



Engaging to Protect: Preventing and Reducing Violence Through Advocacy and Negotiations

Proposal submitted to the Government of Belgium by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on behalf of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiations (CCHN)

Funding Proposal Overview

Project Title	Engaging to Protect: Preventing and Reducing Violence Through Advocacy and Negotiations
Total Budget	EUR 1,000,000
Implementation Period	The project will start after its approval by the Government of Belgium for a duration of 18 months.
Number of Beneficiaries	380 beneficiaries from diverse local, national, and international organizations.
Summary of Project and Expected Outcomes	This project aims to increase the skills and confidence of protection actors, including national and local organizations and staff, to pursue different forms of engagement to prevent and reduce violence against civilians in conflict- and violence-affected contexts. Through capacity-strengthening, strategy development, implementation support and evidence building at country levels, together with global level efforts to strengthen protection-informed engagement and humanitarian diplomacy, the project will accelerate and embed system-wide efforts to address 'threats' and reduce violence in support of the safety and rights of civilians living through conflict.

1. Background, Objective and Rationale

Background and Context

Armed conflicts are multiplying and lasting longer. At the same time, contemporary conflicts are increasingly characterized by severe violations of international law and staggering levels of civilian harm. Such violations are also, in turn, further driving spiraling humanitarian needs. These dynamics are evident at a time of major contraction and funding constraint across the global humanitarian system. Humanitarian principles, frameworks and programming are increasingly under pressure.

At this critical juncture for the humanitarian system and core principles, what is clear is that protection efforts must be more responsive and effective than ever. Protection interventions must respond to harm, while also advancing the prevention and reduction of violence faced by civilians across conflict-affected communities, ultimately addressing the root causes of humanitarian needs and suffering. The ongoing consolidation of the Protection Cluster presents new opportunities for a more integrated approach to violence prevention, including coordinated sector engagement vis-a-vis governments, armed actors and human rights institutions and partners. Ensuring programmatic efforts and service delivery are complemented by more systematic and proactive approaches to changing the behaviours of state and non-state armed actors and those perpetrating harm, including within families and communities, are vital. These efforts require strategic advocacy, sustained negotiation, relationship-building, and context-adapted engagement strategies to influence behaviours and practices of duty-bearers and other actors.

Affected communities themselves have been clear that physical safety, dignity, and protection as absolute priorities in humanitarian crises.¹ However, the capacities and scale to advance urgently needed engagement-, negotiation- and influencing-focused approaches aimed at reducing violence across the humanitarian system, from the frontlines to humanitarian leadership, and to connect them with humanitarian diplomacy and the efforts of member states and other allies remain inconsistent and underleveraged.

This project seeks to address this gap, building on several years of strategic engagement and collaboration by the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and the Centre of Competences on Humanitarian Negotiations (CCHN) in support of strengthened protection capacities for engagement. The GPC and CCHN have worked closely on strengthening both the capacities and the operational practice of frontline protection actors who are members of Protection Clusters in a range of contexts to advance relevant approaches to protection in armed conflict, including with regards to community-based protection, protection advocacy and a particular focus on humanitarian negotiations for protection outcomes. This collaboration has leveraged the unique strengths of these organizations, with the CCHN bringing specialized expertise and operational methodologies in humanitarian negotiations, including protection focused negotiations and community-led negotiations, while the GPC brings operational presence and longstanding expertise in building the influencing and advocacy skills of protection partners and advancing coordination and systems change in support of strengthened protection. Both organizations have been testing and learning from

¹ Ground Truth Solutions, 2025, available here: <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/what-crisis-affected-communities-need-humanitarian-reset-guide-based-two-years-conversations-people-front-lines-crisis>

approaches and initiatives in relation to humanitarian diplomacy, with a particular focus on how to ensure strong linkages between frontline advocacy and negotiations and high-level diplomatic efforts by members states and humanitarian leaders. This collaboration is grounded in a complementary division of roles, whereby the GPC leverages its coordination, advocacy, and system-wide influence, while CCHN provides dedicated support to the design and implementation of negotiation and engagement strategies in operational contexts, including through applied, field-based modalities.

