

PROTECTION RISKS EXPLANATORY NOTE

INTRODUCTION



The Global Protection Cluster (GPC), together with the Areas of Responsibility, has conducted a consultation to develop a consolidated list of **15 Protection Risks** on the basis of the Protection Analytical Framework.

The list includes standard definitions for the Protection Clusters to provide a coherent and consistent outlook of protection risks across operations.

The definitions are formally used in the **Global Protection Updates (GPU)** released quarterly by the GPC, as well as in **Protection Analysis Updates (PAU)** and are maintained across advocacy messages in briefs, reports, donor briefings and other engagement actions.

LIST OF PROTECTION RISKS

1. Abduction, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention
2. Attacks on civilians and other unlawful killings, and attacks on civilian objects
3. Child and forced family separation
4. Child, early or forced marriage
5. Discrimination and stigmatization, denial of resources, opportunities, services and/or humanitarian access
6. Disinformation and denial of access to information
7. Forced recruitment and association of children in armed forces and groups
8. Gender-based violence
9. Impediments and/or restrictions to access to legal identity, remedies and justice
10. Presence of Mine and other explosive ordnance
11. Psychological/emotional abuse or inflicted distress
12. Theft, extortion, forced eviction or destruction of personal property
13. Torture or cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment
14. Trafficking in persons, forced labour or slavery-like practices
15. Unlawful impediments or restrictions to freedom of movement, siege and forced displacement-

A protection risk is the *actual or potential exposure of the affected population to violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation*

From an operational standpoint, a protection risk identified or monitored by Protection Clusters refers to:

- **the intensity and damage or harm resulting from..**
- **..a human activity or a product of human activity..**
- **..affecting an individual or group of individuals.**

The harm may negatively affect the physical or **mental integrity of persons**, their **material safety** and/or **violate their rights**. The human activity may be a **direct act, measure or policy**, but it may include as well as **situations of inaction** by duty-bearers.



MONITORING OF PROTECTION RISKS ACROSS OPERATIONS



The GPC regularly monitors the 15 protection risks across emergencies crisis on a scale of 1 to 5 (minor to extreme severity). These risks are formally reported in the **Global Protection Updates (GPU)** released quarterly.

It is informed by the collective analyses carried out by each Protection Cluster. The Cluster ensures that AoRs, key operational partners and relevant stakeholders meet at least quarterly to undertake a collective analysis of the context and risks to jointly assess the severity of each of the 15 standard protection risks. The definitions provided in this guidance should inform the contextual understanding of all actors involved on how to jointly agree on their presence and severity.

The methodology to assign the severity to each protection risk includes: **a) Criteria to consider when assigning severity;** **b) International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law considerations per each risk.** The consistent use of the definitions provided is at the core of the monitoring methodology and Protection Clusters should be familiar and streamline their use in the operations. These are the general indications and suggestions:

- Reflect on the correlation between the protection risks and **ongoing data collection and analysis processes.**
- Reflect on current **protection cluster and/or HCT protection strategies** and possible alignment with the definitions provided.
- Consult partners and AoRs to **ensure shared understanding and proper contextualization.**

GUIDANCE FOR PROTECTION ANALYSIS UPDATES



The **Protection Analysis Updates (PAUs)** must include an analysis of the 5 most prominent protection risks in a given period, either at national or subnational level, resulting from the findings of the collective analysis. The list of 15 protection risks should therefore only guide the consistent use of standardized protection risk categories across operations to provide a solid narrative on protection and maximize programming and advocacy efforts.

The list should also support a One Protection Cluster approach externally by presenting each Cluster and AoRs' important issues under a unique narrative based on protection risks. The IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action¹ and Centrality of Protection Statement², together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Professional Standards for Protection Work³, support this approach.

In elaborating a PAU, the operation already possesses an analysis or situational understanding of the major protection problems in the country. They may have been formulated differently, from operation to operation, in the form of **concerns, issues, needs, violations or objectives.** The definitions of 15 protection risks provided can support the analytical process, as well the collaborative reflection on how to organize the identified protection problems. The definitions provided in this guidance recognize the specificity of each area of responsibility, and should only guide on the overall reporting as Protection Cluster.

¹ The protection cluster must also monitor and assess continuously whether and how protection risks are changing so that the Humanitarian Coordinator and HCT can review protection priorities in light of the evolving operational context and measure progress towards collective protection outcomes (i.e. support the HCT to monitor results-based and outcome level information in real time). IASC, 2016, <https://bit.ly/3yrE2eo>

² IASC, 2013, <https://bit.ly/3prEd41>

³ ICRC, 2018, <https://bit.ly/2Zm70Bu>



CONTEXTUALIZATION

Recognizing the specificity of each context, the terminology used in country for each of the 15 protection risks **can be adapted and must be contextually relevant**. The operation can define what is relevant to present and formulate as protection risk in each PAU. It is however important that each contextual adaptation relates to the 15 standard protection risks. In using and re-formulating the protection risks, please consider the following TIPS:

A) Terminology of protection risk headers in PAUs

- The protection risks have transversal impacts across all Areas of Responsibility. **Avoid general formulations such as *Housing, Land and Property* or *Child Protection*, instead refer to specific risks identified** (e.g: impediments to access documentation; forced eviction; forced child labour, etc..) and ensure that the AoRs specific findings are reflected.
- A protection risk is a form of violence, coercion or deliberate deprivation proven by evidence or observation. **Always include an indication of man-made factor(s)** (e.g. forced, denial, impediment or more evidently attack, cruel, recruitment, etc.).
- **Other sectors' needs/issues, as *food insecurity, malnutrition, climate-induced displacement, shelter safety, etc.*, should be reformulated** taking into account: **a)** What are the immediate protection risks deriving from the issue (e.g. food insecurity can result in forced labour, child marriage, extortion, GBV, etc.); **b)** Is the identified issue a result (fully or partially) of a protection risk (e.g. food security can be compounded by a denial of resources and opportunities or shelter safety be affected by attacks on displacement sites/camps)?
- **Generalized contextual events and occurrences are not protection risks** (e.g. conflict, ongoing violence, occupation).

