

## InterAction Missions to Myanmar

February & April 2017

Terms of Reference

### Background

In Myanmar, the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) highlights the 244,336 people specifically in need of protection support across Kachin, Shan and Rakhine<sup>1</sup>, and one of the four objectives of the HRP is focused on ensuring the protection of civilians. This objective states that the HCT will 'contribute to the protection of civilians from violence and abuse by reducing exposure to harm, mitigating its negative impact and responding to serious protection needs; and advocate for full respect for the rights of individuals in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law.'<sup>2</sup>

InterAction protection missions seek to examine critical protection issues and trends, and how they are being addressed by humanitarian actors, in order to highlight key issues and recommend possible strategies and measures to address them to practitioners, policymakers, donor governments, and humanitarian leaders. In particular, InterAction seeks to support the increased emphasis throughout the humanitarian community on the centrality of protection in humanitarian action, more outcome-oriented and results-based approaches to protection, including collective outcomes.

For example, the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action](#), endorsed by the IASC Principals in October 2016, sets out how the 2013 IASC Principals Statement on the [Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) will be fulfilled in practice. The policy seeks to address the multi-faceted character of protection in crisis and provides an overarching framework for a multi-disciplinary response to achieve protection outcomes. The [Global Protection Cluster Guidance Note on HCT Protection Strategy](#) complements the IASC Protection Policy with guidance for Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) to develop a comprehensive and humanitarian system-wide protection strategy in a manner that is light and enhances the effectiveness and performance of country-level humanitarian responses.

Complementing these, InterAction's work on [results-based protection](#) has resulted in the identification of three [key elements](#) that support the achievement of measurable results and protection outcomes manifested as reduced risk:

- 1) [Continuous context-specific protection analysis](#);
- 2) [Designing for the contributions](#) of multiple actors, at multiple levels, and through multiple sectors and disciplines;
- 3) [Outcome-oriented methods](#)<sup>3</sup>.

A critical component of results-based protection and collective efforts to achieve protection outcomes is strong protection information management (PIM). Designing information management systems, the

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid: 15.

<sup>3</sup> Further information on the key elements that support a results-based approach to protection can be found on <http://protection.interaction.org>

collection, analysis and use of quality protection data and information is a pre-requisite to the strategic and iterative design of strategies to reduce risk, adaptive management, and measurable results.

## Purpose

InterAction is undertaking two complementary missions in support of humanitarian NGOs protection strategies in Myanmar. The first mission in March, focused on NGO roles in relation to the overall protection leadership, coordination, and strategies while the second taking place in April, will focus on critical methods and approaches actors can use to achieve protection outcomes.

Building on the recommendations coming from the first mission (more information on this mission can be found at the end of this document), the second mission<sup>4</sup> in May 2017(22 May – 2 June 2017) will prioritize Rakhine state and will:

- Retrace the analysis, decisions, and actions undertaken in assessment, design, implementation, and monitoring from the perspective of implementing organizations to achieve a protection outcome.
- Retrace the logic and steps from the perspective of the affected population in order to test the assumptions underpinning the programs and the relevance to the affected population's own assessment of their threat environment.
- Identify and document the practical application of the key elements of results-based protection.
- Document and support humanitarian actors' use of protection information management (PIM) for continuous protection analysis, development of strategies, and monitoring.
- Provide recommendations to strengthen the use of the key elements of results-based protection and PIM to enhance sub-national and national protection strategies to achieve protection outcomes.

## Methodology & Outputs

### Mission 2<sup>5</sup>

The following methods will be used to document how the elements of a results-based approach to protection have been applied in practice:

1. **Pre-trip desk review and outreach:** Prior to the trip, InterAction will reach out to key actors to obtain and review relevant protection strategy and program materials. Additional, more general background materials will be reviewed that include historical and context specific analysis of the protection issue within Myanmar. Findings and recommendations coming from the first mission will further inform the understanding of the context, core challenges and gaps, and specific opportunities.
2. **Recreate the causal logic:** Based on current protection strategy/work plans and relevant programming, the RBP Program team will:
  - Rebuild a causal logic for one protection issue;

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<sup>4</sup> Jessica Lenz (Senior Program Manager – Protection at InterAction), Kelsey Hampton (Policy Coordinator – Protection at InterAction), and Brennan Webert (Protection Advisor at Danish Refugee Council).