For the GPC and CCHN, key learnings from their collaborative support to and accompaniment of frontline protection partners to date includes the continued need to further develop approaches and deliver support for engaging with and influencing the ‘threat’ component of priority protection risks, including through structured negotiation, advocacy and sustained dialogue – that is influencing the armed actors, community leaders and local authorities that are causing harm to civilians. This remains the most difficult and sensitive form of engagement by protection actors and one that demands more intensive support and accompaniment. These types of engagement require specialized approaches, tools, and accompaniment that go beyond traditional advocacy skillsets and that draw on the full range of levers for influencing.

A further insight based on the work to date is the need for concerted support to protection actors, particularly national and local actors, in strategizing on the integration of negotiations and advocacy into related systems and leadership – while individual staff members are often advancing vital negotiations and advocacy, this is not always well supported in organizational or system-wide structures or strategies, or adequately connected with higher-level, complementary diplomacy efforts being advanced by Member States and humanitarian leadership. Such disconnects create missed opportunities for greater impact. Additional insights from the past several years of close engagement with country-based protection partners has been around the importance of supporting Protection Clusters and operational partners, including specialized protection actors, with enhanced advocacy and negotiations capacities at times of significant changes to the protection environment – with examples of escalating conflict in eastern DRC, for instance, or the change in governance in Syria, offering important entry points for timely capacity strengthening and scaled up engagement with duty bearers and other influential stakeholders.

Building on these insights, together with the continued integration of community-based protection and community-led negotiations related approaches and tools, this initiative seeks to strengthen capacities and more systematically combine protection advocacy, negotiation, and humanitarian diplomacy approaches across the humanitarian system as a way to further prevent and reduce violence and ultimately, to protect civilians.

Project Objective

This project aims to **strengthen the systematic use and impact of advocacy, negotiations and humanitarian diplomacy to prevent and mitigate violence and enhance protection outcomes for conflict-affected communities.**

More specifically the project will:

- Enhance the ability of Protection Clusters and protection actors to prevent and mitigate violence and other priority protection risks through strengthened and complementary use of advocacy,

humanitarian negotiation, and sustained engagement with duty-bearers and other relevant actors, including support to the practical application of these approaches in operational contexts.

- Advance a more coherent and influential humanitarian system approach to protection by strengthening the role of Protection Clusters and their membership in shaping advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy, and decision-making at country, regional, and global levels, including stronger linkages between frontline negotiation and advocacy efforts and higher-level humanitarian diplomacy.

Project Rationale

Against a backdrop of escalating violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and increasingly severe protection risks across conflict-affected contexts, alongside funding constraints and sectoral shifts, the ability for protection actors to contribute to enhanced prevention and reduction of violence against civilians has never been more important. Across crisis contexts, the particular forms of violence and abuse faced by those experiencing some of the most acute vulnerabilities are driving severe harm, from persons with disabilities who struggle to evacuate frontline areas, to separated children who are at increased risk of recruitment into armed groups, to women and girls facing heightened risks of conflict-related sexual violence at checkpoints and in siege situations. And yet, across the sector, there continues to be a focus on delivering material assistance in response to violations, rather than forward looking efforts to prevent, respond to and interrupt violence, including through engagement with duty bearers and perpetrators of harm.

This project aims to draw on existing strategic tools and frameworks to support more systematic and effective use of protection-focused advocacy alongside dedicated negotiations in support of engagement-driven efforts to reduce violence and harm for civilians. It will further strengthen the strategic partnership between the GPC and the CCHN, while engaging with Protection Clusters and their members, particularly national and local organizations, to support increased skills and confidence in advancing protection advocacy and protection negotiations efforts, while further embedding such approaches into relevant strategies and systems at the country level. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening the ability of protection actors to engage with duty-bearers and other actors through structured advocacy and negotiation processes, supported by specialized tools and methodologies, while connecting these efforts with higher-level, complementary engagement and diplomacy efforts.

