

ANNEX 2

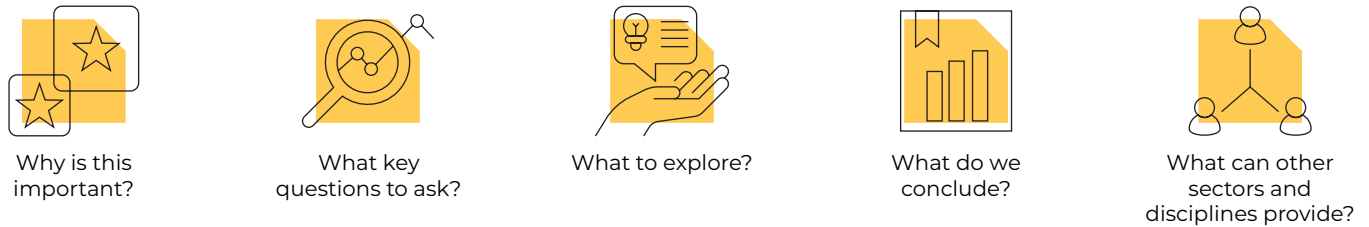
Organising your data and information: The PAF Analysis Process Explained

The PAF Analysis Process Explained

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

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

Figure A2.1 Questions to ask for each PAF pillar



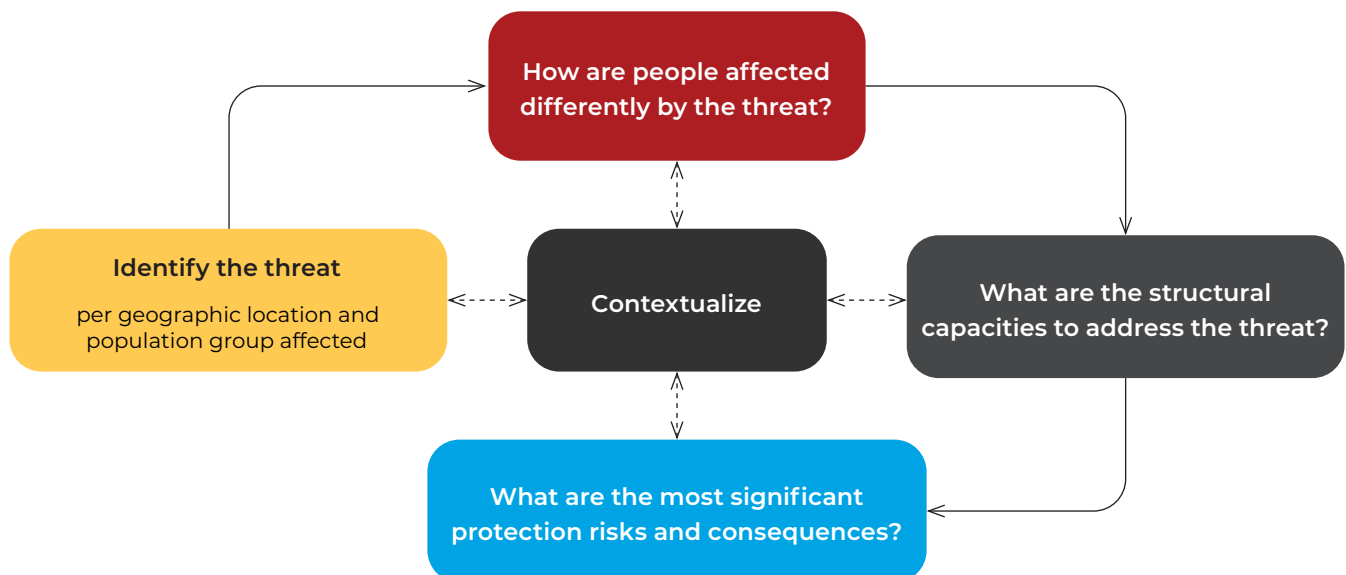
The four pillars are:

