CHILD PROTECTION AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY
DEFINING SEVERITY, PIN & CIN

(NIAF Handbook - Annex 3a)

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1 Introduction

This guidance is developed in line with the Humanitarian Profile Support Guidance, the JIAF 2 Guidance and the Protection and AoRs Severity and PiN Guidance. It shares recommended approaches and best practices the country with **Child Protection Coordination Groups (CPCG)** in the field.

This guidance supports CPCG carry out Step 3 of the **NIAF (Needs Identification and Analysis Framework)** in defining the severity level of each location and estimating the number of children in need of child protection interventions for Child Protection.

CPCG in contexts where HNO/HRP is used can follow this guidance as it details also how the CPCG can meet their planning responsibilities in the HPC (Humanitarian Programme Cycle) to define:

- Estimated number of children affected by the crisis,
- Severity and priority geographical areas,
- Children in Need (CiN) as part of the Overarching Protection PiN and
- Inform the joint intersectoral analysis and overall PiN

For Target people estimation, see NIAF Annex ..

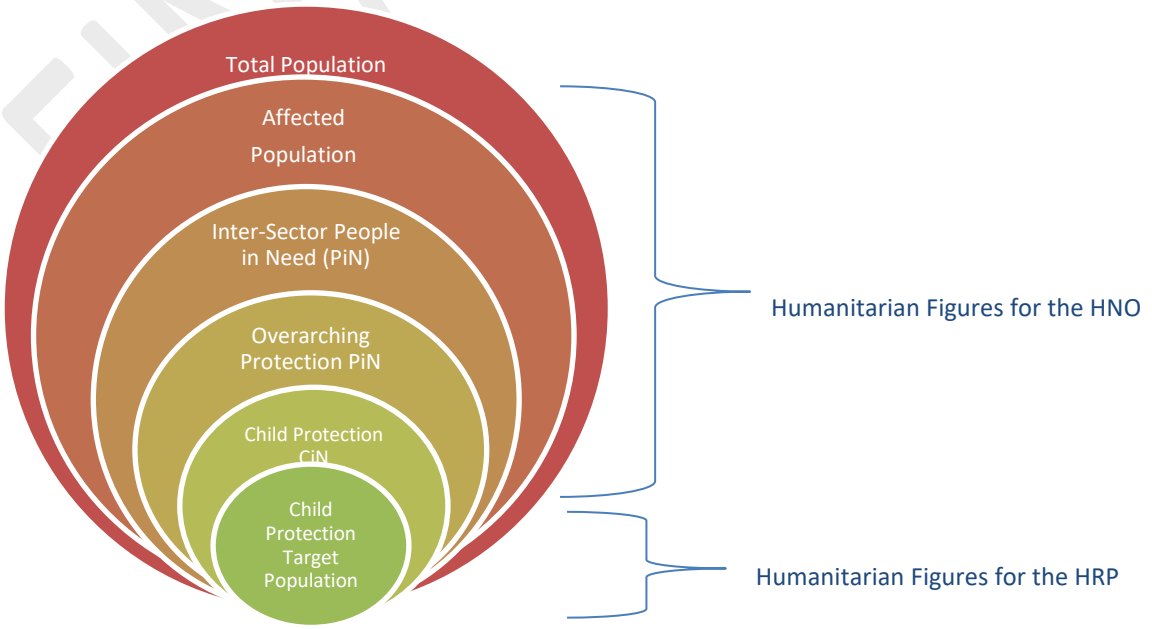
2 Humanitarian Figures

The humanitarian figures required for planning the response (including for Humanitarian Needs Overview -HNO and the Humanitarian Response Plan - HRP) are detailed in *Diagram A: Child Protection Humanitarian Figures*.

When assessing the humanitarian needs (including for the HNO), we start from the bigger circle (total population), then work our way inward to calculate each humanitarian figure subset. We do so to base our figures on evidence, and to plan a strategic and logical response to identified needs.

