

PROTECTION OUTCOMES

Moving from theory to practice—what will it take?

This document summarizes key points and questions that have emerged after 3 years of exploring results-based protection. It provides a 'frame' for the discussions that will take place during the two-day Practitioners' Roundtable on Results-Based Protection. Additional information on results-based protection can be found at:

<http://protection.interaction.org>

There are some fundamental questions to grapple with: How can we leverage our collective efforts to achieve protection outcomes? How do we build pathways which meaningfully and measurably reduce the most critical risks people face, particularly in armed conflict? What changes do we need to make, and at what level, to better utilize results-based methods to enhance protection?

What do we mean by Protection Outcomes?

"The expected changes in behavior, knowledge, policy, practice, or decision of the duty bearers or any other relevant stakeholder."

—ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work

"Outcomes involve clear changes in the experience, safety and well-being of affected civilian communities."

—ALNAP Guidelines for Protection

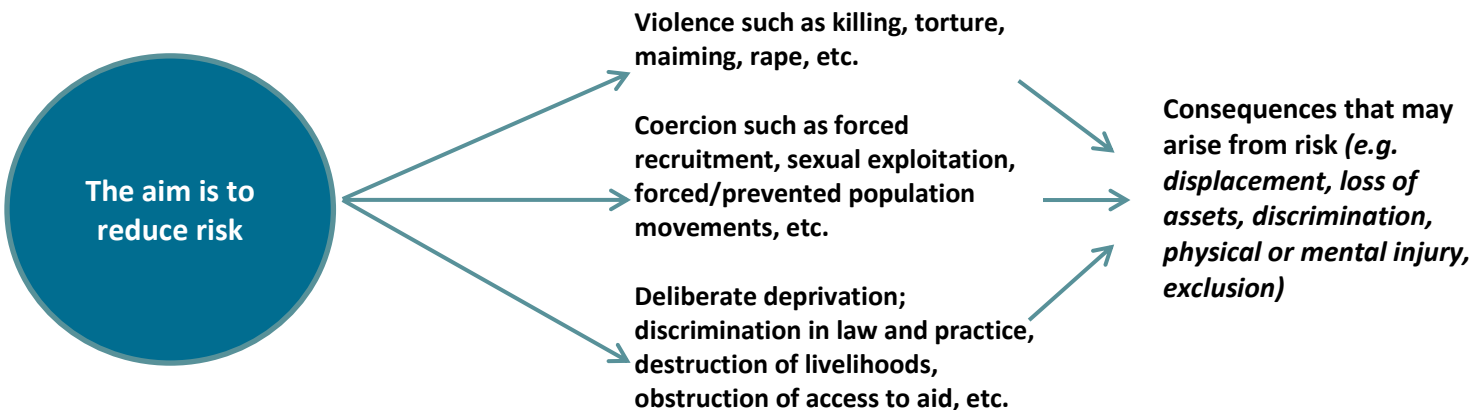
"Outcomes are what needs to happen so that people can lead safer, more dignified lives. The outcomes directly relate to the threat that is being addressed (e.g. gender-based violence, forced labor)."

—Oxfam Improving the Safety of Civilians: A Protection Training Package



What is a protection outcome? For the purpose of this discussion we look at short, medium, and long-term outcomes, with comprehensive outcomes defined and measured by a reduction in risk. Changes in behavior, attitudes, policies, knowledge, and practice are intermediate results that lead to comprehensive risk reduction.

However you define it...



