PROTECTION ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

An Introduction

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Global Protection Cluster

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Table of contents

Acknowledgements 1
Table of contents 2
Table of figures 2
A structured approach to analysing protection risk 3
- The scope of the PAF 3
- The purpose of the PAF 3
- Guiding policies and initiatives 4
- Agreed definitions, based on existing work 6
- PAF theoretical framework 7
- PAF concepts and structure 7

How to use the protection analytical framework 9
- PAF basics 9
- Who does the analysis? 10
- When and how often to do the analysis? 10
- The PAF workflow 11

Annex 1 Description of pillars, sub-pillars and categories 13
Annex 2 PAF analysis process explained 18

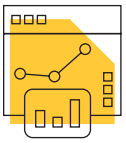
Table of figures

Figure 1: PAF analytical conclusions 4
Figure 2: Six principles that underlie the protection analysis process 5
Figure 3: PAF conceptual definitions 6
Figure 4: Protection risk equation (adapted from InterAction) 7
Figure 5: The PAF five main components 7
Figure 6: PAF concepts and structure 8
Figure 7: The four PAF pillars 9
Figure 8: Roles in protection analysis 10
Figure 9: Four steps in the PAF workflow 11
Figure 10: PAF workflow guiding questions 11

A structured approach to analysing protection risk

The scope of the PAF

The **protection analytical framework** (PAF) guides robust, context-specific protection analysis.[i] The PAF helps anyone undertaking protection analysis to answer the following questions:



What information is needed to undertake a protection analysis?

How should data and information be organised and structured to support an in-depth and integrated analysis?

The PAF guides in-depth and ongoing protection analysis of the crisis environment. It informs decision making for multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary strategies that reduce and prevent protection risks that may violate international human rights and refugee and humanitarian laws. It is suitable for use across humanitarian contexts, including with internally displaced people, returnees, refugees, and mixed situations.

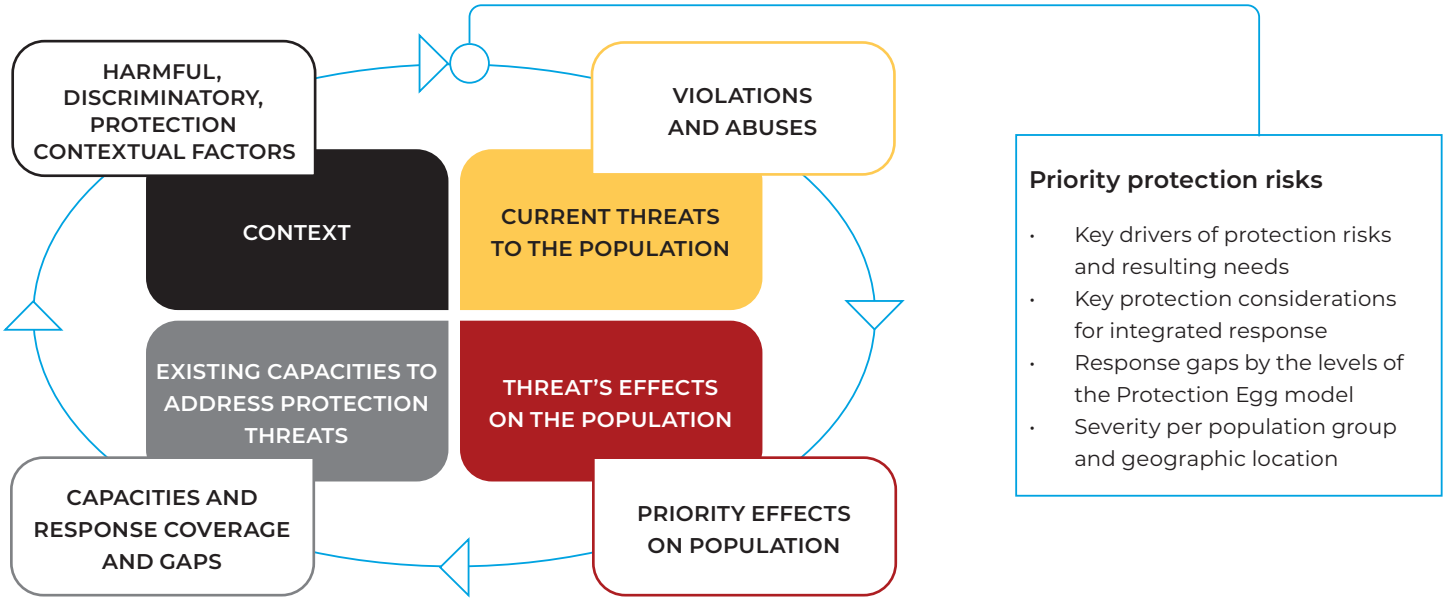
The purpose of the PAF

The analytical conclusions are to guide the development of strategies for reducing protection risk. Use it at the outset of a crisis and during a crisis to ensure continuous analysis and adaptation of interventions.

It guides protection-specific situation analysis and the organisation of data and information to provide an *"evidence-base for programming, advocacy and dialogue for the purpose of influencing behaviors and policies in support of a more favorable protection environment"*.[ii]

The PAF was initiated by the USAID BHA-funded IRC-DRC Results-based Protection Analysis Project to contribute to collective efforts of improving and streamlining protection analysis. It was developed together with and with the full support of the **Information and Analysis Working Group** of the **Global Protection Cluster**. It has been endorsed by the Global Protection Cluster.

Figure 1: **PAF analytical conclusions**



The PAF will help you identify top protection risks to monitor over time. To identify protection risks, the PAF requires you to consider four broad areas (Figure 1):

- Current factors that affect the protection context, both positively and negatively.
- Violations and abuse across geographic locations and population groups.[iii]
- The priority effects on the population (affecting the dignity, safety and well-being of the population) arising from specific violations and abuses for each population group and geographic location affected.
- Current combination of individual capacity, local mechanisms, national institutional capacity, and humanitarian response capacity to address violations and abuses.

The analysis can inform a context-specific theory of change that in turn articulates the strategies and priority actions to achieve the desired protection outcomes. The process of analysis should underlie all actions to achieve those outcomes, "*including the various sectors and disciplines that may need to be mobilized to contribute to the desired outcome, and to identify the roles of different actors*".[iv]

Protection actors should use the analysis to work with non-protection actors to jointly suggest and identify *"pathways and milestones to address specific risk factors and achieve the desired outcome of reduced risk. … Protection actors should aim to maximize complementarity with other actors, as well as between different activities and programmes within the same organization, in order to address the various risk factors"*.[v]

Guiding policies and initiatives

The PAF aligns with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) definition of protection, which is *"all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law, including International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Humanitarian Law and International Refugee Law (IRL)"*.[vi]

The *IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action*[vii] and *Centrality of Protection Statement*,[viii] together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) *Professional Standards for Protection Work,*[ix] informs the PAF logic and helps to set the parameters for the understanding and use of the framework.

The Protection Information Management initiative (PIM) provides resources to ensure that protection analysis is informed by quality data and information.[x] The PAF should be used in accordance with the PIM principles. The PAF language and logic is also aligned to the Global Protection Cluster *Humanitarian Country Team Protection Strategy Provisional Guidance Note.*[xi]

The PAF is designed to align with the three elements of results-based protection: continuous context-specific analysis, multidisciplinary strategies, and outcome-oriented methods.[xii]

While building on PIM, the principles described in Figure 2 must underlie the protection analysis process.

Figure 2: **Six principles that underlie the protection analysis process**

Six principles that underlie the protection analysis process

People-centered and inclusive
The interests and well-being of the population must guide the process. The population must participate in context analysis and in conceptualising, developing, and implementing solutions.

Continuous
The analysis must be continuously updated and used to inform decision making so that it promotes collective interventions to reduce threats and who is vulnerable to those threats, and enhance capacities.

Competency and capacity
Protection actors must ensure that staff engaged in protection and associated information management have appropriate training and core competencies.

Use of existing data and information
Use secondary data, data collection tools, and information already available in the context. The purpose of the analysis must be clearly defined, communicated to relevant stakeholders engaged in the analysis process, and aimed at action towards reducing protection risks.

Coordination and collaboration
Collaboration and coordination (both within teams and organisations, and with other stakeholders – humanitarian and non-humanitarian) is critical to build upon existing efforts to identify and understand protection risks, build upon existing efforts and avoid duplication.

Action for protection outcomes
Identify the different ways expected to reduce the protection risk, and the related sequence of actions and roles of different actors. Analysis can be used to inform, design and adapt collective risk-reduction strategies, based on different levels of action according to the Protection Egg, in a particular context.

Agreed definitions, based on existing work

The conceptual definitions in Figure 3 have been informed by existing policies and initiatives, including PIM resources and guiding materials. The definitions were finalised with the support of experts and peer review involving multiple stakeholders.

Figure 3: **PAF conceptual definitions**

PAF conceptual definitions

Protection analysis
A process undertaken to identify protection risks with the aim of informing strategies and responses.

Threat
A human activity or a product of human activity that results in a form of violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation. Threats can be the perpetrator (agent of the threat) or a policy or an ethnicity norm (source of threat) that is causing harm.

