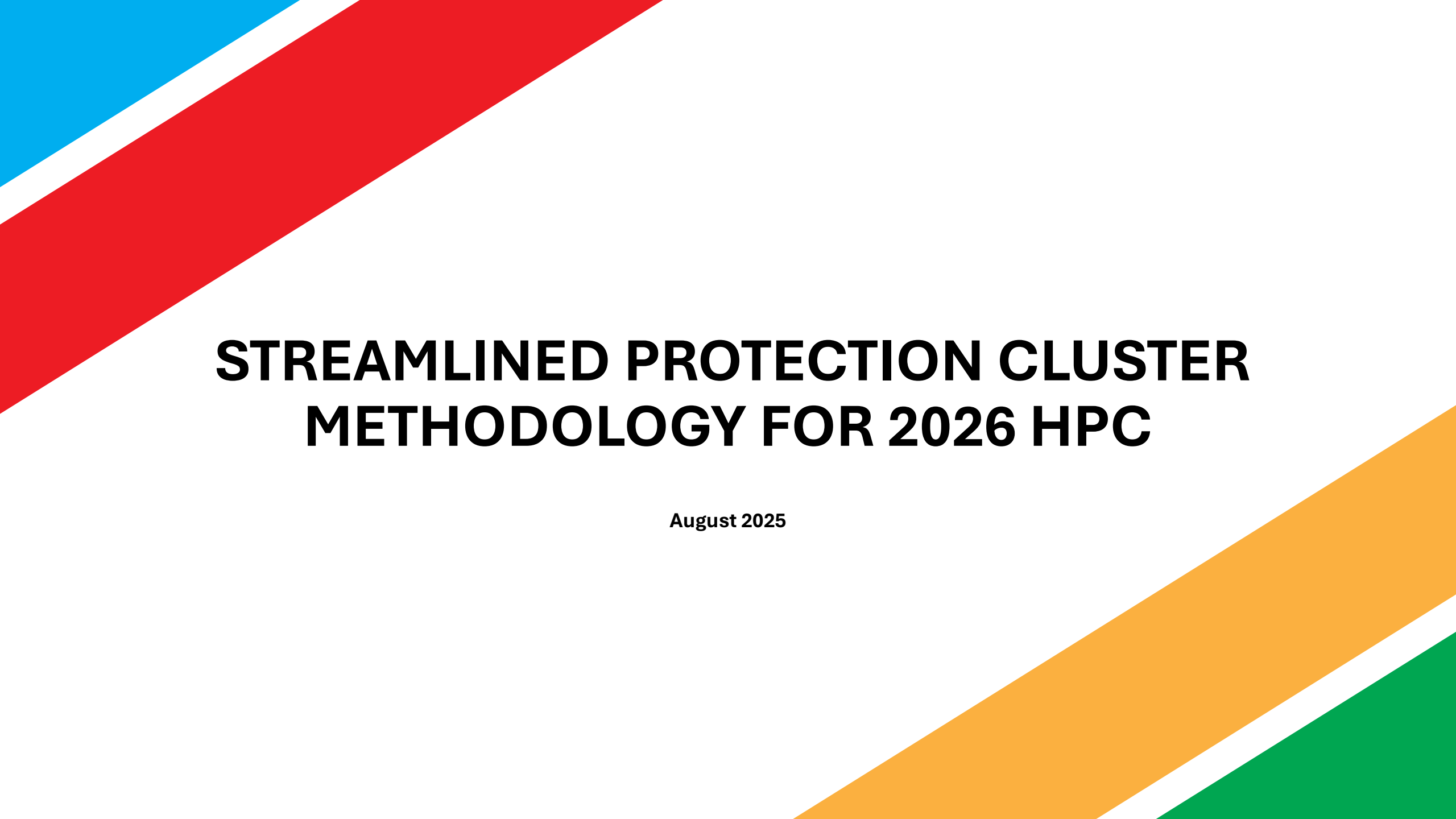




STREAMLINED PROTECTION CLUSTER METHODOLOGY FOR 2026 HPC

August 2025

STREAMLINED APPROACH

WHY A STREAMLINED APPROACH

At global level: simplify the existing system from 11 clusters and 4 Areas of Responsibility (AoR) to 8 clusters: Education Cluster, Food Security Cluster, Health Cluster, Land and Shelter Cluster (Shelter + Camp Coordination and Camp Management + House, Land and Properties), Nutrition Cluster, **Protection Cluster**, Service Cluster (Emergency Telecommunications + Logistics), and WASH Cluster.

