OVERVIEW AND METHODOLOGY
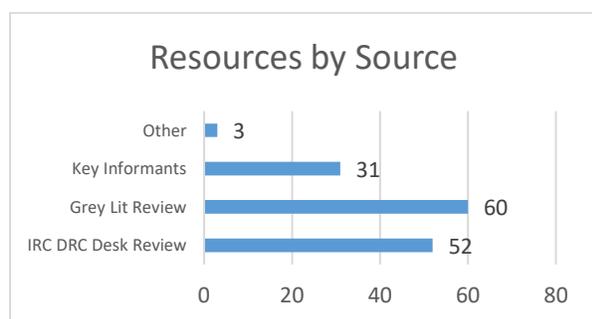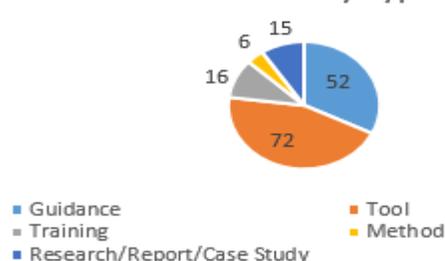
As a foundational activity of the IRC-DRC project, a resource mapping was conducted to situate the project amidst the landscape of existing resources, tools, trainings, and research pertaining to protection analysis. The mapping serves as a basis for identifying and affirming strengths and opportunities to adapt existing tools for delivering an analytical resource package that is fit-for-use by frontline and coordination actors, as well as decision-makers. The resource mapping methodology entailed: 1) a review of IRC and DRC resources provided in organizational knowledge management platforms; 2) a search and screen of electronically available grey literature on protection analysis;[1] and 3) soliciting resources known and used by project key stakeholders (including advisory group members and frontline protection staff).

A total of **146 resources** were collected and catalogued in a matrix, coded, and analyzed to understand: how and by whom the resource is used; resource type, function, and its place in the analytical workflow; frequency of use; overall strengths and aspects of results-based protection analysis practice; as well as compatibility with human-centered design and adult learning principles.[2] We defined "aspects of results-based protection analysis" by the criteria outlined in the IASC Protection Policy's characterization of an in-depth and integrated protection analysis, ICRC's Professional Standards for Protection Work, specifically Chapter 2 on "Managing Protection Strategies", as well as InterAction's Continuous Context-Specific Analysis component. Specifically, the resource mapping sought to identify tools that support analysis of the different ways that people are at risk, analysis that starts as safely and practicably as possible, from the perspective of affected populations; frames the protection risk in a broader context; analysis of the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and institutions and the influence they have over the protection risk; and an analysis of how protection actors and other stakeholders contribute to reducing the protection risk to inform protection strategies and maximize complementarity.[3] Resources were also identified that spoke to enabling factors for a continuous protection analysis. This summary is accompanied by a non-comprehensive list of tools identified in the course of mapping which highlight certain features of results-based protection analysis [*See* Annex].

Resources by Source: Other 3; Key Informants 31; Grey Lit Review 60; IRC DRC Desk Review 52

Resource by Type: Guidance 52; Tool 72; Training 16; Method 6; Research/Report/Case Study 15[4]

---

[1] Including inter alia, online resource repositories (ACAPs, GPC/AoR Learning Hubs, Relief Web, InterAction Results-based Protection) and training platforms (PHAP, DisasterReady; Kaya Humanitarian Leadership Academy). The Protection Analysis Specialist consulted research and innovation colleagues with expertise in rapid evidence reviews to guide the approach for a systematic search and screen for published material and grey literature related to protection analysis [see the Resource Mapping Methodology]. Broken down by sub-sector, the total materials reviewed entailed: 47% "general protection"; 5% from the GBV community; 4% from the Child Protection community, and 44% analytical resources from other sectors within and outside of the humanitarian community.

[2] This is a non-comprehensive list of resources suitable for protection analysis; heavily comprised of resources available electronically from sector or sub-sectoral repositories.