In parallel, the project will also seek to further leverage country-level insights and learnings in advancing engagement-focused approaches that seek to directly address patterns of violence and harm through global level convening in relations to policy and practice change considerations. This will include convening of strategic reflection and learning sessions with relevant Protection Cluster coordination teams and partners to advance thinking and actions on how to further systematize and scale engagement with perpetrators of harm for reduced protection risks and humanitarian needs. Such global sessions, together with operational insights generated through negotiation- and advocacy- focused support to field actors, will directly inform several targeted policy briefs and guidance documents for key audiences. As a further complement, guidance will be developed in terms of how protection actors can more effectively engage,

mobilize and leverage HCTs and third-party Member States in advancing on critical protection advocacy, negotiations and humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

Timeframe

This project will start after its approval by the Government of Belgium for a duration of 18 months.

Project Beneficiaries

The project will directly benefit over 380 individuals, including Protection Cluster members, local and national organizations, other protection partners, senior humanitarian leadership including HCT/ICCG members, other relevant clusters, collective fora (INGO / NNGO Fora) and global protection partners.

The primary beneficiaries of this project will be Protection Cluster members and other protection partners operating in humanitarian contexts affected by conflict, violence, and displacement. Particular emphasis will be placed on frontline protection actors, including local and national NGOs, national staff, and women-led organizations/community-based organizations, who often face the most acute protection challenges while having the least access to specialized learning and support opportunities. Country-level workshops and accompanying activities will be designed to strengthen their capacities, leadership, and ability to deliver effective protection responses. Documentation of good practices and outcomes will contribute to building evidence around effective approaches to violence prevention and mitigation across different contexts.

Beyond direct workshop participants, the project will engage Protection Clusters and protection partners, including national organizations, through follow-up support, accompaniment, related advisory and strategy support and peer-learning initiatives. The project will also benefit Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) members, inter-sectoral coordination groups, and other sectors by strengthening the integration of protection into humanitarian decision-making, planning, and influencing efforts. At the global level, protection partners will benefit from the dissemination of good practices, workshop learning, policy briefs and products while member state representatives and humanitarian leaders will gain further insights into how they can integrate into their humanitarian diplomacy efforts community protection priorities and amplify negotiations and advocacy efforts being advanced on the frontlines of crisis for more effective action in support of violence reduction.

2. Project Outcomes and Activities

Through this project, the GPC will support effective national and global engagement and influencing actions – inclusive of advocacy, negotiations and humanitarian diplomacy – to strengthen our collective ability to address the 'threat' component of pressing protection risks. These actions will be firmly grounded in community priorities and shared analysis, aimed at enhancing the impact of both Protection Clusters' and HCTs' advocacy and engagement actions while seeking to further and more systematically inform and mobilize the political and diplomatic support of Member States.

The activities outlined below aim to leverage the GPC and its wider network as a strategic entry point for collaborative protection advocacy, protection negotiations and humanitarian diplomacy actions,

promoting the protection of civilians and mobilizing all relevant stakeholders to fulfil their obligations under international law.

Outcome 1: Strengthened capacities of country-level protection actors to design and implement advocacy strategies and actions that lead to concrete protection outcomes (GPC-led)

The GPC will continue to strengthen country-level protection advocacy efforts with the aim of reinforcing the strategic capacities of Protection Cluster coordination teams and members to advance effective influencing, and leveraging entry points, linkages and complementary efforts with global decision-making processes and humanitarian diplomacy.

Grounded in shared protection analysis, influencing efforts focus on addressing the 'threat' component driving priority protection risks through engagement with the humanitarian community and leadership, especially HCs/HCTs, donors and Member States, human rights mechanisms and national duty-bearers (including national authorities, state and non-state armed groups) while further leveraging collaboration with other sectors and allies.

These advocacy efforts will be complemented by dedicated support to negotiation and engagement capacities under Outcome 2, ensuring that protection actors are equipped with a range of tools and frameworks they can tailor to their influencing efforts, ensuring they translate into concrete changes in practices and behaviors.

