

Protection Analytical Framework Q&A

What is the use of the PAF?

The PAF guides the undertaking of robust, context specific protection analysis. It helps to identify the information needed to do protection analysis, that in turn better supports prioritization, and it provides a common structure to the way we organize information.

There are three core PAF documents:

- 1) Introduction to the PAF** - this elaborates on the purpose of the PAF, the key principles, guiding theory and policies behind its development, the key concepts reflected, who the PAF is for and when it is to be used.
- 2) Analysis Tools** – this includes a diagram of the PAF pillars that visualizes the core information needs, a description of what each pillar refers to, an analysis plan, and analysis workflow and a matrix of key concepts.
- 3) Analysis Process Explained** – this is an explanatory guide to support interpretation of the pillars of information and a step by step guide to thinking about your analysis. These three documents are intended to help order your thinking and work your way through information in a logical and structured way.

Why was the PAF developed?

Protection analysis needs to provide the foundation to all humanitarian response and the need for regular, quality analysis is consistently emphasized by humanitarian leadership.¹ Despite the recognition of the importance of protection analysis, and that analysis is one of six Cluster/AoR core functions, there have been significant gaps in translating principles into practice. The PAF has therefore been developed to support a systematic and common approach to protection analysis that offers a core logic to guide the way protection analysis is structured, and then used to inform decision making, both at a strategic and operational level. A commonly agreed structure, supported by the right set of tools and training materials will facilitate the way we can make sense of

data and information, leading to improved and regular analysis in support of quality protection outcomes.

How and by who was the PAF developed?

The PAF was initiated by USAID BHA-funded IRC-DRC Results Based Protection Analysis Project to contribute to collective efforts of improving protection analysis. It was developed in close collaboration, and with the full support of the Information and Analysis Working Group of the Global Protection Cluster. It has been endorsed by the Global Protection Cluster SAG. The process of developing the PAF was heavily consultative and engaged with colleagues at global and field levels representing both UN and INGO and the Areas of Responsibility (AoRs). At different stages of the development of the PAF, drafts were shared widely for input and feedback, all of which was carefully reviewed and largely incorporated.

When do we use the PAF?

The use of the PAF does not necessarily have a specific starting point. Analysis processes guided by the PAF should be ongoing and feed into all analytical products and briefings. The more regularly the PAF is used to guide analysis, the lighter the process becomes, as overtime it will be more about ensuring the analysis is kept up to date, rather than starting from scratch.

The PAF should be used to guide the analysis that is presented in the **Protection Cluster Analysis Updates**, which at a minimum are to be produced quarterly. Much of the analysis in the Analysis Updates can then be used to inform the analysis required for the HNO. When defining the analysis timeframe it is important to consider contextually relevant events or seasonal dynamics affecting the population, possible humanitarian programming, and key moments or deadlines generated through coordination mechanisms. All analysis guided by the PAF should also be used to inform the Protection Cluster Strategy.

¹ See [IASC Protection Policy](#).

How does the PAF link to the HNO and the JIAF?

The PAF is intended to simplify all HPC related analysis. It provides a clear structure that is to be referred to all year round. The PAF will guide the qualitative protection analysis in the sectoral part of the HNO.

The PAF places an emphasis on the need for good contextual analysis as well as ensuring that our analysis takes in to account the root causes of protection risk. Analysis of context, shocks and impact, currently guided by the JIAF as non humanitarian conditions pillars, can be supported by the PAF. The information needs within the non-humanitarian and humanitarian conditions pillars of the JIAF are the same as those within the PAF. Qualitative, contextual analysis guided by the PAF can directly support the intersectoral narrative section of the HNO and supports prioritization and intersectoral PIN.

How does the analysis supported by the PAF translate in to the severity scales for the HNO?

Solid qualitative protection analysis guided by the PAF can help to identify geographical areas for prioritization and most affected population groups, which in turns supports the rationale for determining the severity scores needed for the HNO.

What is the connection to human rights?