Agencies involved in existing clusters and AoR to agree on future CLA arrangements, [...] AoR leads to consider seconding capacity to Protection Cluster Lead Agency to help transition from separate AoRs to **one integrated Protection Cluster**.

- While the CLA are currently discussing arrangements, the GPC and Global AoRs have agreed on a **common approach to HPC 2026**.
- The streamlined approach is set to deliver **one consolidated severity of Needs map, PiN, Target and Funding request** while **ensuring the identification of AoRs fundings needs**.
- The development of the **HPC 2026 streamlined approach is in progress**. Today's webinar is in contribution to its finalisation set indicatively by the end of August.

HRP 2026: OCHA Approach

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **CoP** | *HPC 2026 will ensure that **preventing and addressing the impact of protection risks is a core collective goal**. This requires Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) to understand how these protection risks are driving or exacerbating needs and tailoring their intersectoral response to mitigate them.*
- **ALCANCE** | *[...] four 'core' shocks should be the basis for HPC 2026. **a. Conflict, violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation.** b. Natural disaster/climate-related/geological shocks. c. Epidemics. d. Plant and animal pests and diseases*
- **SEVERITY OF NEEDS** | *Given the dramatic reduction in humanitarian resources available, it will be imperative to ensure that HPC 2026 guides collective multisectoral responses to the places where humanitarian needs **and protection risks are most severe** (reference to the PAF included).*
- **INTERSECTORAL SEVERITY** | *JIAF Outcome indicators be prioritized for data collection, to ensure a minimum collective evidence basis for severity analysis and, **in particular, to build the evidence base regarding protection risks.***
- **PEOPLE TARGETED** | *The proposed formula would be **People Targeted = 100% Intersectoral PiN Phases 4 + 5 AND max. 50% Intersectoral PiN Phase 3.***
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES** | *It is therefore proposed that HPC 2026 use standardized SOs: SO1 – Saving Lives & Alleviating Suffering, **SO2 – Protecting Safety and Rights**, SO3 – Sustaining Lives and Livelihoods*
- **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT** | ***People Targeted in 2026 x total \$ costed per person 2025***



HRP 2026: CLUSTER CONTRIBUTION

Ongoing dialogue with **OCHA**, for the revision of HPC process. While the **HPC streamlining is still under discussion**, the GPC has discussed a more consistent consultation by OCHA during the HPC process on:

1. SCOPE

- In JIAF, the scope is defined by shocks. The **protection risks severity** is critical to define the scope of the crisis.
- To align with the JIAF shocks definition, **the severity of the risks that are related to conflict or have a systemic impact on population should be considered** (i.e. Attacks on civilians, Movement & displacement, Presence of mines, etc.).
- OCHA should engage with PC on the use of **the protection risks severity assessment and critical findings from PAUs**.

2. PROTECTION SEVERITY AND PIN

- The Protection Cluster has introduced a streamlined methodology to deliver one consolidated severity of Needs map, PiN, Target and Funding request, allowing respective severity levels, PiN figures, targets, and funding needs of the Areas of Responsibility.

