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# Professional Standards for Protection Work

4<sup>th</sup> edition



# Table of Contents



*Why* professional  
standards for  
protection work?



*Who* is  
involved?



*Who* are the  
Standards for?



*What* is in the  
document?



Spotlight on key  
elements

# The evolution of the Standards



# 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

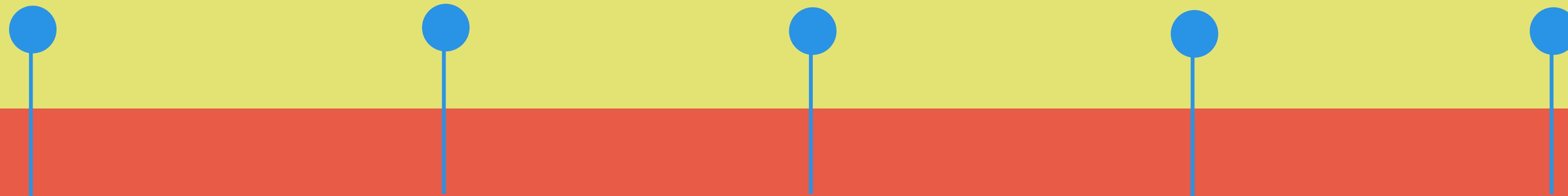


**HPG**  
Humanitarian  
Policy Group



**ICRC**

# The evolution of the Standards : 4<sup>th</sup> 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

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



# Spotlight on Key Elements

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## CHAPTER 1

# Protection leadership



Organisational leadership

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Individual leadership

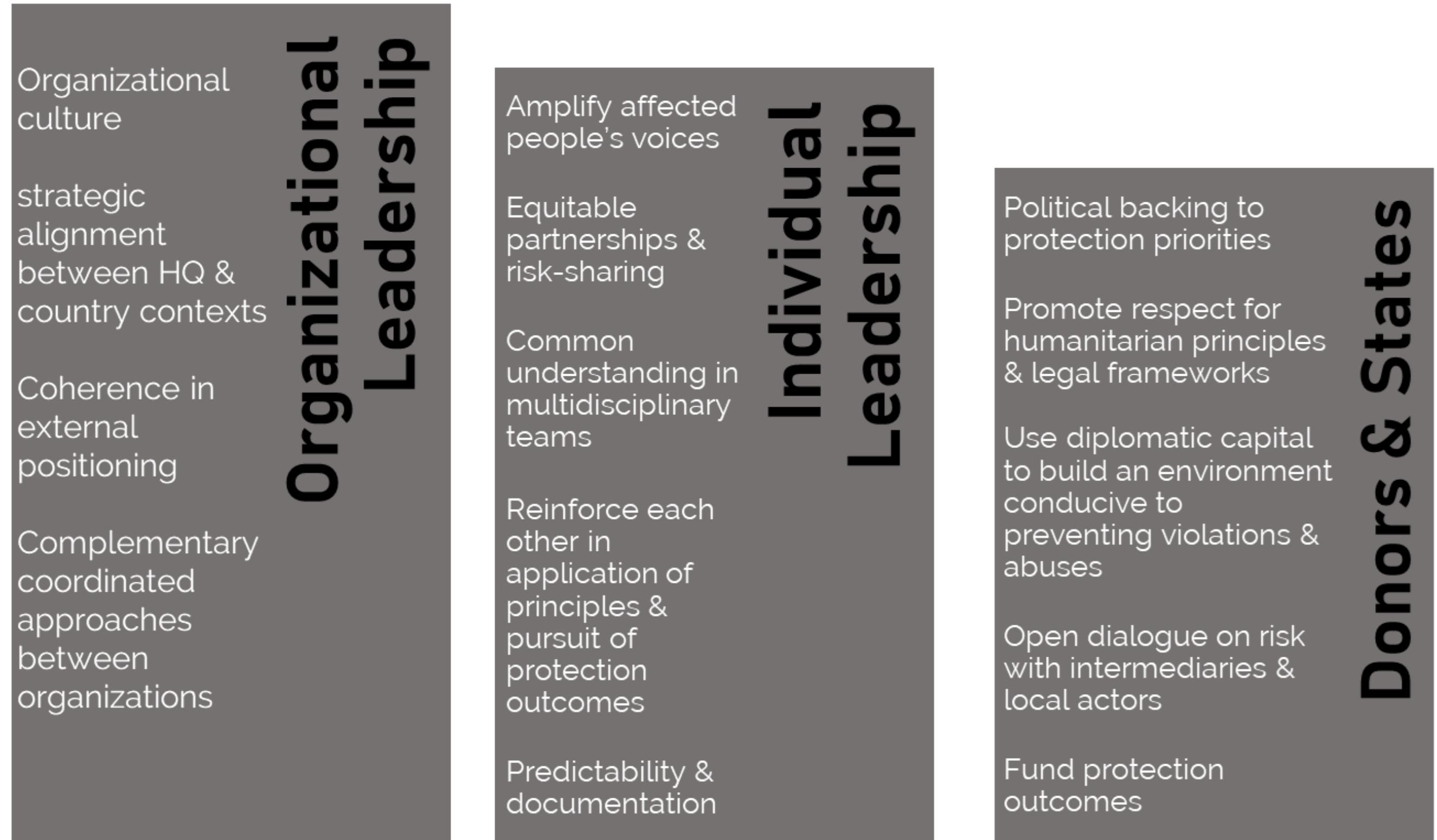
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The role of donors and States