<sup>5</sup> The methodology used for this mission is based on the methods and approach of InterAction's support mission to [Colombia](#) (May 2016).

- Use the PIM Principles to assess how data was / is being collected and used;
- Use the PIM matrix to determine how data is being used /collected;
- Use the PIM Process to explore what steps have been undertaken to inform the information requirements of the protection analysis;
- Map and identify pathways, linkages and gaps within the response;
- Establish where various actors contribute to achieving the desired outcome.

The causal logic and use of PIM will also be explored with actors in Rakhine, Myanmar to understand their logic behind the response. A **meeting on Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>** at the beginning of the visit will take place with key actors of the protection cluster at the sub-national level in addition to a **full day meeting/workshop on Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>**. This information will be cross-checked and analyzed against the reconstructed causal logic. Additional questions, challenges, and issues the protection cluster members raise will be used to help refine a more complete picture of the causal logic and use of PIM.

3. **Key stakeholder consultations:** Meetings will take place with a range of actors to explore multiple perspectives on how the results-based approach has been applied in practice:
  - Bi-lateral meetings: to explore how individuals are contributing to the outcome;
  - Stakeholder focus groups: to gather the perspective from the affected population;
  - Community **PRA exercises** to help retrace the causal logic from the perspective of the affected population.

A range of techniques will be used to build an illustrative case study, including (as/if security and sensitivities allows) audio recordings, videos, and photographs. Engagement with affected populations and the use of any content will follow strict ethical procedures including informed consent, confidentiality, and security protocols.

4. **End of trip meeting with key stakeholders:** A meeting will be convened with key actors in-country (Yangon) on **Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup>** to share key findings on positive steps already being taken to achieve protection outcomes.

The end of trip meeting will be done in conjunction with a workshop on results-based protection to provide an overview of the key elements and how results-based protection can be used to achieve protection outcomes. The meeting will use the findings from the Kachin documentation process to illustrate how agencies are applying results-based approaches and how they can further strengthen these efforts to better support protection outcomes.

5. The **expected outputs** of **Mission 2** include:
  - A written report highlighting recommendations for strengthening and incorporating the key elements of results-based protection and the use of PIM to support in-country protection strategies;

- Several documented examples, utilizing different media (including voice recordings, video and photographs) to illustrate the practical application of key elements of a results-based approach to protection.

### **Mission 1 overview**

The objectives of the first mission<sup>6</sup> from 24 February - 9 March 2017 were:

- Develop an understanding of context-specific risk patterns in Myanmar, including particularly threats facing civilian populations, people's vulnerabilities and capacities in relation to these threats, and NGO strategies to reduce these risks.
- Examine and make recommendations on the implementation of the recently endorsed *HCT Statement of Commitment on Protection*, including opportunities to increase awareness of protection amongst non-protection actors and expand engagement to all sectors and clusters, with particular focus on the NGO role in this process;
- Discuss with NGOs how new tools, such as the [IASC Protection Policy](#) and [Global Protection Cluster Guidance Note on HCT Protection Strategy](#), could be implemented in support of achieving protection outcomes;
- Provide observations, reflections and recommendations to donor governments, diplomatic missions and the humanitarian community on the response to critical protection issues and the collective achievement of protection outcomes.

### Preliminary Recommendations from Mission 1 (24 February - 9 March 2017)

- Build a **common sense of purpose** on the positioning of protection within the humanitarian response
- Establish **dynamic mechanisms** for generating options, making decisions and providing feedback
- Clarify what **information and analysis the HCT needs and expects** by sending clear demand signals
- **Deepen protection analysis** and fully **consider the range of options** to address a problem that will open up as a result of strengthened analysis
- **Empower field colleagues** and communicate to the field that they are expected and encouraged to take initiative
- Adopt an iterative approach and move away from **binary success/failure thinking**
- **Discuss concerns relating to local/national actors and take steps** to address or mitigate
- Design and implement an **HCT Protection Strategy**

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<sup>6</sup> Jenny McAvoy (Director of Protection at InterAction) and Liz Bloomfield (Program Manager–Protection at InterAction).