Image A: Child Protection Humanitarian Figures

(Source: Humanitarian Profile support Guidance, IASC 2016)



2.1 Estimated number of Affected Population / Children

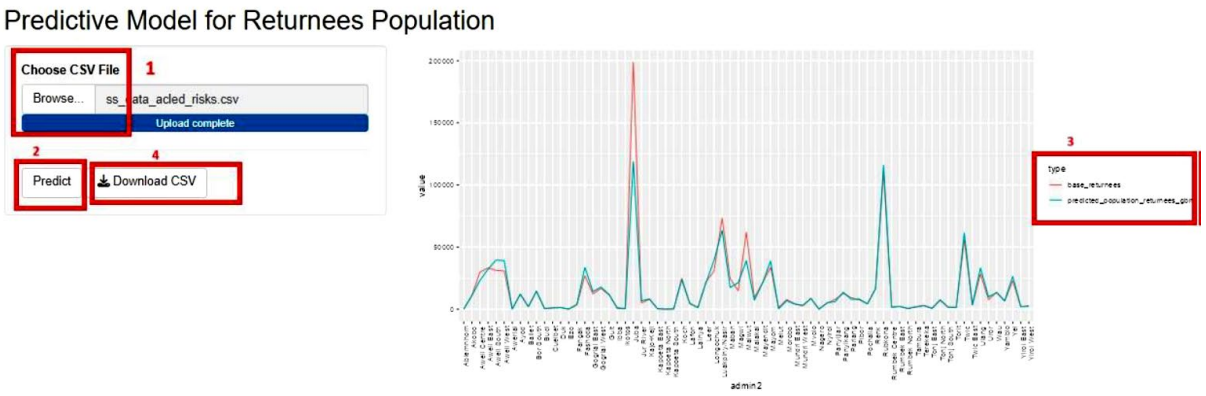
CPCG identifies affected areas in Step 2 of the NIAF (See Annex 2a). CPCG coordinators will ensure that areas identified by CPCG as affected are in line with the scope of analysis and identified affected areas at intersectoral level.

OCHA (or the coordination actor) is responsible to providing the baseline data for the Total population, and the CPCG in collaboration with Protection cluster and AoRs will be able to estimate the number of People exposed to protection risks. Based on prediction model, the number of People exposed to Protection risks will be used as affected population for Protection cluster, including the disaggregated data for affected children.

At this stage, CP IMO must be engaged in determining which parameters to use for calculating the number of people exposed to risks. This involves contributing to the discussion related to the statistical model [1]and predictors to use.

Image B: Predictive Model for People Exposed to Protection Risks

(Source: Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN), 2024)



While for harmonisation purpose it is highly recommended to use the number of People exposed to risk as a baseline within the Protection sector, CPCG may not be comfortable using the prediction model. In that specific case, the total population in affected areas will be used as a baseline for child protection, taking into consideration the following parameters:

a) the scope of analysis in terms of geographical coverage as defined at intersectoral level (areas affected and/or impacted by shocks)

b) the identified affected population groups from the contextual analysis (IDPs, returnees, etc.).

In case the disaggregated data is not available, agreed percentage will be then used to estimate the number of girls and boys under 18 years old in the geographical areas affected by the humanitarian situation.

In displacement situations, the percentage of child population, resources like the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) or WFP food registration can be used to verify the proportion of children amongst the displaced population.

[1] For more details, refer to Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN)

