



TECHNICAL FACTSHEET

Protection in Emergencies

Our Approach

Global Communities works at the intersection of **sustainable development** and **humanitarian assistance** to save lives, advance equity and secure strong futures. We take a holistic approach to humanitarian action, working with communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters to deliver emergency aid and support their resilience and recovery. **Protection is at the heart of our humanitarian assistance programs.** Since 2016, we have worked to prevent, mitigate and respond to increased risks of physical and psychological harm among crisis-affected populations, including violence, exploitation and neglect. We work to reduce threats and vulnerability; increase access to essential services; and strengthen the capacity of local actors to improve the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations. Our protection services reach more than **118,000 individuals** per year. In several conflict settings, we implement highly specialized **Child Protection, Gender-based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response, and Community-Based Protection** interventions.

Delivering Protection Services

Protection risks are multifaceted and interconnected, requiring comprehensive solutions tailored to the needs of affected populations. Global Communities has provided more than a million protection services since 2016 to an estimated **472,184 people**, of which 65% are women and girls. While our interventions are always anchored in community engagement, their delivery depends on the local context. In countries where institutional services are weak, Global Communities delivers **services directly** through safe spaces or mobile teams. **Safe spaces** allow individuals to receive assistance in physically and emotionally safe environments. **Mobile teams** bring services to individuals where they are: in their homes, schools or healthcare facilities. In other countries, our services are delivered by **local actors**, with technical support from Global Communities.

Our **prevention activities** empower at-risk groups and strengthen community resilience to cope with

the effects of a crisis. Our **response interventions** range from **case management** and **material support** to **psychosocial services** which include individual and group counselling, peer support groups and recreational activities. Since 2020, Global Communities has reached more than 100,000 individuals with psychosocial support. We also engage in **advocacy** and **capacity strengthening** with local actors, reaching around 1,600 people annually with protection trainings such as “*GBV Core Concepts*” and “*Communicating with Children*.”

Protecting Children in Emergencies

In emergencies, children are often the most vulnerable and at-risk population group, facing abuse, exploitation, family separation and a loss of education. Our **Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE)** programs promote children’s development, well-being and resilience, and reach approximately **50,000 children** each year.

CPiE programs also support caregivers and foster protective environments by engaging with children's families and communities. Our CPiE interventions are implemented through **child-friendly spaces**, mobile teams, or community spaces, such as schools, to provide services to children, such as **play and learn** activities or art **therapy** classes. We also offer **life skills** and basic **literacy and numeracy** sessions, which help children return to school. Moreover, we facilitate **parenting sessions** and offer **cash** assistance to meet individual needs.

Addressing GBV in Crisis Settings

Gender-based violence (GBV) is pervasive around the globe, disproportionately affecting women, girls and gender diverse individuals. In crisis settings, preexisting risks of GBV are often exacerbated and new forms of abuse emerge. To address these risks, Global Communities implements **GBV in Emergencies (GBViE)** programming, which provides services to over 40,000 women and girls yearly. Our interventions include both **GBV prevention** and **response**. For example, we mobilize communities to challenge harmful gender norms, offer **psychosocial** support to survivors and refer them to other specialized services.

We deliver GBViE services primarily through women & girls' **safe spaces**, mobile teams and women-focused organizations.

Implementing Community-Based Protection

Global Communities implements **Community-Based Protection (CBP)** interventions to reach at-risk groups not covered by CPiE or GBViE programming. These include people with disabilities, older persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people, minorities, indigenous populations and other marginalized groups. They often experience exacerbated stigma and discrimination during crises, including physical and social barriers to accessing basic services. Our programs provide **protection services** and activities to strengthen community structures, such as **peer support groups** and **community-based committees**, which can improve the protective environment for vulnerable groups. CBP efforts may also include **community sensitization**, **awareness raising** and **community events** aimed at strengthening social cohesion.

Our Global Commitments

Global Communities is a proud member of the **Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action** and the Cash and Child Protection Task Force. We are a signatory to the **Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies** and the **InterAction CEO Pledge on Preventing Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, and Harassment by and of NGO Staff**. We apply **Safe & Accountable Programming (SAP)** principles across our humanitarian interventions, including in protection, to ensure the safety and dignity of, and accountability to, affected populations.

Program Highlights

- Since 2016, Global Communities has implemented protection services for internally displaced people and host communities across northwest and northeast **Syria**. Thus far, we have assisted 443,851 people, including 288,504 women.
- In **Ukraine**, our **Community-Led Emergency Action and Response (CLEAR)** program strengthens the capacity of local organizations to provide protection services to war-affected people. Through CLEAR, we have reached 28,333 people, including 18,431 children.