

Professional Standards for Protection Work

4th edition



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2000

Strengthening Protection
in War - A search for
Professional Standards



2009

PSPW
1st edition



2013

PSPW
2nd edition



2018

PSPW
3rd edition



2024

PSPW
4th edition

Why do we need professional Standards for Protection Work?

- A complementary protection response delivered by a wide array of actors needs a common foundation.
- Not having a common ethical baseline can lead to harm for affected people
- Humanitarian and human rights actors working in protection should meet commonly agreed minimum professional standards, while respecting the diversity of actors and approaches involved.



The Advisory Group

Humanitarian and Human Rights
Organizations engaged in Protection Work

18 core members

Consultations with:

- Local & national NGOs
- Donors
- Academia
- Private sector



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



ICRC

The evolution of the Standards : _____

4th edition



**Study of the
Protection
Environment**



**Advisory Group
meetings**



**Thematic
Working Groups**



**Engaging local
actors,
protection
leaders & donors**



**Finalisation
Workshop**

Who are the Standards for?

- Expanding community of protection professionals working in armed conflict and other situations of violence
- Humanitarian and Human Rights actors
- Donors



Structure

<div>NEW</div> <div>Chapter 1</div> <div>Protection leadership</div>	<div>Chapter 2</div> <div>Overarching principles</div>	<div>Chapter 3</div> <div>Managing strategies</div>
<div>Chapter 4</div> <div>Legal bases</div>	<div>Chapter 5</div> <div>Complementarity</div>	<div>Chapter 6</div> <div>Protection architecture</div>
<div>Chapter 7</div> <div>Protection data</div>	<div>NEW</div> <div>Chapter 8</div> <div>Digital risks</div>	<div>Chapter 9</div> <div>Professional capacities</div>



Spotlight on Key --- Elements

CHAPTER 1

Protection leadership



Organisational leadership

Individual leadership

The role of donors and
States

CHAPTER 1

Protection leadership

Organizational culture

strategic alignment between HQ & country contexts

Coherence in external positioning

Complementary coordinated approaches between organizations

Organizational Leadership

Amplify affected people's voices

Equitable partnerships & risk-sharing

Common understanding in multidisciplinary teams

Reinforce each other in application of principles & pursuit of protection outcomes

Predictability & documentation

Individual Leadership

Political backing to protection priorities

Promote respect for humanitarian principles & legal frameworks

Use diplomatic capital to build an environment conducive to preventing violations & abuses