Vulnerability
Certain characteristics or circumstances of an individual or group, or their surrounding physical environment, which diminish ability to anticipate, cope with, resist, or recover from the impact of a threat. People differ in their exposure to a threat depending on their social group, gender, ethnicity, age, and other factors. Vulnerability is not a fixed or static criterion attached to specific categories of people, and no one is born vulnerable.

Capacity
The resources and capabilities that are available to individuals, households, and communities to cope with a threat or to resist or mitigate the impact of a threat. Resources can be material or can be found in the way a community is organised. Capabilities can include specific skill sets or the ability to access certain services or move freely to a safer place.

Violence
The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

Coercion
Forcing someone to do something against their will.

Deliberate deprivation
Intentional action to prevent people from accessing the resources, goods, or services they need and have the right to access.

Protection risk
Actual or potential exposure of the affected population to violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation.

Protection need
Arises when victims of violations are unable to defend their basic interests and no longer benefit from the basic respect they are entitled to from authorities and other actors who have control over them or on whom they depend.

Protection outcome
A reduction of the risk, including through improved fulfilment of rights and restitution, for victims/survivors. It includes reducing the threats people face, reducing people's vulnerabilities to these threats, and enhancing their capacities.

PAF theoretical framework

The PAF is based on the protection risk equation theoretical framework. Within the PAF, *protection risk* is defined as the actual or potential exposure of the affected population to violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation.

The protection risk equation (Figure 4) is a non-mathematical representation of the three factors that contribute to risk. A protection risk arises when the threat and the vulnerability (of an individual or a community) are greater than the capacity to prevent, respond, and recover from that specific threat.

The protection risk equation requires more than a broad assessment of an individual's or community's vulnerability and capacity. Instead, PAF users must consider the particular vulnerability and capacity that is associated with each identified threat.

Figure 4: **Protection risk equation (adapted from InterAction)**

PAF concepts and structure

The PAF structure adapts terminology and definitions from existing frameworks[xii] to avoid duplication, ensure interoperability between frameworks, and to encourage use of existing data and information.

The PAF has five components (Figure 5):

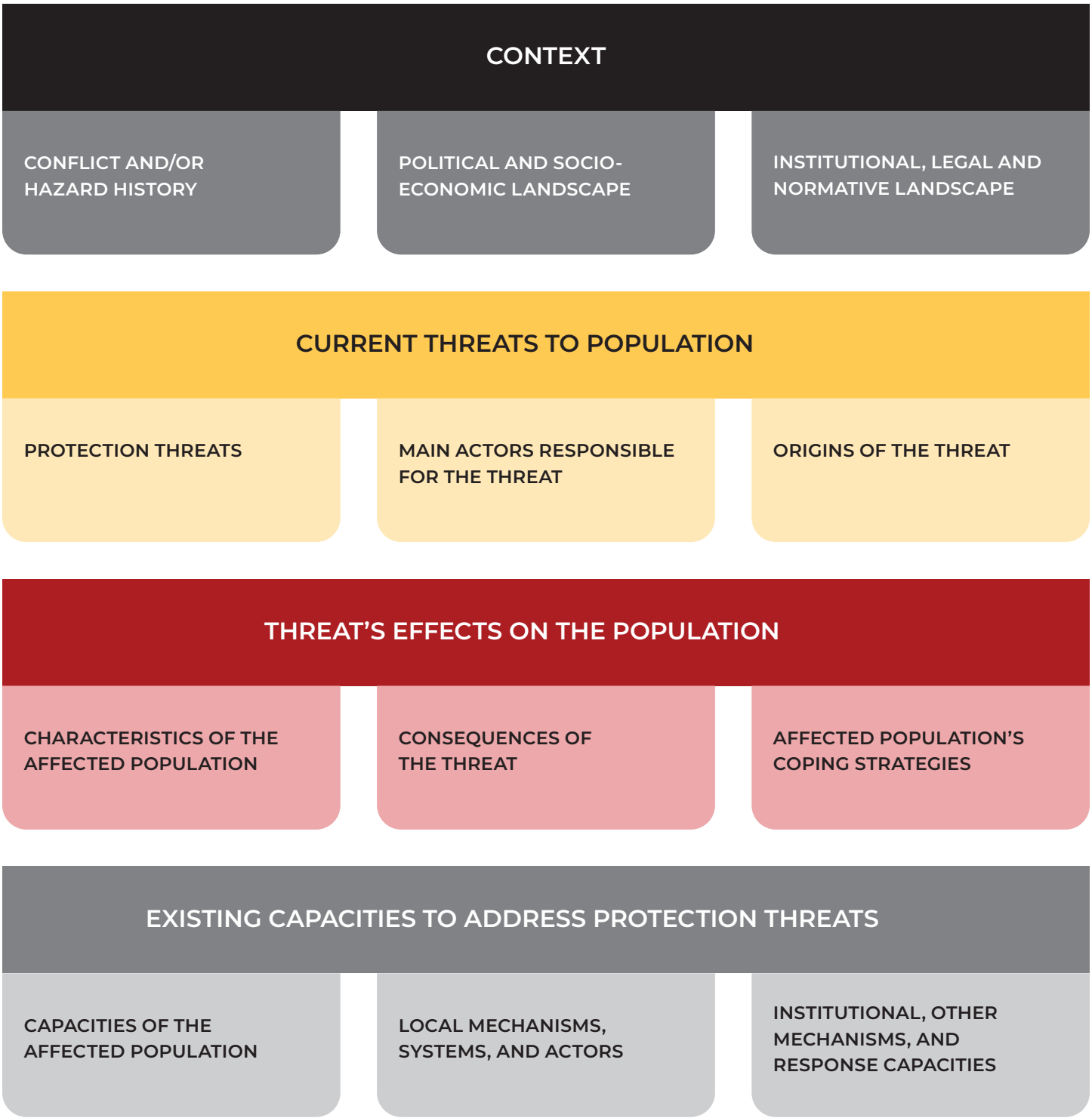
- Four pillars
- Three sub-pillars in each pillar
- A suggested set of categories by which to organise information
- Analytical questions to help structure the analysis
- A list of data and information needs.

Figure 5: **The PAF five main components**

PILLARS	SUB-PILLARS	CATEGORIES	ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS	DATA AND INFORMATION NEEDS
Broadest category of analysis to organise all data and information needs collected under an essential dimension for protection analysis.	Sub-dimensions of each pillar; helpful to organise data and information to guide the understanding of the dimension capture by the pillar.	A more granular catagorisation of core areas of information that sit within each subpillar/pillar.	Suggested key questions that align to each PAF information category, to guide the use of the framework. These questions are not intended to be prescriptive but can be adapted, or elaborated upon, depending on context.	Suggested data and information needs that can help to answer the proposed analytical questions.

Figure 6: **PAF concepts and structure**

Figure 6 shows the PAF's four pillars and twelve sub-pillars:



A more detailed description of the PAF pillars, sub-pillars and categories is in Annex 1. Additional guidance on the analytical questions and data and information needs is provided in Annex 2.

The PAF pillars encourage analysts to focus on four key areas of information (Figure 7) to deduce the top protection risks in the selected geographical area.

Figure 7: **The four PAF pillars**

The four PAF pillars

Context
Thorough context analysis is important as it helps us to understand specific contextual factors that influence the crisis dynamic and resultant protection situation.

Current threats to the population
It is important to identify the types of threats that are currently occurring, the responsibility of the actors involved and the origins of the threats.

Threat's effects on the population
It is important to identify the population groups that are affected by the threats, how or why they are vulnerable to these threats and how the consequences may be different across different population groups and geographic areas.

Existing capacities to address protection threats
It is important to identify how existing capacities at the individual and local level, as well as institutional response and other capacities (both national and international) can address the protection threats, either by mitigating the consequences or addressing the driving factors of the threat.

How to use the protection analytical framework

The PAF provides a guiding structure to enable collaborative analysis and reflection and participatory design of actions for desired protection outcomes. Always adapt the PAF to the context.

PAF basics

The PAF supports analysis at different geographic levels, including community, area, country, and cross-border. It is not a data collection tool or approach, but rather allows PAF users to organise data and information from multiple sources and existing mechanisms. By defining the analysis purpose and data and information needs, the PAF supports the identification of information gaps and therefore informs decision making on the most appropriate approaches, methods, and tools for acquiring additional data and information.

The use of the PAF will require secondary data collection, and the extent to which specific information categories of the PAF are explored will be adapted according to context. To apply it most efficiently, analysts should:

- Identify a Protection Analysis Lead to oversee the analysis process.
- Explain the structure of the process and roles to everyone involved in the analysis.
- Assign specific roles and responsibilities, ensuring that those closest to protection problems are meaningfully engaged in the analysis process.