B) Process of categorization and organizing of existing protection problems.

- List agreed protection concerns, issues, needs or risks defined within the Protection Cluster or protection strategies in country.
- Revise them against the definitions provided and identify whether they can be organized under one or more protection risk, guided by the Protection Analytical Framework.
- Revise the language of the protection risks in order to reflect country-specific situations.

Maintaining the definitions of protection risks supports the elaboration of a common protection narrative that look at both:

- 1) The specific protection needs and concerns of affected population, and
- 2) The multi-sector drivers or effects, and the inter-sector and inter-agency opportunities of prevention, mitigation and response to protection risks.



DEFINITIONS

RISK 1

ABDUCTION, KIDNAPPING, ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE, ARBITRARY OR UNLAWFUL ARREST AND/OR DETENTION



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk covers different acts and measures of detention, meaning the state of being deprived of liberty and being detained in a confined space and not being permitted to leave. **Abduction and kidnapping** refer to removal, seizure, capture, apprehension, taking or enforced disappearance of a person either temporarily or permanently, without support or acquiescence of the State. In conflicts, when the victims are children, it constitutes a grave violation. **Abductions and kidnappings** engage obligations of the State to investigate and to prosecute those responsible. **Enforced disappearance** is constituted by three cumulative elements: 1) the person is detained or otherwise deprived of liberty; 2) the deprivation of liberty is carried out by State agents, or by persons or groups of persons acting with their support or acquiescence; and 3) those responsible refuse to acknowledge the detention, or conceal the concerned person's fate or whereabouts, placing the person outside the protection of the law. **Unlawful arrest** describes the initial act of taking a person into detention that is not based on either a criminal charge or another reason provided for by law (established in national law and carried out in accordance with procedures). **Arbitrary arrest** or arbitrary detention refer to the situation where the arrest or detention is not justified by a legitimate purpose, reasonable, appropriate and necessary in the individual's particular circumstance.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

While monitoring this protection risk, it is fundamental to understand the nature and the conditions of detention. A detention is considered unlawful when is not in accordance with national laws and the procedures established by law. A detention is arbitrary when it is inappropriate, unjust, unreasonable, or unnecessary in the circumstances. Independently from incidents and cases, it is essential to identify factors of unlawfulness and arbitrariness. Examples include: a detention based on counter-terrorism laws which provides for long administrative detention to bypass normal criminal justice processes; the detention as a punishment for human rights defenders or based on discriminatory grounds; arrests linked to a possible criminal charge where there is no reasonable suspicion that a person has committed the offence; a person due to appear before a court arrested even though the person's presence could have been secured by other means; arrest on a criminal charge without arrest warrant (except if a person is about to commit a crime or is caught in the act). Child abduction may also constitute a form of child trafficking where the child is exploited in whatever form, requiring an investigation of the related protection risk.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Generally, in situation of armed conflict there is information on such types of incidents and targeting, but not during the period when the risk is occurring. This data and information is often collected by human rights partners, actors and mechanisms, or by UN missions or other protection of civilians mechanisms. National institutions, ombudsman or special bodies pertaining to the legal and justice system may have information and data. Research and analysis centres, media and protection monitoring can provide additional indication on possible presence of cases and incidents. Often it may not be possible to have precise numbers or statistics, due to access and other constraints. It is therefore important to use observation, expert judgement, triangulate available information, and ensure reporting on the protection risk, independently from available statistics.



RISK 2

ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS AND OTHER UNLAWFUL KILLINGS, AND ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN OBJECTS

WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk refers to attacks against civilians in a context of armed conflict. **Attack** means any act of violence against the civilian population and civilian objects, whether in offence or in defence, even if the attack does not lead to the death or injury of civilians. Unlawful attacks can result from a **direct attack** against civilians, an **indiscriminate attack** and a **disproportionate attack**. In International Humanitarian Law (IHL), it is fundamental to distinguish between civilians and combatants, as well as between military objectives and civilian objects. A **civilian** is any individual who does not belong to any of the various categories of combatants defined in the Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocols. They are persons who are not members of the armed forces and do not take part in hostilities. The **civilian population** comprises all persons who are civilians. While in situation of international armed conflict, it is easier to distinguish between combatants and civilians, in situations of internal armed conflicts that distinction can be less clear. **Civilian objects** are defined as all objects that are not military objectives. Towns, cities, villages, residential areas, dwellings, buildings, houses, schools, civilian means of transportation, hospitals, places of worship, displacement sites and cultural property are normally used for civilian purposes, and, as such, should not be subjects of attack. In doubt, they should be treated as a civilian object.

WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

While monitoring this protection risk, it is important to report on all types of attacks, whether they are intentional or unintentional, directly or indirectly causing harm to civilian population and objects or perpetrated by State or non-State actors. It is also fundamental to identify whether attacks are **indiscriminate**: 1) when they do not distinguish between military and civilian population or objects (e.g. bombing a highly populated area); 2) whether the use of methods or means of warfare cannot be directed at a specific military objective; 3) the effects of which cannot be limited, (e.g. the use of cluster munitions in densely populated urban areas, the use of biological weapons and the use of mines in populated urban areas). It is essential as well to identify when attacks are **disproportionate**, when a party to the conflict carries out an attack on a military target which can be expected to cause loss of civilian life or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects, which would be excessive (disproportionate) in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated (principle of proportionality). This risk is often the cause or driver of the other 14 protection risks.

WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Generally, in situation of armed conflict there is a wealth of information on incidents, consequences of attacks and targeting. This data and information may be found beyond the monitoring done by the protection sector and requires a thorough analysis of primary and secondary sources. Civilians injured, killed, or incidents with direct impact on civilians or civilian infrastructure can be identified through: protection of civilian mechanisms, cluster-specific monitoring and data, research and analysis centres, human rights monitoring mechanisms and partners, media, protection monitoring, UN mission dedicated mechanisms, and national bodies. Often it may not be possible to have precise numbers or statistics on attacks, due to access and other constraints. It is therefore important to use observation, expert judgement, triangulate available information, and ensure the reporting on the protection risk, independently from available statistics.



RISK 3

CHILD AND FORCED FAMILY SEPARATION



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk includes all situations when family members are separated, including girls and boys from their parents and caregivers, because of violent conflicts, climate induced disasters and other crises. Some children, persons with disabilities or older persons are separated from their families during the chaos of a humanitarian emergency. Others may be pulled away by parties involved in a violent conflict. Poor living conditions, threats of violence and the disruption of traditional social protection mechanisms may force parents to plan the separation from their children as a negative coping strategy, which puts these unaccompanied or separated persons at a high risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation. Separated children are those separated from both parents or their primary caregiver but not necessarily from other relatives; unaccompanied children are those separated from both parents, primary caregivers and other relatives, and are not under the care of an adult who, by law or custom is responsible for doing so. Family members may be separated for hours, days, months – even years. Those who receive early support in tracing their relatives are more likely to be reunified faster.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of this protection risk must be undertaken in all situations, and especially in situations of mass population movements. According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, when a child is temporarily or permanently deprived of its family environment, State Parties must provide protection, assistance and alternative care arrangements. These must also facilitate and support family tracing activities, especially for unaccompanied and separated children. Moreover, in situation of armed conflicts, family reunification is a right under international law. Forced separation disrupts the parent-child relationship and might expose them to various dangers and heightened risks of exploitation, neglect and abuse. Children might also suffer psychosocial distress with short- and long-term consequences for their development and their social and emotional wellbeing. Persons with disabilities or older persons are also at heightened risk of neglect when separated from their families and caregivers. Restoring family links and reuniting families when possible is essential. In addition to preventing protection/child protection and/or GBV incidents, family reunification restores people's dignity, feelings of safety, and mitigates the impact of the crisis on their physical and mental wellbeing, which is of paramount importance for preserving or building resilience to future shocks.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Data and information to identify and monitor this protection risk may be obtained from a number of sources. The core information relates to identifying how many children are unaccompanied or separated, and how many cases of family separation there are. Partners, Child Protection AoRs and other specialized actors may have implemented registration exercises in which every person/family is interviewed by trained protection/child protection specialists, such as in a refugee or IDP registration exercise. This data is fundamental for the analysis, with the due consideration of never publishing the number of unaccompanied or separated children per location. If registration data on the exact number of separated families and unaccompanied children does not exist, the following sources may be used to understand the degree of presence and impact of this protection risk: ongoing KII assessments that can generally indicate the presence of unaccompanied or separated children; HH surveys indicating separated family members; specialized FGDs or expert interviews that can provide valuable information on the underlying drivers and locations that are leading to family separation; specialized helplines or country databases; ICRC and National Societies' Family Links Programs; Organization of Persons with Disabilities assessments or studies and assessment on persons with disabilities and older persons in humanitarian crisis. Research papers and other studies/assessments in locations with recurring/cyclical disasters, can support the identification of drivers and impact of family separation based on knowledge of previous similar emergencies.



RISK 4

CHILD, EARLY OR FORCED MARRIAGE



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Child marriage is any formal or informal union between a child under the age of 18 with an adult or another child. It is considered as a form of forced marriage because of the impossibility for a child to give full, free and informed consent. Child marriage is a harmful practice that might be socially accepted and practiced, or used as a coping mechanism. Girls are disproportionately affected, but boys might also be concerned. In humanitarian emergencies caused by conflict, natural hazards and climate change impacts, the rates of child marriage, as with other forms of gender-based violence, are likely to increase due to safety concerns, situational factors, and poor living conditions that result in the adoption of negative coping mechanisms. Child marriage may result due to parents believing that their child will be safer in another household, or because they can no longer meet the basic needs of the family due to food insecurity. Forced marriage is a marriage in which one or more of the parties is married without their consent or against their will. In conflict-affected areas, girls may be kidnapped and forced to marry members of armed forces or armed groups.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

Child marriage is a form of gender based violence. It robs girls of their childhood and threatens their lives and health, as they are more likely to experience domestic violence, early pregnancy and drop out of school, and experience health complications during childbirth. As a result, girls that marry before 18 may experience worse economic and health outcomes than their unmarried peers, which are eventually passed down to their own children, impacting their resilience to future shocks, and further straining a country's capacity to provide quality health and education services. In identifying and reporting on this protection risk, it is fundamental not only to identify the drivers but also the responsibility of States and non-state actors controlling territories in ensuring the proper prevention, mitigation and redress of the conditions that lead to the risk.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Identifying drivers of child marriage is a first fundamental core step. Once the drivers of child marriage are identified (safety, food insecurity, common social practice, etc), data on those drivers per location can be used to interpret where the risks of child marriage are higher. Data on child marriage may be obtained from the following sources: GBV IMS, in countries in which the Security Council has activated the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children, reports will include information on armed forces or armed groups kidnapping and forcing children to marry members; national census, although conducted once every 5-10 years, will provide prevalence data for child marriage pre-emergency; UNICEF Country Webpage is likely to include information on laws regarding child marriage and prevalence of child marriage; household surveys can provide prevalence data for a target group when collected from a representative sample of households, and when collected through a household profiling exercise (in which a standard set of questions on age, education, and marital status is asked about every family member); key informants may provide information on whether they believe that child marriage is increasing or decreasing in their locations; specialized FGDs or expert interviews can provide valuable information on the underlying drivers of child marriage. In all cases, HHs, KIs and FGDs percentages should never be used as representative percentage of the population, but as percentage of respondents that are reporting on something.



