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 evolve—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/](https://protection.interaction.org/)