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

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

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

Figure A2.2 Logical process to organise data and information



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

Figure A2.3 Example of how to approach the PAF

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



Pillar: Context

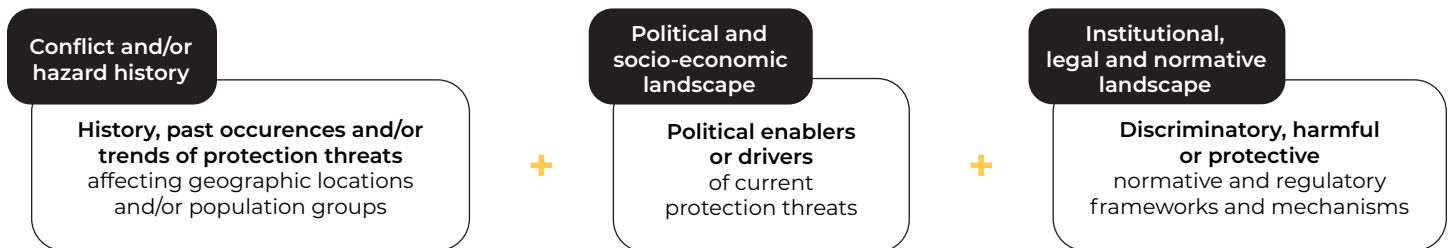


Why is this important?

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

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

Figure A2.4 Context: sub-pillars



Conflict and/or hazard history



What key questions to ask?

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

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

Political and socio-economic landscape

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

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

¹ ICRC Professional Standards (2018:40)

Institutional, legal and normative landscape

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

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



What do we conclude?

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



What can other sectors and disciplines provide?

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

Potential data and information sources include:

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

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

Pillar: Current threats to the population

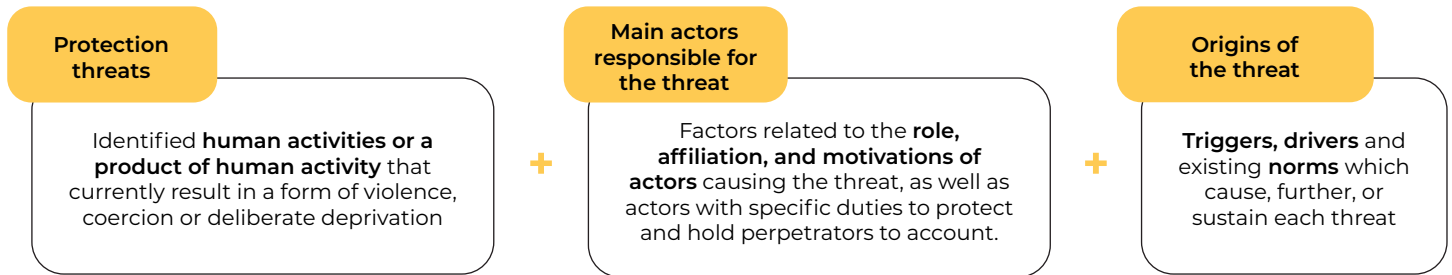


Why is this important?

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

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

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



Protection threats



What key questions to ask?

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

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

Main actors responsible for the threat

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

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

Origins of the threat

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

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



What to explore?

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

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



What do we conclude?

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

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

Potential data and information sources include:

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



What can other sectors and disciplines provide?

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

Pillar: Analyse the threat's effects on the population

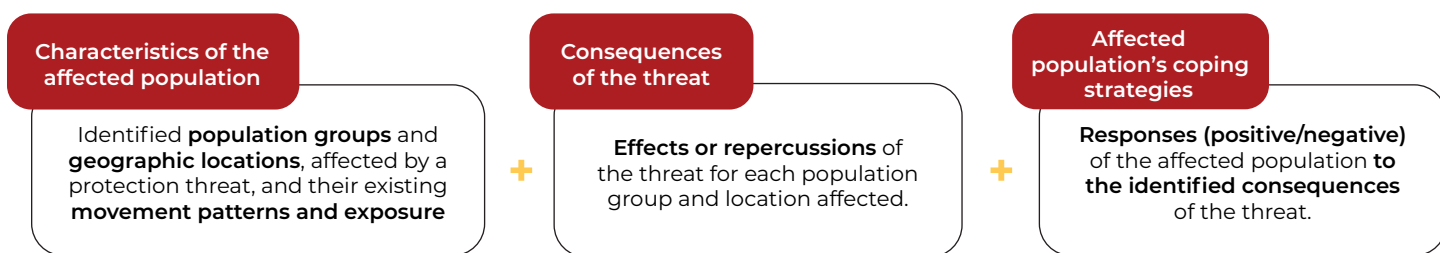


Why is this important?