[3] Aligned with the "Elements of a Sound Protection Analysis", ICRC Professional Standards (2018:40)

[4] Guidance includes *inter alia* guidance notes, handbooks, manuals, and analytical frameworks; Trainings include Presentations, facilitation guides, e-learnings, in-person capacity development, etc.

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PURPOSE AND USE

Resources categorized as featuring strong elements of results-based protection analysis will be highlighted for inclusion in project learning and testing activities, where core project users will be able to validate findings and evaluate where resources may be adapted for enhancing stronger and more usable protection analysis. The project team will further interrogate and unpack "good practice" and what a "quality" analysis entails in interviews with key user groups. Ultimately, an understanding of existing resources available for protection analysis will help understand tools that may fit user needs (and avoid duplication), identify gaps, and prioritize areas for further resource development.

MAIN FINDINGS

Overall, there is no "silver bullet" tool for results-based protection analysis. The approach, method, and tool selected should be tailored to the precise question being asked and what we are trying to uncover: *what do we know? What do we want to know? How can we find this out?* It may be that a combination of different resources, tools, methods are necessary over a period of time to better understand the nature of the risk at hand, what is causing it and what is its impact, who is best placed to engage in problem-solving, and what strategies should be pursued for reducing the risk. The resource mapping revealed a range of different guidance, methods, and tools at the analyst's disposal for answering these different analysis questions. Similarly, aspects of results-based protection were incorporated in many of the tools we reviewed.

Of the 146 resources assessed, many cut across the Analysis Workflow. For example several resources provided guidance for both data collection and analysis. The workflow was modeled on ACAPs' visualization of the analysis process; however, it added additional criteria for "Uptake and Use" (related to the goal of actionable analysis), as well as "Enabling environment", which includes mindsets, resources, processes, and organizational culture factors that support application of continuous protection analysis. While resources focusing solely on data gathering and management were not prioritized in the scope of the search and screen; a robust and quality protection analysis is only as good as the data that it is based on; therefore, some data and information-gathering methods were reviewed as they pertained to results-based protection analysis.
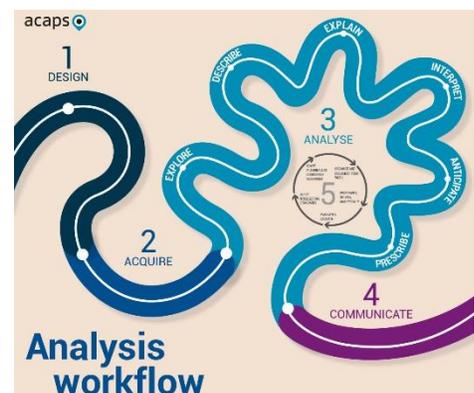