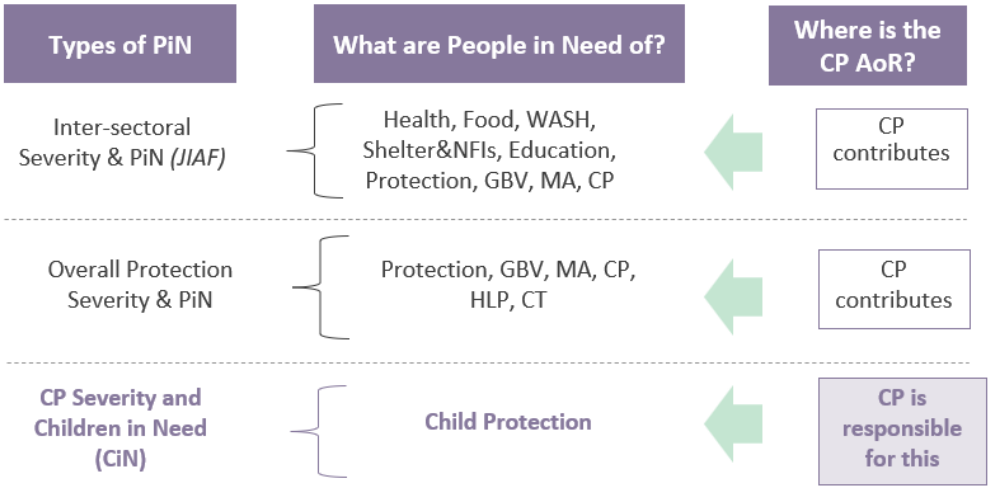
2.2 Defining Severity, Priority People and Children in Need

During the HNO process, severity /priority of areas, and people in need will be estimated at three levels:

- CP specific severity and CiN,
- Overall Protection severity and PiN which includes all the AoRs' severities and PiN, and
- Intersectoral Humanitarian needs, which is based on the Joint Intersectoral humanitarian needs analysis and including all clusters' severity and PiN.

Working with others, CPCG contributes to identifying severity and People in Need (PiN) for the intersectoral level and the overall Protection level. CPCG has the responsibility to identify CP severity (how severe the impact of the crisis is on the CP situation in each area), priority areas for CP interventions and Children in Need (CiN) of Child Protection.

Image C: Roles of CPCG at each level of severity and PiN



3 Intersectoral Humanitarian needs

Responsibility:	Intersectoral Coordination Group and OCHA (or coordinating actor)
CPCG Role:	**Submit child protection severity and PiN estimation.** In JIAF 2, only the Overall Protection severity and PiN will be used for the joint intersectoral analysis. However, CPCG contributes by submitting CP CiN and CP severity and the methodology used alongside with overarching Protection severity and PiN.
Why this is important:	To ensure that the intersectoral severity scale includes the geographic areas most affected by child protection risks.

The revamped Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF 2.0) sets global standards for the analysis and estimation of humanitarian needs and protection risks. The key outputs of the JIAF 2 are the follows:

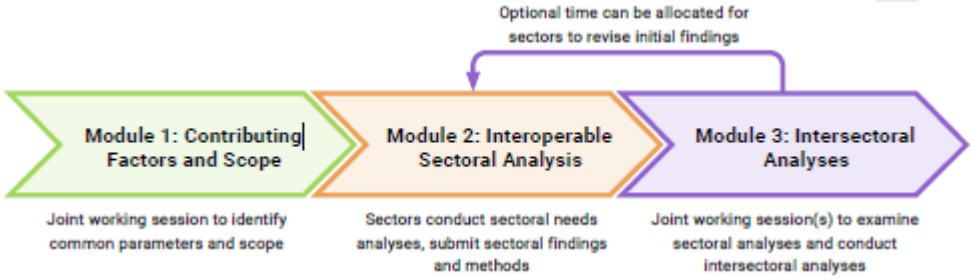
- An **estimation of the joint overall magnitude of a crisis**: How many people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, irrespective of what sectors the needs originate from.
- An **estimation of intersectoral severity**: How severe is the humanitarian situation that may results from the compounding effect of overlapping sectoral need.

- **Estimation of sectoral needs in an interoperable and commonly understood way**: How people face needs in specific sectors.
- **Identification of linkages and overlaps between sectoral needs**: How people's needs overlap, co-exist and interrelate.
- **Identification of those most affected**: Which population groups and geographic areas face most needs.
- An **explanation of the drivers**: Why a crisis is happening and what is the underlying context.