The activities will include:

- **Tailored advocacy capacity-strengthening to field Protection Clusters and their members (at least 3 in-person workshops plus field missions).** This will include three in-person two-day workshops and training (approximately 20-25 participants each), bringing together Protection Cluster coordination teams and international and national partners. Workshops will focus on protection analysis, stakeholder mapping, identifying advocacy opportunities, developing advocacy strategies and risk management, and will be aligned with, and directly linked as much as possible, with negotiations-related workshops, as outlined in Outcome 2. Targeted field missions will also be provided to develop and implement advocacy action plans, and further utilize humanitarian negotiations, engagement and advocacy with duty-bearers/threat actors to reduce protection risks.
- Building on the advocacy workshops and subsequent country-level engagement, **complementary and tailored advisory support** will be provided to sustain advocacy efforts within coordination teams. This will include mentoring and technical remote support to strengthen advocacy planning and embed advocacy strategies and collaborations across the humanitarian response. **Regular strategic reflection and peer-learning sessions** will provide opportunities for country colleagues to exchange experiences, discuss operational dilemmas, review advocacy and engagement efforts, identify good practices, and adapt strategies based on lessons learned. The project will also facilitate cross-country learning and contribute to the development of practical tools, case studies, and guidance to strengthen protection advocacy and influencing capacities across contexts.

- **Flexible catalytic funding for at least three country-level Protection Clusters** to strengthen collective protection analysis, advocacy, and protection negotiation efforts in response to priority protection risks. Funding will be tailored to contextual needs and may support:
 - Convening Protection Cluster partners and other relevant stakeholders to undertake protection risk severity assessments, in-depth analysis, and other collective analytical processes to identify priority protection risks, understand drivers of harm, and inform evidence-based advocacy and influencing strategies.
 - Strengthening engagement and representation of Protection Cluster coordination teams and partners, particularly national and local organizations, in relevant national, regional, or international meetings, workshops, advocacy initiatives, and negotiation processes where protection concerns can be raised and advanced.
 - Commissioning targeted research, policy analysis, strategy development, or other specialized technical support to generate evidence, strengthen advocacy positions, inform, engagement strategies and support negotiations with duty-bearers and other relevant actors.
 - Supporting the design and implementation of advocacy and negotiation actions led by local and national actors, aimed at addressing specific protection risks, influencing policies and practices, and improving access to populations.

- **Providing responsive technical support and strategic global amplification of advocacy priorities (20 Clusters operations, 24/7 support).** Through the GPC Field Support Team, ongoing support to field operations to respond to regular and urgent requests by Protection Clusters on advocacy priorities and strategic engagement with humanitarian leadership, donors and other stakeholders while also identifying and facilitating advocacy and engagement on prioritized protection risks and themes at country level via global-level channels, including via the UN Security Council and General Assembly, EU platforms and human rights mechanisms, and Member States and protection donors.

- **Enhanced use of human rights mechanisms in support of protection advocacy and accountability.** Targeted technical support and accompaniment will be provided to Protection Clusters coordination teams and partners to strengthen human rights engagement as part of broader protection advocacy efforts. The activity will place a specific focus on addressing pressing protection risks related to conflict-related sexual violence and grave violations against children, including through support and accompaniment of national and local organization (including Women-Led Organizations and Youth-Led Organizations) in leveraging pathways and collaborations for enhanced analysis, advocacy and accountability.

Outcome 2: Strengthened capacities of protection actors to design and implement negotiation and humanitarian diplomacy strategies that lead to concrete protection outcomes (CCHN-led with GPC contributions)

Protection actors are increasingly required to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including authorities, armed actors, communities, and other influential actors, to address protection risks and secure concrete outcomes for affected populations. While advocacy remains a critical component of protection work, many operational challenges also require complementary approaches involving sustained dialogue and negotiation strategies adapted to complex environments.

Building on its field experience, operational research, and global Community of Practice, CCHN will lead the design and the implementation of this component, in close partnership with the GPC, supporting Protection Clusters, protection partners, and relevant agencies to strengthen their ability to design and implement negotiation and humanitarian diplomacy approaches aimed at achieving protection outcomes.