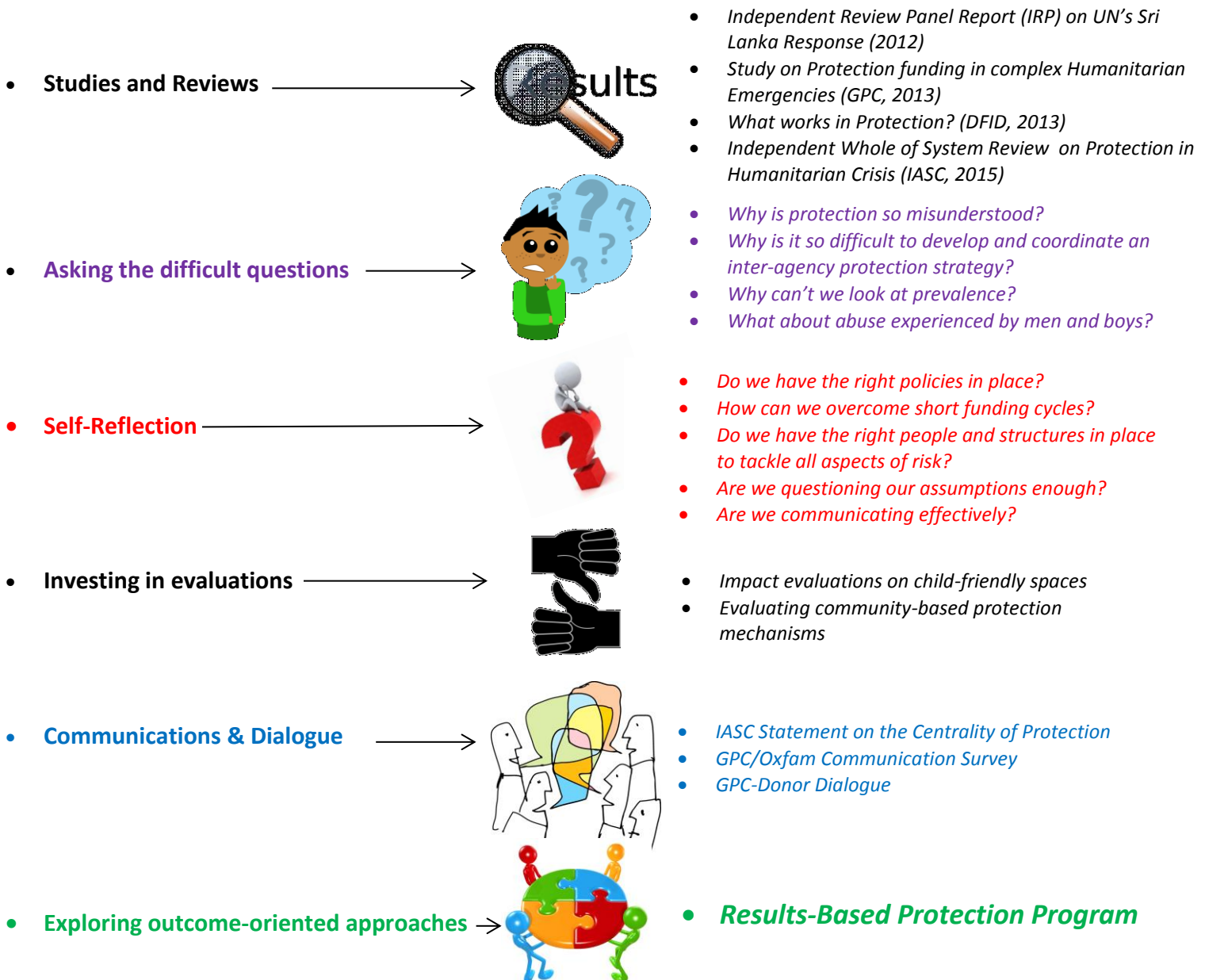
For this discussion, we are not looking at risk arising from basic humanitarian standards not being met (e.g. such as access to services by the elderly or disabled; lighting in latrines, etc.) but rather ongoing severe and prevalent risk causing and arising from the humanitarian crisis (e.g. trafficking of children, slave labor by armed groups, acts of genocide, rise of intimate partner violence as a result of humanitarian crisis, deliberate exclusion of certain people from entitlements and resources by parties to conflict).



What is the problem?



How is the humanitarian community confronting this challenge?



What is Results-Based Protection (RBP)?

Results-based protection involves certain methods and approaches to reduce risk and achieve protection outcomes. Changes in behavior, attitudes, policies, knowledge, and practice are intermediate results that lead to comprehensive risk reduction.

