Results-Based Protection — InterAction

Dear Colleagues,

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1. Announcement of Updates Letter & How to Sign-Up

This update letter will be published regularly to bring to your attention new materials available and upcoming events for the Results-Based Protection Program. To sign up, visit the Results-Based Protection platform (http://protection.interaction.org) and submit your name and email.

Each update letter will also be posted to the Resources section of the Results-Based Platform (http://protection.interaction.org/all-resources/).

2. Communicating with Communities Summary and Analysis Paper

On January 26th, 2015, the Results-Based Protection Program held a webinar and launched a discussion forum on <u>Communicating with Communities: Analyzing the role of information and the flow of communication with affected populations to address protection outcomes</u>. The discussion underscored several key areas and cross-cutting issues of communication flows and information:

1. **Communicating with Communities within a Problem-Solving Approach** to engaging in a meaningful and genuine two-way dialogue with communities and affected populations
   a. **Access** to specific, accurate information from a trusted source can impact or decrease exposure to protection risks
   b. **Information flow** within a community and between a community and other stakeholders, including humanitarian actors, peacekeeping missions, government authorities, parties to conflict
   c. **Perspectives of the affected population** of a protection issue helps to inform programming
2. **Being Informed is a Result that Supports Protective Outcomes.** Information that enhances a communities'/affected population's capacity to act and reduce their own exposure to risks.
3. **Additional Key Points** support effective communications with affected populations:
   a. **Coordination** that ensures information flows across sectors
   b. **Senior Leadership Support, Institutional Structures, Processes, Dedicated Resources, and Capacity** to prioritize and facilitate genuine two-way communication flows with affected populations
   c. **Professional Standards for Protection** required to ensure confidentiality and informed consent are upheld while engaging with affected populations.

A Summary and Analysis Report is now available [here](#).

3. Upcoming Webinar & Discussion Forum: Protection Strategy

The next Results-Based Protection webinar and discussion forum will be held on the topic of protection strategy. The focus of the discussion will be finalized over the coming weeks.

- **To sign up for the webinar on May 8th, 2015, 9:30AM-11:00AM** please register at: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6377824215107096577. Participation is limited so join today! If you are unable to join the webinar, you can still join the discussion forum. A recording of the webinar will be posted following the event.
- **To register for the discussion forum on May 11-22nd, 2015**, please register at: http://protection.interaction.org/login-or-register/ and RSVP to Eileen McCarthy at emccarthy@interaction.org.
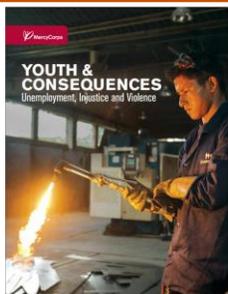
A. REPORT: [Youth & Consequences: Unemployment, Injustice and Violence](#)
A new report from Mercy Corps evaluates the factors that propel young people to take up arms. The report found that contrary to the assumptions of many donors and NGOs, the principal drivers of political violence are rooted not in poverty, but in experiences of injustice. While the scope of the report covers youth projects beyond protection-specific activities, many of the key messages are relevant to learning from the Results-Based Protection Program:

- As we have seen with many protection programs, "there is a tendency to implement programs that have been implemented elsewhere, using boilerplate, sector-specific indicators" and "many indicators are divorced from impact"
- **A <u>comprehensive analysis</u> of the drivers of violence and risks associated with this decision making process is essential to understanding to designing a strategy and response**. In this case, gathering youth perspectives on why they join violent movements is essential to understanding what is driving the threat to civilians, understanding their attitudes and motivations towards violence.
- **An ongoing and nuanced process of reflection of our assumptions and the underlying <u>causal logic</u> of an intervention is essential to ensuring that programming is appropriate and impactful**. In the case of this report, Mercy Corps found that "contrary to assumptions driving bread-and-butter stability programs, employment status appears to have little or no effect on whether a young person will engage in or support political violence."
- **Any intervention must <u>start with the community</u>**: "Empowering local reformers and youth to build more just and inclusive societies remains, we believe, the best bet for a more peaceful future"
- **Lengthy time horizons – along with a tolerance for risk and <u>flexibility</u> – are indispensable**. The report notes that even in environments rife with "local hostility, insecurity, and a deficit of trustworthy local partners, the best practices are evident in locally owned, demand-driven programs; targeted interventions that reach the most marginalized; and multifaceted approaches that mix psychosocial programming, protection, economic development and meaningful improvements in governance." But the success of these programs requires time to conduct a full analysis and build relationships, flexibility to evolve programming, and innovation.
- **<u>Coordination</u> is essential to address issues comprehensively.**
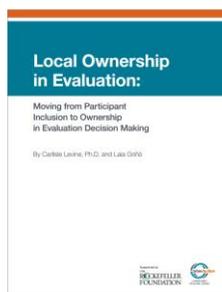
B. BRIEFING PAPER: [Local Ownership in Evaluation: Moving from Participant Inclusion to Ownership in Evaluation Decision Making](#)