This outcome focuses on applied, field-based support – complementing advocacy efforts under Outcome 1 - by enabling actors to directly engage with duty-bearers and other stakeholders to influence decisions, behaviors, and practices affecting protection risks.

Activities will combine capacity strengthening, peer exchange, applied problem-solving, and strategic support to ongoing protection engagement efforts and will include:

- **Dedicated Humanitarian Negotiation for Protection Outcomes workshops (2 in-person workshops)** targeting protection professionals and other humanitarian actors involved in engagement and negotiation processes in priority contexts. These in-person, multi-day workshops will target Protection Cluster coordination teams and members, national and international protection actors, and other relevant organizations involved in negotiating or engaging with stakeholders on protection issues. Each workshop will accommodate 30–35 participants, including up to 10 participants from local and national organizations supported for travel and accommodation. The workshops will be designed and implemented by CCHN in close collaboration with the GPC and relevant field Protection Clusters to ensure that the design and content responds to the priority protection risks, negotiation challenges, and engagement dilemmas faced in each context. Each workshop will comprise at least 3 days based on CCHN’s peer workshop methodology, with an additional 1-2 days to be tailored by the CCHN and GPC based on the priorities of relevant Protection Clusters and partners, and linked with Outcome 1 on protection advocacy as relevant.
- **Specialized thematic sessions and continued engagement through the Community of Practice (3 online and 3 onsite).** To ensure sustained learning and continued support beyond initial workshops, CCHN will provide specialized thematic sessions responding to recurring protection negotiation challenges identified by practitioners. These sessions will emphasize peer-based learning and field-driven exchange while drawing from CCHN’s operational research, field practice, and existing thematic workstreams. Participants will also be integrated into CCHN’s global Community of Practice, enabling continuous peer exchange, learning, and access to thematic expertise. Based on needs identified with the GPC, field Protection Clusters, and protection practitioners in the community of practice of frontline negotiators, thematic sessions may address issues, such as: community-led protection negotiations and engagement strategies; negotiating

with communities; negotiating with armed actors and authorities on protection concerns; IHL and humanitarian negotiations; humanitarian principles in negotiation processes; bureaucratic and administrative impediments affecting protection responses; managing trust, perception, and acceptance during sensitive protection engagement.

- **Protection Negotiation Labs (3 labs – each 4 sessions x 3 hours).** CCHN will facilitate dedicated Protection Negotiation Labs focused on live operational challenges identified with GPC, field partners, and protection practitioners in the CCHN community of practice of frontline negotiators. Negotiation Labs constitute a core operational support modality, enabling practitioners to address ongoing negotiation dilemmas rather than simulated scenarios. Each lab (08 – 12 participants) will: map stakeholders and power dynamics; analyse interests, motivations, and barriers to engagement; identify barriers, entry points and leverage opportunities; identify practical engagement strategies; assess risks and trade-offs; generate transferable lessons.
- Based on Protection Cluster and partner requests, including but not limited to contexts supported by project workshops, **technical accompaniment, contextual adaptation and follow-up support on protection negotiations related topics and dilemmas will be provided (5 briefings / debriefings, one hour each).** CCHN will provide targeted technical accompaniment to selected Protection Clusters and partners to support the application of negotiation and engagement strategies to ongoing operational priorities. This includes preparation support, real-time advisory support where relevant, debriefings and lessons learned. This ensures that capacity strengthening translates into practical application and sustained impact.
- **Humanitarian Diplomacy for Protection Workshops (2 in-person workshops).** Recognizing that protection outcomes often require engagement beyond frontline negotiations, CCHN will support senior humanitarian and protection leaders in strengthening humanitarian diplomacy approaches. Based on CCHN's extensive experience in conducting HD workshops and support for diplomats and humanitarians, and its work promoting field-informed diplomacy strategies, CCHN will organize two Humanitarian Diplomacy for Protection workshops. These three-day workshops will be designed in collaboration with the GPC and relevant Protection Clusters and adapted to the specific needs of priority contexts. The workshops will primarily target senior humanitarian and protection leaders, including Country Directors and Deputy Country Directors; Protection Cluster leadership; senior protection advisors; staff responsible for strategic engagement and humanitarian diplomacy. The methodology will emphasize stronger links between field realities and higher-level engagement, ensuring humanitarian diplomacy strategies are informed by operational challenges, community perspectives, and negotiation experiences. Depending on context needs, workshops may focus on strengthening participants' understanding of humanitarian diplomacy approaches, tools, and strategies; or supporting protection actors in developing a context-specific humanitarian diplomacy strategy around priority protection concerns.