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

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

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



Characteristics of the affected population



What key questions to ask?

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

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

Consequence of the threat

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

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

⁴ ICRC Professional Standards (2018:41)

Affected population coping strategies

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

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



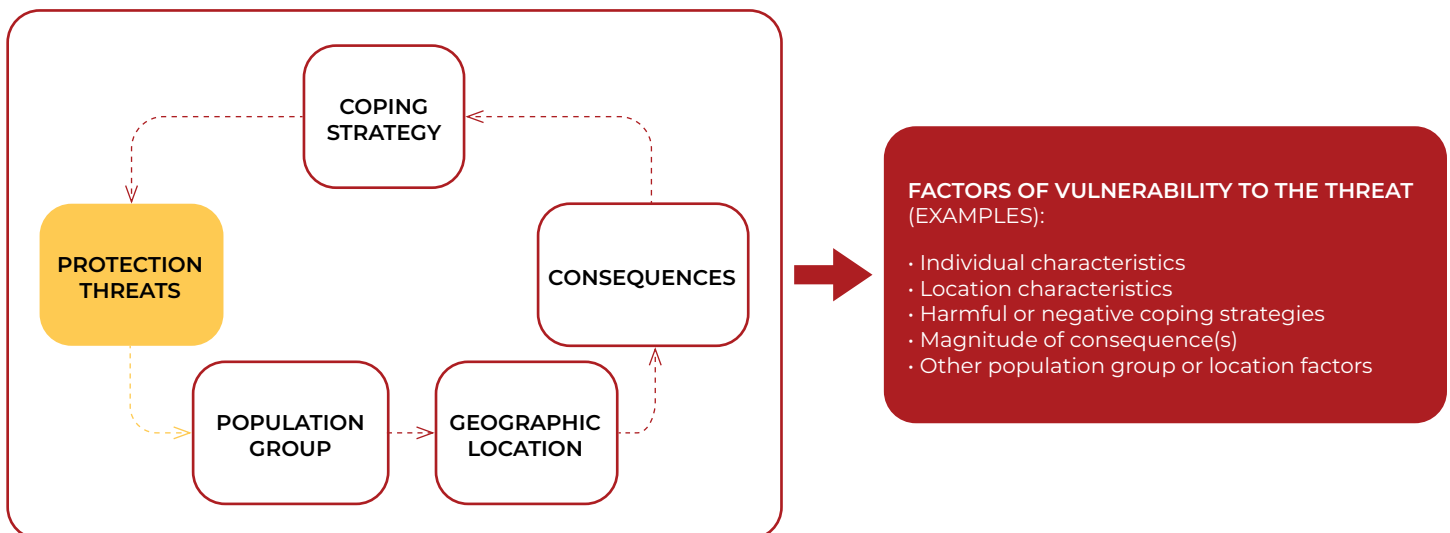
What to explore?

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

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

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

Figure A2.7 Reflection process to determine factors of vulnerability



A suggested process to use this pillar is as follows:

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



What do we conclude?

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

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

Potential data sources which may support information needs include:

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



What can other sectors and disciplines provide?