3. INTERSECTORAL SEVERITY

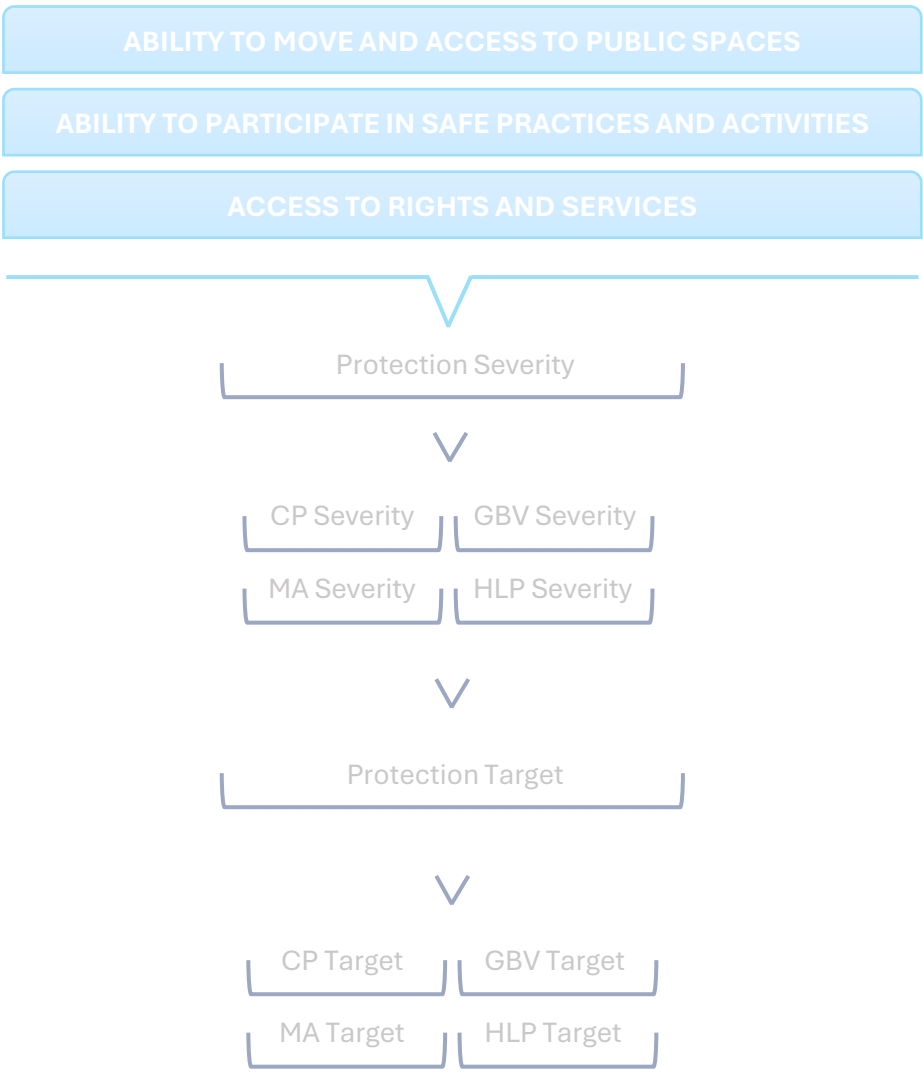
- The **JIAF Outcome Indicators on HR/IHL must be used in the revision of intersectoral severity**. As per JIAF methodology, OCHA must engage with PCs to use the **protection risks severity as per the tool introduced in 2024**. Operations to liaise with the GPC for the calculations.



NEEDS ANALYSIS

NEEDS ANALYSIS: Severity and PIN

PILLARS OF NEEDS



1. Unified indicators framework

- Use the **6 - 10 core indicators** across three protection pillars of needs
- Context-based indicators can be defined not exceeding 6-10 in total*



2. Severity Scoring

- Three tools (**HH, Area, No-data**) introduced in 2024 maintained
- Final severity is determined by:
 - **1 Protection Risks Severity score**
 - **3 Pillar-specific severity scores**
- **20% rule** to ascertain final severity maintained

