



Criteria and responsibilities for General Membership & Associate Members of the CP AoR

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1. Introduction

In times of crisis – whether caused by armed conflict, a sudden-onset disaster or an epidemic – children face significant protection issues. The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) supports field-based coordination groups that lead and coordinate child protection efforts in humanitarian settings (defined as Humanitarian Coordinator and Early Warning contexts) to ensure the efforts of national and international humanitarian actors to protect children are well-coordinated, achieving maximum quality and impact. The aim is to ensure that girls and boys are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and the Grand Bargain emphasized the need to strengthen Accountability to the Affected Population (AAP) and national engagement. In this sense, the global Child Protection Area of Responsibility as part of the Protection Cluster continues its efforts to facilitate more predictable, accountable and effective child protection responses to emergencies and early warning/early action contexts. Cohesive, inter-agency child protection responses are enhanced by the CP AoR’s advocacy, promotion of minimum standards, policy setting, capacity-building, and the development of tools. Where relevant, the AoR collaborates with other inter-agency mechanisms, including the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.¹

2. Why become a member

As an inter-agency body accountable to the IASC, through the Protection Cluster, and to Humanitarian Coordinators and their country coordination teams, the **global CP AoR offers the following to its members:**

- **A collective and amplified voice to advocate child protection issues within and beyond the global humanitarian spectrum** through CP AoR participation in the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), the

¹ The CP AoR is accountable to the IASC for ensuring quality and relevance of the child protection response and is the primary recipient of requests for support coming from child protection coordination groups in the field. According to needs, requests are shared with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action or other entities that might support in guidance and policies.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), inter-cluster and other donor and governmental/inter-governmental fora;

- **Opportunities to network, connect, and exchange within a diverse global child protection in emergencies (CPiE) membership network**, which includes international, regional, and national NGOs, UN Agencies, Government as well as other humanitarian stakeholders;
- **Promotion of linkages** between field-level child protection coordination group members and regional and global policy-making bodies;
- **Information and analysis of latest developments** related to coordination and information management in the field of child protection in emergencies, such as partnership, practice, policy, and key themes affecting the humanitarian sector.

3. General Membership criteria

Membership is globally open to local, national, regional and international non-governmental organizations, civil society, community- and faith-based organizations, governments, UN agencies, networks, partnerships, and academic and other institutions.²

To become a member of the Global CP AoR, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Have a **proven track record** of having directly carried out **child protection activities** in a humanitarian or early warning context and participating in country-level coordination structures (where possible), OR of being actively engaged at local, national, regional or global level for child protection in emergencies;
 - applicants working in another field closely related to child protection may be considered on a case-by-case basis;
- Have **child safeguarding measures in place** or at a minimum a code of conduct signed by all staff members;
- Have the **capacity to contribute** to at least one activity of the global CP AoR Work Plan³;
- *For Non-Governmental Organizations*: provide proof of registration or other means of official recognition by relevant authorities or entities;
- *For Governmental Ministries* directly responsible for child protection: UNICEF as the Cluster Lead Agency will make a final decision of membership of governmental ministries; and
- Interested entities that meet the membership criteria should submit an **expression of interest form**.⁴ Upon exchange with the CP AoR Coordinator about specific areas of collaboration, sign a **letter of commitment** to contribute to the CP AoR Work Plan and to coordination functions in line with IASC guidelines, and to confirm willingness to meet membership responsibilities as well as interagency standards, guidelines and tools. A draft format will be provided by the CP AoR.

² To encourage national government and civil society engagement, the CP AoR is rolling out language-specific helpdesks in English, French, Spanish and Arabic that will allow practitioners from a wide range of backgrounds to engage in their working language.

³ Participation in country-level coordination structures is encouraged and may be a more appropriate participation forum for organisations that cannot or would prefer not to commit resources to the global level activities.

⁴ This can be accessed here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCK6JB2

4. Membership responsibilities

Members of the CP AoR have the responsibility to:

- **Provide a focal point** for their engagement with the global CP AoR and keep contact details up to date;
- **Actively contribute to child protection-related activities** aimed at mitigating child protection risks and/or responding to child protection needs at local, national, regional, and/or global level, and participate in field-based coordination mechanisms where possible;
- **Directly support one or more activities of the CP AoR Work Plan and provide brief quarterly updates on implementation progress;**
- **Participate**, whenever possible and relevant, in regular calls, webinars, annual meetings and other events organized by the CP AoR;
- **Encourage and support the participation and inclusion of local level actors;**
- **Share technical knowledge, experience and information** on lessons learned, successes and promising practices, case studies, coordination and policy approaches, and program results that support Early Warning and Early Action (EWEA) as well as strengthen response to child protection in emergencies;
- **Promote the work of the CP AoR**, including through the sharing of tools and advocating application of global initiatives/standards within their own organisations to ensure that the importance of child protection coordination and information management is recognized (at national and sub-national levels) and that standards for quality child protection programming are promoted and upheld;
- To the extent possible, **mobilise and commit organisational resources** to support the work of the AoR (this can be financial, technical in-kind, or human resources);
- **Endorse, adhere to and use** the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, as well as other inter-agency standards, guidelines, and tools for the protection of children, when relevant⁵; and
- **Adhere to organizational child safeguarding measures**, and **regularly monitor and improve child safeguarding policy and procedures** to align with international standards and recommendations.

5. CP AoR Commitment to Members

- **Share** new resources, initiatives, promising practices & updates from the Global Protection Cluster and GBV and Mine Action AoRs, MHPSS Reference Group, OCHA inter-cluster work, etc.;
- **Promote linkages** between country-level, regional, and global bodies and experts, where relevant and appropriate;
- **Provide updates and reports on progress** against the work plan;
- **Share CP AoR updates** on a quarterly basis (e.g. Rapid Response Team deployment briefs, Help Desk reports, briefs & tools from CP AoR initiatives, etc.);
- **Share information** from Strategic Advisory Group meetings;
- **Interact on issues** regarding child protection coordination, information management, and emerging trends and themes within humanitarian coordinator and early warning/early action contexts
- **List member organizations** and their logos on our website.

⁵ This includes the Core Humanitarian Standards, World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain Commitments, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and other relevant international instruments.

6. Associate Members of the CP AoR

For organizations interested in a less formal connection with the CP AoR or unable to meet all membership criteria, the CP AoR offers organizations to be *Associate Members*. All individuals, independent consultants, governmental donors and ministries can also be Associate Members.

At a minimum, Associate Members have the responsibility to endorse, adhere to and use the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and other inter-agency standards, as well as adhere to child safeguarding measures.

This status will also allow organizations to engage with the CP AoR on questions regarding child protection coordination, information management, and emerging trends and themes within humanitarian settings. This can prepare them to potentially meet all membership criteria in future.