The process of identifying the overall Intersectoral PiN is usually facilitated by OCHA through the inter-cluster coordination forum, as described below:

Image D: JIAF 2.0 Country Implementation Process

(Source: JIAF 2.0 Technical Manual)



The CPCG must be involved in all stages of the process :

a) Contributing factors and scope of analysis: aims at describing the humanitarian context, relevant shocks affecting vulnerable populations, vulnerabilities, and impact at both the system and population levels. Led at intersectoral level, it usually involves Assessment experts, IMOs, and cluster and AoRs coordinators who will discuss the scope of the analysis, including which geographic areas to cover, the administrative units of analysis (e.g. admin 2, 3, etc.), and which if any population groups will be specifically analysed. **CPCG must contribute to the discussions** and ensure that contextual indicator(s) relevant for child protection are included (ref. Annex 3b of the NIAF and Reference Table 1 of the JIAF).

b) Interoperable sectoral Needs: focuses on sector-specific analysis of humanitarian needs within the agreed scope of analysis. It will include the needs analysis generated by the Protection cluster and AoRs that align with JIAF standards for interoperability (see Reference Tables 2a (PIN) and 2b (Severity) of the JIAF). A single PiN and severity for all units of analyses will be provided by the overall protection, encompassing the needs of Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence, Housing, Land and Property and Mine Action AoRs. For any further analyses, including the description of characteristics of the crisis, linkages, and patterns, **CPCG will provide the CP CiN and CP severity** alongside with overarching Protection to be displayed in the tables, graphs and maps in the Analysis Platform Dashboards.

c) Intersectoral Needs: brings together sector-specific findings to produce comprehensive analysis of the humanitarian needs at intersectoral level. **CPCG must be engaged in the analysis** conducted jointly with members representing the clusters and areas of responsibilities, as well as relevant sectoral coordination mechanisms that may be activated at country level, sector-leading agencies, OCHA, NGOs, and other relevant partners and civil society during multi-partner working sessions. (See Module 3 of the JIAF).

4 Overall Protection Severity and PiN[2]

Responsibility:	Protection Coordination Group & AoRs
CPCG Role:	Identify and agree on methodology for calculating the Overarching Protection Severity score and PiN, work with Protection Coordination Group and AoR colleagues to support the process.
Why this is important	To ensure that geographic areas with critical child protection issues are taken into consideration when determining the overarching protection severity scores. The severity score for each location is then used to calculate the Overarching Protection PiN

Developed by the GPC and Global AoRs, the Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN) for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) includes the general process, in line with the Joined-up Protection Analysis Guidance which provides a comprehensive Protection and Areas of Responsibility overall approach. This guidance is a unified approach adopted by the Protection Cluster and AoRs to ensure a consistent and thorough protection analysis across different contexts.

Key definitions:

- People affected (IASC 2016): Includes all those whose lives have been impacted as a direct result of the crisis.
- People exposed to risks**:** People exposed to protection risks are a subset of people affected by the crisis whose life is directly affected by current violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation in the form of protection risks severity.
- Protection needs severity: Protection needs severity represents the degree of protection needs resulting from the exposure to protection risks in relation to the ability to move and access to public spaces, ability to participate in safe practices and activities and access to rights and services.
- People in need of protection: Individuals, across all population groups and considering their age, gender and diversity, exposed to protection risks in the areas affected: 1. whose safety constraints limit their ability to move freely and access public spaces, 2. who cannot perform practices that ensure physical, emotional, psychological, and social safety, such as social interaction, educational pursuits, economic engagement, and healthcare, and 3. who are deprived of their rights, including adequate access to essential services and justice, considering their age, gender, and diverse needs.

