Framework for Protection Risk Analysis

A tool to help analyze the component parts of protection risks

THREATS

- Who/what is the source of the threat? Are they formal authorities/parties to conflict? Family members?
- What are their main characteristics (e.g., structure, behavior, approachability)?
- What are the main factors driving their behavior (e.g., politically or economically motivated, attitudes towards vulnerable people, etc.)?
- What are their main sources of resources and influence?
- What are some possible incentives and disincentives for changed policy, practice, attitudes, and behavior?
- What is the frequency of the threat?

VULNERABILITIES

- Who is vulnerable to this threat and why?
- Avoid generalizing who is vulnerable. Being specific serves as the basis for effective targeting of interventions to reduce risk.
- Vulnerability may be a function of location; time; gender; age; disability; occupation; social, political group; ethnicity, culture, or tradition; etc.
- Has this vulnerability changed over time? What has prompted this change?

CAPACITY

- How do people or communities cope with this threat, and what resources do they have for coping? What skills or tactics do people or communities have/use to prevent or stop the threat?
- Does the coping mechanism have harmful and/or negative consequences, and what are they?
- Has the capacity to cope changed, grown, or diminished over time?
- What capacities should be supported and reinforced to help reduce risk?

RISK

- How do all these factors add up to the risk people experience? How is the risk manifested, and what consequences does it have on people's lives?
- Risk can look like physical injury, loss/separation of family members, displacement, loss of property or livelihoods, trauma, loss of access to essential services, etc.

TYPES OF RISK people are exposed to.

Violence

- Killings
- Torture
- Maimings
- Beatings
- Rape/sexual assault
- Bombings, raids, and military strikes that target civilians and civilian properties

Coercion

- Restricted freedom of movement
- Forced or prevented return
- Human trafficking
- Forced participation in conflict (i.e., child soldiers)
- Slavery
- Forced marriage

Deliberate Deprivation

- Denying access to humanitarian aid
- Destruction of–or deliberate denial of access to–critical infrastructure, property, assets, and means of livelihood, etc. by parties to a conflict as a war tactic to restrict or deny people these services and necessities

THE PROTECTION RISK EQUATION describes how protection outcomes and risk reduction fit together. It works at global, national, and local levels and can be helpful for both analysis, design, and measuring protection outcomes.

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INFORMATION SOURCES for continuous analysis

THREATS

- Media reports
- In-depth studies
- Human rights monitoring/ reports
- Direct engagement and observation with the actors concerned
- Security analysis

VULNERABILITIES

- Household interviews/surveys
- Community-level focus group discussions and participatory assessment/mapping
- Perception surveys
- Sectoral needs assessments
- Issue-focused surveys, such as driving factors and triggers of displacement
- Anonymized and aggregated information from intake interviews when accessing health or other services
- Direct observation
- Media reports
- In-depth studies

CAPACITY

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RISK

- In addition to the components, an understanding of the risk overall is important, including its impact on communities, as well as social, historical, and political context
- Academic and historical studies on the context
- Community level focus group discussions and participatory assessment/mapping
- Media reports
- Issue-focused surveys
- Household interview/surveys
- Direct observations

OUTCOME-ORIENTED TOOLS AND METHODS

There are a variety of tools and methods that support context-specific protection analysis. The following align with results-based approaches to protection.

Protection Analytical Framework (PAF): The PAF guides in-depth and continuous protection analysis of the crisis environment. It informs decision-making for multisectoral and multidisciplinary strategies that reduce and prevent protection risks that may violate international human rights and refugee and humanitarian laws. https://protection.interaction.org/resources/irc-drc-prevention-analytical-framework-paf-an-introduction/

Protection Information Management Framework (PIM): Information collection, management systems, and analysis should be purposefully designed to capture disaggregated information for protection risk analysis. Use the PIM Framework and mapping tools to help identify key information sources. PIM Framework: http://pim.guide/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Framework-for-Data-Sharing-in-Practice.pdf and the PIM Matrix: http://pim.guide/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PIM-Matrix-Cover-Page_-Sept-2016.pdf Responsible data management is essential to protect the privacy of individual personal and other sensitive information.

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EXAMPLE
Coercion: Forced recruitment of children into armed groups in Northern Uganda

THREATS

- Northern Uganda, Lords Resistance Army (LRA), tactics: abduction, torture, use of physical threats such as sexual violence and disfiguration; chain of command operates within each 'military cell';
- Motivated by political and religious beliefs of leader (Kony); order and structure operate based on cultural and traditional beliefs of Acholi population mixed with Islamic traditions; operations generally happen at night; children are recruited to build the armed forces; girls recruited to "rebirth" a new generation of Acholi people following Kony;
- Children used as spies, carry weapons, participate in front-line battles

VULNERABILITIES

- Children—both boys and girls between the ages of 7-18
- Rural communities
- Timing of attack is almost always at night
- Lack of places to hide
- Adolescent girls targeted to be "wives" of soldiers and to serve as soldiers
- Young girls targeted to be babysitters and soldiers
- Boys recruited to be soldiers

CAPACITY

- Children or families able to send their children away to distant cities/ relatives; children commuting into towns at night to escape
- Communities with religious leaders or other individuals able to negotiate for safety

RISK

- The risk is boys and girls between 7 and 18 yrs old, living in rural communities in Northern Uganda, are abducted from their homes and killed at night by the LRA soldiers
- Consequences of the above risk may include: loss of life, physical injury and emotional trauma to the children abducted, emotional trauma of families left behind, loss of education, loss of family and community connection, stigmatization, discrimination

CORE PRINCIPLES OF PROTECTION ANALYSIS

- Protection analysis should always begin from the perspective of the affected population. This helps unpack the nuances of the risk and what issues populations prioritize.
- Undertaking continuous analysis will open up options for interventions to reduce threats, reduce vulnerabilities in relation to those threats, and enhance capacities relevant to those threats.
- A protection analysis should help to develop context-specific pathways for reducing risk. Protection analysis should identify the end goal and key intermediary steps or milestones specific to each risk and context. This includes helping to identify leverage or entry points for influencing specific risk patterns in the analyzed context.
- Most protection risks require a variety of actors in various sectors and disciplines to address different aspects of risk to reduce that risk comprehensively.

FROM PROTECTION ANALYSIS TO STRATEGY:
Continuous protection analysis supports protection strategies that are iterative and context-specific.

CASE STUDY: Under the military rule of the LRA in Northern Uganda, the tactics of the armed group brutally kidnapped both boys and girls to serve as soldiers to rebirth a new generation of Acholi people.

Children at RISK of being abducted by the LRA.

↓ Vulnerability
To reduce the vulnerability, the boys and girls commuted to the center at night to reduce kidnapping.

↑ Capacity
Families with economic means sent their children to Kampala to avoid the war.

↓ Vulnerability
To reduce the vulnerability, humanitarian organizations established night centers for children commuting into town in order to avoid exploitation and abuse.

↓ Threat
In 2002, Uganda ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

↓ Threat
In 2005, the U.N. Security Council adopted resolution 1612, a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) to monitor grave violations committed against children in times of armed conflict, and this was implemented in Northern Uganda to monitor the attacks by the LRA.

↓ Threat
Religious leaders negotiated with LRA soldiers for the release of children under 16 years old.

ORIGINAL VISION

RISK

TIME

The children are safer.

The combined effort to reduce the threat, reduce vulnerability, and increase capacity has led to a REDUCED RISK of being kidnapped and killed by the LRA.

*The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of IRC or the Swedish International Development Agency.

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