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## CHAPTER 1

# Protection leadership



## CHAPTER 2

# Overarching principles



Humanitarian principles in protection

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Do no harm

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People-centric programming

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## CHAPTER 3

# Managing protection strategies



Protection analysis and risk identification

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Planning and implementation

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Monitoring and evaluation

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## CHAPTER 4

# Building on the legal base of protection



Knowing the legal frameworks

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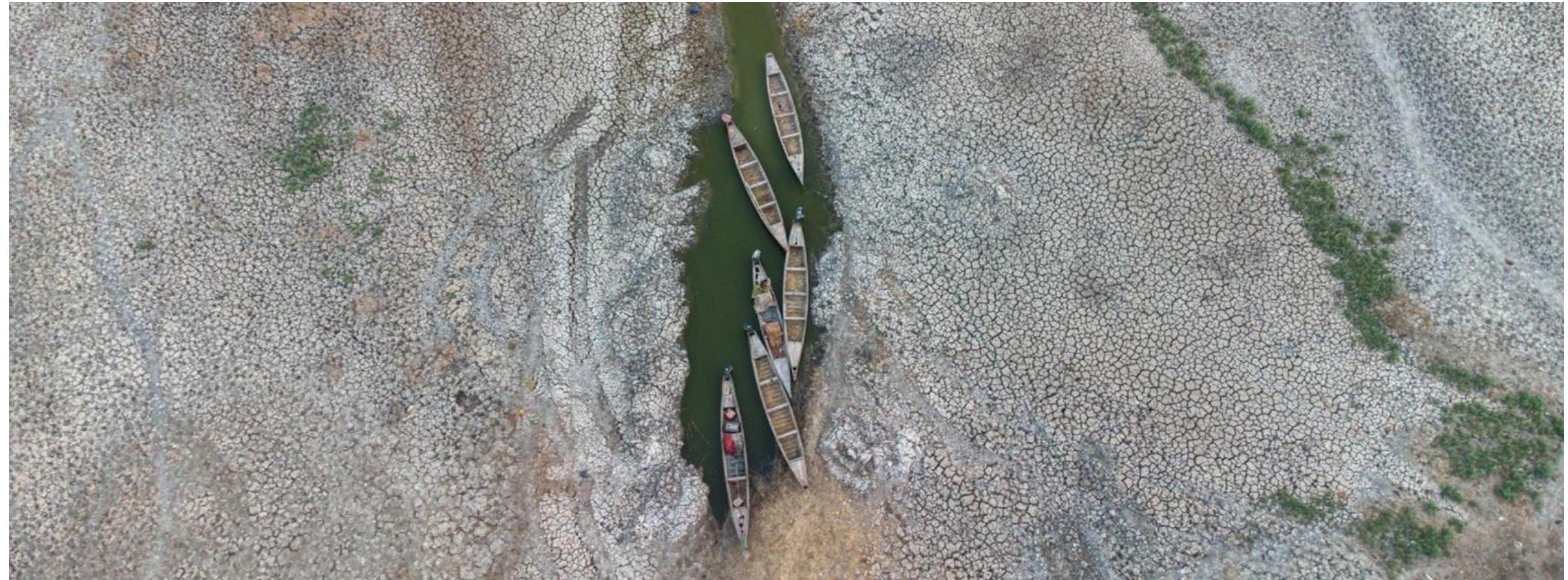
Referring to the law