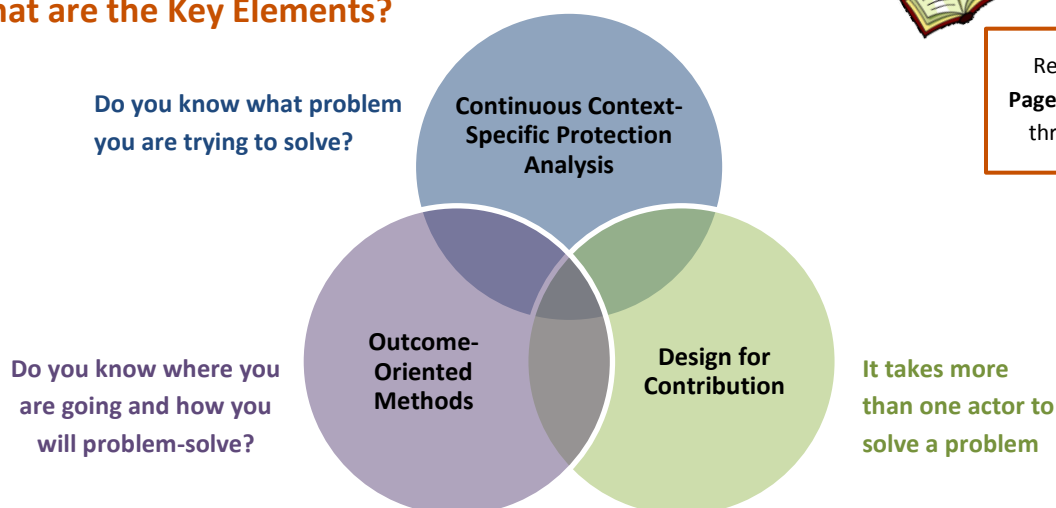
What results are we measuring and how are they measured?

The problems we're trying to solve are the risks people face in crises, manifested as violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation. The starting point for problem-solving is to break down the problem into more specific – and measurable – pieces. By disaggregating specific threats, who is vulnerable to a specific threat and why, and what capacities can be brought to bear on these, we establish the parts of the problem that can be measured. This gives us a baseline to track whether the specific risk factors -- and therefore the risks -- are increasing or decreasing. The causal logic for our intervention sets out the pathway for changes in policy, practice, behavior and attitudes that we need to bring about in order to reduce the threats as well as reduce the vulnerability and enhance the capacity vis a vis these threats. The results we seek – and what we are measuring -- are changes in these risk factors and progress along the pathway towards reduced risk.

What about indicators and better evaluations?

While measurement is critical to know whether interventions are reducing risk, three key elements have been identified as essential for the overall approach to results and protection outcomes. These key elements help us make informed decisions about measures to mitigate threats, reduce vulnerabilities and enhance capacities in a timely manner while making course corrections along the way. The approach promotes stronger collaboration and complementarity among relevant actors to achieve comprehensive protection outcomes.

What are the Key Elements?



What does this look like?

Through a comprehensive context-specific protection analysis that disaggregates the unique patterns of risk, start with some basic questions:

- What are the drivers that influence the attitude, behavior, practice, and policy in relation to the specific threat, vulnerability, capacity?
- How do you change attitudes, behavior, practice, and policy in relation to the specific threat, vulnerability, capacity?
- What actions are necessary to support this change?
- What actors and at what level are needed to carry out these actions?
- What assumptions and evidence support these actions?

