

GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2021

Engagement with Armed Actors: Exploring Modalities for Community-Led Negotiations for Protection and Access

Robert Jones, Save the Children Sweden

27 October, 4-5:30pm CET



AGENDA

Welcome & Community-Led Negotiations Introduction
- Bob Jones
Civilian Agency in Armed Conflict
- Oliver Kaplan
Civilian Self-Protection, another modality in specialised protection work
- Carla Suarez
- Nabeel Alkhaiaty, Oxfam Yemen
- Maira Alejandra Avendano Rincon and Dayana Villamizar, NRC Colombia
Challenges and Opportunities moving forward
- Hannah Jordan, NRC
Closing remarks



HOUSEKEEPING RULES

- Unless you are a speaker, kindly keep your microphone on mute and your video off
- If you have any questions or comments, please either raise your hand or comment in the chat box
- Please type in the chat what country you're working in and what organization you're with
- Please try and remember to speak slowly for the interpreters to have time to translate.



PANEL

- **Bob Jones**, Save the Children, Civil-Military and Access Coordination Unit
- **Hannah Jordan**, NRC, Regional Protection Advisor – Asia, Europe & Latin America
- **Oliver Kaplan, PhD**. Associate Professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver, Colorado
- **Carla Suarez, PhD**. Banting Fellow, Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
- **Maira Alejandra Avendano Rincon**, Protection Coordinator Northern East Region, NRC, Colombia
- **Nabeel Alkhaiaty**, Oxfam, Yemen



Introduction:

Community-led Negotiations for access & protection

Norwegian Refugee Council and Save the Children Project on *community-led negotiations for access & protection*

- Communities engage with armed actors on a range of issues daily: from hostage negotiations, to criminal justice, dispute adjudication, to local ceasefires and access to services or roads
- Humanitarian organisations are often negotiating in the same space and with the same actors, but are not necessarily informed by the strategies and priorities of communities
- Intended outcome: Identify good practices involving, or transferable to the humanitarian community (not specific to Save the Children and NRC) in community-led negotiations with armed actors
- Negotiation as *one type* of non-violent engagement self-protection strategy.



Community-led Negotiations for access & protection

Key questions this research will explore:

- What roles do communities take in negotiations for protection and access?
- Can (and should?) humanitarians support communities in these negotiations? If so, how?
- How can humanitarians do this in a principled way without impeding communities?

Reflections on project deliverables:

- Report based on desk and in-country project-level research in South Sudan, Colombia and Ukraine
- M&E system/tools designed for monitoring, evaluating and learning from our work on community-led negotiations → how do we monitor prevention work? What does this look like?
- Guidance for project staff on community-led negotiations for self-protection and access and the role of humanitarian actors in these interactions



Civilian Agency in Armed Conflict

Supporting Communities to Resist War

Oliver Kaplan, Ph.D.