Image E: Pillars to define protection needs

(Source: Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN))

[2] Overarching protection Severity and PiN is jointly calculated and owned by Protection, GBV, CP, MA and HLP AoRs

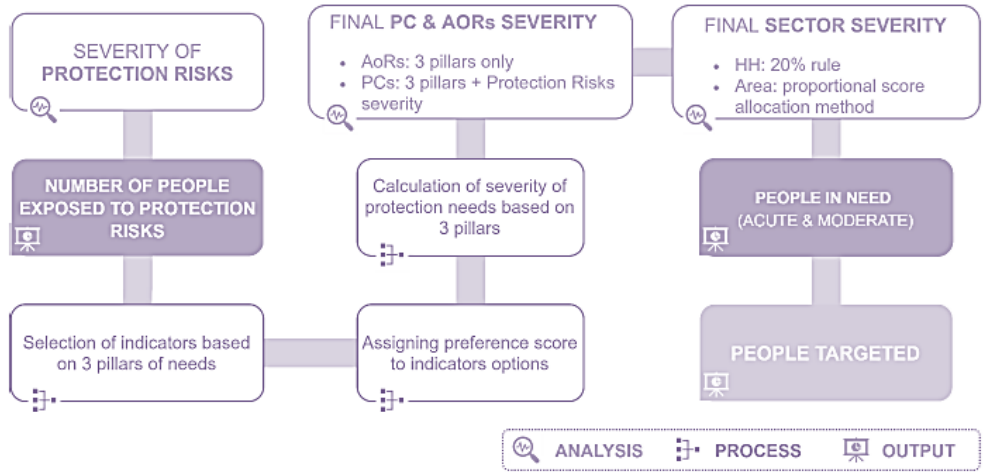
PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
ABILITY TO MOVE AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACES	PILLAR 2: ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SAFE PRACTICES AND ACTIVITIES	PILLAR 3: ACCESS TO RIGHTS AND SERVICES
Individuals, across all population groups, ability to move freely and access to public spaces is not limited by physical, emotional, psychological, and social safety constraints	Individual, across all population groups, are able to participate in social, educational, economic and healthcare safe practices and activities of their choice.	Individuals, across all population groups, have access to services and justice, proportionate to age, gender, and diversity needs.

Three proxy indicators corresponding to each dimension are used consistently by the Protection Cluster and the Areas of Responsibility across all countries, to have a common and comparable approach in the definition of PIN. A set of core sub-indicators per pillar is provided, together with their interrelation with the 15 protection risks, to provide a harmonized framework and more consistently present the situational analysis and linkages with the most critical protection risks identified as a result of the joined-up protection analysis.

This approach ensures the use of sub-indicators that are appropriate for the specific protection situation in each crisis. Example of CP indicators to use for overarching Severity Scale are listed in **Annex 3b of the NIAF**.

Image F: Data analysis process

(source: Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN))



For detailed information about the overarching Protection severity and PiN, refer to the Protection and AoRs Guidance on the Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN).

Note: *The Overarching Protection severity and PiN represents the protection needs severity and number of people in need of any type of humanitarian protection intervention, including CP, GBV, MA and HLP AoRs. This is not the same as the protection coordination group PiN, which does not include inputs from each of the protection sub-sectors.*

5 Child Protection Severity, Priority and Children in Need (CiN)

Responsibility:	Child Protection AoR and CPCG members
CPCG role:	Own and lead the process
Why this is important	Understanding the severity of child protection needs and estimating the number of children in need of child protection services in each location including priority areas

A unified approach is adopted by Protection Cluster and AoRs in the Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN). The guidance presents what is common and provides clarity on the specific differences that protection cluster and Areas of Responsibility coordination and information management staff must consider for the calculation of the severity.

5.1 Selection of child protection indicators to estimate CP severity and CiN

As described in the joint guidance, 3 pillars or dimensions will be used for Child Protection severity and CiN. Based on steps 1 and 2 of the NIAF, CPCG will select the relevant indicators to inform children's situation in their contexts. Those indicators should ideally cover the three needs dimensions related to: Safety, Participation in activities, and Access to services.

Annex 3b of the NIAF provides examples of information needs and indicators to use for CP severity, with a set of core sub-indicators per pillar provided in the harmonized protection and AoRs framework.