Do not apply MAX, but AVERAGE or WEIGHTED

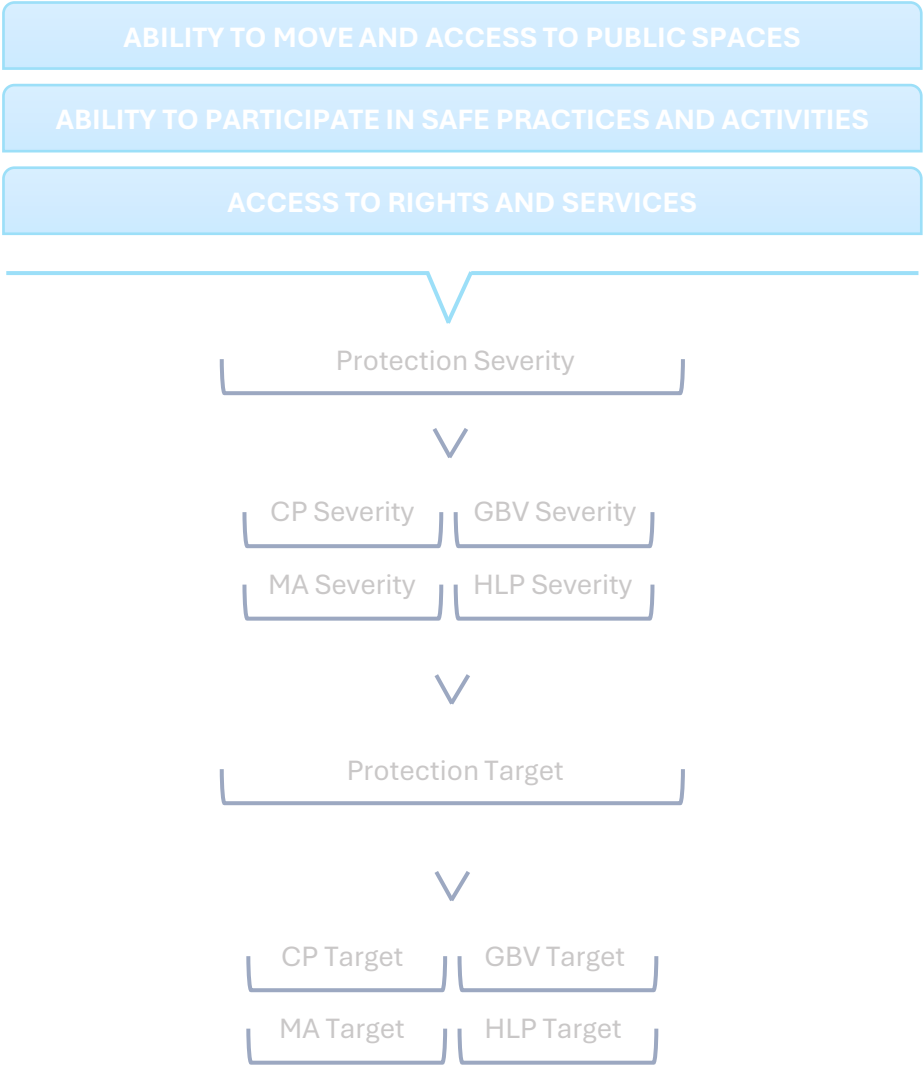


3. People in Need estimation

- Estimation of **People exposed to risks (PeR)** from OCHA baseline
- **PIN:** % of severity in each treshhold (1 to 5) is applied to PeR.
- Moderate and acute PIN
 - **Moderate:** % severity 3 to be determined according to context
 - **Acute:** 100% of severity 4 and 5

NEEDS ANALYSIS: AoR Severity and PIN

PILLARS OF NEEDS



1. Unified indicators framework

- Core indicators include **AoR specific indicators**

2. Severity Scoring and PIN estimation

- Severity by **geographic area** and **population group** is calculated using the same methodology applied for the protection severity
- PiN can be distributed by AoRs using the **specific indicators relevant to each AoR** within the respective pillar of need.
- Application of the 20% rule
- Individuals falling in severity 3 to 5 are considered People in Need (PiN) for the respective AoR.
- AoRs severity and PIN cannot be higher than protection.