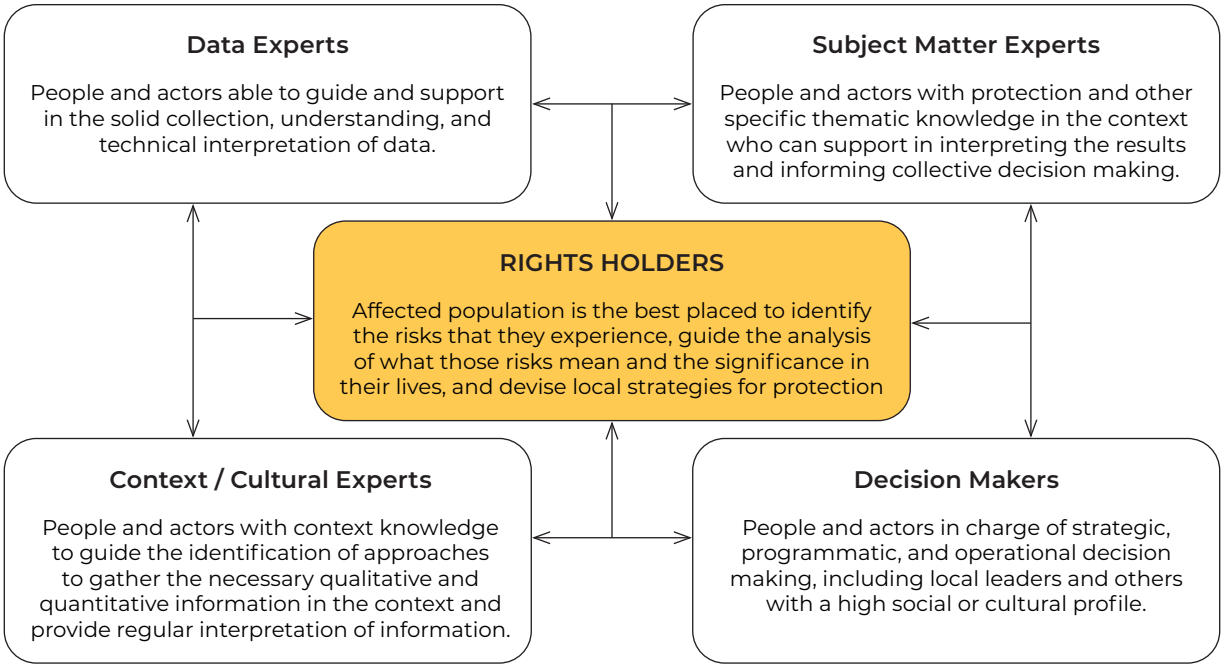
Who does the analysis?

The intended target audience for the PAF are protection colleagues undertaking a protection analysis, including protection colleagues at both area or country levels and within coordination structures. It is a framework for joint and collaborative analysis.

Often a lack of human resources prevents a comprehensive protection analysis. The *Tools to Ensure Data is Useful and Usable for Response*[xiii] provide a useful indication of whose contributions may be needed, internally or externally, to support a more in-depth and integrated analysis (Figure 8).

The voice and knowledge of the affected population, local staff, partners on the ground, and first line workers is essential. The Protection Analysis Lead must ensure this happens, either with their direct participation in preparation meetings, through bilateral conversations, or through joint analysis sessions.

Figure 8: **Roles in protection analysis**



When and how often to do the analysis?

The use of the PAF does not necessarily have a specific starting point and it may be triggered by a specific occurrence, shock or event. Once triggered, it should be an iterative process. The first use of the PAF requires PAF users to:

- identify and organise available secondary data
- adapt the suggested analytical questions
- identify indicators
- identify additional data required.

You can use the PAF to build on existing analyses, identify information gaps, and suggest additional information needs for a more in-depth and integrated protection analysis.

Further analysis can generate updated information to reflect the evolving context. Depending on the objectives of a particular analysis, components of the PAF can be selected, rather than applying the whole framework. This might mean focusing on specific pillars and collating specific data to support defined purposes.

The analysis, guided by the PAF, should be carried out regularly.[xiv] When defining the analysis timeframe, consider contextually relevant events or seasonal dynamics affecting the population, possible humanitarian programming, and key moments or deadlines generated through coordination mechanisms.

Figure 9: **Four steps in the PAF workflow**

1 DESIGN

1. Define purpose
2. Define actors, engagement, and coordination
3. Define information needs
4. Data and information review
5. Define analytical approach
6. Define activities and resources

2 ACQUIRE

1. Familiarise actors with the PAF
2. Collate secondary data
3. Collect primary data, if required
4. Safely store and maintain data

3 ANALYSE

1. Explore
2. Describe
3. Explain
4. Interpret
5. Anticipate

4 COMMUNICATE

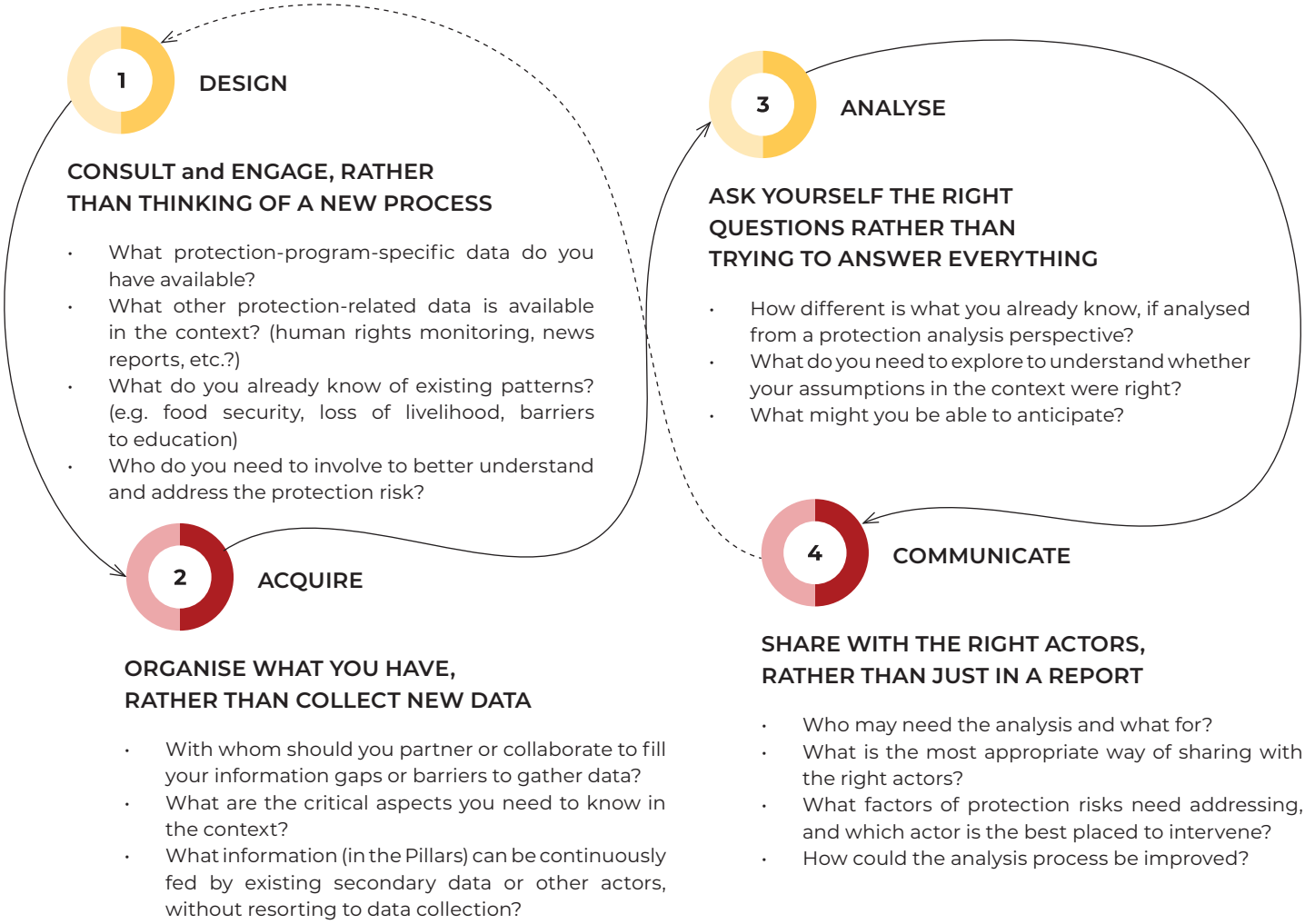
1. Present readable and persuasive analysis
2. Document and share results
3. Review process and lessons learnt

The PAF work flow

The PAF workflow (Figure 9) provides the four main steps (adapted from ACAPS)[xv] and the associated processes required to achieve timely, quality and credible protection analysis.

Adapt the process for each step according the context and follow a series of basic questions to guide the way you do this. Figure 10 illustrates each step and suggested basic questions. Further details are described in the Appendix 1 - PAF Analysis Tools.

Figure 10: **PAF workflow guiding questions**



[i] PIM, Protection Information Management Common Terminology, 2018, p.45, https://bit.ly/3bbzEpf

[ii] IASC Protection Policy (2016:3), https://bit.ly/3yrE2eo

[iii] Population groups are not predetermined categories. They must be relevant to the context, ensuring that different types of characteristics are not studied separately. The characteristics to define population groups can include age, gender, diversity and sex and other ethnocultural characteristics (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/popcharmethods.htm).