Pillar: Existing capacities to address the threat

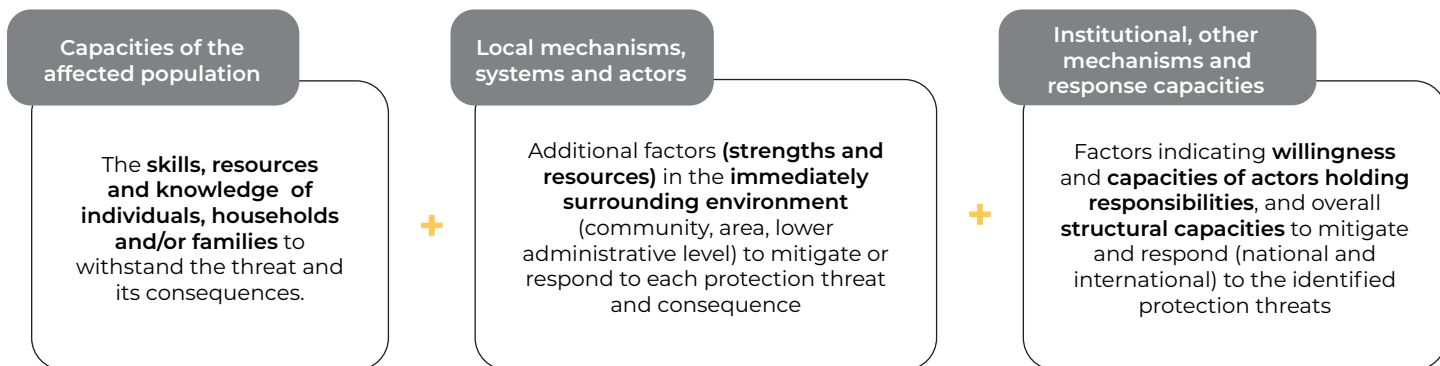


Why is this important?

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

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

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



What key questions to ask?

Capacities of the affected population

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

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

Local mechanisms, systems, and actors

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

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

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

Institutional, other mechanisms, and response capacities

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

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



What to explore?

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

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

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

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





What do we conclude?

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

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

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

Potential data and information sources include:

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



What can other sectors and disciplines provide?

Tips for a continuous protection analysis

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

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

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

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

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

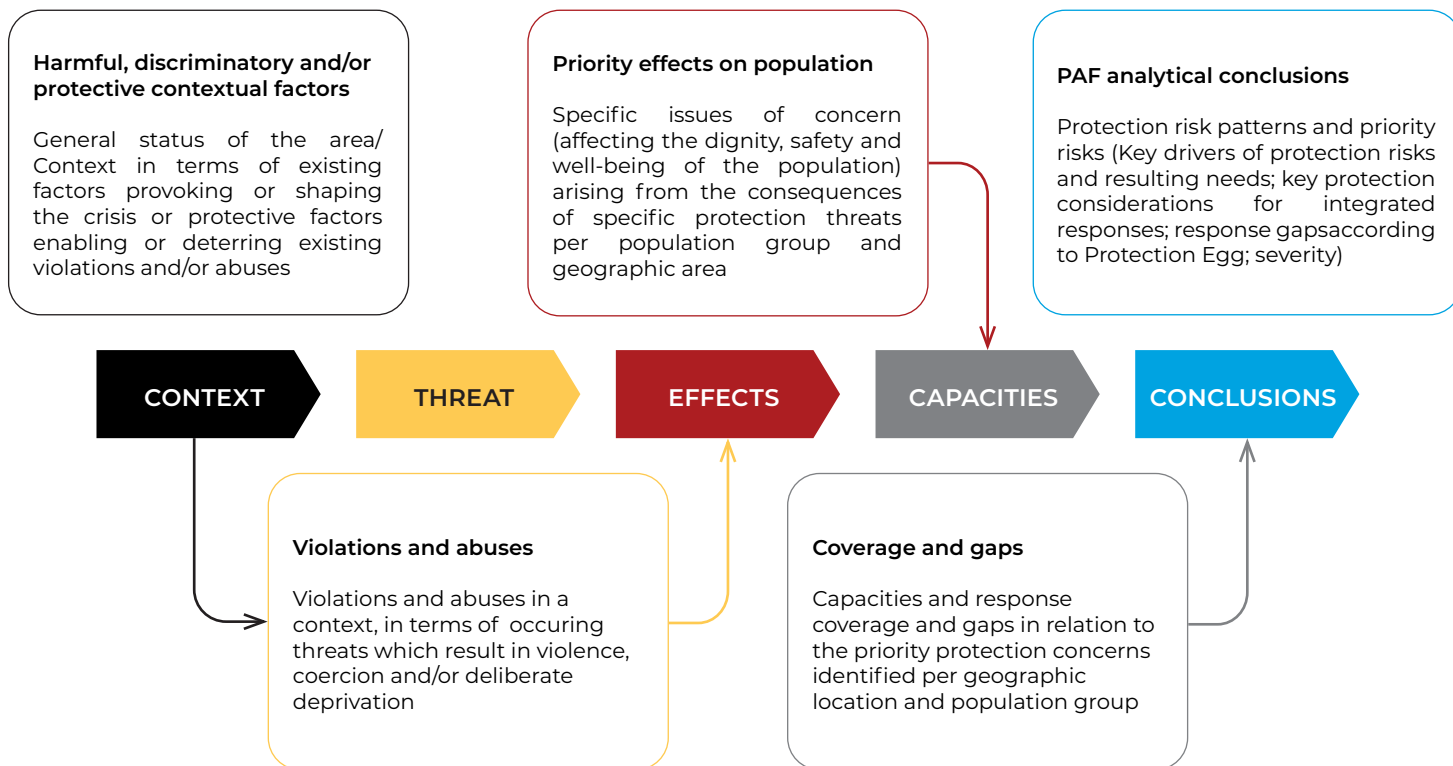
Analytical conclusions: most significant protection risks and consequences