Josef Korbel School of International Studies



Oliver.Kaplan@du.edu

October 27, 2021

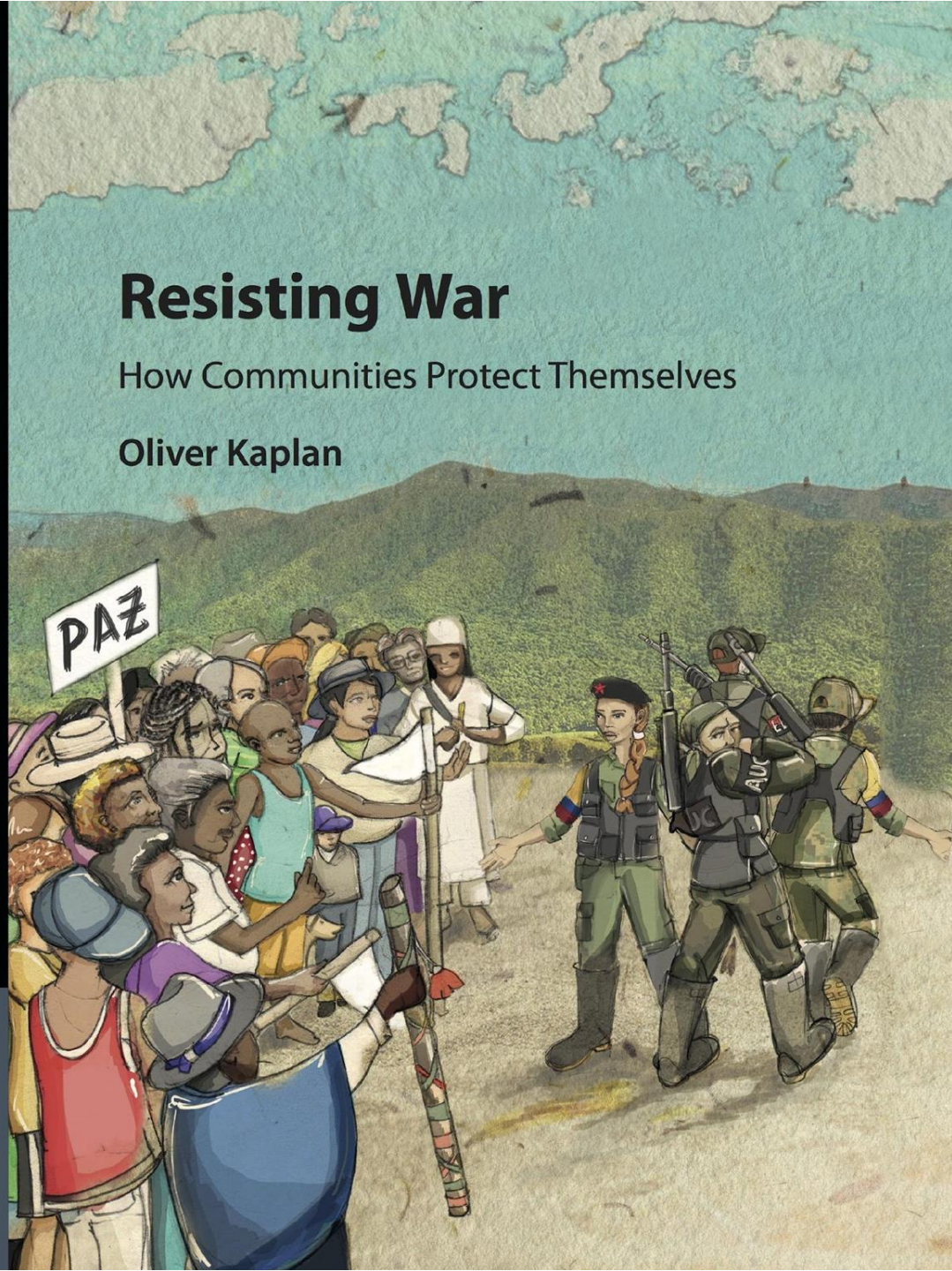


Kaplan
Resisting War

Resisting War

How Communities Protect Themselves

Oliver Kaplan



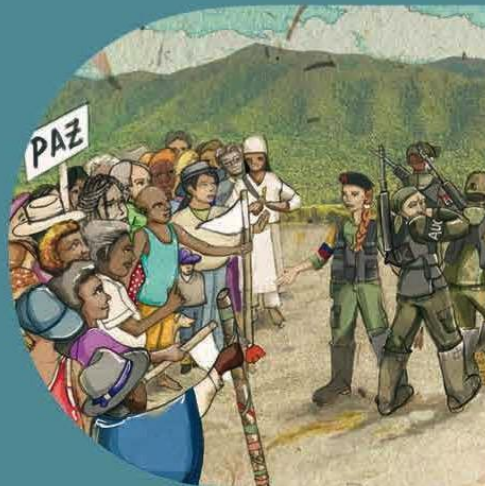
CAMBRIDGE



Oliver Kaplan

Resistir la guerra

O cómo se protegen a sí mismas
las comunidades



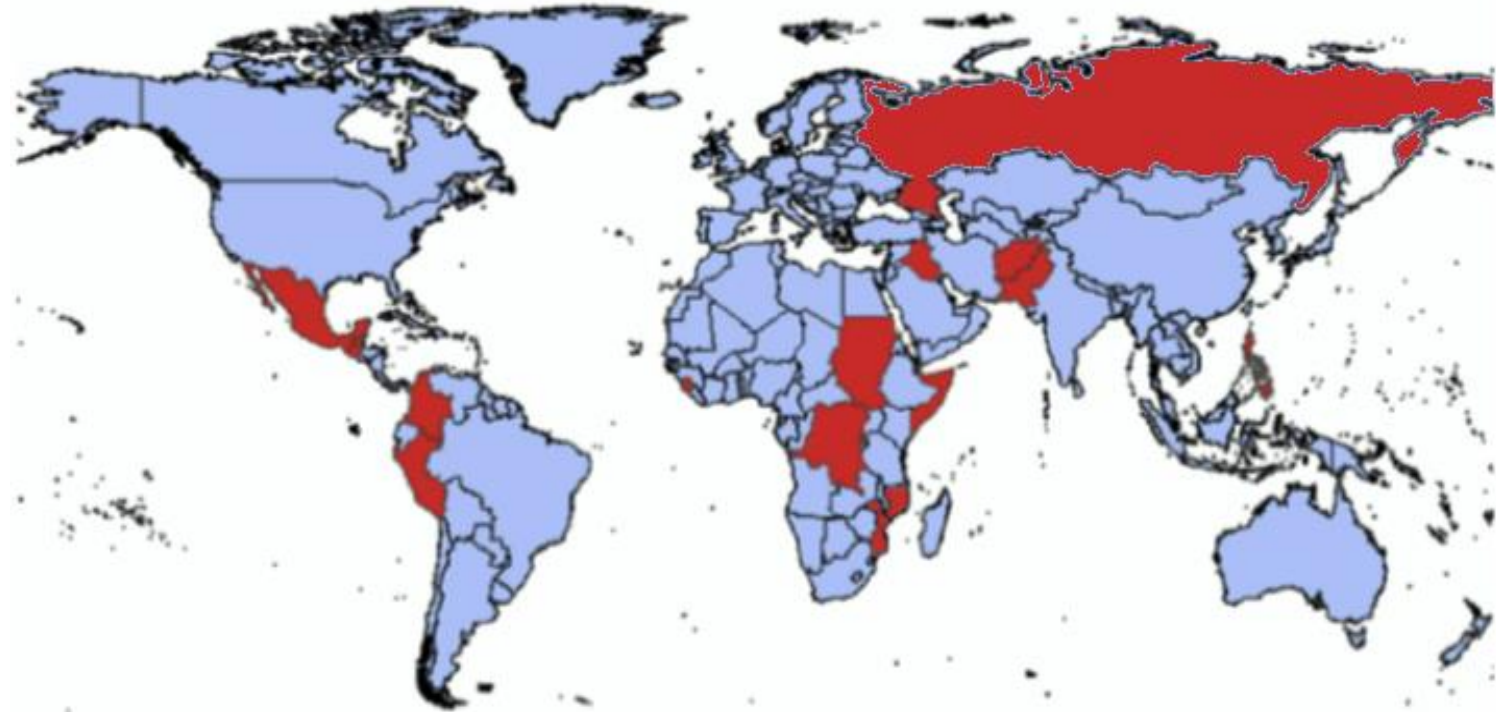
POLÍTICA Y DERECHO



Civilian Autonomy in Civil War Around the World

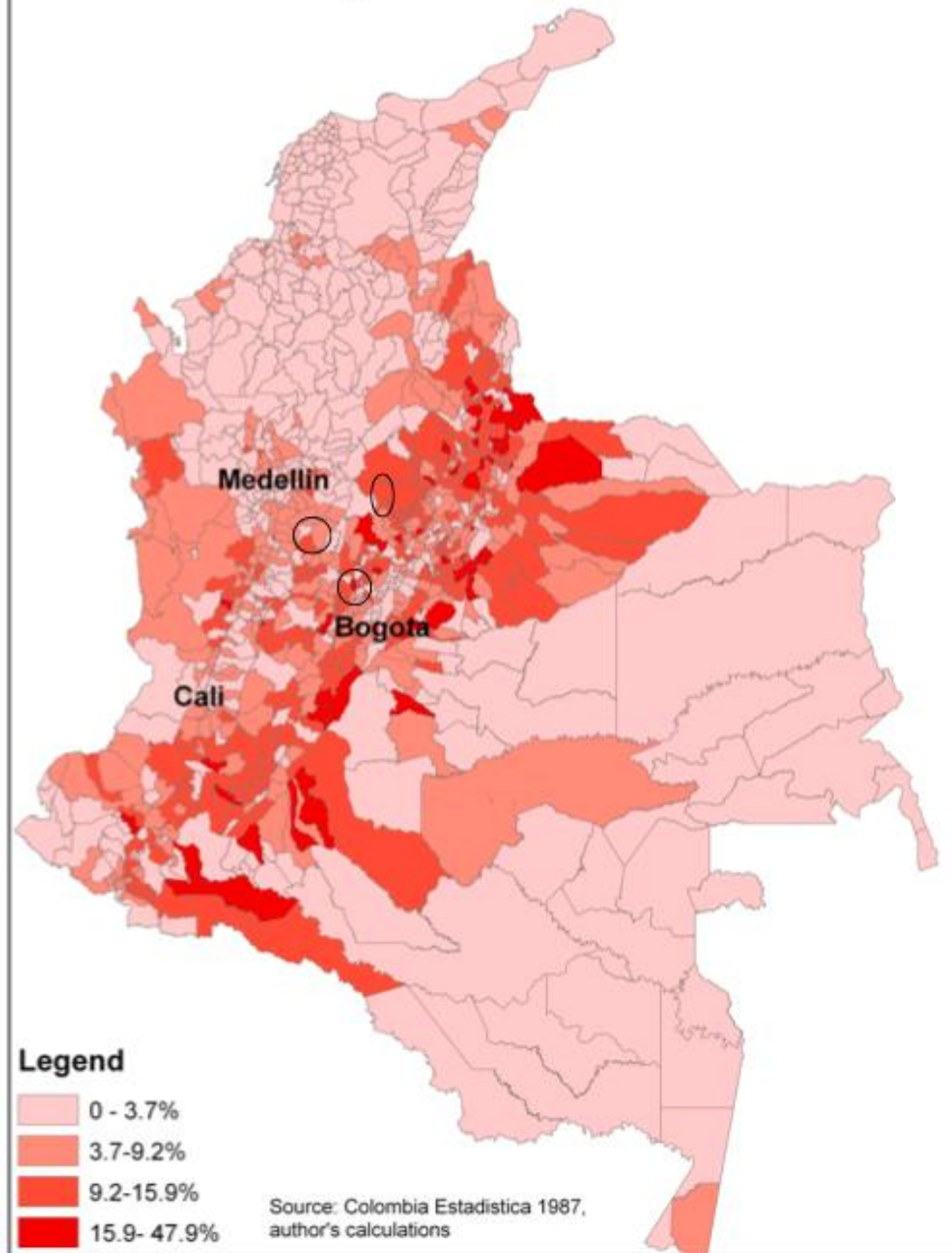
Cases of collective actions for protection in civil conflicts

