



Global Coalition to **Protect**  
**Education from Attack**

## Workshop on Promising Practices in Protecting Education from Attack

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), with support from UNICEF and Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC), held a *Workshop on Promising Practices in Protecting Education from Attack* on October 5-7, 2015, in Istanbul, Turkey. Over 75 stakeholders working directly on education and protection issues at multiple levels, including the Ministry of Education, community-based organizations, and the UN, gathered to cultivate knowledge on successes, challenges, and opportunities in protecting education based on their own experiences. Teams comprised of three to seven members were present from 10 countries: Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, and South Sudan. Additional experts also attended from Nepal, Central African Republic, Sudan, and other countries impacted by attacks on education.

Topics addressed in workshop panels included the benefits and challenges associated with: armed protection measures, such as armed guards at schools and check points; non-armed protection, including strengthening school infrastructure and introducing protective accompaniment of children to school; school-based safety and security planning, for example early warning systems via SMS; approaches to protecting against military use of schools; negotiations with armed parties as a strategy for protecting education; psychosocial support for students and teachers in areas where education is targeted; monitoring and reporting of attacks; risk-informed programming including ensuring curriculum content and access to quality education do not become drivers of conflict; and advocacy with states to encourage endorsement of the [Safe Schools Declaration](#) and implementation of the [Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict](#).

The workshop also included multiple opportunities for capacity development and collaboration between conference participants. Small group sessions allowed education and protection stakeholders to exchange and compare their experiences implementing protection measures, and to reflect on the benefits and risks of utilizing these measures in diverse contexts. Each country delegation formulated two action plans. In the first, they identified a relevant promising practice they learned about in the workshop and planned steps for adapting it to their own national context. In the second action plan, teams developed strategies for advocating with their own government to endorse the Declaration and implement the Guidelines.

GCPEA will follow up with all country delegations in early 2016 on their progress and challenges in implementing their action plans, and will assess opportunities to provide support. Knowledge generated from discussions at the workshop will also help to inform forthcoming GCPEA publications, including *What Ministries Can do to Protect Education from Attack and Schools from Military Use: A Menu of Actions* and *What School-based Actors Can do to Protect Education from Attack and Schools from Military Use*.

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