When identifying relevant information needs for child protection assessment, CPCG can refer to the databank developed in partnership with DTM and REACH/MSNA which provides a list of questions and data collection methods.

Note that this list is not exhaustive and other information needs/indicators can be used based on context specificities. When using a new indicator, make sure to classify the response options for each indicator and to align it with one of the 3 pillars.

Specific preconditions apply to all indicators used for severity and CiN calculation:

- Severity calculation can only be done when the datasets are available for all locations: comparison is not possible if data are available only for some locations.
- Severity calculation can only be done when the datasets are available at the same unit of analysis identified by HCT/ICCG for the inter-sectoral analysis. While aggregation of data at a lower unit of analysis is possible (aggregated "up" for a larger area), disaggregation of data at a higher unit (larger area) to find values for smaller areas is NOT possible.

Find below some recommendations for the selection of CP severity needs indicators.

Do's	Don'ts
• Select indicators that can be analysed at the appropriate geographic unit of analysis (administrative level). • Select indicators with data collected within the scope of analysis (covering all affected areas) • Think about proxy indicators that are relevant to CP (see Annex 3b).	• Do not use CM data such as reported cases beneficiaries for CP severity and CiN calculation. Reported incidents are only reliable when using the correct data collection method. • Do not use CM beneficiaries' data as this reflects beneficiaries per location rather than prevalence of issues/response needs per location.

• Use the recommended data collection method to ensure reliability of the data.	• Do not use data collected through unreliable data collection methods (see Annex 3b).

5.2 Step 2 - Methods for calculating severity and CiN

Based on the data scenario (HH data level, Area data level or no data scenario[3]), use the relevant tools to calculate your severity and CiN. A mix approach is possible using 2 data scenarios for example.

a) Preference scores will be assigned to the selected indicators and answer options, to evaluate and rank the severity (similar to the thresholds). A weight will also be allocated to each pillar in the decision matrix and CP can decide to use or not the protection risks severity as a modifier for the severity calculation.

b) The CiN/PiN calculation will be automated based on the inputs from the data collection and pre-assigned preference scores and weighting allocated to the indicator answer options and pillars.

   - For Household data scenario, once the dataset integrated into the calculation tools, the severity score will be calculated using the formula to associate the data from the "Assigning preference scores" and "decision matrix" sheets. The 20% rule will be used for the final PiN calculation.

   - For Area level scenario, the same process applies, except for the 20% rule. The Proportional score Allocation Method is used to facilitate the distribution of the population across five severity phases. This statistical model will help ensure that the proportion of people exposed to child protection risks by severity phases corresponds closely to the assigned severity score.

   - For no data scenario, the prioritization of child protection risks will be used. This can be done using the relevant 15 protection risks (or less) and/or using secondary data in combination with a value/expert judgement[4].

c) The final PiN is calculated based on severity phases 3,4 and 5 and disaggregated by gender, age, and disability for each location.

***Note**: Child Protection severity and CiN calculation usually focuses on children in need. However, in some contexts CPCG may wish to add caregivers to the overall CiN figures. In this specific case, adults should be added separately from the CiN in the key figures and clearly explained in the HNO narrative.*

5.3 Step 3: Reviewing severity score results and CiN

In plenary with CPCG members, review and discuss the CP Severity Score for each location, and adjust, if necessary, based on expertise and knowledge of the context.

For household and area level data, the Child Protection risks severity score, using the 15 Protection risks, can be also used as a modifier to review the final severity. Based on Protection risk prioritization tool, it provides an

[3]For more details, refer to the Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN)

[4] CPCG can use older datasets or secondary data depending on the purpose and the modality we make of them. For suggestions on how IMO can make some older datasets usable, please see Annex 1 – Section 10 - Technical tips on dealing with no information.

overview of the priority risks and can be used if conducted at the same administrative level as the HNO data analysis.

While the severity and PiN methods and tools are commonly agreed and used by Protection and AoRs, there are some specificities that remain for Child protection AoR.