Philippines
Syria
Afghanistan
Russia
Mexico
Vietnam
Congo
Mozambique



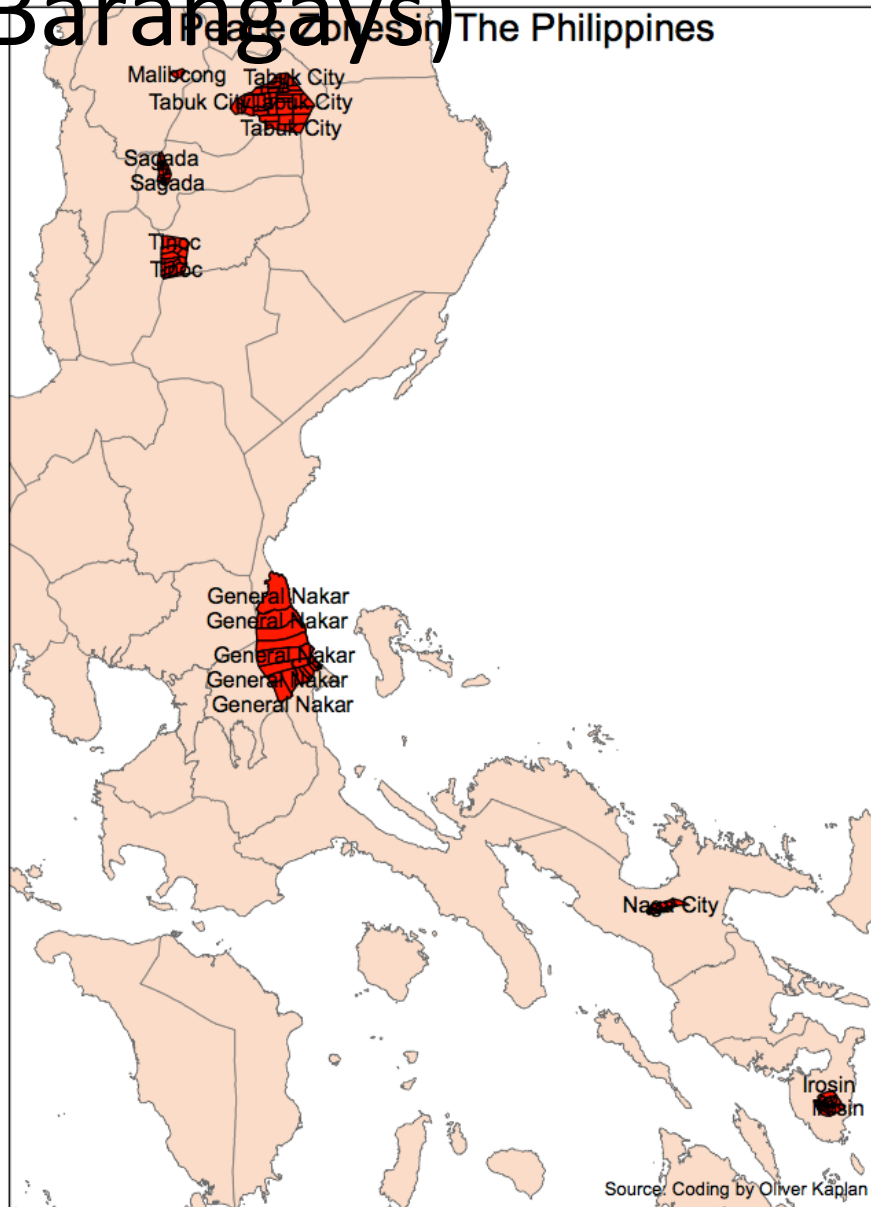
Source: Author's coding

Percent of "Communities" with Juntas by 1985 municipios

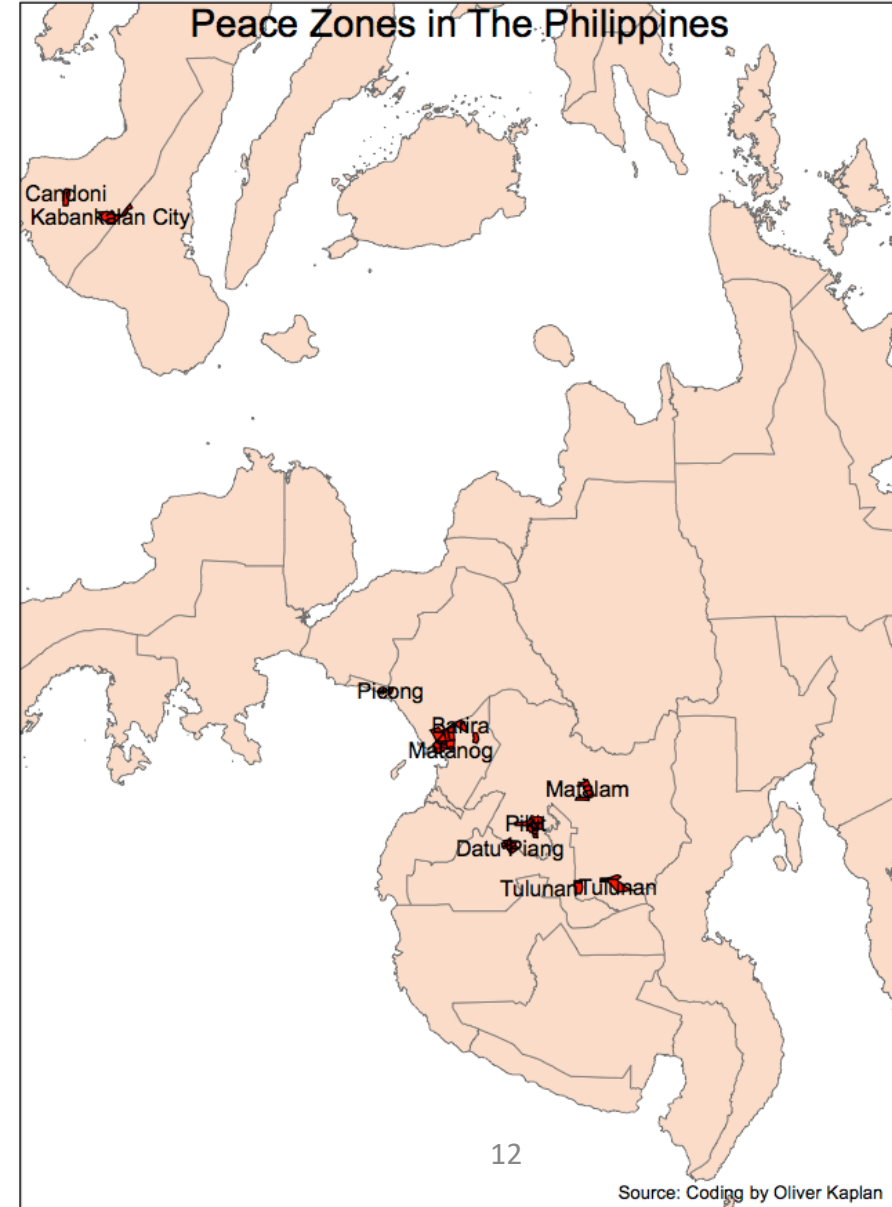


Village Organizations in Colombia

Philippines: Peace Zone Villages (Barangays)



Luzon and north



Mindanao &
south

Community Organization



The Power of Organization

Organization ? Strategies ? Violence

- Community organization helps civilians cooperate:
 - **Formal** peace organizations
 - “Peace Zones/ Communities”, “Humanitarian Spaces”, etc.
 - **Informal** organizations leveraged for protection
 - Village councils, cooperatives, religious institutions, etc.



