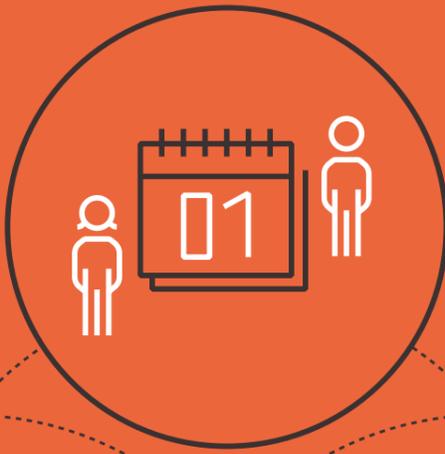


PROTECTION:
IT STARTS
ON DAY ONE

PROTECTION:
IT'S A WORK
IN PROGRESS

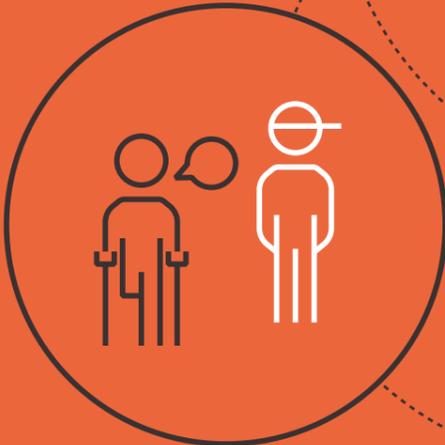
PROTECTION:
NOT JUST LAWS
AND TREATIES



INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES,
COMMUNITIES



PROTECTION:
YOU'RE ALREADY
PART OF IT



PROTECTION:
THE RISK IS IN
IGNORING IT



PROTECTION:
HELPING IMPROVE
OUR IMPACT



PROTECTION:
IT'S A COLLECTIVE
EFFORT

PROTECTION: YOU'RE
ALREADY PART OF IT



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PROTECTION: YOU'RE ALREADY PART OF IT

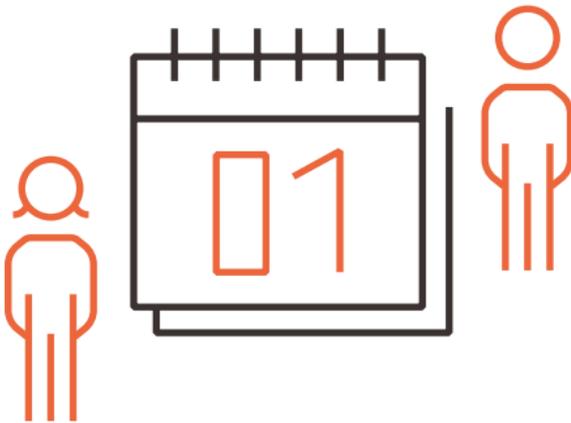
When conflict or disaster strikes, people can become more vulnerable to violence, coercion and abuse from others. They will generally do what they can to stay safe, and the state is responsible for protecting them from harm. As humanitarians we can never replace the state, but we do have a part to play in helping keep people safe at times of crisis.

Specialist protection programmes can be left to the experts, but all humanitarian organisations have an impact on the safety of the people they assist. Understanding that impact is the key to making a positive difference across all humanitarian action.

PROTECTION:

IT STARTS ON DAY ONE

When people face violence or abuse, humanitarian risk becoming part of the problem if we don't understand how our own actions can affect people's safety. If we don't take protection into account from the start, not only will we miss opportunities to reduce risk for the people affected, but we could prolong a situation that puts them in danger.



PROTECTION:

NOT JUST LAWS AND TREATIES

Protection in humanitarian action is fundamentally about helping people stay safe from – and recover from – the harm others might do them. We don't have to be legal experts to help protect people from harm.



PROTECTION:

YOU'RE ALREADY PART OF IT

If your programme is in an area where communities are subjected to armed attack or people trafficking, for instance, it will have an impact on people's safety – for better or for worse. The way we plan and implement a humanitarian response will determine whether we put people at greater risk – or help keep them from harm.



PROTECTION:

HELPING IMPROVE OUR IMPACT

In any area of humanitarian action, protection can help us achieve better outcomes for people in need. Whatever your job is, taking a protection perspective can help you identify risks that would otherwise limit the impact of what you do, find ways of addressing them in your programmes, and refer them to protection specialists when you can't.



PROTECTION:

IT'S A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

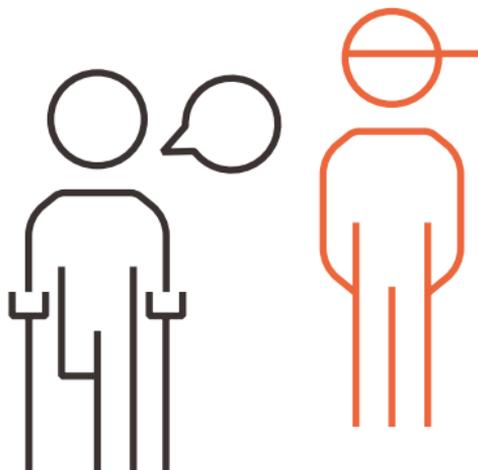
Humanitarians in all fields must act to reduce risk for people affected by crisis, especially the most vulnerable. Some organisations carry out specific protection activities like clearing unexploded bombs after conflict or monitoring the treatment of detainees. Some threats call for joined-up action across sectors, such as coordinating efforts on food, shelter and logistics to help children avoid abduction by armed groups.



PROTECTION:

THE RISK IS IN IGNORING IT

Talk of rights and abuses can be risky in some contexts, but ignoring mistreatment makes it more likely to continue. In each context, we need to look for means of reducing the risks to vulnerable groups without making it impossible to assist them in other ways. Sometimes this will involve more senior figures raising concerns about people's safety, rather than humanitarians on the ground.

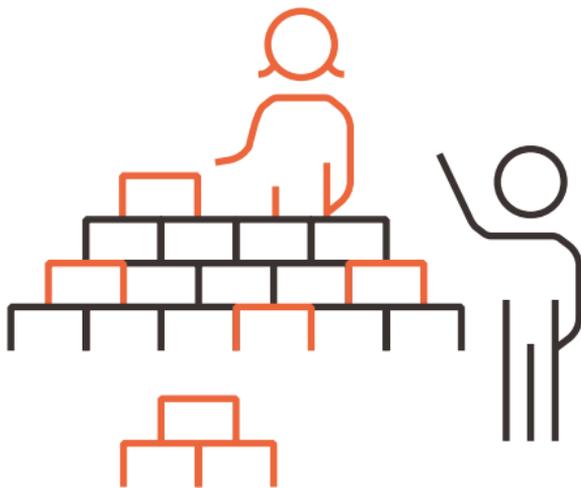


PROTECTION:

IT'S A WORK IN PROGRESS

In contexts of mass violence or destruction, helping keep people safe can seem an impossible task.

As humanitarians we may not have control over many of the factors that put people in harm's way, but if we focus our efforts on tackling specific threats and vulnerability to them where we can, we can make a real difference in people's lives.





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