What is common to Protection and CP/AoRs	What remains specific to CP AoR
• Use of 3 needs Pillars to classify PiN/CiN indicators. • Use of 3 pillars for needs severity • 3 data scenarios for severity and CiN/PiN calculation • Use of Severity phase 3,4 and 5 for CiN/PiN calculation • Baseline population (affected population)	• Selection of severity needs indicators from the NIAF (see Annex 3b) • Child protection risks severity criteria • CP indicators preference score and weighting • CP severity and CiN calculation (CPCG is responsible) • Methods used for CP expert value judgement

Note: JIAF 2 does not include the affected population which should be estimated by clusters based on the scope of analysis (geographical scope and population groups to cover). Therefore, the people exposed to risks are used as a baseline for severity and PiN calculation.

6 Key Terms Glossary

- **Indicators for Programmatic/ Operational Decision-Making:** Provide information on specificities of each site/location to help implementing partners design their response and may be changed as the response evolves. Operational indicators are used for site management, protection mainstreaming*, and identification of service gaps at location/site level**. The data from operational indicators is used to better manage the humanitarian response at each location/site. Examples of operational indicators include:
    - # of women on the site management committee (SMC)
    - Whether there is a security service provider at the site
    - Availability of separate latrines for girls and boys in the school

  These indicators are too specific to provide general information on overall protection risk in a location and should not be used for severity scales nor CiN calculation.

- **Indicators for Strategic Decision-Making:** Provide data that give a high-level snapshot of the humanitarian situation so that we can determine the geographic areas and population groups at higher risk of protection, CP, GBV, MA & HLP incidents, and whether they have access to response services. Strategic indicators include availability and access to CP services and health services, the proportion of a population using negative coping mechanisms for survival, living conditions that lead to higher CP risk (integrated analysis using proxy indicators), and external factors that may increase risk (such as armed conflict incidents and presence of UXOs). Strategic indicators usually remain the same throughout the year to monitor any changes in the humanitarian situation.

- **Proxy indicators:** A proxy indicator is an indirect measure of an outcome, that is perceived to be strongly correlated to the outcome.
  Proxy indicators are used for severity analysis: they may come from CP or other sectors. They provide information on living conditions and access to basic needs that may be interpreted to determine whether children are at higher risk of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect. They help us determine which locations have higher risks of child protection incidents due to living conditions, without having to ask about sensitive and usually under-reported issues. Indicators can be related to shelter-type, food consumption, access to schools etc.

  For example, data showing that y% of households in a location are skipping meals and eating less, may be interpreted to alert that y% of households are at higher risk of incorporating negative coping mechanisms that could result in child exploitation, child marriage, child labor, neglect and trafficking.

Notes

- One protection mainstreaming indicator alone will not give an overview of the level of protection risk in a site (which makes it an operational indicator). If you combine several protection mainstreaming indicators together however, such as in a safety audit, you could use this as a strategic indicator of the general risk in a site.

- Indicators on protection response services availability can be used as both strategic indicators (to identify geographic area with service gaps) and as operational indicators (to identify sites that require follow-up assessment to plan for specific interventions.

7 List of resources

Key reference documents and guidance

- **Needs Identification and Analysis Framework (NIAF) Handbook and resources:**
  - NIAF Handbook
  - NIAF - Annex 03b Suggested severity analysis indicators
  - NIAF – Analytical Framework
  - NIAF related resources
- **Protection and AoRs guidance and resources:**
  - Methodology for calculating protection severity and estimating people in need (PIN)
  - Protection Cluster Approach to Joined-up Protection Analysis
  - Harmonized Information needs Databank
  - HNO Indicators Databank
- **HPC guidance and resources**
  - HNO HRP templates and guidance https://kmp.hpc.tools/facilitation-package/
  - JIAF resources: https://www.jiaf.info/resources/
  - IASC, 2016. Humanitarian Profile Support Guidance: Humanitarian Population Figures