Nonviolent “Autonomy” Strategies



Inventory of *Nonviolent* Protection Strategies

1. Dispute resolution (local harmony)
2. Propagate norms of non-participation
3. Information and policing of collaborators
4. Protest and reputation effects
5. Early warning systems



THE ART OF RHETORICAL TRAPS IN CIVILIAN SELF-PROTECTION

OLIVER KAPLAN

Keywords: civil wars, violence, civilian protection, Colombia, communication, signalling, persuasion, rhetoric, insurgency, protest, cognitive dissonance

Introduction

A common refrain is that 'talk' is cheap, yet nobody likes their inconsistencies being pointed out. With this in mind, dialogue, and specifically 'rhetorical traps',

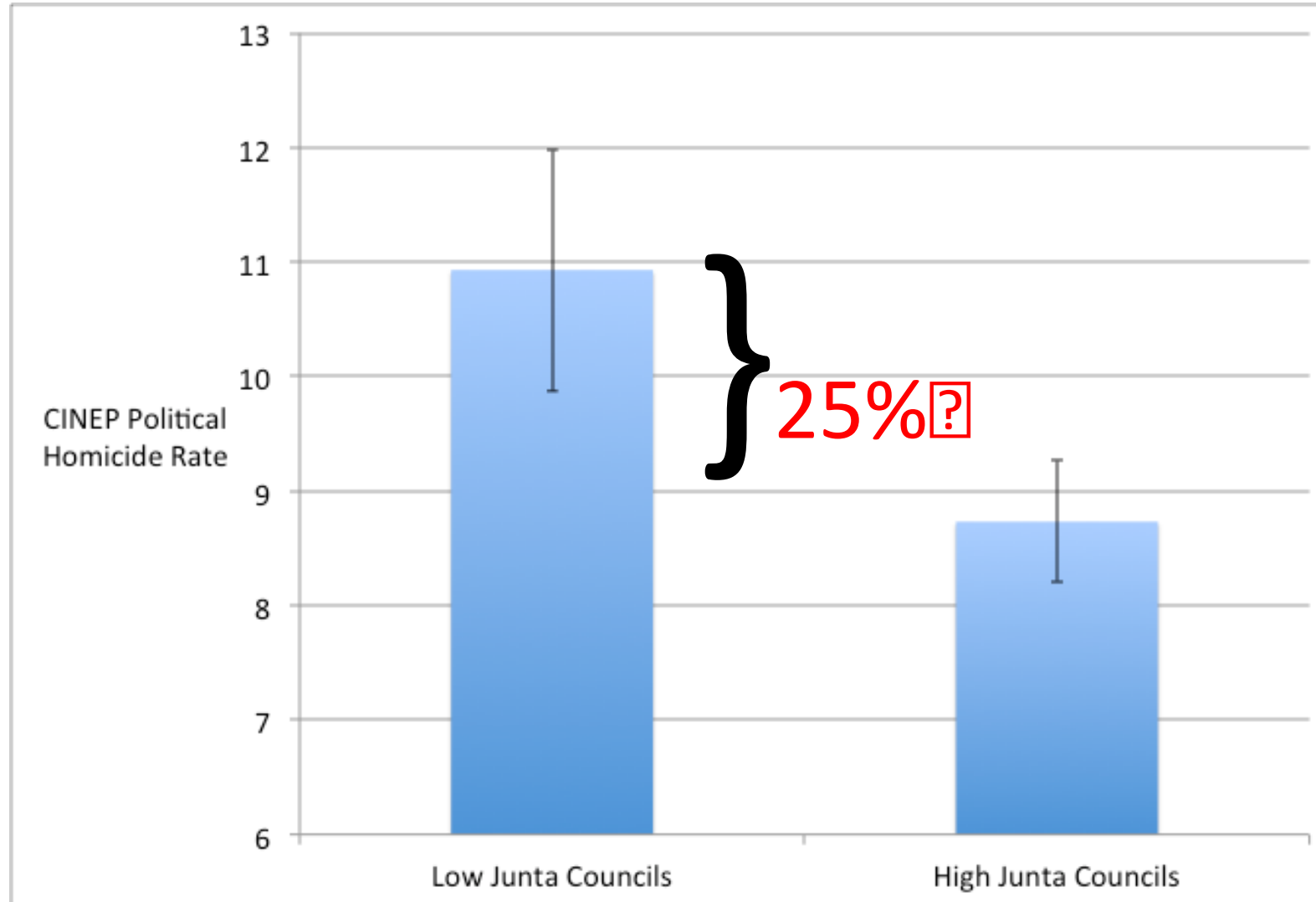
to use violence or restraint are psychological, rhetorical traps can be invoked when normal dialogue is disregarded or to make dialogue more effective. Such techniques can stem from oral cultural traditions. Though traps can involve shaming, such as through humour and ridicule, their primary goal is to induce changes in behaviour. Like effective coercive diplomacy (George 1991), effective traps are phrased to avoid antagonism and leave exit options to incentivise good behaviour.¹

I provide a definition of rhetorical traps and a theory of how they function as a causal mechanism to promote civilian protection. I then provide some examples of how they have been used by diverse communities from around the world. I conclude with policy implications for communities to consider when protecting their populations.

The Art of Rhetorical Traps



Limiting Violence



Supporting Community Self-Protection



POR DÉCADAS PROTEGIENDO A LOS COLOMBIANOS

La cruz roja es símbolo de protección para las personas que viven en situaciones de vulnerabilidad, especialmente ante un conflicto armado, desastre o emergencia. Estamos comprometidos con prevenir y aliviar el sufrimiento de las víctimas sin distinción alguna. Ayúdanos a proteger el emblema de la cruz roja para que podamos seguir llevando esperanza a todos los rincones del país.



UN SÍMBOLO DE **ESPERANZA**
PARA LA HUMANIDAD

The Spectrum of Support



- **Support actors:**
 - Domestic NGOs
 - International IOs / NGOs (human rights vs. humanitarians)
 - IGOs/ United Nations
 - Governments (domestic and international)
- **Types of support:**
 - Accompaniment and solidarity
 - Resources
 - Advice, information sharing, technical support, cohesion
 - Backing in negotiations
 - Going public and message amplification

Community-Supporter Protection Interactions

	ICRC	No Support	Support
Community Unorganized		No protection	Moderate Protection
Organized		Moderate Protection	High Protection



Community-Supporter Protection Interactions

	ICRC	No Support	Support
Community Unorganized		No protection	Moderate Protection
Organized		Moderate Protection 	High Protection



ICRC Community Based Protection Activities

1. **Risk education awareness**
2. Self-protection measures
3. **Assistance to reduce risk exposure**
4. Engagement strategies
5. **Community self-organization and social cohesion**



El Bagre, Colombia





Paramilitaries, Insurgents and Security Risks





The ICRC's Multiplier Effect

- Because ICRC “educates” armed actors in IHL:
“Only 1 in 1,000 times something happens with international actors present; I feel at ease and protected” (JAC#2)
- ICRC presence provides the confidence and backing to hold their own dialogues with more recalcitrant “macho” (tough) armed actors (JAC#1)