Why is this important?

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

Figure A2.10 PAF sequence of analytical conclusions



What key questions to ask?

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

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

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

⁶ IASC Protection Policy (2016:3)



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

What to explore?

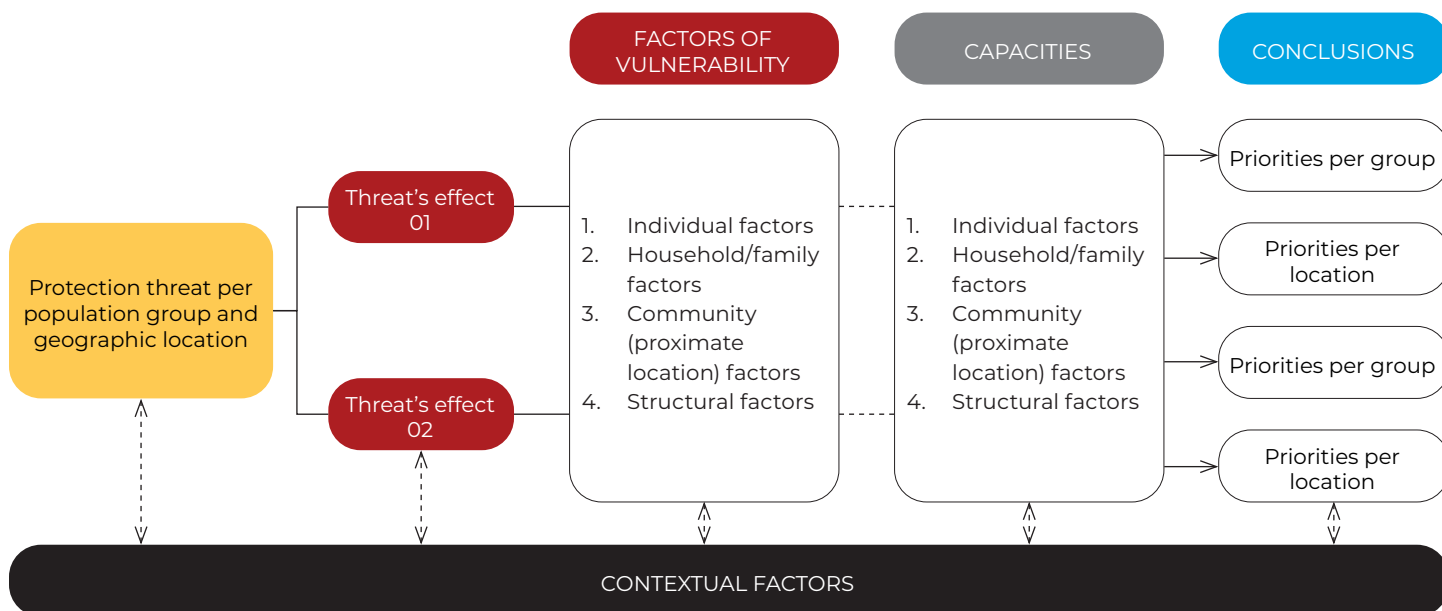
- Affects multiple locations
- Has the same consequences for specific population groups in different locations
- Is affecting specific groups differently (for example, does the presence of militia checkpoints affect men differently in location A than location B? Does it affect men and women differently,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

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

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

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

Figure A2.11 General example of PAF analysis process



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

⁸ ICRC Professional Standards (2018:47)

⁹ ICRC Professional Standards (2018:41)