The PAF encourages our analysis to look beyond immediate humanitarian need, and to better understand protection risks and the factors that drive and exacerbate risk. This approach to analysis helps us to ensure that when identifying protection risk and what this means in terms of humanitarian need, we are also considering the root causes and what this means in relation to human rights and where the structural gaps are in relation to upholding human rights in a given context. This is a more holistic approach to protection analysis that can better support human rights actors and development and peace planning, in addition to humanitarian response planning.

² Consistent with sectoral guidance: the IASC Protection Policy and Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action, the ICRC Professional

Do we have to apply the entire framework to our analysis?

The use of the PAF should be adapted according to your context and objectives of your analysis. It might not be the case that every component of the PAF is relevant each time you do your analysis. This might mean only focusing on specific pillars of information and collating specific pieces of data to support specific purposes. The questions and information needs laid out in the Analysis Plan are there to prompt your thinking and offer suggested issues or dimensions that may be important to consider. It is up to the discretion of the Protection Cluster staff/AoRs leading the analysis to determine which components within the PAF are helpful.

How do we use the PAF in addition to other analysis work/data collection activities that are already ongoing?

The PAF is not intended to replace existing analysis work, rather it should be understood as something that can be complimentary to what is already happening. The PAF is there to provide a common structure to the way we do analysis and to build a core logic within our understanding of what constitutes a solid protection analysis.² While the PAF and suggested questions and information needs in the Analysis Plan may help to highlight information gaps in your context and therefore flag where there might be a need for additional data collection, the PAF is not a data collection tool nor is to be understood as guidance for redesigning current protection monitoring or other data collection activities. These ongoing data collection activities are a source of data, amongst others, that feed the analysis that is guided by the PAF.

Can the PAF be used to support Centrality of Protection efforts?

The PAF should be used to advocate and push for an inter-sectoral approach to data collection and analysis of protection risks/threats/violations, vulnerabilities and coping capacities of affected

Standards for Protection Work, and the Protection Information Management Initiative.

populations – this information is needed in order to support a centrality of protection agenda.³

The PAF supports how we consolidate existing data and analyse the main protection risks before the start of the HPC cycle to ensure that crucial protection issues are not overlooked in framing the scope of analysis for the HNO and HRP. Furthermore, the PAF encourages regular reflection and revision to ensure that analysis is up-to-date and informs multi-sectoral risk reduction strategies in support of collective protection outcomes.

What is the protection analysis process and what should it produce?

The analysis process involves collating and synthesizing information according to the pillars of the framework:

- 1) Context
- 2) Current threats to the population
- 3) Threats effect on the population
- 4) Existing capacities to address protection threats

These pillars (including the subpillars and categories that sit within them) outline the information that you need to ensure a robust analysis of the protection environment. Once you have a good understanding of the context, threats, the effect of the threat on the population and the capacities to address protection threats, you can deduce the biggest protection risks, who is most affected and where.

The regular **Protection Analysis Updates** should be used as the primary space to showcase these analytical conclusions:

- 1) Top protection risks
- 2) Which populations groups and most affected
- 3) Which geographical areas are most affected

This information used to inform your analysis must include a range of secondary data collated from a wide variety of sources. Additional primary data may be collected once the process of synthesizing

existing information highlights specific information gaps.

The analysis plan, which includes a list of suggested questions can be used to guide you through the process of making sense of the information that you have collated, provide structure to your thinking, and highlight the answers that will contribute towards informing your analytical conclusions.

The process of analysis should include a range of actors and be done according to the PIM principles.⁴

What is the current status of the PAF?

As of April 2021, the PAF is final and has been shared with all field colleagues. It has been endorsed by the GPC and is now to be understood as the core framework for all protection analysis activities. As field colleagues begin to familiarize their teams with the PAF and apply the use of the PAF to their analysis we will continue to learn about the opportunities and challenges it presents. At the global level we will pay close attention to the feedback we receive and review how the tools, guidance and training materials can be refined and further developed as we move ahead.

There are also ongoing efforts through the GPC's Information and Analysis Working Group to develop training modules and analysis tools that are complimentary to the PAF to support colleagues in their analysis work.

³ IASC, [The Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action](#).

⁴ See PIM: [Principles of Protection Information Management](#).