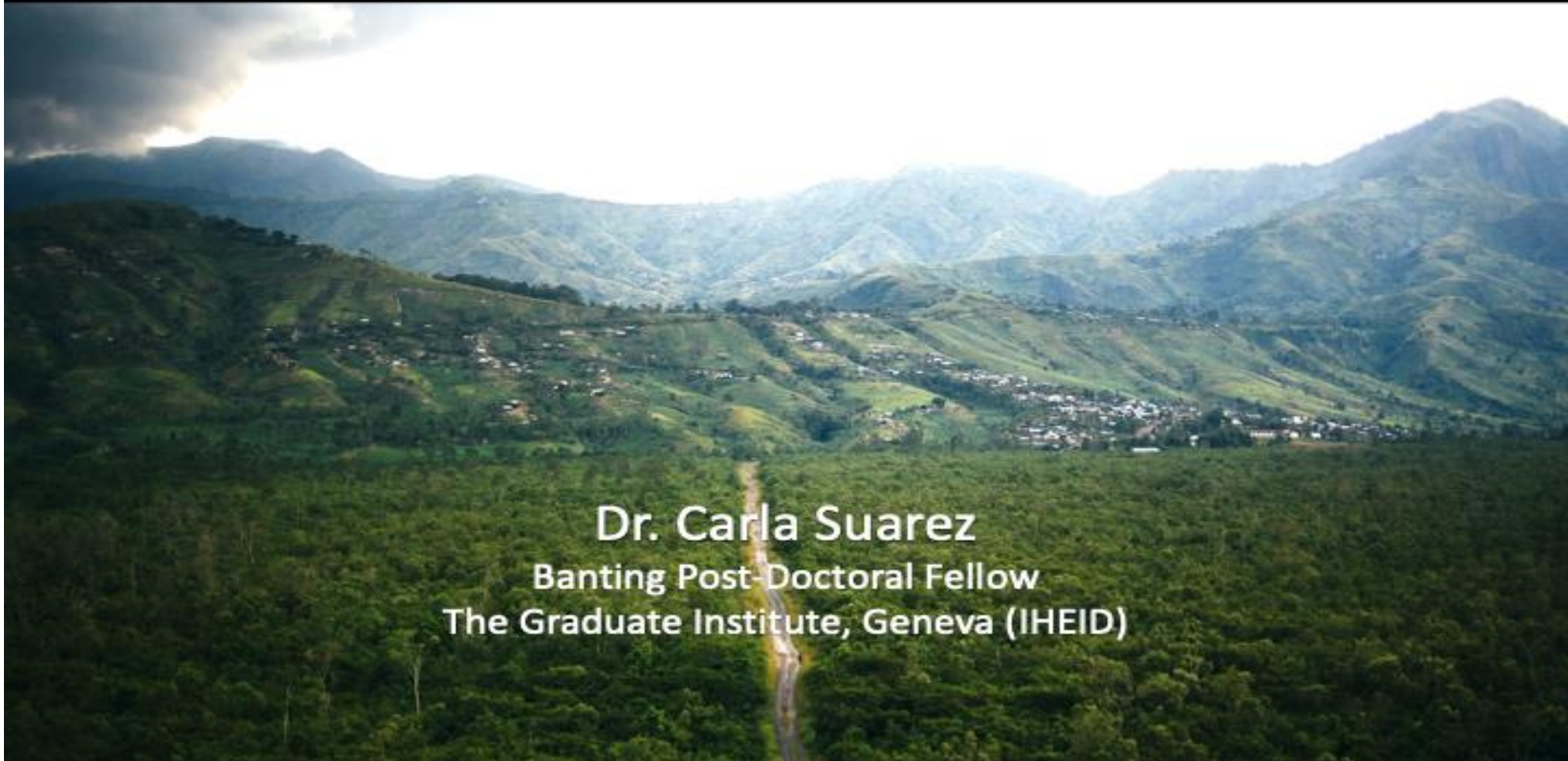
Conclusions for Protection: Opportunities and Constraints

- Community organizations use sophisticated collective strategies to *Resist War*
- Community-ICRC interactions can ***multiply*** self-protection potential & expand scope conditions
- ICRC vs. other support actors
 - Challenges for neutrality
 - Limits to promoting social cohesion (?)



Civilian Self-Protection

Living With and Among Armed Groups in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo



Dr. Carla Suarez
Banting Post-Doctoral Fellow
The Graduate Institute, Geneva (IHEID)

Civilian Self-Protection



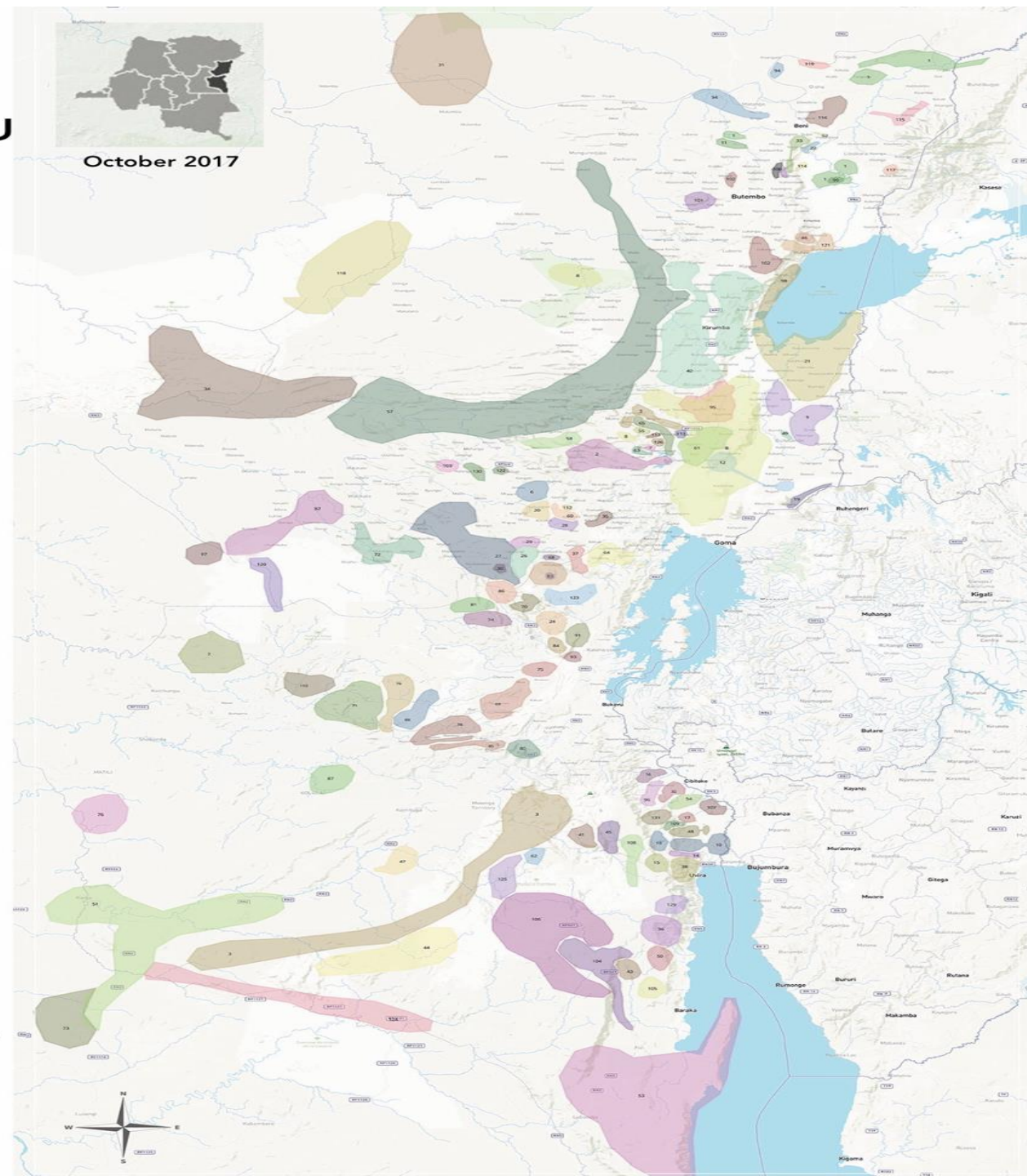
In settings of protracted armed conflict, what strategies do civilians employ to protect themselves?