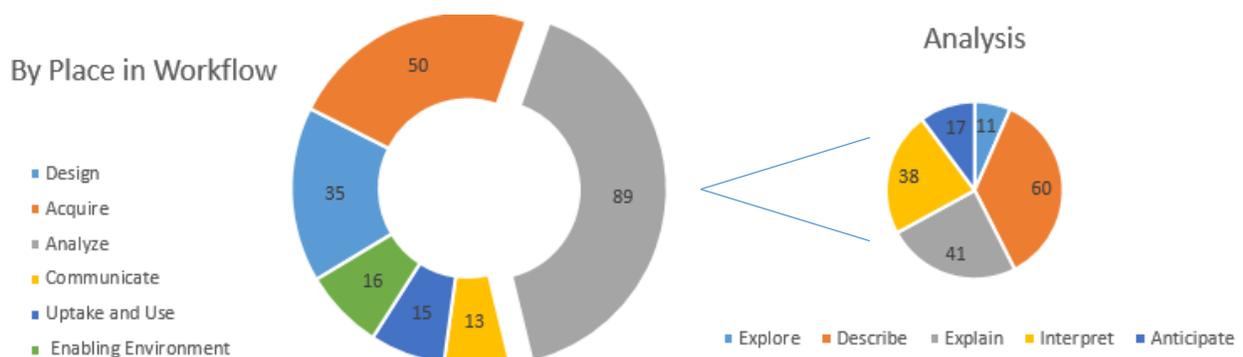*Figure 1 ACAPS' Analytical Workflow*

Figure 2 Resources Assessed by Place in Analytical Workflow

Opportunities for strengthening continuous contextual analysis: Looking at the criteria for a sound results-based protection analysis, there were many tools (32% of resources reviewed) which highlighted the relevance of context for framing the protection risk within the larger historical, socio-political, economic, and environmental context. Resources reviewed included conflict and context tools, power analyses, participatory mapping exercises, stakeholder analyses, etc.[5] However, this context analysis was often treated as a one-off exercise at the formative design stages of an intervention, rather than carried out continuously through a response to capture and reflect on changing dynamics and relationships as they relate to protection risks. Furthermore, few resources articulated an explicit connection with other information-gathering mechanisms, like protection monitoring and other continuous assessments as a way to update and build upon existing understanding of context and deepen the understanding of the risk environment over time. While beyond the scope of the resource mapping, this finding also speaks to the enabling environment required (including time, financial resources, supportive leadership and adaptive management processes) for these links to be intentionally cultivated and contextual analysis to be continuously updated.

Differences in terminology and conceptual confusion: A protection risk analysis is the bedrock of a sound protection analysis; however, the resource mapping revealed a range of definitions and usages of the primary components to the risk equation (risk, threat, vulnerability, and capacity). Several tools similarly reflected a conflation between protection needs and risks, and often led to vulnerability and capacity being looked at in isolation, rather than in relation to the specific threat at hand. Different terminology may lead not only to conceptual confusion in analysis, but also stymie broader collaboration towards collective outcomes – both within sub-sectors and across sectors and disciplines. A shared glossary for protection analysis, including the specific terms of the protection risk equation, building from the glossary for Protection Information Management,[6] may be a helpful starting point for building on a common approach.

	GPC Mainstreaming Toolkit: Protection Analysis Methodology[7]	**InterAction's Results Based Protection Key Terms Cheat Sheet[8]**	**ECHO Policy Guidelines Humanitarian Protection[9]**
Threat	The potential for physical or psychological harm and potential barriers to access humanitarian aid and the information needed to make informed decisions by beneficiaries. Perpetrators include armed forces and militia groups, community and family members, and even aid workers. Access can be hindered to facilities by limited mobility. For example, children face the threat of being raped by armed groups.	A threat represents the source of the risk [for example: an armed non-state actor who recruits young boys].	Violence, coercion, deprivation, abuse or neglect against the affected population/ individual. It is committed by an actor (note that perpetrators and duty-bearers are sometimes the same actor).

---

[5] For specific examples, see Annex List of Resources
[6] http://pim.guide/guidance-and-products/product/pim-common-terminology/
[7] https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/_assets/files/aors/protection_mainstreaming/unhcr-gpc-pm_toolkit-2017.en.pdf
[8] https://protection.interaction.org/results-based-protection-cheat-sheet-key-terms-concepts/
[9] https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/policy_guidelines_humanitarian_protection_en.pdf

Vulnerability	Factors that increase the likeliness of facing threats. This is affected by factors such as gender, age, ethnic/religious group, disability, and the ability to access reliable and verified information. For example, IDPs are more vulnerable due to the fact that they are displaced and are often not represented in local governance mechanisms.	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].	Life circumstances (e.g. poverty, education) and/or discrimination based on physical or social characteristics (sex, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, etc.) reducing the ability of primary stakeholders (for example, individuals/ households/community) to withstand adverse impact from external stressors. Vulnerability is not a fixed criterion attached to specific categories of people, and no one is born vulnerable per se.
Capacity	The strengths both individuals and communities have to keep themselves safe: e.g. designated safe spaces, community plans, linkages with protection-sensitive institutions, awareness of rights and responsibilities, and the ability to communicate with their peers and with aid agencies. For example, women, girls, and boys may use survival sex if they cannot meet their families' basic needs.	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].	Experiences, knowledge and networks of primary stakeholders (e.g. individuals, households, communities) that strengthen their ability to withstand adverse impact from external stressors. Capacities represent the opposite of vulnerabilities.