RISK 5

DISCRIMINATION AND STIGMATIZATION, DENIAL OF RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES, SERVICES AND/OR HUMANITARIAN ACCESS



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk includes acts that deprive or pre-empt people to rightfully access economic resources/assets or livelihood opportunities, education, health or other social services, on the basis of unjustifiable and/or unlawful reasons or policies with the consent or under the acquiescence or negligence of public officials or responsible parties. **Discrimination** includes acts of making unjustified distinctions between human beings based on categories to which they are perceived to belong (race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, as well as other categories). **Stigma** can include dehumanizing, degrading, discrediting and devaluing people in certain population groups, often based on a feeling of disgust. Stigma and discrimination are closely interrelated, and they reinforce each other. Stigma often lies at the root of discrimination and provides a justification to discrimination as ‘natural’ and necessary and makes systemic discrimination possible. One person can possess different attributes to which stigma is attached. **Denial of equal opportunity, including resources and services** refers to any action, conduct or measure resulting in or likely to result in the taking away in any manner of existing opportunities for livelihood, vocation, occupation or employment or any other livelihood rights and entitlements. This is a core type of gender-based violence. **Denial of humanitarian access** entails blocking the free passage or timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons in need, as well as deliberate attacks against humanitarian workers.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of this protection risk requires an attentive understanding of every situation where people are excluded from the use or enjoyment of resources, facilities, assets or rights. This includes all situations where people encounter barriers to access and have no alternatives, or where people are threatened with violence and fear for their physical and mental integrity. In armed conflicts, the principle of subsidiarity dictates that the primary responsibility for meeting the needs of the civilian population rests with the warring parties that are in effective control of the territory in which that population lives. Only if those parties are unable to meet their obligations should outside relief allow action. In situation of natural hazards and climate impact, including extreme weather events such as floods, storms, droughts, heat waves and wildfires or hunger crisis, authorities and responsible parties have the obligation to put in place and facilitate all actions to prevent, stop, provide redress and build an environment where no violations affect the life of the population. This is valid as well for any complex emergencies or protracted crisis combining conflict and climate change impacts. This protection risk should be therefore monitored in all situations where immediate needs (e.g., food insecurity or malnutrition) are compounded by the erosion of resources and capacities of the population, together with the insufficient response or action by state authorities over a prolong period.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Understanding the presence of this protection risk requires a contextual combination of existing assessments and analysis, within and beyond the protection sector. Factors to be observed can include: a) data on food security, physical and economic access to food, disruption of livelihoods and markets, household indebtedness; b) distorted access to land and employment, barriers to sexual and reproductive health, education, safety and livelihoods, access to services; c) existing protection risks such as denial of freedom of movement and expression, denial of access to humanitarian aid, direct attacks on aid workers or restrictions on activities, child, early and forced marriage, gender-based violence; d) structural factors such as poor governance, discriminatory social and gender norms and practice, discriminatory laws or customary practices denying access or decision-making to land, household property, decent work or financial resources; e) increase resorting to harmful coping strategies, intersectional situation of affected population, information and knowledge; f) economic (goods, services and resources with market value to the community, houses, roads, schools, or health centres, productive lands, damaged crops, decrease in livestock health) and non-economic losses (missing education, training and health services, loss of life, infectious disease, malnutrition, mental health, displacement and migration, social cohesion, loss of cultural and indigenous knowledge).



RISK 6

DISINFORMATION AND DENIAL OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk refers to all situations when information is used or denied with the consequence of causing harm to the population. Disinformation takes place when false information and statements are disseminated intentionally to cause serious social harm. Disinformation misleads the population and, as a side effect, interferes with the public's right to know and the right of individuals to seek, receive, and impart information. The denial of access to information manifests in all situations where the freedom to 'receive and impart' information is impaired in such a manner and to such a degree that it hinders the capacity of the population to enjoy basic rights and fulfil basic needs. Harmful acts, measures and tactics on the use or denial of information may be driven by means of polarization – an intended act of dividing people or opinions in opposing groups – or on the basis of social constructs – concepts or beliefs based on views of a society (gender, age, disability, sexuality, race, political, philosophical and religious). With the current proliferation of social media, this protection risk can manifest in the digital sphere or spread through a combination of both online and offline mechanisms.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

Disinformation may be related with incorrect information spread by people without the intent to deceive, for example, through a misunderstanding or false information disseminated unknowingly (misinformation) or genuine information that is shared to cause harm (malinformation) or unverified information passed from person to person (rumours). It can aim at deterring women for participating in the public sphere (gendered and sexualized disinformation), or intentionally looking into producing conflict by belittling, challenging, provoking, maliciously teasing or explicitly threatening people or groups through offensive, hate and dangerous speech (statements going against). It is fundamental to monitor all situations where disinformation is taking place, and particularly when it has been shown to target particular groups in society – such as certain ethnic groups – and is designed to incite violence, discrimination or hostility which may result in physical harm or even loss of life. Limitations to people with disability and elder persons to seek, receive and impart information during displacement can result in high risk of harm and loss of life. Understanding state authorities' responsibility in such acts, for instance to identify whether there is an official propaganda or agenda, along with their responsibility in ensuring that population have all means and opportunities to access to rightful information, are essential components in understanding the breadth and impact of this protection risks on the population.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

The identification of this protection risk requires the correlation of different sources, including regulations, media and possibly online outlets and social networks. Factors and information that can support include hate speech laws and policies, laws regulating misinformation, harmful information, data related threats such as surveillance and monitoring, political advertisement, threats leading to violence against children, existing psychosocial/emotional harm, exclusion of certain groups from public affairs, radicalization, recruitment, intensified perception of threats, harmful social norms, political distrust and polarization, institutional or formal censorship, and laws of media. Specific situations may represent windows for the possible presence of this specific protection risk: social unrest, riots, war, coup d'état, military or authoritarian regimes, elections and political campaigns, cultural celebrations and religious festival, viral acts of violence, politically salient anniversaries, public health crisis, and international disputes.