MAP OF NON-STATE ARMED ACTORS IN NORTH & SOUTH KIVU (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO)

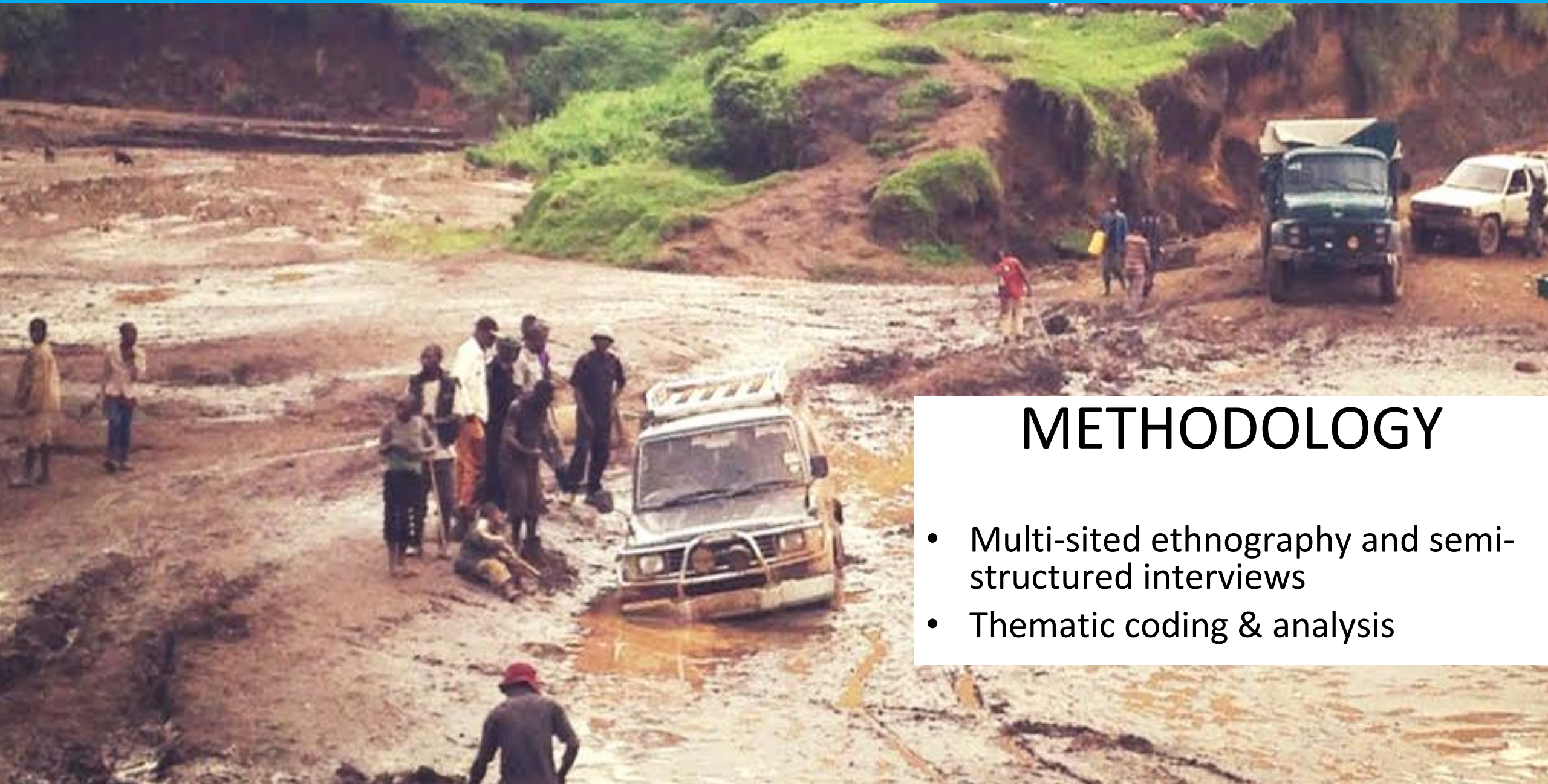


www.kivusecurity.org
www.suluhu.org

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1- ADF | 70 - RM Butachibera |
| 2 - APCLS | 71 - RM Donat/Ngandu |
| 3 - CNRD | 72 - Raia Mutomboki Elenge |
| 6 - FDC-Guides | 73 - Mai-Mai Kiwi Kalume |
| 7 - Busumba group | 74 - RM Hamakombo |
| 8 - FDLR-FOCA | 75 - RM Imani Bitaa |
| 9 - FDLR-RUD | 76 - RM Kimba |
| 10 - FNL - Nzabampema | 77 - RM Kazimoto |
| 11 - Mai-Mai Kombi | 78 - Raia Mutomboki Lukoba |
| 12 - Nyatura FDP | 79 - Raia Mutomboki Mabala |
| 14 - LD Zone | 80 - RM Maheshe |
| 15 - LD Kashumba | 81 - RM Mungoro |
| 16 - LD Mahinduzi | 82 - Raia Mutomboki Mirage |
| 17 - Mai-Mai Mbulu | 83 - RM Musole |
| 18 - Mai-Mai Délégues | 84 - Raia Mutomboki Safari |
| 19 - ex-M23 | 85 - RM Ndarumanga |
| 20 - Guides-MAC | 86 - RM Shukuru |
| 21 - Mai-Mai Charles | 87 - RM Kikwama |
| 22 - Corps du Christ | 88 - RM Wemba |
| 23 - FRPI | 90 - UPCP-Lafontaine |
| 24 - RM Kabanzi | 91 - RM Shabani |
| 26 - Mai-Mai Kifuafua | 93 - RM Bipompa |
| Baeni-Limenzi | 94 - Mai-Mai Kyandenga |
| 27 - Mai-Mai Kifuafua Delphin | 95 - Nyatura Love |
| 28 - Nyatura Kigingi | 96 - Mai-Mai Mazimano |
| 29 - Mai-Mai Kifuafua Maachano | 97 - Raia Mutomboki Kisekelwa |
| 30 - Mai-Mai Kifuafua Shallo | 98 - Mai-Mai Jackson |
| 31 - Mai-Mai Simba (Manu) | 99 - Mai-Mai Dario |
| 32 - Mai-Mai Mwenyemali | 100 - Mai-Mai |
| 33 - Mai-Mai Nzirunga | Léopards-Muthundo |
| 34 - Mai-Mai Forces Divines | 101 - MRC-L |
| Simba | 102 - UPLC |
| 35 - Nyatura Mahanga | 103 - Raia Mutomboki |
| 36 - Mai-Mai Reunion (FPC) | Shebitembe |
| 37 - Nyatura Bizagwira | 104 - Mai-Mai Ebu Ela |
| 38 - Mai-Mai Makanaki | 105 - RED-Tabara |
| 39 - Mai-Mai Kirikicho | 106 - Ngumino |
| 41 - Mai-Mai Mahoro | 107 - Mai-Mai Bigaya |
| 42 - Mazembe | 108 - FOREBU/FPB |
| 43 - Biloze Bishambuke | 109 - FNL Nibizi |
| 44 - Mai-Mai Mulumba | 110 - RM Kabazimia |
| 45 - Mai-Mai Mushombe | 111 - Nyatura Gatuzi |
| 46 - Mai-Mai Nguru | 112 - Nyatura JED |
| 47 - Mai-Mai Nyakiliba | 113 - Nyatura Jean-Marie |
| 48 - Mai-Mai Nyerere | 114 - Mai-Mai Kithikyolo |
| 49 - Mai-Mai PRM/PAREM | 115 - Mai-Mai Sibenda |
| 50 - Mai-Mai Echilo | 116 - Milice Pakombe |
| 51 - Mai-Mai Malaika-She Assani | 117 - Mai-Mai Lwanga |
| 52 - Mai-Mai Vivuya | 118 - Mai-Mai Simba-Luc |
| 53 - Mai-Mai Yakutumba | 119 - Milice M'vuba |
| 54 - Mai-Mai Karakara | 120 - Raia Mutomboki Mamba |
| 55 - Nyatura-APRDC | 121 - Mai-Mai Muhima |
| 57 - NDC-R | 122 - RM Machite |
| 58 - NDC Sheka | 123 - Raia Mutomboki Manyilisa |
| 60 - Nyatura Delta | 124 - Mai-Mai Aigle |
| 61 - Nyatura Domi | 125 - Twiganeho |
| 62 - Mai-Mai Mupekenya | 126 - Nyatura Nzayi |
| 63 - Nyatura Kavumbi | 129 - Mai-Mai René |
| 64 - Nyatura Kalume | 130 - Raia Mutomboki |
| 65 - Nyatura Kasongo | Shemakingi |
| 68 - RM Akilo | 131 - Local Defense Ngengwe |
| 69 - Raia Mutomboki Blaise | 132 - CNPSC |