This briefing paper developed by InterAction provides practitioners – particularly international NGOs and donors – with a rationale and framework for promoting local ownership of evaluation. As underscored in learning coming from the Results-Based Protection Program, genuine two-way communication with communities and affected

populations must extend to all parts of the program cycle – from analysis to design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

- One key point for results-based protection is that "including participants as co-owners in evaluation can improve communication among all stakeholders involved, leading to a better understanding of stakeholders' values, needs and interests; shifts in implementation to more effectively respond to those concerns; and, therefore, greater benefits." This is essential to a comprehensive and ongoing protection analysis, designing for results, etc.
- The process of including participants in the evaluation process need not be overly burdensome. "To avoid being overwhelmed by the shift required, organizations can take an incremental approach to pursuing local ownership in evaluation" including by building off of existing participatory approaches to programming.
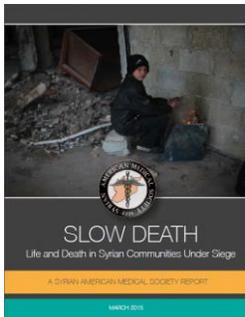
C. REPORT: [Slow Death: Life and Death in Syrian Communities under Siege](#)
The report by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) documents life and death in besieged areas of Syria and examines the international response. The report utilizes qualitative information from SAM's networks on the ground, an essential component to bring in the historical knowledge and perspectives of the affected population, as well as a dataset of information on 560 civilians who died prematurely in besieged areas. It covers not only the threats and vulnerabilities of communities living under siege but highlights their capacity and the **"creative coping" methods of civilians living under siege, and key component of a comprehensive protection analysis essential for results-based protection.** In particular the report features several examples of self-protection community solutions to dealing with shortages of food, energy, and health provisions:

- People have created small gardens in spaces like rooftops, courtyards, and alleyways to provide residents with a small alternative food source
- Communities have developed sustainable energy production methods including one local council establishing a small solar project and others using bicycles to generate electricity to power small devices
- Medical centers have moved underground and separated into different buildings to limit the impact of airstrikes or barrel bomb attacks
- SAMS has supported some of these efforts including:
  - Partnering with the Syrian American Engineers Association on a project using methane gas from animal waste to supply power
  - Pioneering the use of telemedicine to provide remote support from medical specialists, improving patient care and saving lives as well as raising the morale of besieged staff

4. Related Events: PHAP Exchange Hub: Measuring Success in Protection Programming

On Thursday, 2 April 2015, PHAP hosted a live online discussion event as part of its current Exchange Hub on measuring success in protection programming.

The event focused on clarifying the overarching goals of protection programming, which is often not sufficiently addressed in more technical discussions about measurement and evaluation. The panel discussion featured experts from ECHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, and World Vision International, including Learning & Steering Group member, Patrick Sooma.

A recording of the discussion is available here: https://phap.org/civicrm/event/info?id=267

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[i] You are receiving the message because you have been invited to participate in previous activities of the Results-Based Protection Program. To continue to receive updates please sign-up at http://protection.interaction.org. To unsubscribe please email Eileen McCarthy (emccarthy@interaction.org) with your name and email.

[ii] The Results-Based Protection Program is funded by ECHO and USAID/OFDA