

# RESULTS-BASED PROTECTION CHEAT SHEET: KEY TERMS & CONCEPTS

What do we mean when we say *protection outcome*? What is meant by *reduced risk*?

This cheat sheet is intended to serve as a reference guide for key terms and concepts frequently used when talking about results-based approaches to protection (RBP).

**PROTECTION:** All activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Refugee Law).<sup>1</sup>

## PROTECTION FROM WHAT?

### VIOLENCE

- killing
- torture
- maiming
- beatings
- rape etc.

### COERCION

- restricted freedom of movement
- forced or prevented displacement
- forced or prevented return
- forced participation in conflict
- slavery
- forced prostitution etc.

### DEPRIVATION

- prevention from accessing means of subsistence and/or humanitarian aid
- destruction of critical infrastructure, property, assets, and means of livelihood, etc.

**THREAT X VULNERABILITY / CAPACITY = RISK:** *Threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities* are distinct factors that, when taken together, equal risk. A *threat* represents the source of the risk [for example: an armed non-state actor who recruits young boys]. *Vulnerabilities* are the distinct factors that make a person or group of people susceptible to that threat [in this example: local boys of a certain ethnic group aged between 10-17]. *Capacities* represent the person's or community's ability to mitigate that threat [in this example: a community watch group or a local boy's peer group]. Through *continuous, context-specific analysis*, we can avoid generalizations and break down *risk patterns* into *threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities*. This is then used to develop the *causal logic* for interventions to reduce risk and achieve a protection outcome.

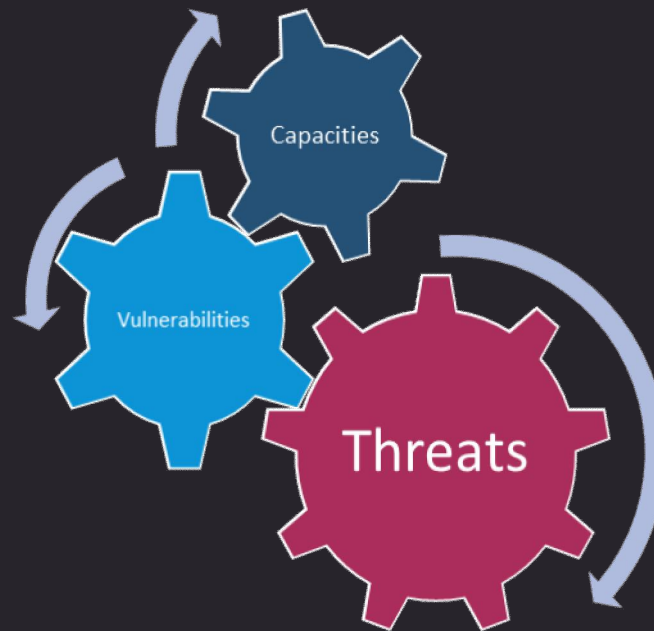
**RISK PATTERN:** Trends in specific *threats* that affected people face. Specific threats should be voiced by the affected people themselves and identify who exactly (e.g. adolescent boys, young women, elderly men and women, LGBTI, etc.) is *vulnerable* to the threat, when, and why. *Risk patterns* should be disaggregated wherever possible to include gender, ethnicity, time, location, political affiliation, religion, disability, economic status, and other factors which have implications for exposure to threats. Generalizations should be actively avoided.

**RBP KEY ELEMENTS:** Through consultations with a diverse array of practitioners and specialists, we've identified three main elements, or necessary actions, that are essential to achieving protection outcomes: (1) *continuous, context-specific protection analysis*; (2) *outcome-oriented methods*; and (3) *multi-disciplinary strategies*. Each of these three elements is comprised of various approaches, methods, tools, and practices that support protection results and outcomes.

**KEY ELEMENT #2: OUTCOME-ORIENTED METHODS:** Humanitarian action should be based on a clear *causal logic* with the goal of measurable *reduction in risk*. Methods such as outcome mapping, systems-thinking, design thinking, and foresight analysis can be used to help define how to go about changing behavior, attitude, knowledge, policy, and practice for protection outcomes.

**KEY ELEMENT #1: CONTINUOUS, CONTEXT-SPECIFIC PROTECTION ANALYSIS<sup>2</sup>:** Risk patterns should be examined in their specific contexts, including their specific historic, political, socio-economic, and linguistic realities at the local, regional, and/or national level. This analysis should be comprehensive and updated regularly based on new information and changing dynamics.

**KEY ELEMENT #3: MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STRATEGIES:** Most protection concerns require more than one actor for effective problem-solving. To achieve a *protection outcome*, each actor needs to be aware of their role and responsibility towards meeting the outcome and design their intervention in relation to their specific strengths and contribution.



**REDUCED RISK:** Measurable reduction in identified *threats*, reduction in people's *vulnerabilities* to those threats, and/or people's increased *capacities* to manage threats. It should be noted that *threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities* are interlinked and always evolving. When one piece of the puzzle changes, this will impact the other parts.

**PROTECTION OUTCOME:** A measurable *reduction in risk* that affected people face. This can be through reduced threats/incidence of threats; reduced *vulnerabilities* to identified *threats* and/or by increased *capacities* in relation to these threats. These changes are the measurable **results** that lead to protection outcomes. Achieving a *protection outcome of reduced risk* means that the component parts contributing to risk (*threat, vulnerability, and capacity*) must be addressed. A *protection outcome* is different from an output in the sense that an output is simply the manifestation of a protection activity, e.g. establishment of a "listening center", number of people trained, etc. While these outputs are useful to track, they do not say anything about changes in *risk patterns* and the problem we are trying to solve.

**CAUSAL LOGIC:** This describes the pathway and milestones (i.e. changes in behavior, attitude, knowledge, policy, or practice of duty bearers or other stakeholders) between the specific risk factors affected people are facing and the desired *protection outcome* and serves as the underlying strategy of humanitarian action which is adapted to the context and designed to address a specific *risk pattern*. *Causal logics* should clearly identify at what level (individual, household, community, etc.) interventions need to be undertaken and results should be achieved and observed; describe the sequence of actions at different levels of intervention; describe the roles of various actors; and explicitly articulate the assumptions and rationale behind the desired change, sequence of actions, roles of different actors, and expected results.

<sup>1</sup> *Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action*, pg. 2

<sup>2</sup> The RBP website is being updated in early 2019 – check back frequently for more information