Civilian Self-Protection



METHODOLOGY

- Multi-sited ethnography and semi-structured interviews
- Thematic coding & analysis

Civilian Self-Protection

Findings

- Assessing armed confrontation
- Negotiating extractive and abusive practices
- Deceiving armed groups

Civilian Self-Protection

© Alexis Bouvy



Assessing Armed
Confrontation

Civilians Self-Protection

Negotiation





Deception

Civilian Self-Protection

Reflection and Considerations

- Self-protection strategies are shaped by relations & hierarchies of violence.
- Difficult short term vs long term trade-offs.
- Blurred distinction between violent & non-violent strategies.

Civilian Self-Protection

How is knowledge about self-protection transmitted intergenerationally in settings of protracted conflict?



Civilian Self-Protection – Nabeel Alkhaiaty

Self-protection refers to what people – including men, women, boys and girls – do to ensure their own protection from violence, coercion and deprivation. It can occur not only at the level of a whole community, but also at individual, household or other subgroup levels.

Self-protection is only **part** of what people do to survive.

Self-protection includes strategies to keep people safe from violence, coercion and deprivation. **Survival strategies** include not only self-protection, but also strategies to ensure people's basic needs are met.



Civilian Self-Protection - Nabeel Alkhaiaty

Annex 1: Example self-protection strategies identification exercise

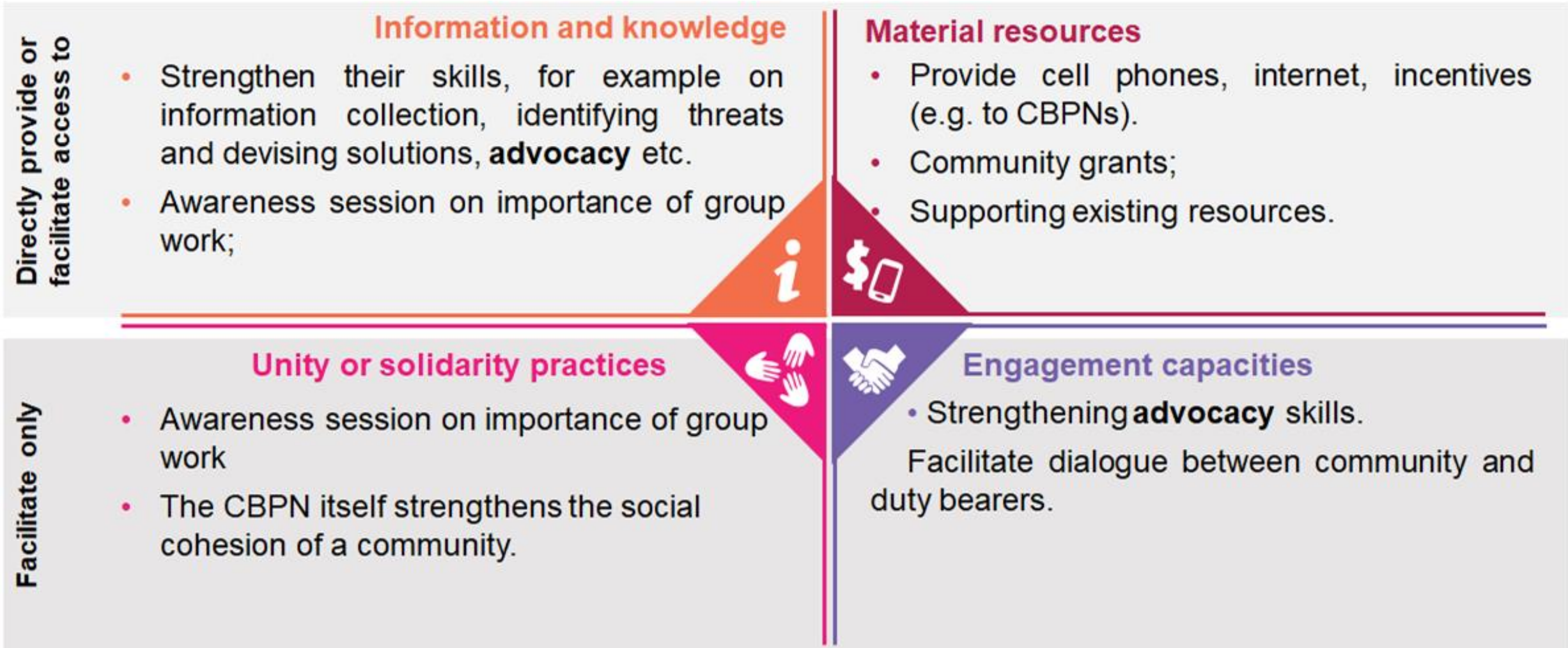
● Positive strategies ● Negative strategies

	Prevention	Avoidance	Mitigation	Cessation
Non-engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sleeping or moving around in groups, particularly in dangerous areas or at dangerous times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flight/displacement.⁷ ● Hiding from armed actors.⁸ ● Keeping girls out of school in order to protect them from sexual abuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choosing to expose women to the risk of sexual abuse and assault instead of exposing men to the risk of torture or murder.⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Running away from captivity.
Non-violent engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convincing weapon bearers not to occupy a school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing information to, or otherwise cooperating with, weapon bearers in order not to be targeted during attacks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing false information to authorities, such as the number of households in a community, to alleviate the burden of taxes. ● Paying bribes – for example, to avoid being arrested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community members negotiating with weapon bearers the release of children that they had recruited.
Violent engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forming a group of armed civilians to patrol the community. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sending family members to fight with a warring party as a way of 'purchasing' protection for the entire household.¹⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beating a husband accused of beating his wife.

*From OXFAM community-based protection resource pack

Civilian Self-Protection – Nabeel Alkhaiaty

Humanitarian actors Support to self-protection strategies



Civilian Self-Protection - Nabeel Alkhaiaty



Civilian Self-Protection – Maira & Dayana



Civilian Self-
Protection: Voices
from Colombia



Civilian Self-Protection – Maira & Dayana

“The uneasy atmosphere that our social leaders experience day by day is the result of the constant threats and murders perpetrated by large groups outside the law. Different are the situations for which they are threatened and killed, but this is not the only concern that social leaders currently carry. In addition to the concerns of social leaders, there is one more, impunity. Thus, ironically, since the peace was signed in 2016, the murders of social leaders have increased exponentially, and proportionally, impunity in cases related to their deaths. The actions of State agents have been very ineffective and extremely inappropriate, even with the implementation of decrees to safeguard them and increases in the public force in rural areas, in addition to the creation of the Action Plan Commission for Human Rights Defenders. (PAO)₁.”