[iv] ICRC Professional Standards (2018:7), https://bit.ly/2Zm7OBu

[v] ICRC Professional Standards (2018:43)

[vi] IASC, 2016, https://bit.ly/3yrE2eo

[vii] IASC, 2016, https://bit.ly/3yrE2eo

[viii] IASC, 2013, https://bit.ly/3prEd41

[ix] ICRC, 2018, https://bit.ly/2Zm7OBu

[x] http://pim.guide

[xi] Specifically, it can be used to support interagency processes to collectively undertake a protection analysis by providing guidance for mobilizing a comprehensive, system-wide and multisector effort to prevent or respond to the most serious protection risks facing affected populations as well as to prevent and stop recurrences of violations . IASC, 2016, https://bit.ly/2LUjQPa

[xii] InterAction, https://protection.interaction.org/

[xiii] The information and data needed to elaborate a protection analysis according to the PAF is the same that may be used or is in use to conduct data activities and processes in relation to the Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), Global Information Management Assessment and Analysis Cell for COVID-19 (GIMAC), GBV Area of Responsibility Analytical Framework, Needs and Identification Analysis Framework for Child Protection (NIAF), Mine Action Area of Responsibility Analytical Framework. The concepts and structure draw upon these analysis framework, in addition to other analysis frameworks and initiatives (National Protection Cluster Iraq Analysis Framework, , MIRA and PIM).

[xiv] See: Tools to Ensure Data is Useful and Usable for Response: https://bit.ly/3bXP6Hf

[xv] "Protection analysis should not be treated as a one-off exercise; instead, it should be carried out continually throughout the response. An initial protection analysis can serve as the basis for an initial and interim response. Interim or initial response activities can then provide a basis for further dialogue and deeper analysis with the relevant stakeholders, in order to clarify assumptions, develop partnerships and develop strategies to more comprehensively address the risk patterns." ICRC Professional Standards (2018:42).

[xvi] https://www.acaps.org/sites/acaps/files/resources/files/acaps_analysis_workflow_poster.pdf

ANNEX 1

Description of pillars, sub-pillars, and categories

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The Context pillar refers to relevant information specific to the area covered by the protection analysis, complemented by macro-level data.

Pillar	Description	
Context	Factors to understand what is provoking and shaping the crisis dynamics and resulting protection situation by looking at specific characteristics of the context and environment.	
Sub-pillar	**Description**	**Categories**
Conflict and/or hazard history	Contextual historical elements that influence existing violations and show past protection threats and concerns.	Location
		Tensions, conflict, and hostilities
		Natural hazards
		Past trends
		Stability and peace
Political and socio-economic landscape	Contextual elements that can cause, further, or sustain current protection threats and concerns.	Political fragility
		Voice and accountability
		Power dynamics
		Political enablers and barriers
Institutional, legal, and normative landscape	Formal and informal rules, norms, policies, or systems that contribute to current protection threats and concerns, or that counter those threats and promote a protective environment.	Institutional
		Legal
		Normative
		International

THREAT

Reduce the threat

The Current Threats to the Population pillar refers to data and information that illustrates the human activities or product of human activities that cause harm to the population (in the form of violence, coercion, and/or deliberate deprivation).

Pillar	Description	
Current threats to the population	Threats that are currently occurring and how these are affecting different population groups and geographic areas. Includes information describing the main actors responsible for the threat, their responsibilities and duties to protect people, and the factors causing or driving the threats.	
Sub-pillar	**Description**	**Categories**
Protection threats	The level of current harm to the population, in the form of violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation, that rises to the level of a protection threat. Includes information on whether the threat is the result of a particular behaviour, organisation/group practice, or government or non-government policy or mechanism.	Threats
		Type
		Modality
Main actors responsible for the threat	The responsibility of the actors involved, including identification of groups or individuals directly committing the harmful action, their affiliation and relation to affected people, and role of the actors holding specific duties.	Type
		Affiliation
		Relationship with affected people
		Accountability
Origins of the threat	Factors that generate(d) the threat. This includes the primary motivation(s) of the main actors responsible for the threat (perpetrators or the actor failing to uphold its duty to protect). Includes socio-economic, environmental, ethnic, or political drivers and norms that help sustain the threat, at the local, national, and/or international levels.	Nature
		Drivers
		Norms

VULNERABILITY

Reduce vulnerability related to the threat

The Current Threats to the Population pillar refers to data and information that illustrates the human activities or product of human activities that cause harm to the population (in the form of violence, coercion, and/or deliberate deprivation).

Pillar	Description	
Threat's effects on the population	The population groups that are affected by the threats, how or why are they vulnerable to these threats, and how the consequences may be different across different population groups and geographic areas.	
Sub-pillar	**Description**	**Categories**
Characteristics of the affected population	Characteristic(s) of the affected population directly affected by the threat illustrating their vulnerability in relation to the threats.	Demography
		Location
		Exposure
		Movements
Consequences of the threat	Primary and secondary effects or repercussions of the threat for each population group and location affected.	Physical
		Social and psycho-social
		Legal and material
Affected population's coping strategies	Responses (positive/negative) of the affected population to the identified consequences of the threat. Includes how the perceptions of threat influence these responses.	Evasion
		Action
		Adjustment
		Confrontation
		Others
		Perceptions of threat

CAPACITY

Increase capacities related to the threat

The Existing Capacities to Address Protection Threats pillar contains information to understand the resources and capabilities available to address each identified threat, at individual and community level, in the immediately surrounding areas and at a national and international structural level.

Pillar	Description	
Existing capacities to address protection threats	The resources and capabilities (skills, knowledge, social networks, and other factors) that exist at the individual and local level to address protection threats, either by mitigating the consequences or addressing the drivers of the threat. Includes analysis of any institutional responses or national and international capacities.	
Sub-pillar	**Description**	**Categories**
Capacities of the affected population	The resources and capabilities (including skills, resources, and knowledge) of individuals, households, families, and/or other groups, to withstand the threat and its consequences.	Physical
		Social and psycho-social
		Legal and material
		Availability
Local mechanisms, systems, and actors	The combination of individual and group capacities in the affected location with available institutions, systems, and actors (community, municipality, area) to mitigate or respond to the ongoing threat or consequences of the threat. This includes identifying the extent to which these institutions, systems, actors, and people are functioning, available, and acceptable to the population.	Protection
		Safety and security
		Services
		Cultural and social
		Accessibility and availability
Institutional, other mechanisms, and response capacities	Actors who have the duty to protect and the willingness and capacity to hold perpetrators to account. Describes overall institutional resources and capabilities to protect and respond, including justice and security institutions, informal mechanisms, as well as national and international protective mechanisms and responses.	Duties
		Governmental response
		Other mechanisms
		International response
		Deterrents

ANNEX 2

Organising your data and information: The PAF Analysis Process Explained

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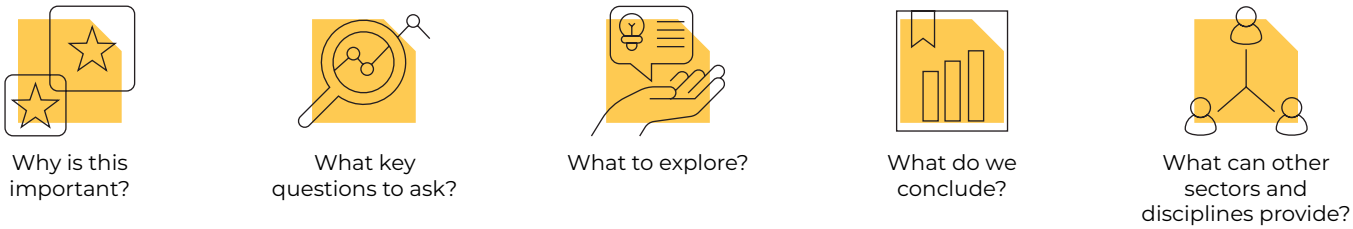
The PAF Analysis Process Explained

This annex, *Organising your data and information: the PAF Analysis Process Explained*, describes how to apply the PAF in practice, principally in terms of organising data and information. "Data" is a collection of facts, such as numbers, measurements or observations. "Information" is facts or details about a subject (PIM Common Terminology, 2018).

For each of the four PAF pillars, this annex addresses five questions (Figure A2.1).

Figure A2.1 **Questions to ask for each PAF pillar**



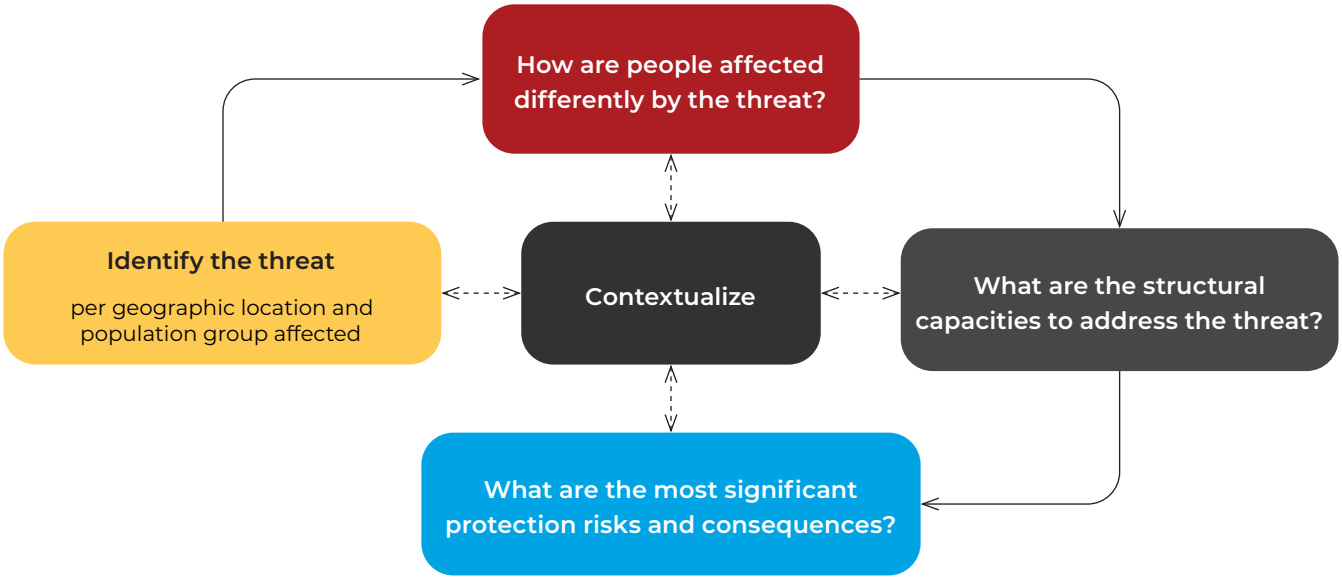
The four pillars are:

- Context
- Current threats to the population
- Threat's effects on the population
- Existing capacities to address protection threats.