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Upholding legal standards

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# Promoting complementarity



Complementarity of analysis and principles and action

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Mobilising others

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Referrals

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## CHAPTER 6

# The Protection Architecture



Relating to primary duty bearers

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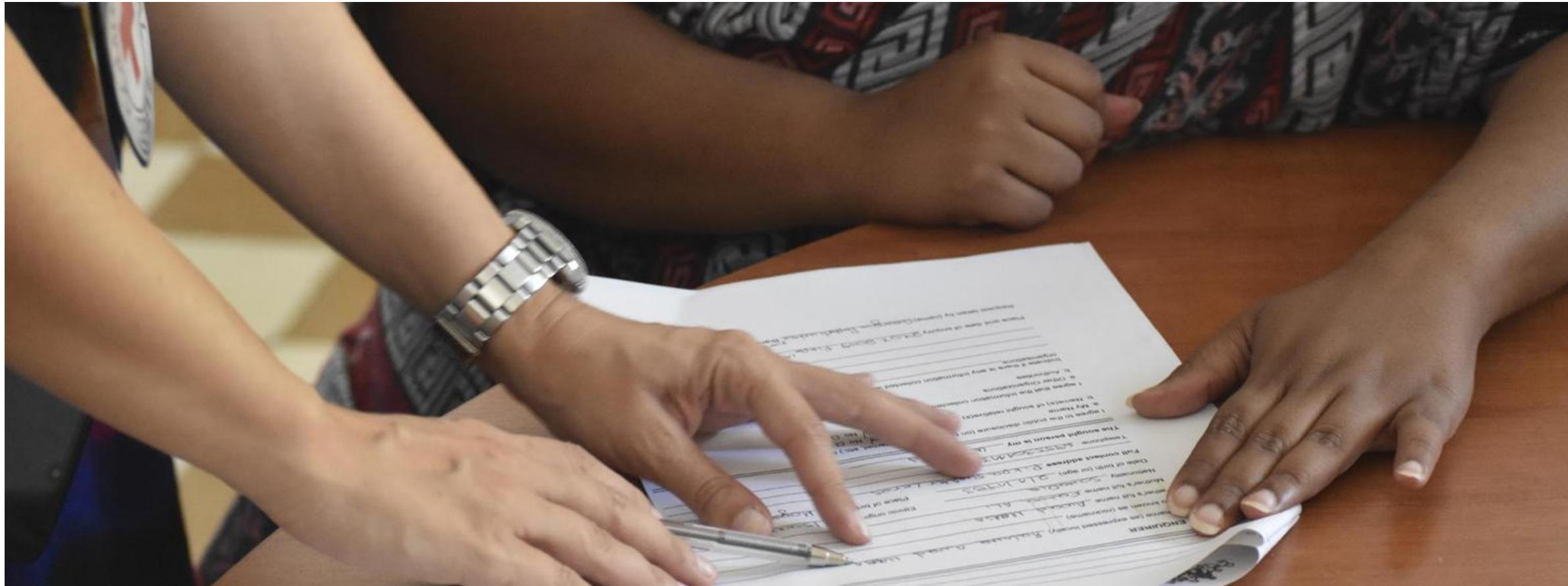
Interface & Engaging with UN peace operations & internationally-mandated mil & police forces

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Communities, Civil Society, other Actors

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# Managing data and information for protection outcomes