Open dialogue on risk with intermediaries & local actors

Fund protection outcomes

Donors & States

CHAPTER 2

Overarching principles



Humanitarian principles in
protection

Do no harm

People-centric
programming

CHAPTER 3

Managing protection strategies



Protection analysis and risk
identification

Planning and
implementation

Monitoring and evaluation

CHAPTER 4

Building on the legal base of protection



Knowing the legal
frameworks

Referring to the law

Upholding legal standards

CHAPTER 5

Promoting complementarity



Complementarity of analysis and principles and action

Mobilising others

Referrals

CHAPTER 6

The Protection Architecture

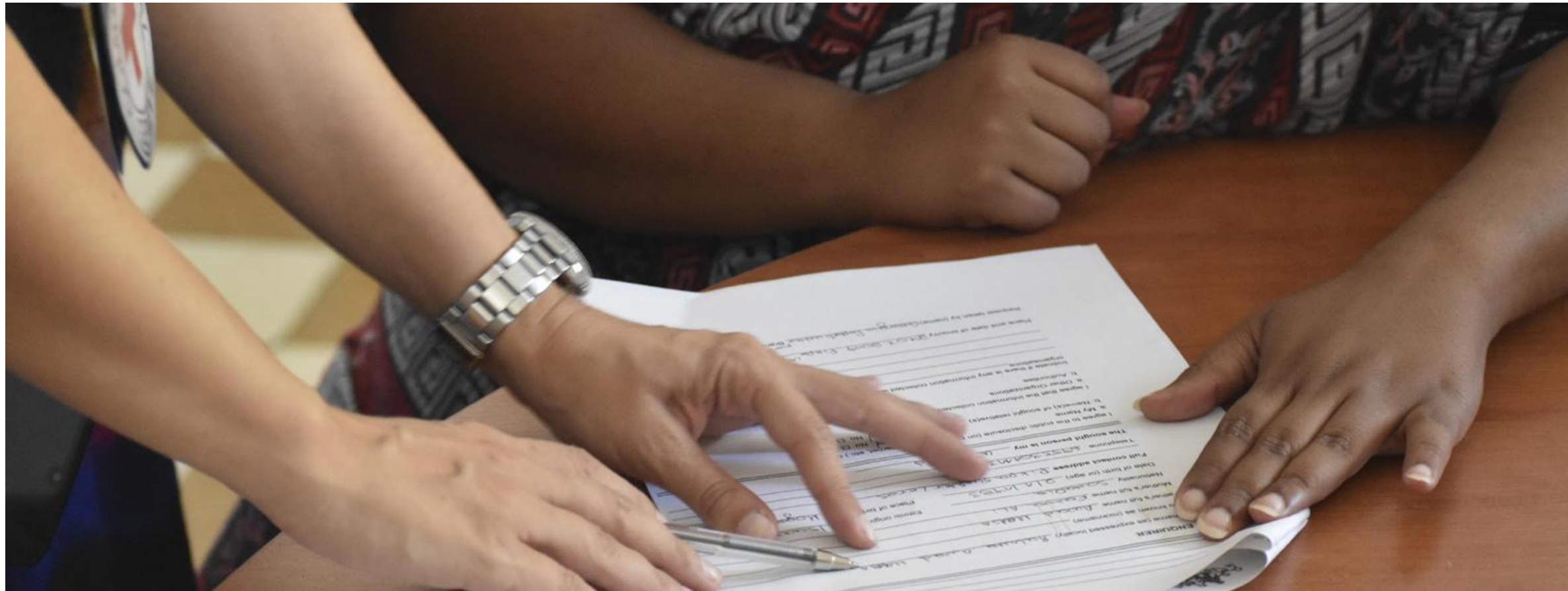


Relating to primary duty bearers

Interface & Engaging with UN
peace operations & internationally-
mandated mil & police forces