RISK 7

FORCED RECRUITMENT AND ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN IN ARMED FORCES AND GROUPS



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk refers to all situations in which a person is compelled to serve in the forces of a hostile power, by means of coercion, threats or other means. Forced recruitment is prohibited by the Hague regulations, the third and fourth Geneva Convention, repeated in the list of war crimes in the Statute of the International Criminal Court and according to Rule 95 of the ICRC's Customary International Humanitarian Law Study is considered a specific type of forced labour that is prohibited in international armed conflicts. If the victim is a child, the recruitment is always considered forced because of the impossibility for a child to give free and informed consent. A child associated with an armed force or armed group refers to any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to those used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies or for sexual purposes⁴. The recruitment and use of children is considered as one of the worst forms of child labour, and is listed as one of the six grave violations of children's rights according to the monitoring and reporting mechanisms established by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of this protection risks should look at the recruitment of person and the identification of any forceful act compelling the person to join armed forces, and when the person expressed will under coercion or the threat of any harm. In relation to children, recruitment and use might be forced or appear voluntary, but must be adequately monitored and reported. Boys and girls might suffer extensive forms of exploitation and abuse, including gender-based violence. Children become part of an armed force or group for various reasons. Some are abducted, threatened, coerced or manipulated by armed actors. Others are driven by poverty, compelled to generate income for their families. Others associate themselves for survival, to protect their communities or for social status. Their participation in conflict bears serious implications for their physical and emotional well-being, and for their development. They are commonly subject to abuse and most of them witness death, killing, and sexual violence, or are forced to commit violent acts. The reintegration of these children into civilian life is an essential part of the work to help them cope with their past experience, rebuild their lives and frame the conditions for a successful reintegration into society.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Resolution 1612 of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and its monitoring and reporting mechanisms (MRM) provides for the systematic gathering of accurate, timely, objective and reliable information on six grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict, including the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups. The information gathered through the MRM is used in United Nations reporting, including the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict and country-specific reports. These reports trigger action by the Security Council and other actors. In countries in which the MRM has not been activated by the Security Council, data and information on forced recruitment and children associated with armed forces and armed groups may be obtained from the following: in-country studies or specialised assessments, existing data bases and records, non-specialist KIs providing information on whether they are aware of forced recruitments (making sure to not publish estimated numbers or locations); HHs surveys (providing a proper risk assessment and solid identification on whether the data can be published); specialized FGDs or expert interviews that can provide valuable information on the underlying drivers and locations of recruitment. It is important to always conduct a **risk assessment**, as it is very sensitive information that could do harm to respondents and their communities.

⁴ 'Unlawful' recruitment and use refers to the recruitment or use of children under the minimum age allowed in relevant international treaties or national law. In all cases, International Humanitarian Law and the Convention of the Rights of the Child prohibit all child recruitment under the age of 15.



RISK 8

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Gender-based violence is an umbrella protection risk for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e., gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private. The term "GBV" is most commonly used to underscore how systemic inequality between males and females acts as a unifying and foundational characteristic of most forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls, impacting equitable access to humanitarian assistance. Women and girls experience multiple forms of GBV due to systemic gender inequality and other forms of intersectional discrimination including ableism, racism, nationalism and other structures of power. GBV can include intimate partner violence, other forms of domestic violence, forced and/or coerced prostitution, child and/or forced marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, female infanticide, honour killings, trafficking for sexual exploitation, denial of resources, and/or forced/domestic labour. These must be considered in any monitoring of protection risks. Certain forms of sexual violence can also be directed against men and boys, particularly in armed conflict and detention, aimed at emasculating the individual, and/or reinforcing traditional, cultural or normative conceptions on masculinity or femininity.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of this protection risk requires attention to factors that increase risks of GBV. These can include harmful normative and legal regulations and mechanisms, increased militarization, lack of community and State protection, displacement, scarcity of essential resources, disruption to community services, changing cultural and gender norms, disrupted relationships, and weakened infrastructure. Particular attention should be paid during emergencies, when the risk of violence, exploitation and abuse is heightened. At the same time, national systems, including health and legal systems, and community and social support networks weaken. This breakdown of systems can reduce access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, and legal services, leading to an environment of impunity in which perpetrators are not held to account. When systems and services are disrupted or destroyed, women and girls face even higher risk of human rights violations. Attention to these factors is critical due to the overwhelming underreporting of GBV globally. GBV survivors should be afforded all rights to safe, secure, and confidential access to services without fear of retaliation or retribution. The presence of one or more of the other fourteen protection risks can constitute a risk of GBV.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

It is fundamental to assume that GBV is happening everywhere. It is under-reported worldwide, due to fears of stigma or retaliation, limited availability or accessibility of trusted service providers, impunity for perpetrators, and lack of awareness of the benefits of seeking care. Waiting for or seeking population-based data on the true magnitude of GBV should not be a priority due to safety and ethical challenges in collecting such data. With this in mind, all humanitarian actors should assume GBV is occurring and threatening affected populations; treat it as a serious and life-threatening problem; and take actions based on sector recommendations, regardless of the presence or absence of concrete 'evidence'. Information and data should therefore be well analysed with the GBV AoR, and consider always triangulation of expert judgements, observation, identification of drivers or other environmental factors that can illustrate the presence of GBV, research and report on past situations in the same context to identify current occurrences, other sectors' data, media and situational overview of normative, legal and cultural norms, practices, policies and regulations.