The suggested starting point is to identify an individual protection threat and build from there. Relevant data and information should include details of the geographic locations where the threat is present, the population groups affected, the consequences of the threat, and the capacities present to address the threat. There may be several protection threats in the given context, which you may need to prioritise to ensure the analysis is appropriately focused.

The PAF pillars guide the organisation of data and information. A glossary of key concepts and a description of the pillars can be found in the Introduction and Annex 1, respectively. Figure A2.2 illustrates the process of structuring data and information. It emphasises that you should organise and interpret data and information as an ongoing and cyclical process, starting with identifying the threat.

Figure A2.2 **Logical process to organise data and information**



The suggested analytical questions guide the process of reflection and adaptation to a context, once you have organised the relevant data and information. The "What Key Questions to Ask" sections of this guidance draw out some important reflection questions for each pillar; however, more granular questions can be found in the Analysis Plan tab of Appendix 1.

Figure A2.3 **Example of how to approach the PAF**

Figure A2.3 provides an example of how specific PAF resources may be useful at key reflection moments.

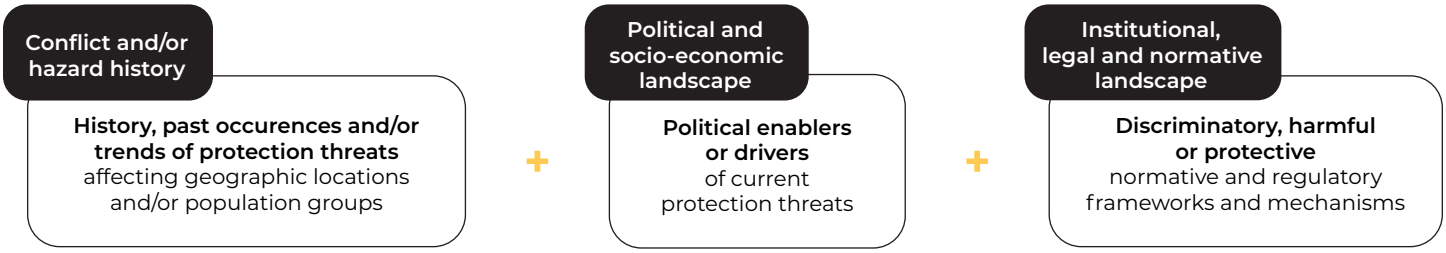
Pillar: Context

Why is this important?

To appropriately respond to protection risks, we must identify and analyse the factors and root causes driving the protection risks.[1]

Information should be analysed across three sub-pillars (Figure A2.4). Remember that the analytical process is a cycle. Data and information related to context sub-pillars must be regularly examined to support conclusions from your protection analysis.

Figure A2.4 **Context: sub-pillars**



Conflict and/or hazard history

What key questions to ask?

Identify and analyse historic data or trends that show protection threats and the consequences of those threats to specific population groups or geographic areas. For a list of more detailed questions related to conflict and/or hazard history, see the Analysis Plan tab in Appendix 1.

- What can historical data reveal about recurring protection threats and/or factors that inhibit or enable access to services?
- What are the power dynamics and social relations between actors responsible for protection threats and the civilian population? Consider tensions, existing negotiation processes, conflict resolution mechanisms, accountability structures, etc.
- What aspects of peace and stability processes (formal and/or informal) impact population groups and geographic locations? Are these impacts positive or negative?

Political and socio-economic landscape

Identify and analyse the political and socio-economic situation and trends which influence the protection risks. Focus on the factors which may drive, exacerbate or reduce protection threats. Also consider the factors which effect individual or community coping or risk-reduction capacities. While information can be area-based, national level information is still important in understanding area-based dynamics.

- Are there specific political, social or economic factors that aggravate or mitigate threats to specific population?
- Which stakeholders and/or power dynamics drive or enable specific protection threats?
- What mechanisms, systems or channels of participation, voice and accountability are available to specific population groups? For example, inclusive and participatory budgeting and local development processes, electoral politics, civic organisations that advocate on behalf of the community.

[1] ICRC Professional Standards (2018:40)

Institutional, legal and normative landscape

Identify and analyse the laws, regulations and social practices that may trigger or worsen specific protection threats. Also identify and analyse the aspects of these laws, regulations and practices which may reduce protection threats. Consider that while a protective law or regulatory framework may be in place, the mechanisms to actually enforce it may not be working.

- What formal and informal laws, regulations, norms or social practices affect the population (harmful, discriminatory or protective mechanisms)?
- Are there specific national laws that drive protection threats? Are there laws missing that could prevent or reduce protection threats?
- Are there other social, religious or cultural norms or practices that drive protection threats?

What do we conclude?

While analysis often does not always follow a linear approach, a contextual understanding helps identify and understand key threats, the effects of the threats on the population, and capacities to address the threat (see Figure A2.2). Data and information organised within this pillar helps to define and clarify assumptions behind a protection risk. It can therefore help to inform how to address the problem. Before beginning the context analysis, identify existing data and information which will help you to further articulate your information needs. The majority of the context analysis does not require primary data collection, but rather the collection and organisation of existing information about specific protection threats. Consult relevant cultural experts, along with data and thematic experts (such as historians, anthropologists, context experts, civil society actors).[2] Your analysis of the harmful, discriminatory and/or protective contextual factors will inform the conclusions within the other PAF pillars. You will look at conclusions from each pillar together to inform your understanding of the situation as a whole.

What can other sectors and disciplines provide?

Data and information which helps you understand the context in which protection risks occur may come from different sectors and disciplines.

Potential data and information sources include:

- analyses of national fragility (OECD, think tanks, etc.)
- trends (universities, national NGOs, policy research institutes, HNOs/HRPs)
- legal analysis (monitoring reports about legal services, IHL/IHRL actors, etc.)
- national and local opinions (civil society leaders, think tanks or research institutes, local colleagues, etc.).

[2] For a more detailed description of designing for analysis, see Step A in the Analysis Workflow tab in Appendix 1.

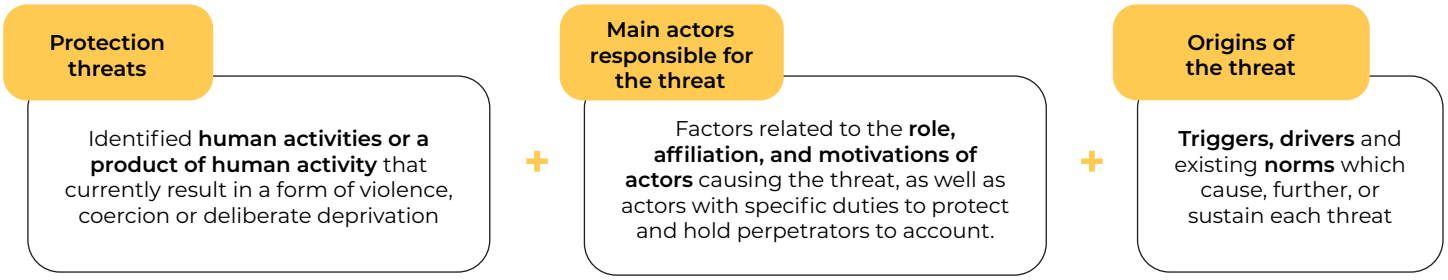
Pillar: Current threats to the population

Why is this important?

It is important to analyse the role of key individuals and institutions, including State and non-State actors, their roles and responsibilities and what drives their behaviours and attitudes. This lets you understand who has influence over a specific threat, including rights violations and abuses. Note that *responsibility* may involve actions of commission (deliberate action) and omission (failure to act).

To identify the threat, we must understand the nature of the threat itself, who/what is responsible for that threat and the origins of the threat (Figure A2.5).

Figure A2.5 **Current threats to the population: sub-pillars**



What key questions to ask?

Protection threats

Identify and analyse the human activities or products of human activities causing harm to the population. Carefully consider data and information to identify whether a particular issue is the protection threat itself, or the effect of the protection threat. For example, a threat may be arbitrary denial or deprivation of nationality to a specific minority group, and the effect might be that group's lack of access to certain civil status documents. Another example of a threat is a non-State armed group abducting children, which results in children not attending school to avoid the threat of abduction. For additional examples, see the Concepts Matrix tab in Appendix 1.