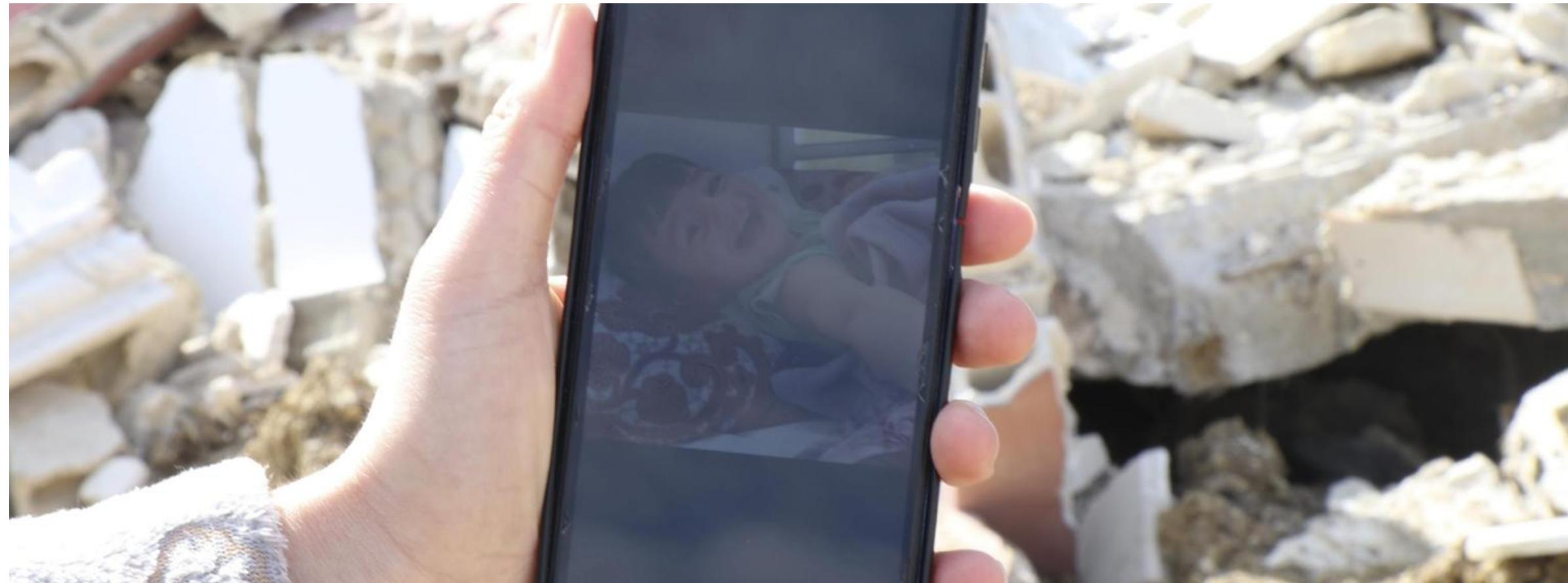
General standards for protection data and information

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Specific standards for personal data

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# A protection approach to digital risk



Applying overarching principles to the digital sphere

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Integrating digital risk into protection strategies

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# 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.

# Examples of Digitally enabled Protection Risks



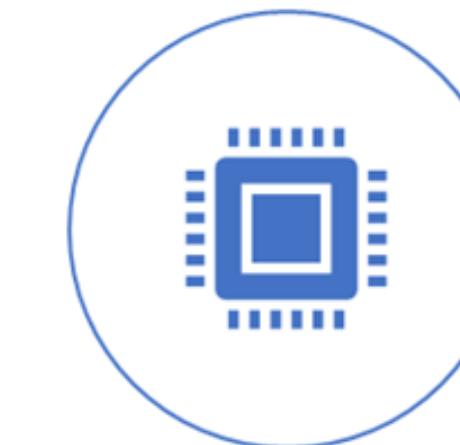
the use of digital interception tools to monitor the digital communication of affected communities may lead to **arbitrary arrest, torture, or targeted killing** by third parties



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



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



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

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Staff training and security management

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Professional and ethical conduct

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A large, semi-transparent background image of numerous colorful umbrellas (blue, green, yellow, orange, red, white) arranged in a grid pattern, covering the left side of the slide.

COMING SOON

# Outputs

## A publication

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

## An e-learning course

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

A photograph of a woman with dark hair in a braid, wearing a grey and white patterned top, sitting at a desk and looking down at a silver Apple laptop. The laptop screen is visible, showing some content. The background is slightly blurred, showing some indoor plants and a window.

# *Disseminating the Standards*



- Global-level events to promote 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

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