1. Carreno Vega Marco et al. Assassinations of Social Leaders in Colombia. Rescued from: <https://repository.usta.edu.co/bitstream/handle/11634/24031/ASESINATOS%20DE%20L%C3%84DERES%20SOCIALES%20EN%20COLOMBIA.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>



Civilian Self-Protection – Maira & Dayana

Context:

- As of September 2021, **116** leaders in Colombia have been assassinated¹, and **611** since the signing of the peace accord. Of those killed, 332 are Indigenous, 75 are Afro-descendants, 102 are campesinos, and 77 are members of community action boards.
- Community leaders are most at threat of targeted killings, conflict related sexual violence (CRSV), forced displacement, confinement, forced recruitment, harassment, psychological violence

Community self-protection mechanisms:

- Arise as a response to the risks faced by communities and their lack of confidence in the State's protection mechanisms.
- Based on the interrelation between the individual, the community and its territory.
- They seek physical, economic, political, environmental security, as well as psychosocial and cultural well-being.
- They are aligned with Human Rights and IHL.



Civilian Self-Protection – Maira & Dayana

NRCs Protection of Social Leaders Programme

Objective: Strengthen the capacity of victims and leaders to advocate and enforce their rights.

Activities:

- Training on civilian self-protection, using a risk reduction framework
- Realisation of community self-protection action plans (examples: Early warning systems)
- Identification and strengthening of protection referral pathways or “protection routes”
- Training in information, legal counselling and assistance to leaders at risk.
- Collaborative Conflict Resolution
- Legal support to individual leaders (access to the Victims Law)
- Information dissemination & sharing of action plans and self-protection strategies
- Technical support to public institutions (Ombudsman’s office)



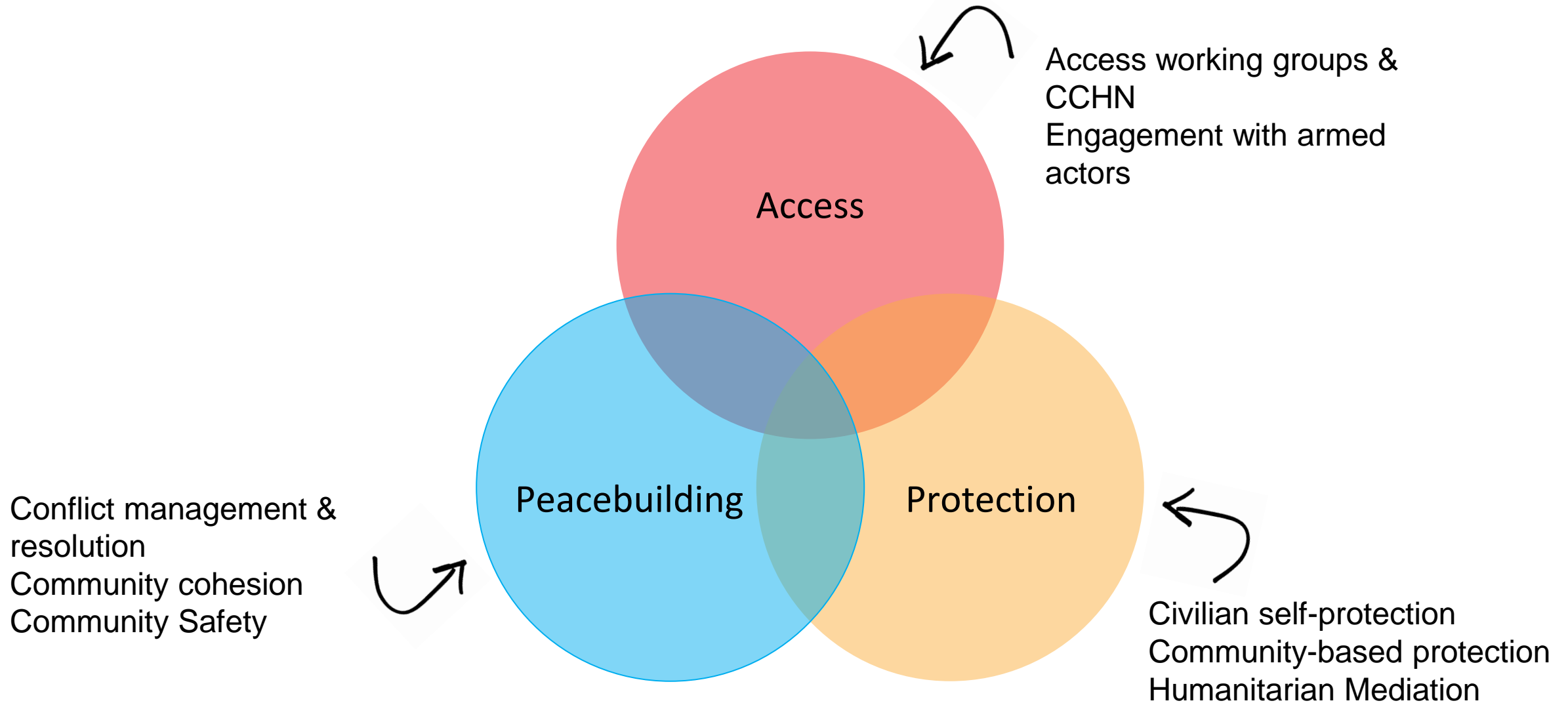
Civilian Self-Protection – Maira & Dayana

Next Steps:

- Continue working with support networks
- Streamline risk assessment processes and improvement of institutional protection measures assigned to threatened leaders, through advocacy with the competent authorities.
- Construction and implementation of community self-protection plans.
- Strengthening the capacities of leaders and authorities.
- Increase knowledge and skills on civilian self-protection strategies with leaders, CSOs and NGOs.



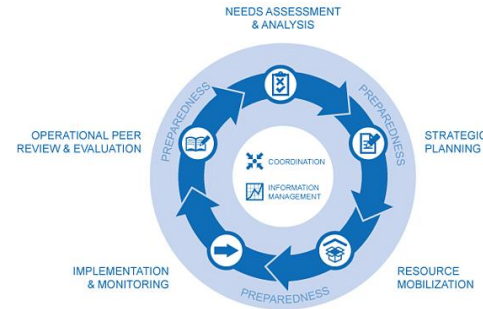
Linkages and Coordination – Hannah Jordan



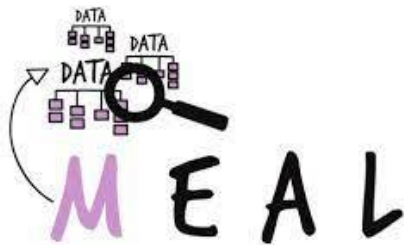
Challenges & Opportunities – Hannah Jordan



Localisation & AAP



Programme Cycle Management



Monitoring,
Evaluation &
Learning



Counter Terrorism
Legislation

Next Steps

Where do
we go next?



FINAL EVALUATION

Kindly fill in the short evaluation form

Link below shared on the platform chat

<https://enketo.unhcr.org/x>



GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2021



Visit the forum website page for information on other upcoming events and further documentation

<https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/news-and-events/global-protection-forum/>

#ProtectionForum2021

Please follow the **GPC Twitter page** ([@ProtectionClust](https://twitter.com/ProtectionClust)) and **Linkedin page**

- Robert Jones, Save the Children Sweden, Robert.Jones@rb.se
- Hannah Jordan, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Hannah.Jordan@nrc.no