Outcome 3: Elevating advocacy, negotiations and humanitarian diplomacy for protection outcomes and system strengthening (GPC-led with CCHN contributions)

The country-level work under Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 will directly feed into global level influencing efforts that leverage humanitarian diplomacy and higher-level advocacy channels by the GPC and the CCHN, and their networks of partners. The GPC, with technical support from the CCHN, will strive to develop and advance more intentional collaborations and 'ways of working' at the global level with a range of protection partners and allies – including the Community of Practice on Centrality of Protection, the global Protection Donor Group, and country-based networks and actors – to advance on global advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy in support of addressing identified protection threats at country level. This effort seeks to link with other relevant forums, such as the humanitarian diplomacy initiatives that are emerging from the Humanitarian Reset and UN80 Reform processes, as well as relevant country-specific high-level platforms and processes, and ensure protection-focused actions that help address sensitive issues that country-based protection actors are struggling to address alone through their advocacy and negotiations efforts.

The activities will include:

- **A global two-day reflection and strategy forum on protection advocacy and negotiations bringing together approximately 15 Protection Cluster coordination team members.** The forum will facilitate peer exchange, learning and identification of practical actions to further embed protection advocacy and negotiations approaches into violence reduction strategies. Particular attention will be given to the role of Protection Clusters in supporting and informing HCT engagement, humanitarian diplomacy efforts, and collective protection strategies.
- **Development of practical resources package to strengthen Protection Cluster engagement with Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT)** on protection analysis, advocacy and negotiations. Drawing on country experiences and the global strategy forum, the package will support Protection Clusters to more effectively inform and influence HCT decision-making, protection priorities, and engagement strategies. Resources may include operational guidance, emergent good practices and learnings as well as examples and case studies. The resource package will be refined through engagement with country Protection Clusters and key partners and made available in several languages across the GPC network.
- **Development and dissemination of a Policy Brief on humanitarian diplomacy for protection,** drawing on insights from Protection Clusters and partners, lessons learned and good practices and the planned humanitarian diplomacy workshops. The brief will explore how frontline advocacy, humanitarian negotiations, and engagement with duty-bearers can be better connected with regional and global humanitarian diplomacy efforts to reinforce protection objectives and influence decision-making at multiple levels. Dissemination and sensitization regarding the Brief and its recommendations will be pursued through GPC channels as well as the CCHN's Community of Practice and network, targeting key practitioners and policymakers.

- **Engagement by Protection Clusters, GPC and CCHN in at least two global level events.** These events could include the Protection of Civilian Week, Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week, Human Rights Council, or the Global Protection Forum to share policy and practice related learnings on protection advocacy, negotiations and diplomacy and advance related recommendations with key audiences, including humanitarian leaders, Member States, donors, and protection practitioners.
- **Facilitation of private briefings, roundtable discussions, and other closed-door targeted engagement.** These private engagements will target Member States, donors, humanitarian leaders and policy actors at Geneva and capital levels to strengthen understanding of country-level and thematic protection risks and opportunities for action, and will promote stronger linkages between frontline negotiations, protection advocacy efforts and broader humanitarian diplomacy initiatives. The GPC will convene joint Member State and donor briefings (at least 3), advocacy trips and engagements at capital level (at least 2) and 1 roundtable discussion as part of the project to further enable strong engagement by Protection Clusters and country-based partners on protection advocacy and negotiations-related priorities, enabling them to access key decision-makers at Geneva, New York and capital levels and directly informing humanitarian diplomacy considerations and actions.