Communities, Civil Society, other
Actors

Managing data and information for protection outcomes

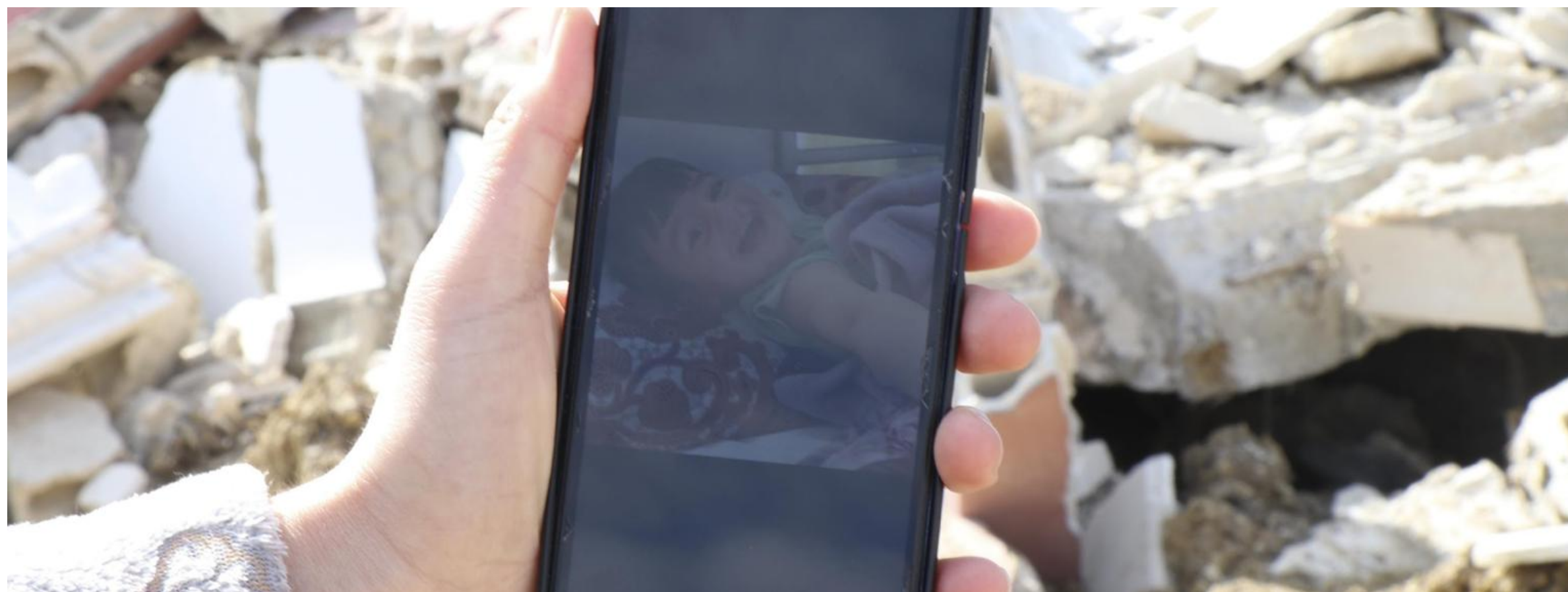


General standards for protection data and information

Specific standards for personal data

CHAPTER 8

A protection approach to digital risk



Applying overarching principles to the digital sphere

Integrating digital risk into protection strategies

A protection approach to digital risk

Digital realities

1. **The digitalization of armed conflicts and other situations of violence**
2. **The connectedness of affected populations**
3. **The digital transformation of Protection work**

➤ The use of digital technologies and behaviours in the digital space may amplify vulnerabilities and risks and have harmful effects on the **rights, safety, and dignity** of affected populations.

Protection actors need to:

- **Understand, raise awareness** about, and **integrate digital risks** in their **protection strategies** (e.g., assessments, documentations) and **response** (e.g., protection dialogue, capacity of duty bearers) to deliver tailored protection outcomes.
- Uphold a **principled protection** approach (i.e., Do no harm, Humanity, Impartiality, People-centric) and take all feasible measure to **minimize the risks** enabled by their own use of digital technologies.

CHAPTER 8

Examples of Digitally enabled Protection Risks



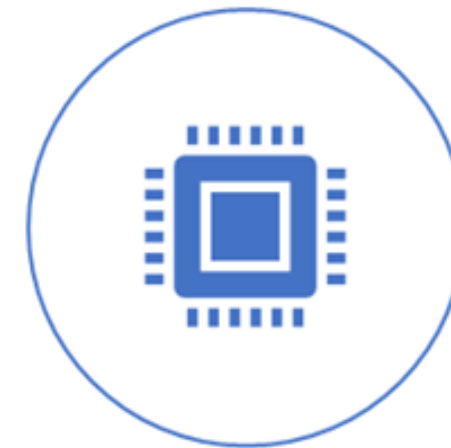
the use of digital interception tools to monitor the digital communication of affected communities may lead to **arbitrary arrest, torture, or targeted killing** by third parties



the spread of hate speech online calling for violence against certain populations may lead to **persecution, violence, or extrajudicial killing** of those populations



the denial of connectivity and telecommunication may amplify **family separation** and **safety concerns** of those unable to verify safe-zones



the disruption of critical infrastructure with a cyber operation may lead to **disrupted humanitarian operations, physical harm, or economic hardship.**

CHAPTER 9

Enhancing professional capacities



Capacities and
competencies

Staff training and security
management

Professional and ethical
conduct



COMING SOON

Outputs



A publication

The full standards, available in a single PDF and on paper version.

An e-learning course

An interactive exploration of key messages for each chapter, available publicly on Disaster Ready platform.

Disseminating the Standards



- Global-level events to promote 4th edition
- Country-based roll-out of translations & corollary products over 2024 -2025
- Leveraging networks of protection actors, donors, and other interested parties to ensure continued adherence to Professional Standards
- Tailored events for specific audiences, including use cases



Thank you!
