity to engage with questions and contribute to the discourse.