3. Coordination, Complementarity and Partnership

The Global Protection Cluster is hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), sitting under the Department of International Protection and Solutions (DIPS). The activities of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) included in this proposal will be overseen by the GPC Global Coordinator and implemented by the multi-partner GPC Operations Cell, including through UNHCR staff and affiliated workforce and secondments from partners.

The project builds on and complements existing GPC coordination, advocacy, and field support structures, ensuring that investments are linked with the GPC priorities and ongoing activities. The project will be closely connected to the GPC's Field Support Team to ensure it contributes to strengthening protection leadership and coordination capacities where they are most needed. The project will also complement the work of the GPC Advocacy Working Group by creating opportunities for field experiences and learning to inform collective protection advocacy efforts. The GPC will also further leverage the contribution of a part-time staff member from OHCHR to the GPC in supporting human rights engagement and advocacy, with field Protection Clusters and strengthening collaboration with the Human Rights Council and related frameworks. The GPC will also continue its collaboration with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action to ensure synergy and harmonization in support provided to child protection actors on humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy, while also collaborating with the Call to Action on the Protection from GBV in humanitarian settings including its members to create synergies in advocacy and policy efforts. In addition, the GPC is an active member of the Community of Practice on the Centrality of Protection (CoP CoP) – a global platform established following the work of the former Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on the Centrality of Protection. The CoP CoP will be leveraged to exchange experiences, share good practices, and promote peer learning on practical approaches to

integrating protection across humanitarian action. Insights from this project will contribute to more evidence-based advocacy at global and country levels.

The project will be implemented in partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) on behalf of the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiations (CCHN), a global initiative that supports humanitarian professionals engaged in negotiations on the frontlines. Established in 2016, the CCHN is a collaborative effort between four major humanitarian organizations: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Since July 2025, the CCHN is financially and administratively hosted by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). All IFRC internal processes and policies apply to the CCHN and any agreements or sub-agreements will be subject to existing reporting requirements, formats, templates agreed between IFRC and the donor. CCHN brings a unique added value through its peer-based methodologies, operational research, and its global Community of Practice, which connects experienced humanitarian negotiators and diplomats across organizations, States, and contexts. Through this network, practitioners are supported not only to strengthen their analytical and strategic capacities, but also to address live operational challenges through structured, confidential, and practice-oriented formats. Beyond capacity strengthening, CCHN provides applied support to ongoing engagement processes, helping protection actors to navigate complex interactions with authorities, armed actors, communities, and other stakeholders, and to translate protection objectives into concrete outcomes through sustained dialogue, negotiation, and relationship-building.

The partnership between GPC and CCHN under this project is designed to ensure complementarity across outcomes: advocacy and influencing efforts under Outcome 1 are reinforced by dedicated negotiation and engagement support under Outcome 2, while Outcome 3 connects both levels to global policy and humanitarian diplomacy processes.

This partnership and the project itself ensure that advocacy and negotiations efforts by protection actors are reinforced by dedicated support, learning and system-strengthening at field level, bridging operational realities with strategic and diplomatic efforts in support of preventing and reducing violence faced by civilians across crisis contexts.

4. Financial Requirements

Description	Proposed Belgian Contribution (EUR)
Global Protection Cluster (GPC)	
Strengthened Capacity of Protection Actors for Advocacy and Influencing for Protection Outcomes	298,592
Travel costs for global events and country support	38,406
Strengthened Capacity of Protection Actors for Humanitarian Negotiations and Diplomacy for Protection Outcomes	376,674
Global advocacy convening / meeting / roundtables	43,400
Interpretation, design and communication costs	13,020
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	770,092
Staffing costs	168,875
TOTAL STAFFING	168,875
Support costs 6.5%	61,033
GRAND TOTAL	1,000,000

** Official FX rate used for budgeting purposes as of 15 June 2026*