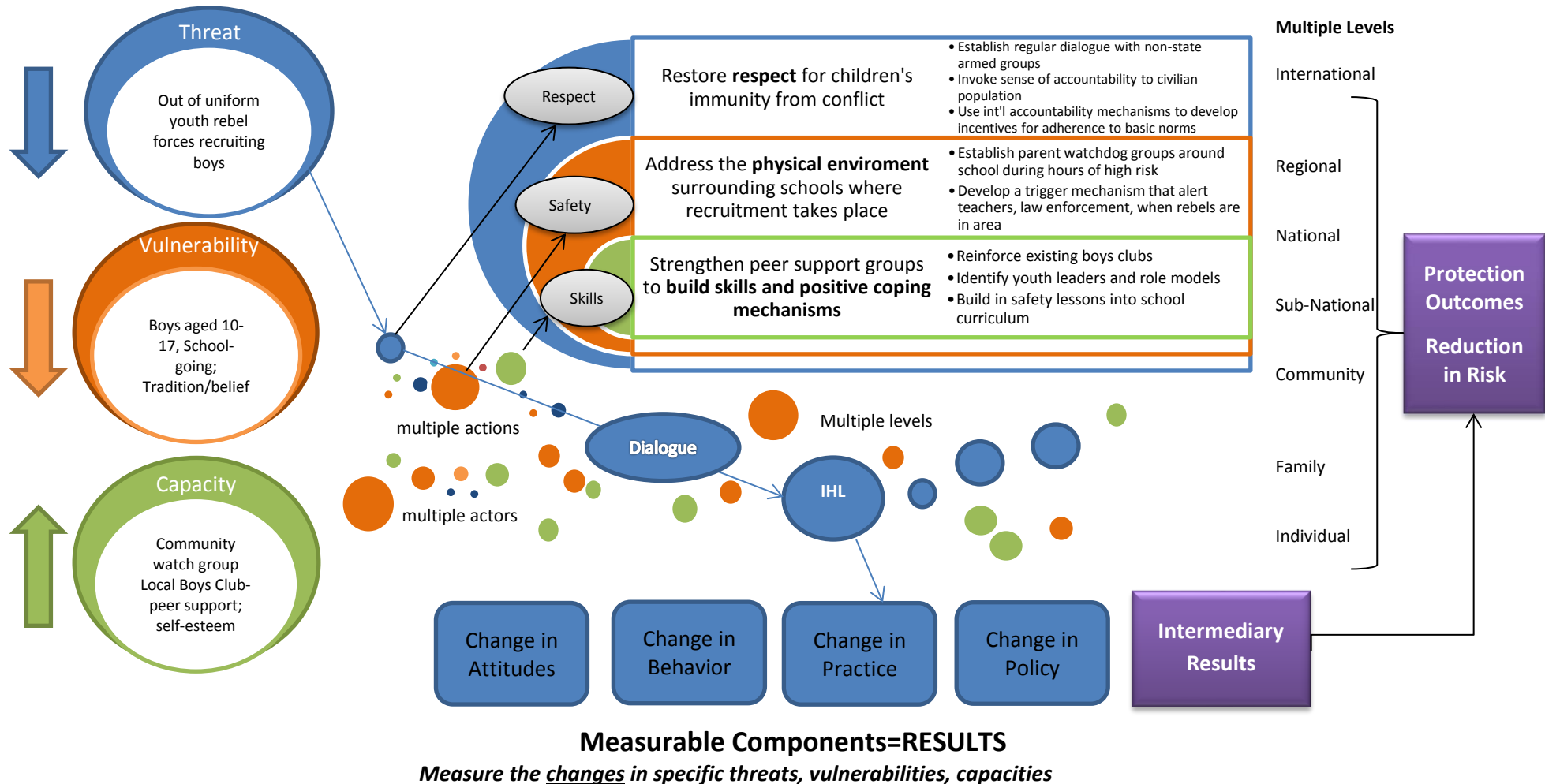
For Example...

In a certain community, school-going boys between 10-17 are at risk of child recruitment by rebel forces before and after school hours and while boys are walking between home and school. Recruitment is done by male youth out of uniform. Parents have established watch networks; local clubs are created to build self-esteem and help boys resist enticements to join the rebel group. National laws prohibit children from joining armed forces before 18; however, local tradition encourages boys to attend military prep-schools. This pattern may be manifested in locally-specific ways in multiple communities across the conflict-affected area, affecting thousands of boys and their families.

After disaggregating the problem, articulate the pathways to change the risk factors. Engage multiple actors, at multiple levels, and identify various actions to address the issue. Determine sequencing based on priority decisions. Decide what components that reduce risk can be measured vis-à-vis the threat, vulnerability, and capacity.

Recognize that the pattern of recruitment can change—perhaps it takes on new levels of violence involving abduction and killing family members. Be flexible, ready to adapt, and shift action along the way to monitor the pattern of risk. An iterative process of continuous analysis is essential to real-time decision-making.

Let's take a look...



What Now?

- Are we set up to collectively engage and respond to the reduction of risk? (System, Organizations, Funding, Capacity, Coordination)
- How should we monitor and measure results and the inter-relation between results along the way?
- What happens if we collectively do not agree with the pathway and/or priorities to reduce risk? How does this affect decision making and funding to achieve a protection outcome?

We look forward to hearing your reflections and thoughts on these issues at the Results-Based Protection Practitioners' Roundtable. To find out more about the Results-Based Protection Program visit us at:

<https://protection.interaction.org/>