

# CONTINUOUS CONTEXT-SPECIFIC PROTECTION ANALYSIS

## Do you know what problem you are trying to solve?



A detailed understanding of the risk patterns and the relevant stakeholders is essential for designing a **targeted response** to reduce risk. As a crisis evolves—often rapidly—**risk patterns change**. A context-specific protection analysis that is continuously reviewed will reflect this and will help you adjust your response.

Without a good protection analysis, you may end up spending time and resources on solutions that do not work, or even cause more harm through misguided action.

### WHY is it key:

Breaking down and analyzing the components of protection risk—threat, vulnerability, and capacity—**lets you formulate clear and specific desired pathways for reducing those risks**. If each component of the risk is adjusted, the overall risk will be reduced.

### HOW you can do it:

- ▶ Identify, prioritize, and analyze specific types of protection risks (violence, coercion, and deliberate deprivation).
- ▶ Engage the affected population, as much as is safely possible, to identify the components of risk:
  - specific threats
  - who is vulnerable to these threats and why
  - the capacities of affected people to cope with and reduce the threat and/or their vulnerability to a threat.
- ▶ See the *Results-Based Protection Glossary* for definitions of threat, vulnerability, and capacity.
- ▶ Avoid pre-defining “most vulnerable” groups or individuals.
- ▶ Engage other actors within and outside of the humanitarian community to identify relevant stakeholders and analyze their motivations and capacities. Gaining perspectives of other disciplines and experiences will enrich your analysis.
- ▶ Consider how historical and current socio-political, conflict and cultural dynamics, legal frameworks, and the humanitarian response may affect the risk patterns.
- ▶ Use your protection analysis to formulate desired protection outcomes, design your response, and inform decision making (see Key Element 3: Outcome-Oriented Methods).
- ▶ Start with a basic protection analysis that informs your initial response, then learn, adapt, and enhance your analysis throughout the response:
  - Use initial or interim response activities to deepen analysis and feed into a more comprehensive causal logic and program design
  - Review and adjust your protection analysis regularly to inform strategy development, program design, implementation, and MEAL
  - Build relationships and create opportunities for information sharing and joint analysis with other actors—formally or informally—for comparative, more nuanced, and more complete analysis

### KEY ELEMENTS OF RESULTS-BASED PROTECTION

1. **Continuous context-specific protection analysis**
2. Multi-disciplinary strategies
3. Outcome-oriented methods



## WHAT you need to do it:

- ▶ Design new or adapt existing tools that capture information about the components, patterns, and dynamics of protection risks. Do this through regular activities such as protection monitoring, case management, and community group activities. Supplement those with specialized assessments such as rapid or in-depth/thematic protection assessment. Your tools should emphasize community engagement to gain the perspective of the affected population and their priorities. View resources here.
- ▶ Allocate staff and time to continuously undertake protection analysis and systematically use this analysis in planning and implementing your response. This process can be as simple as weekly meetings to analyze changes in risk patterns or a section in weekly reports to management.
- ▶ Develop staff skills in critical thinking and analysis. This might include scenario planning and forecasting to help inform better decision-making.
- ▶ Ask staff at all levels, but particularly frontline staff, to do analysis regularly.
- ▶ Put information management systems in place to continuously collect and analyze information. They should analyze disaggregated risk factors, changes in risks over time, and progress towards desired outcomes. View PIM resources here.
- ▶ Include participatory community-level appraisal methods and informal methods, such as having tea with a community leader. Tapping into the knowledge of frontline staff can also yield tremendous insight. Informal information flows can be robust and valuable if they are recorded in a systematic way.
- ▶ Build and promote a culture of analysis that prioritizes continuous analysis, not just data collection. This culture of analysis should include all levels of staff. Develop the capacities of field staff and community members to carry out or lead the protection analysis.

## Need more guidance and resources for your protection analysis?

- ▶ Key Elements 1 Module
- ▶ Key Elements 1 List of Resources
- ▶ For more information about results-based protection, visit <https://protection.interaction.org/>

## GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE

### Continuous context-specific protection analysis with a low-cost IM system that informs program design

Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) has developed a “results journal” tool that helps them measure results in an outcomes-oriented way. In Nigeria, results journals are used to track intermediate results from CIVIC’s protection work, with a focus on how the behavior of armed actors changes as a result of civilians raising their protection concerns. Results journals are used by frontline field staff who identify protection concerns and the result it has in the community through established Community Protection Committees.

CIVIC works with the Committees to develop action plans to mitigate the identified protection concerns. The results journals also capture relevant stakeholders working on similar issues in the area and link the action plans to CIVIC’s project objectives and indicators. Lastly, they capture CIVIC’s contribution to mitigating the issue and track the follow-up action and results. By starting with risks identified by community members, CIVIC ensures that their interventions are guided by outcomes of reduced risk, and not by pre-determined activities. This tool fosters learning and enables CIVIC to be adaptive and responsive to changes in risk patterns in real-time.