- What are the threats currently resulting in violence, coercion or deliberation deprivation to affected populations? In which geographic locations?
- Is the threat an individual behaviour or action, an organisation or group practice, a non-governmental or governmental policy?

Main actors responsible for the threat

Identify and analyse the behaviours, practices or policies behind a specific protection threat. These may include the behaviours of the actor(s) causing direct harm to the population, the actor(s) with specific responsibilities to protect, and the actor(s) with a positive or negative influence on the threat occurring. Specific questions should guide the identification of *who? what?* and *why?* such as:

- Who are the actors directly causing the threat? What are their motivations and incentives related to their actions? Is there a specific relationship between the actors committing the direct action and the affected people? Is this relationship the product of context level trends, such as patterns in ethnic discrimination?
- Is the actor with the responsibility to address, mitigate or prevent harm doing all it can within its capacity? If no, why not? If yes, why do the threats, violations or abuses continue?

Origins of the threat

Identify and analyse the specific root causes and triggers of the protection threat. Use this information to understand the best strategy to respond to the protection threat by addressing the drivers of the threat as well as the immediate consequences and impact on the population.

- What is the nature of the protection threat (that is, are they deliberate, coordinated or opportunistic)?
- What factors drive the behaviours of actors directly causing the threat or actors that have influence over the threat?
- How has the threat, or the actors' behaviours, motivations or tactics changed over time?

What to explore?

The Concepts Matrix tab in Appendix 1 provide general definitions of protection threats and aims to bring clarity to different protection concepts and how they relate to the aspects of the protection risk equation and different legal (human rights and international humanitarian law) frameworks. Each protection threat in the Concepts Matrix tab is an act of either violence, coercion or deliberate deprivation, and each links to a corresponding right under human rights law and humanitarian law, when possible. The linkages with legal frameworks can help you determine when and how to implement specific risk-reduction strategies focused on response, mitigation and environment building (in alignment with the Protection Egg model).[3] A suggested process to use this pillar is as follows:

1. Analyse the protection threats one at a time. Be specific and avoid generalising protection threats. Use the Analysis Plan and Concepts Matrix tabs in Appendix 1 to guide organisation of the data.
2. If necessary, revise the defined protection threat in the Concepts Matrix according to your context or add those which might be missing, because the list is not exclusive.
3. Depending on your geographical area of focus, you might identify threats that apply to a specific location or a wider geographic area. Consider whether the factors causing, furthering, or sustaining the threat differ depending on how localised the threat is, or if there are more macro factors affecting the threat. Furthermore, remember to regularly update your analysis because it may be that the threat's driving factors and dynamics evolve over time.

What do we conclude?

The analytical conclusions from analysis of the Current Threats to the Population will clearly identify violations and abuses across different geographic locations and population groups. Reaching initial conclusions about patterns of violence, coercion and/or deliberate deprivation, and the role of all the actors involved (State and non-State), is an important step to understanding protection risks as well as the most appropriate strategies for addressing them.

Data and information which helps you understand the protection threat may come from different sectors and disciplines.

What can other sectors and disciplines provide?

Potential data and information sources include:

- role and actions of local authorities (national colleagues, CBOs/NGOs, affected population)
- political analysis (protection of civilians data, universities, policy research institutes, etc.)
- governance information about the health and accountability of institutions (developmental programmes, capacity-support programmes, etc.)
- conflict-analysis data (peace-building programmes, human rights monitoring, etc.).

[3] The Protection Egg is a graphic representation of three levels of action in response to abuse: halting its occurrence, working alongside the victims, and promoting lasting changes in the environment to diminish the likelihood of recurrence (ICRC Professional Standards, 2018:8).

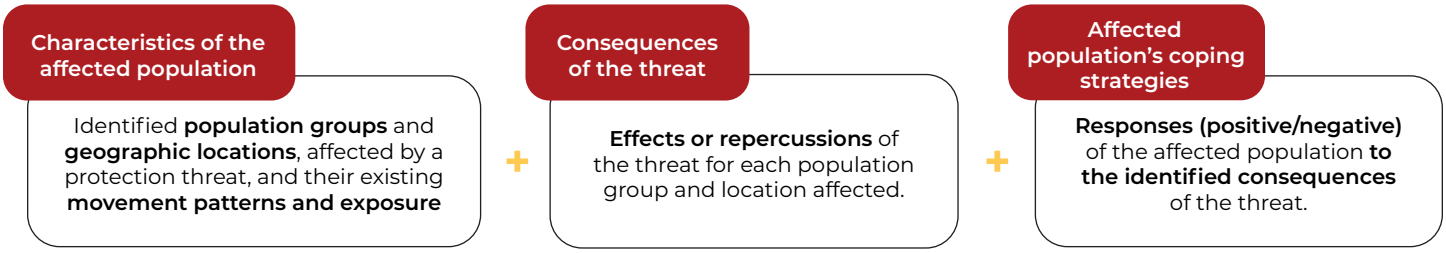
Pillar: Analyse the threat's effects on the population

Why is this important?

It is important to ensure we get a full, context-driven understanding of who is at risk in any given context, as there are so many factors that might put some people and groups more at risk in certain contexts than others. Analysis should consider the different ways that the threat may affect particular population groups.

People may be more exposed to certain threats due to the physical location of population groups, the activities that different populations may carry out (including the time and place in which they are undertaken), and the level of access to resources and/or services. How people are affected by specific threats is also shaped by gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, language, access to resources, social, ethnic, religious or political affiliation or other factors specific to context.[4] Figure A2.6 shows the three sub-pillars:

Figure A2.6 **Analyse the threat's effects on the population: sub-pillars**



Characteristics of the affected population

What key questions to ask?

The protection analysis should support your understanding of precisely what makes a population group in a specific geographic location vulnerable to the identified threat. Note that people differ in their exposure to a threat depending on the different identities that they hold or the identities that may be ascribed to them, such as their social group, gender, ethnicity and age. Vulnerability should not be considered fixed or static.

- Who is impacted by the threat? What are the specific characteristics of the different population groups affected by the threat (demography, location, movements and exposure)?
- How are people differently affected? Are some people more at risk of harm, less able to cope or more urgently affected by the threat?

Consequence of the threat

The analysis of the population characteristics should guide your understanding of why and how each threat affects that population. The effect of a threat on different population groups can take many forms, and the following questions may reveal how affected people experience threats, and how multiple threats may be interlinked:

- What are the physical effects of the threat on the affected group?
- What are the social and psycho-social effects of the threat on the affected group?
- What are the legal or material effects of the threat on the affected group?

[4] ICRC Professional Standards (2018:41)

Affected population coping strategies

Information on how people cope with specific consequences of a threat should guide your understanding of the existing capacities to address protection threats. Knowing this will inform response strategies that build on existing strategies of affected people. Consider:

- What are the coping strategies of the population groups affected by the protection threats, and are they having positive or negative effects?
- How have people's experiences and perceptions of the threat changed over time?
- What perceptions, ideas, attitudes or beliefs drive the coping strategies of the different population groups affected by the threat? Do they change over time?

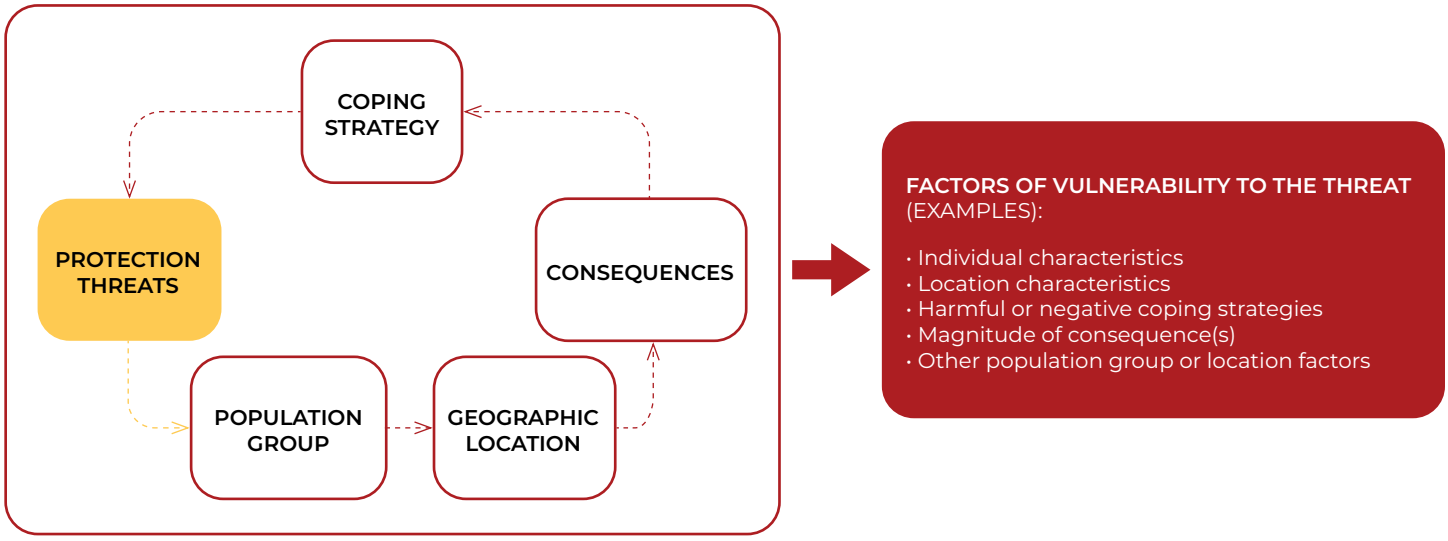
What to explore?