Table 1. Definitions of Protection Risk Analysis Components

Additionally, many tools related to conducting a protection risk analysis instructed users, when unpacking "vulnerability", to make considerations beyond sex and age, including a "diversity perspective". This term is also open to interpretation, and speaks to a broader gap in the resource base for how to disaggregate risk through an inclusion/intersectional lens (and appropriate methodologies for gathering/analyzing data). [10]

Participatory methods for starting from the perspective of affected populations: As aforementioned, sound protection analysis can only start from strong data and information. The methods and tools we use to gather data are important to ensuring quality, but also relevance and appropriateness. Many of the reviewed tools linked to primary data collection techniques, often confined "participatory methods" to key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The methodologies for data collection should be iteratively evaluated to determine whether they are appropriately suited to the context, grounded in the perspective of affected populations, and working toward the intended purpose. Participatory methods may not always be appropriate for application in humanitarian contexts, however they may be

Mentions participatory methods beyond KII/FGD

21%

79%

■ Yes ■ No

Table 2. % of resources which mention participatory methods

especially helpful for both developing a rich and nuanced understanding of individuals' own understanding of their risk environment as well as enabling those closest to protection problems to play a meaningful and creative role in informing and shaping the response. Toolkits such as ActionAid's Safety
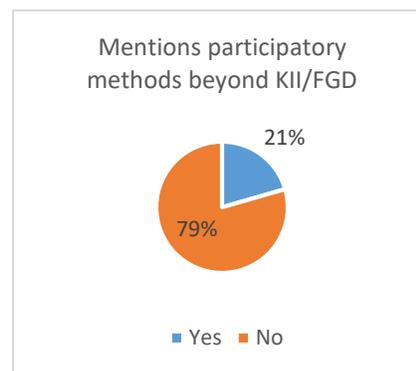
---

[10] IASC Protection Policy (2016:7) describes "diversity" as follows: In particular, the analysis should consider experiences of men, women, girls and boys, and marginalized persons (e.g. LGBTI persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, displaced persons or migrants, persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities or linguistic minorities and/or indigenous peoples).

with Dignity Field Manual[11], ChildFund's Child-and Youth-Friendly Participatory Action Research toolkit,[12] and UNHCR's Listen and Learn Participatory Assessment with Children and Adolescents,[13] offer a suite of different methods which could be adapted for identifying and understanding protection risks and prioritizing and positioning for response alongside community members (perhaps revealing opportunities for building off community capacities and protection mechanisms). By thinking about what analysis gaps exist and what information is needed, analysts may also be able to leverage the knowledge and information that might exist outside of the humanitarian community, including development, peacebuilding, and academic actors, who might be using participatory methods to shed light on the contextual dynamics.

Additionally, a few tools, like IRC's STEP toolkit (currently being piloted) highlight that in addition to affected people's own experiences and perspectives, there is extensive existing knowledge of relevant dynamics among frontline (and local and national staff and partners). This resource seeks to leverage this often under-tapped information source to enable those interacting closely with communities to be empowered analytical thinkers and problem-solvers.

Bringing it together: Although there was often an appreciation of the multi-sectoral nature of protection issues, and engaging multiple actors, disciplines, and perspectives within and outside the humanitarian system for an "in depth and integrated" protection analysis at the local, regional, and national level,[14] few resources described how and when to practically incorporate tools, research, and information sources from other sectors (or even sub-sectors), both within organizations and in interagency fora. A helpful tool that may promote more information sharing suitable for cross-sectoral and joint analysis includes PIM's Framework for Data Sharing in Practice, which outlines the minimum shared principles that underlie and characterize the responsible handling, sharing, and use of data and information.[15] PIM offers a solid base of guidance, trainings, and tools to help teams establish information management systems (assess the information landscape, define needs, and design and implement IMS) which supports continuous protection analysis.