RISK 9

IMPEDIMENTS AND/OR RESTRICTIONS TO ACCESS TO LEGAL IDENTITY, REMEDIES AND JUSTICE



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk includes all measures, acts and practice that prevent people from accessing documentation, remedies and justice with consequent harm at individual, household and community levels. **Denial of access to legal identity** refers to all situations preventing a person to possess legal identity or any other fundamental documentation to be recognized as a person before the law. **Denial of access to remedies** includes all impediments to obtain effective procedural and substantive remedies following legal claims. Procedural remedies include regulations, laws, processes, and entitlements. Substantive remedies include effective remedies at the conclusion of the processes – such as restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, or others. **Denial to access to justice** relates to the impediments to access to judicial mechanisms, processes, and remedies, ranging from access to statutory courts or commissions to traditional mechanisms such as customary or faith-based dispute resolution bodies. States have the duty to respect, protect and fulfil a population’s rights to access legal identity and civil documents, remedies and justice, but non-State actors have responsibilities according to different national and international frameworks.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of this protection risk should include a focused attention that the mechanisms, whether judicial or non-judicial, do not only treat the population as passive recipients. The risk can manifest even when legal and policy procedure are in place, if the mechanisms are not accessible, affordable, adequate, timely and if they are not created, designed, and operated in consultation with the affected population. The addressing of this protection risk is fundamental to enabling an individual to claim other rights and enjoy basic services and entitlements, including the right to a nationality, freedom of movement, and to access a range of basic services, such as education, healthcare and adequate housing. Importantly, a lack of legal identity and civil documents puts children at increased risk of statelessness, as well as exclusion from both accessing basic services and from political, social and economic life. Lacking identity and civil documents may increase risk of arbitrary arrest or detention and has serious consequences for people relations with both authorities and the wider community. It increases risks of community stigmatization, isolation, and exclusion, particularly for female-headed households, who often lack strong community support networks to navigate potentially hostile environments.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Support from legal aid and analysis actors is fundamental for the identification of this protection risks. Information and data may include: monitoring of confiscated civil IDs, nationality cards and other state-issued documents (by state and NSAGs), registration of undocumented children, access to services and facilities, access legal notices and information, availability and affordability of legal assistance, presence of substantive and procedural safeguards recognized in international law, discriminatory law and/or social practices, monitoring from civil society organizations, information and understanding on power imbalances and discrimination, existing legal and human rights reforms, impact assessments, information, counselling and legal support.



RISK 10

PRESENCE OF MINES AND OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This risk refers to the level of social, economic and environmental impact on communities and affected populations resulting from the harm or exposure to harm caused by Explosive Ordnance (EO) hazards and hazardous areas. This includes mines, cluster munitions, unexploded ordnance, abandoned ordnance, booby traps, improvised explosive devices and other devices (as defined by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons: Amended Protocol II). They are inevitably found during and after armed conflicts and, when activated, can incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons, as well as prevent them from accessing resources, livelihood and opportunities due to fear of presence of explosive ordnance.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The identification and monitoring of this protection risk can include events, accidents, as well as the presence of suspected or confirmed hazardous areas. Some level of reporting on the risk should be maintained according to the degree of residual risk identified following non-technical surveys, technical surveys and clearance. This protection risk includes all cases including victims: persons either individually or collectively who have suffered physical, emotional and psychological injury, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights through acts or omissions related to the use of mines or the presence of EO. Victims include directly impacted individuals (casualties), families and affected communities in the short and long-term term, and their primary and secondary, intended or unintended effects. In the context of mine action, the term 'survivor' refers to a person who was injured as a result of explosive ordnance and has survived the accident. It is fundamental to identify all hazardous areas or explosive ordnance that have not been marked or fenced off, for the immediate threats to life they pose, as well as determining if devices are active (still used by a party to a conflict) or remnant (e.g., abandoned IEDs after hostilities have ceased).



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

The presence of this protection risk is backed up by data, reports and information illustrating effects and impacts, for instance: a) inaccessibility or inability to use essential infrastructure such as roads and markets; b) inability or reduced ability to pursue livelihood activities such as use of agricultural land or water sources; c) the psychological, physical, social and economic consequences of injuries caused by explosive ordnance. This risk can be identified first by consulting available sources of information such as the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), the National Mine Action Authorities (NMAA), previous surveys, victim assistance databases, residential, agricultural or infrastructure damage assessments (e.g., bridges). If the existing source of information is incomplete, the risk can be further identified by asking questions to identify victims and contaminated areas through assessments, field visits and community liaison. Suspected hazardous areas need to be reported and surveyed by technical specialist to confirm presence of EO. Civilians or untrained personnel should not attempt to identify, move or destroy EO. A list of guiding questions has been compiled in the Displacement Tracking Matrix Mine Action Field Companion. The establishment of a hotline is advised so that the population can report suspected hazardous areas or accidents involving explosive ordnance. The Mine Action AoR can help to organise surveys to define the level and nature of the contamination and design risk reduction strategies.