The causes of vulnerability are complex, multiple, over-lapping and dynamic. An intersectional lens enables you to move beyond assumptions and unconscious biases about pre-determined vulnerable groups. Intersectionality is an analytic framework that demonstrates how forms of oppression (such as racism, sexism, ableism) overlap, defining unique social groups. An intersectional approach assumes that harms and violations associated with disability, race and ethnicity, gender, or other identities cannot be understood sufficiently by studying them separately (IASC Guidelines on the Inclusion of People with Disabilities, 2019:10).

The analytical questions associated with this pillar should therefore be used to collect information to identify vulnerability related to the specific protection threat identified. Avoid generalising about which identity groups may be vulnerable as a whole.

A lot of general information on characteristics of the affected population and consequences of the threat may be available through secondary data, but it may not be sufficiently tailored to the specific threat identified. The information on consequences and the related information on how a population group is coping should always be reviewed alongside the information organised and analysed under the context and protection threat pillars. The combined information should help you determine specific factors of vulnerability (Figure A2.7) related to the identified threat and the priority effects on the population.

Figure A2.7 **Reflection process to determine factors of vulnerability**



A suggested process to use this pillar is as follows:

1. Identify affected population groups and geographic locations of focus, drawing from the analysis informed by the Context and Current Threats pillars.
2. Determine the connections between each identified protection threat and information on the characteristics of the affected population(s), the consequences of the threat and coping strategies of the affected population(s).
3. Consult the Concepts Matrix tabs in Appendix 1 to explore concepts that may be helpful for identifying factors of vulnerability and capacity.

What do we conclude?

The threat's effects on the affected population pillar should provide analytical conclusions regarding current priority effects on the population's dignity, safety and well-being arising from specific violations and abuses per population group and geographic location. The analytical conclusions here should guide your understanding of which population groups and geographic areas to prioritise in any response strategy.

Data and information which helps you understand the threat's effects on the population may come from different sectors and disciplines.

What can other sectors and disciplines provide?

Potential data sources which may support information needs include:

- humanitarian needs (HNO/HRP trends, MIRA, other-multi-sector, etc.)
- socio-economic data (Food Security Sector, poverty analysis programmes, cash programmes)
- material consequences (Housing, land, and property Area of Responsibility actors, Shelter Sector, etc.)
- social and psycho-social consequences (MHPSS, Health Sector, SGBV actors, Education Sector, etc.).

Pillar: Existing capacities to address the threat

Why is this important?

The capacities to address protection threats combine multiple levels of capacity, from individual to institutional, at the local, national or international level. These capacities must be understood to ensure the most appropriate and impactful response strategy.

You need to understand where the gaps are within existing policies, actions and practices of actors and authorities responsible for the protection threat. You also need to understand the capacity, commitment and willingness of duty bearers to fulfil their obligations and address the problems.[5] Figure A2.8 shows the three sub-pillars:

Figure A2.8 **Analyse the threat's effects on the population: sub-pillars**

What key questions to ask?

Capacities of the affected population

Crisis affected individuals, their families, households and networks, are usually best positioned to respond to and mitigate the effects of threats through use of their knowledge, skills and resources. However, in many cases, affected populations are less able to use their capacities for different reasons (for example, lack of awareness about services, resources have been depleted, community networks have been cut off). Consider:

- What knowledge, skills, resources and strengths are people using to cope with a threats or to resist or mitigate the impact of a threat? Where/why are these capacities exhausted?
- Which capacities most effectively mitigate or respond to specific threats (and their consequences)?
- What existing capacities are not used and why? What capacities were used in the past but may be forgotten or inaccessible now?

Local mechanisms, systems, and actors

In most cases, affected populations will have found ways to engage local leadership, pool their capacities, develop systems or approaches to managing threats at the group level. It is critical to understand this level of response in addition to the response efforts of humanitarian, national and international efforts. Consider:

- What is the combination of strengths and resources the population has or potentially has access to in their location?
- Has a leadership structure emerged that is making decisions, allocating resources or taking other protective action?
- What are the cultural, social, relational capacities or capacities related to services or specific actors? Which are functioning, available and/or used? How might they have changed over time?

[5] Primary duty bearers are those who hold the primary obligation and responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of persons on their territory or under their jurisdiction or control. Under international law, authorities at all levels of government are primary duty bearers. In addition, all State and non-State parties to conflicts have additional responsibilities under IHL.(ICRC Professional Standards, 2018:11)

Institutional, other mechanisms, and response capacities

Assessing the overall capacities to address protection threats requires information to understand the extent to which the formal or informal duty bearers are willing or able to respond, as well as the capacity of other actors that have influence over the risk.

- To what extent is the duty-bearer/responsible body able or willing to intervene?
- What are existing national or formal mechanisms which address the threat? Are there other informal mechanisms to protect or to provide an effective remedy? What effects do these mechanisms have on the population?
- What are the current available humanitarian, developmental and international political or legal capacities and response mechanisms?
- How can the capacities, resources, and comparative advantages of other actors (including humanitarian, developmental, peace actors) be used to enhance existing capacities of affected people and local and national systems, and reduce threats and vulnerabilities to achieve protection outcomes?

What to explore?

Clear articulation of the institutional and response capacities of different actors is important to ensure your strategies don't overlook or duplicate existing capacities.

The analysis should help inform theories of change to support protection action along the three levels of action of the Protection Egg. The guidance below suggests how to organise the information under this pillar:

1. Always link the different aspects of capacity to the identified protection threat and specifically to each consequence of the threat identified per population group.
2. Consult the Concepts Matrix tab in Appendix 1 to explore concepts helpful for analyzing of existing vulnerabilities and capacities relating to the protection threat.
3. The previous pillar ("Threat's Effects on the Affected Population") includes a process to understand what makes a population group in a geographic location specifically vulnerable to the protection threat identified. This should help you understand the capacities which exist within that location and population group to mitigate the threat. There is an inverse relationship between capacities and vulnerabilities relating to any one threat. For example, a lack of access to information in a group's native language can increase that group's vulnerability to a particular threat while at the same time reducing their capacity to address the threat. Similarly, if information about the threat is available through multiple channels in their desired language, the group's capacity to deal with the threat is likely to be increased and their vulnerability to it will be decreased. This relationship between vulnerability and capacity is illustrated in the risk equation (Figure A2.9) and in Appendix 1.

Figure A2.9 **Protection risk equation (adapted from InterAction)**

What do we conclude?

This pillar should provide analytical conclusions to clearly identify the current combination of people's capacities, local mechanisms, and structural and response capacity to address violations and abuses.

The protection analysis should guide your understanding of the most effective combination of efforts to address the current consequences of violations and abuses on the different population groups and geographic locations. This includes identifying existing gaps in capacity and response.

Data and information which helps you understand the existing capacities may come from different sectors and disciplines.

What can other sectors and disciplines provide?

Potential data and information sources include:

- ongoing humanitarian programmes (HNO/HRP/humanitarian programmes tracking, referral status/reports, etc.)
- local "unregistered capacities" (local colleagues, CBOs/NGOs, diaspora networks, etc.)
- IHL/IHRL (HC/RC, IHL/IHRL actors, NGOs, etc.)
- local institutions and budget analysis (developmental programmes, capacity-support programme, intercluster data, etc.).

Tips for a continuous protection analysis

The organisational process described in the four pillars (and in the PAF Analysis workflow) corresponds with one cycle of a protection analysis process. Each time you complete the process, review it (informally or formally) with key stakeholders. Provide an opportunity for them to provide feedback on how to make the analysis more efficient and effective in future.

Build in peer/stakeholder review throughout the process. This ensures buy-in for the analysis, so people act on it, and it improves the quality of the analysis, with particular focus on engaging relevant sets of stakeholders at these stages:

- When defining requirements, to make sure analysis requirements are relevant to practical needs.
- At least twice during the analysis phase. Engage with stakeholders early to inform your thinking as you explore, describe, explain, interpret and anticipate. Engage with them again once you have a draft analysis ready but before it is communicated, to enable a final review and sense-check. If you focus only on reviewing completed documents, it will often be too late to act meaningfully on stakeholder feedback.
- Immediately after the Communicate phase, gather feedback that can inform the next iteration.