Analysis for what?: Finally, the resource mapping exercise revealed a concentration of resources around descriptive and explanatory analysis, but fewer examples for how to undertake interpretative and anticipatory analysis to prioritize issues and position analysis for strategic decision-making and action. An observed gap in the resource base were tools for identifying protection laws and practices to establish benchmarks for reduced risk. These include national law, international humanitarian law, human rights law, and refugee law as well social, cultural, and religious practices which may be protective. A notable exception was DRC's Responsibility Linking Assessment tool and Complementarity Mapping tool. The former identifies the human rights that are violated in relation to the specific protection risk, the relevant legal standards at the national, regional or international level, those responsible to respect, protect and fulfil the right, and what responses or enforcement steps are possible to protect this right. Combined with the complementarity mapping tool, which helps clarify what actions and others we are doing and how it

[11] https://drc.ngo/media/2113379/actionaid_safety-with-dignity.pdf
[12] https://alliancecpha.org/en/child-protection-online-library/child-and-youth-friendly-participatory-action-research-toolkit
[13] https://www.refworld.org/docid/4fffe4af2.html
[14] In line with the IASC Protection Policy (2016:6)
[15] http://pim.guide/essential/a-framework-for-data-sharing-in-practice/

contributes to a comprehensive protection response and outcome, they stimulate creative thinking about what collaborative efforts might be needed to ensure the right is respected, protected or fulfilled.[16]
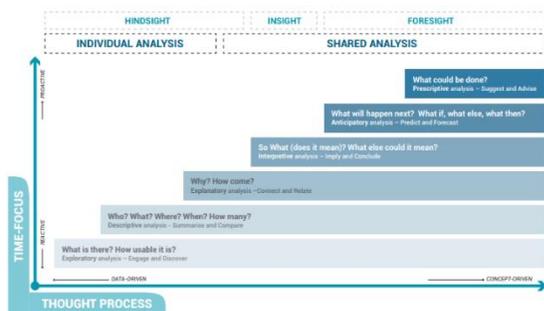

Figure 3 ACAPS' Analysis Spectrum (adapted from Pherson, 2010)

In moving from hindsight to foresight, some tools like IRC's Scenario Planning tool[17] and ACAPS' protection analytical canvas (in development)[18] may be useful for teams to model and envision ways that the risk environment might evolve and outline options for uptake and use by decision-makers (at all levels) for protection problem-solving. Continuous contextual analysis can help identify the important variables in the system to be monitored, visualize connections and points of influence within the system, and understanding the trajectories of various dynamics, and project how they will evolve in the short and medium term. By seeking opportunities for joint analysis of possible futures and incorporating scenario development exercises based on findings, actors may find it easier to identify opportunities for practical application of the findings and build inter-organizational and multi-sectoral problem solving. This is an area where more tools, training, and support may be especially valuable.

WAY FORWARD

While the resource mapping provided a starting place for situating this project within the existing landscape of tools and current practice of protection analysis, it is intended to be a living document throughout the course of the project. Resource mapping findings and select tools will be shared and included in participatory design and testing activities, where frontline users will be able to validate findings, explore previously unknown resources, concretely pinpoint where they feel confident applying existing tools and where they feel confused, unsure, or constrained. Finally, they will be able to evaluate the user-friendliness of select tools for easy uptake and use. Ultimately, an understanding of existing resources available for protection analysis will help reveal tools that may fit user needs (and avoid duplication), identify gaps, and prioritize areas for further resource adaptation and development.

---

[16] This includes 1) detailing the action – describing what the activity is and at what level is the action supposed to promote change – at the individual, family, community, sub national, national, regional and global level, and lastly what is the change going to result in – a change in behavior, attitude, policy or practice.

[17] https://hub.rescue.org/en/resources/scenario-planning/

[18] https://protection.interaction.org/acaps-protection-analysis-canvas/