RISK 11

PSYCHOLOGICAL/EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR INFLICTED DISTRESS



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Psychological and emotional abuse or the infliction of distress can refer to direct acts perpetrated with the intention of causing harm, as well as the indirect results of the infliction of these types of mental or emotional pains or injuries. These include the presence of conditions that generate prolonged mental health and psychological well-being problems not addressed by State authorities, including not ensuring the availability of and accessibility to support systems. Conflict situations and humanitarian crises create an environment where a series of issues at individual, family, and community levels tend to generate new and exacerbate pre-existing mental health and psychosocial well-being problems and weaken the support systems usually available in normal circumstances. At the core of every conflict and humanitarian crisis, insecurity fractures social ties, breaks up families and communities, and displaces populations. This is compounded by traumatic experiences often involving loss of family members, participation in or witnessing of violent acts, or by the breakdown of social services such as health and education.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

This type of protection risk can include threats of physical or sexual violence, intimidation, humiliation, forced isolation, stalking, verbal harassment, unwanted attention, remarks, gestures or written words of a sexual and/or menacing nature, destruction of cherished things, and others. Its monitoring relates to all psychological (such as emotions, thoughts, behaviours, knowledge and coping strategies) and psychosocial (such as interpersonal relationships and social connections, social resources, social norms, social values, social roles, community life, spiritual and religious life) harm and the presence of mental disorders. Particular attention must be paid to children since, due to their still sensitive neurological system, they are more susceptible to shocks to their development process. These shocks may include violent and traumatic events due to conflict or more indirect effects such as malnutrition leading to stunting and cognitive impairments. The mental health consequences of conflict and emergencies on children are clear, with elevated rates of post-traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety due to both direct exposure to traumatic events as well as exposure to increased levels of daily stressors.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

The identification of this protection risk starts with all available information coming from mental health and psychological support systems and partners, as well as specific monitoring carried out in the areas of child protection and gender-based violence. The available data and information support making the case for existing problems should be triangulated with any data and information illustrating either direct abuses or the absence of authorities' measures and actions to address the stressors in the environment or to provide support systems. These can include support to people affected by rights violations, functional referral systems, accountability measures and networks, access processes for justice, address underlying conditions of violence, food insecurity or any other major driver of a humanitarian crisis, availability and accessibility to MHPSS services, regulatory or policy frameworks.



RISK 12

THEFT, EXTORTION, FORCED EVICTION OR DESTRUCTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This risk includes forms of unlawful dispossession of persons either individually or collectively involving a direct or indirect responsibility of public officials or non-State actors, either by acts or by omissions. **Theft** includes looting, pillage and any other act of stealing. **Extortion** includes any practice to elicit actions, money or property through any form of coercion. **Forced evictions** are the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families and/or communities from the homes and/or land that they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. **Destruction of personal property** includes all damage and destruction caused by unlawful acts, committed wilfully or wantonly (done recklessly and with a conscious disregard for substantial harm to people or property).



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of **theft** should include all acts causing further harm to people that result from the erosion of the protective environment owing to conflict, natural or other disasters. Any act of **extortion** should be monitored. This includes cases where no benefit is obtained and people are affected by threats, threats of violence or feeling of being in debt against their will to receive an essential service or avoid harmful consequences, including legal. As for **forced evictions**, everyone is protected from forced evictions independently from the type of tenure. As such, the monitoring could include all situations related to urban and rural development, transformation and/or zoning, mining, extractive and other industrial activities, land acquisitions and leases, privatization and/or speculation, lack of legal security of tenure, legislation or, changes related to housing and land, non-deliverance or non-recognition of titles, slum clearance, land grabbing, including by armed groups and paramilitaries, discriminatory laws and practices, informal settlements, unaffordability, defaulting on payments, domestic violence or abuse, housing tenure linked to employment permits, international and non-international armed conflicts, counter-terrorism measures. IDPs, specifically in situation of residing in informal settlement, are at a particular risk of eviction and require specific attention. As for the **destruction of personal property**, the monitoring should include any man-made destruction, or destruction caused by natural hazards that is causing harm to population due to the omission of responsibility by authorities or responsible parties. It includes both loss (the consequences that cannot be brought back) and damage (things that can be either restored or repaired).



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

Information and data on this protection risk can be found in assessment, monitoring and response activities coordinated by the house, land and property AoR, and specialized organizations working on legal response and research. Tracking mechanisms in country may monitor specific data, as well as other clusters such as Shelter cluster. Protection monitoring, available multi-sector assessments or existing data collection mechanism based on KII and FGD could guide the identification of the risk. For eviction, specific tracker may be available in country and specific information or data such as administrative and judicial decisions, harassment, threats, physical violence or other intimidation forcing people to move from their homes or land, situations where people are not allowed to return to their home or land after having left voluntarily or owing to a disaster, conflict, expropriation, may support the identification.



RISK 13

TORTURE OR CRUEL, INHUMAN, DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This risk illustrates acts of **torture** by which any intentionally severe pain or suffering is inflicted on a person, whether physical or mental, for purposes such as: a) obtaining personal information or a confession, b) punishing an act the person has committed or is suspected of having committed, c) intimidating or coercing him/her; d) any reason based on discrimination of any kind by a public official, either directly or indirectly, or non-State actors (e.g. personnel in detention facilities or de facto authorities). It also includes any other act of **cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment**. These acts may be targeting a person in relation to a third person and may include beatings or blunt trauma, shaking, suspension in painful positions, stabbing, puncture wounds, amputation, removal of nails, burns, hot fluids, acid, forced ingestion, injections, electric shocks, asphyxiation, death threats, mock executions, witness torture of another person, sleep deprivation, overcrowding, solitary confinement, withholding of food or water, sensory deprivation, exposure to extreme light or sound, use of animals, positional torture, rape, sexual assault, or force nudity.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of this protection risk can include acts perpetrated by any actor or group and, as such, must be reported. States are always obliged to prevent and act upon this, independently of being part or signatory to conventions or treaties. In order for these acts to be recognized as torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment according to international human rights law (and held the responsible authority accountable), there must be evidence that it has been perpetrated at the instigation of, or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or any other person acting in an official capacity. According to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, States should take legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures preventing torture in situations where: a) the act is committed in their territory, b) the offender is a national of that State, c) the victim is a national of that State (if State considers appropriate intervening). Pain and suffering caused by the application and implementation of laws (lawful sanctions) is not considered as being part of this protection risk.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