Adapt the timing and sequencing to ensure the analysis is timely and relevant for meeting your objectives. In particular, consider important decision-making moments and timelines when establishing the timing of your analysis and dissemination of analytical products. That is, if the goal is to feed into a monthly coordination meeting that happens on the last Wednesday of each month then there would be little point delivering a report on the first Monday of every third month. Time each step of the cycle to:

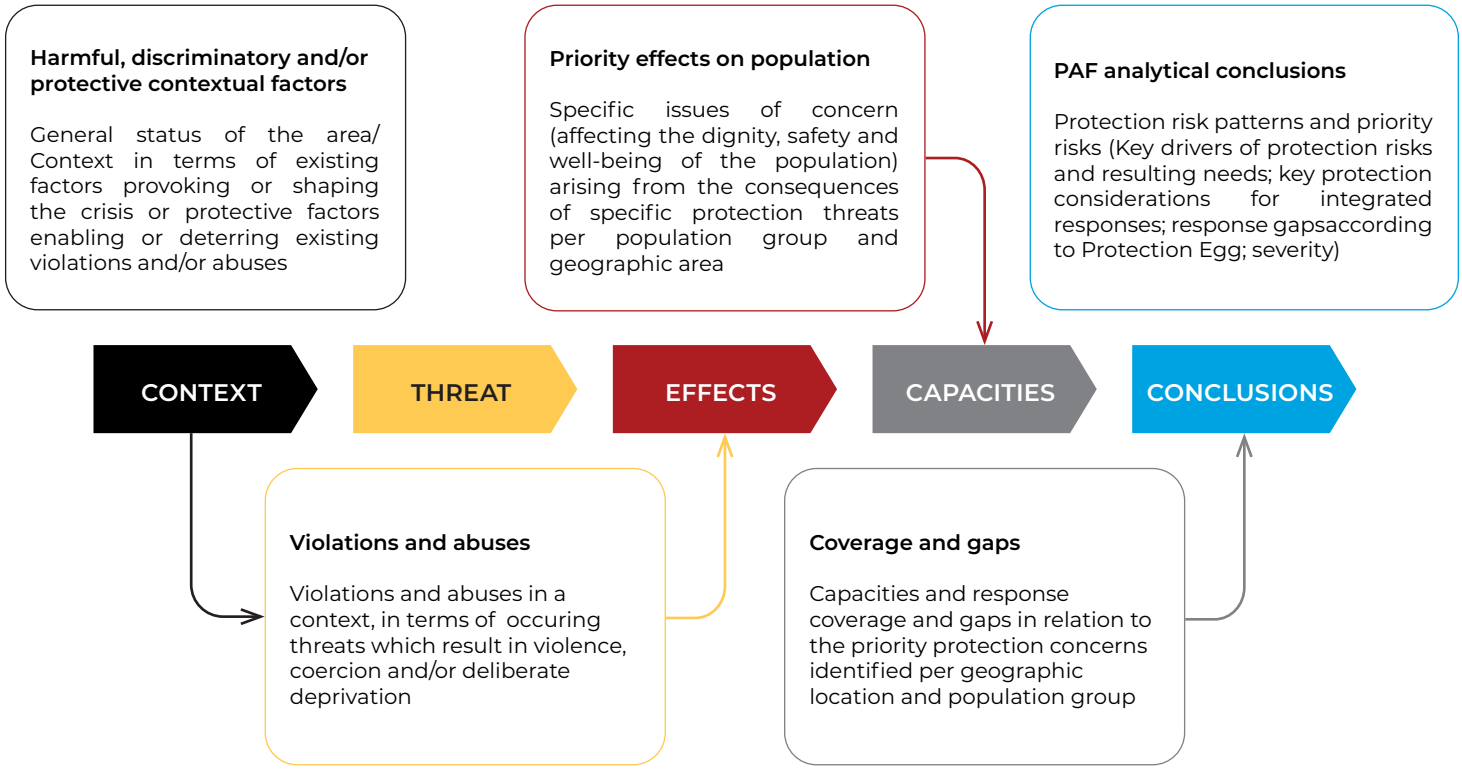
- Ensure outputs are ready in time to be most useful to the audience.
- Allow engagement with key stakeholders on their terms, when they are most able to engage.
- Ensure source reports (such as protection monitoring reports and OCHA monthly updates) are available and can be used in the analysis.

Analytical conclusions: most significant protection risks and consequences

Why is this important?

Use the protection analysis to determine priority protection threats and establish strategies to respond, which includes mobilising key actors for problem-solving around the priority risk. This step combines analysis findings from each pillar for an in-depth analysis of protection risks. Figure A2.10 illustrates how the analytical results of each pillar should guide the overall analytical conclusions.

Figure A2.10 **PAF sequence of analytical conclusions**



What key questions to ask?

The questions *What? To whom? Why? When?* and *How?* should be used to sequence the information and present the results of the protection analysis.

The PAF guides the identification of priority protection risks, to prioritise resulting needs and situations, and anticipate future protection risks. At this stage the questions should be geared towards answering:

- What protection risks do the identified population groups face in each geographic location? How are these risks affecting impacted groups differently?
- How and which different factors of threats, vulnerabilities and capacities contribute to the protection risks affecting the population groups?
- What are the commitments and capacities of the actors holding specific responsibilities to address the identified protection risks?
- What are the measures (and coverage and status) to reduce or avoid exacerbating those risks, including to stop and prevent violations; avoid reinforcing existing patterns of violence, coercion or deliberate deprivation; and restore safety and dignity to people's lives?[6]

[6] IASC Protection Policy (2016:3)

What to explore?

Organise all the information around each identified protection threat. The level of analysis chosen (community, area-based, national, etc.) should drive the selection of tools, methods and instruments for the analysis. Broadly, according to the PAF core logic, the analysis process should consider whether the protection threat:

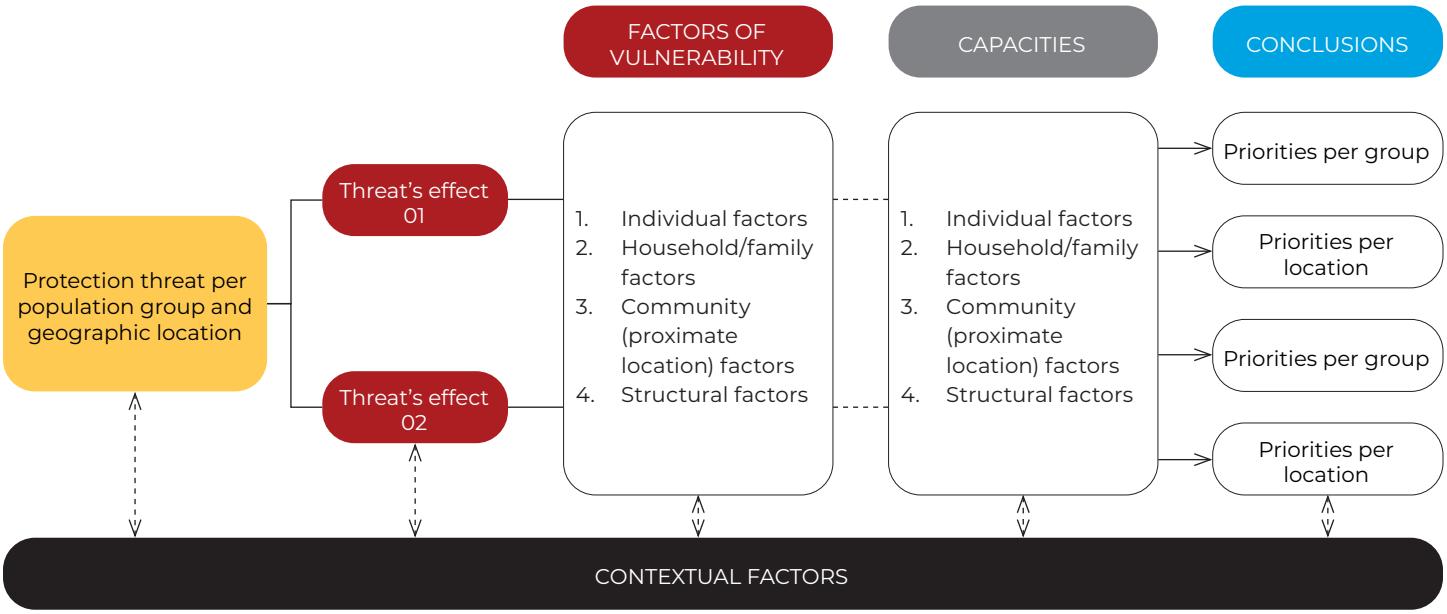
- Affects multiple locations
- Has the same consequences for specific population groups in different locations
- Is affecting specific groups differently (for example, does the presence of militia checkpoints affect men differently in location A than location B? Does it affect men and women differently, or members of different ethnic groups differently?).

Analyse the combination of vulnerabilities and capacities available to the affected population groups in each geographic location.[7] Each sub-pillar should contain the primary data and information, even though all information needs should be analysed.

Joint work among various stakeholders for a common purpose or benefit may include joint analysis and action.[8] Conversely, the process of analysis will achieve stronger results if directed towards coordinated action to achieve common goals (based on the identities and comparative advantages of multiple actors). This includes, for example, joint monitoring actions, response implementation, coordinated information activities, cluster engagement and advocacy. Identification of interrelated problems, including those that do or do not have the same causes and/or arise from the same dynamics, should be taken into account while setting priorities and designing appropriate strategies.[9]

Figure A2.11 provides an example of the process to sequence the PAF analytical conclusions, making use of the information acquired and analysed in the previous steps.

Figure A2.11 **General example of PAF analysis process**



7 "The ecological model to identify determinants of vulnerabilities is widely used in social sciences research and consistently adopted by protection actors in humanitarian and development contexts alike." Counter-trafficking in Emergencies: Information Management Guide, IOM (2020:42).

8 ICRC Professional Standards (2018:47)

9 ICRC Professional Standards (2018:41)