The existence of this protection risk is backed up by data, reports and information illustrating incidents such as the number of victims, areas, trends and allegations. Additional information that could illustrate the presence of this risk include: a) no legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures have been taken by authorities in past situations; b) criminal law does not include torture as an offence; c) no prohibition against torture is included in trainings of law enforcement personnel, civil or military, medical personnel, public officials and other persons involved in custody, interrogation or treatment of individuals; d) no complaint on allegations of these acts are being allowed; d) the legal system does not support obtaining redress or fair and adequate compensation; e) the state (signatory of the Convention) does not report on the measures taken to prevent torture to the UN Committee Against Torture.



RISK 14

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, FORCED LABOUR OR SLAVERY-LIKE PRACTICES



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk refers to forced labour, slavery, slavery-like practices and trafficking in persons. **Forced labour** refers to situations in which persons are coerced to work under the menace of any penalty, for example through the use of violence or intimidation, or by more subtle means such as manipulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities. **Trafficking in persons** refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes at a minimum the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs. Note that in the case of children, trafficking involves only recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation and does not have to involve the illicit and abusive means listed before.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of this protection risk requires the identification of the acts by the actors causing harm (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons), the means used to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person (threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, abuse of position of vulnerability, giving or receiving payments or benefits) and the purpose of the exploitation (exploitation of prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, organ removal). In the case of children, the protection risk applies in all situations of work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and/or interferes with their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

The identification of this protection risk can rely on screening, detection, victim identification and referral to support, however this is often challenging, especially at the onset of a crisis due to under-reporting, lack of detection and potential security risks. It can also be assessed through an analysis combining primary and secondary data. The starting point should be a context analysis of existing laws and policies on trafficking and related issues (forced labour, child labour, child marriage, sex-related work), trafficking risks and trends (e.g., in terms of forms of exploitation, recruitment methods and profiles of persons trafficked) existing in the community before displacement. The specific demographics of the displaced population could also point to various types of vulnerability. Additional indications of this protection risk may be found in other multisector or sector specific assessments (i.e., GBV, Child Protection, Food Security, etc.) in relation to forced recruitment, child labour, separation from families and child sexual exploitation or negative coping mechanisms.



RISK 15

UNLAWFUL IMPEDIMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, SIEGE AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT



WHAT ACTS OR SITUATIONS CONSTITUTE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

This protection risk refers to all restrictions and barriers to freedom of movement, including situations of isolation, siege, forced displacement and any situation when a person does not have free choice related to movements. All **restrictions to freedom of movement** are unlawful, are subject to strict criteria under human rights law and must be provided for by law, be considered necessary and proportionate to achieve a legitimate aim (such as protect national security or public order, health or morals, or the rights or freedoms of others), and be non-discriminatory and consistent with other human rights. Impediments to freedom of movement in a displacement context can take different forms and relate to harmful conditions of safety and dignity of the population that are not properly prevented, responded or redressed by responsible authorities. **Forced displacement** occurs when individuals and communities have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of events or situations such as armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights abuses, natural or man-made disasters, and/or development projects. It both includes situations where people have fled as well as situations where people have been forcibly removed from their homes, evicted or relocated to another place not of their choosing, whether by State or non-State actors. The defining factor is the absence of will or consent. **Siege** can be understood as the military encirclement of an area with the imposition of restrictions on the entry and exit of essential goods with the aim of forcing its surrender.



WHAT FACTORS MUST BE IDENTIFIED FOR MONITORING?

The monitoring of this protection risk must look at all conditions that are forcing the population to make choices on movement (or lack of) that are harmful to them. The monitoring does not only focus on those cases where the restrictions are unlawful but includes as well all situations when the displacement of population is not protected, safe or secure from harm. It includes looking at barriers related to lack of safety and security stemming from crime, armed conflict, generalized violence or the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance; lack or loss of identity or travel documents; discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, political opinion, religion or other status, such as that of being displaced; lack of adequate infrastructure, including damaged roads and bridges, lack of safe and affordable transport, and poor physical condition owing to age, ill-health or disability, can also limit people's ability to travel; general travel restrictions, either legal or administrative, which regulate movement within the country, for instance from rural to urban areas or curfews, restricted traveling hours or days, or strict travel criteria, such as need for specific documentation or travel permits; or targeted travel restrictions, e.g., on movement in and out of camps or settlements for displaced persons. These can include curfews, restrictive traveling hours or days, restrictions on travel distances, strict exit/entry criteria, and documentation requirements



WHAT INFORMATION & DATA CAN ILLUSTRATE THE PRESENCE OF THE RISK?

In order to identify the presence of this protection risk, the core information needed relates to movement of the population, including IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers and migration patterns. This information is often tracked and monitored by UNHCR, IOM, through multi-sector assessments, national or regional mechanisms, UN missions, agency and actors such as ILO, World Bank, WHO, FAO, WFP and others tracking migration patterns for specific areas of need. It is important to triangulate population data with information and data illustrating the presence and the impact of specific drivers, along with existing substantive or intangible barriers imposed by State and non-state actors. Existing multi-sector assessments, research and analysis reports, sector specific studies or monitoring mechanisms, protection monitoring, legal analyses, and response monitoring mechanisms can provide an illustration of fundamental aspects related to movement of population. It is often difficult to draw the line on what constitutes will and consent by persons, and thus the presence of major drivers such as conflict, tensions, insecurity, lack of economic opportunities and livelihood, negative coping mechanisms and others, are sufficient information to illustrate the presence of this risk.