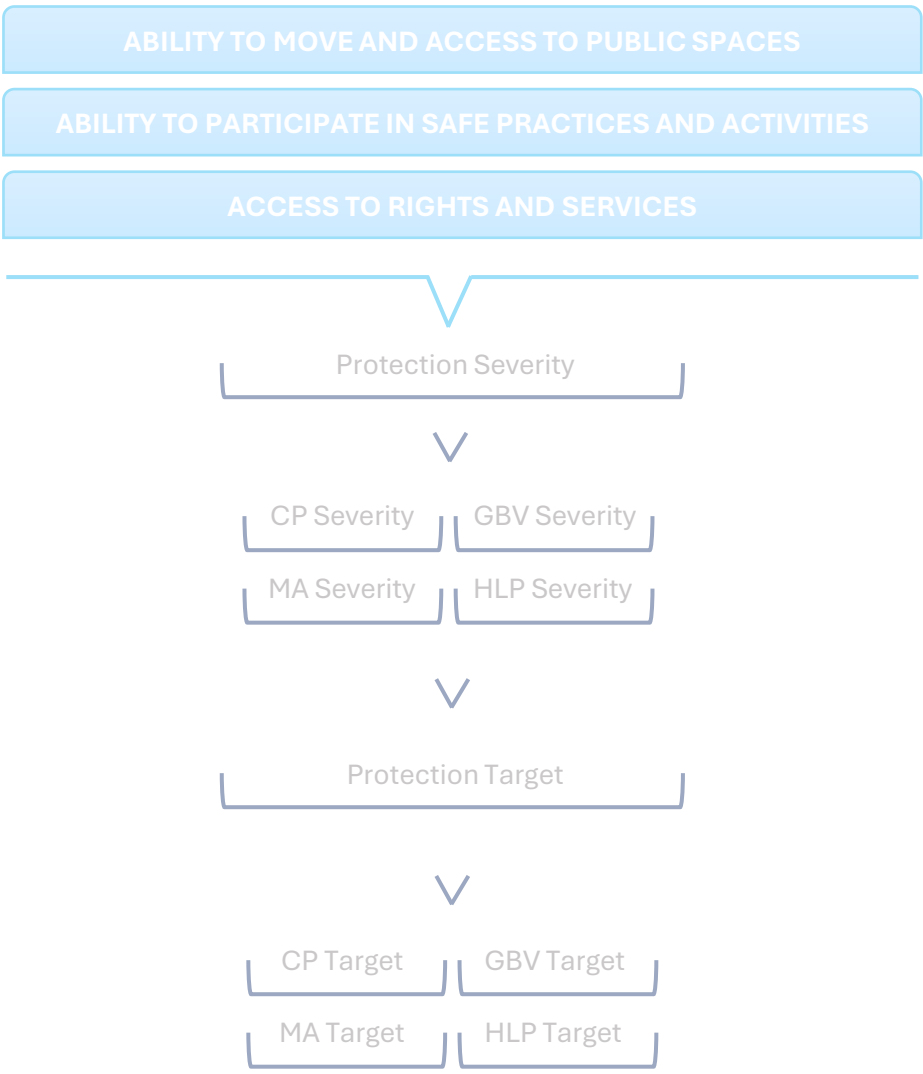
NEEDS ANALYSIS: Core Indicators

N	Areas	Indicators	Pillar of Need
1	ALL	% of households reporting changes on how they move around or access public spaces due to the presence of protection threats in the community in the last 3 months ► MSNA agreed core in 2026	Pillar 1
2	MA	Size and location of areas contaminated by explosive ordnance (defined as mines, cluster munitions, unexploded ordnance, abandoned ordnance, booby traps, improvised explosive devices and other devices).	Pillar 1
3	GBV CP	Over the past 3 months, how often, if ever, women, boys and girls of your household had to avoid areas of the community, such as markets and waterpoints, because of security concerns? What areas or places do they usually avoid due to security concerns? ► MSNA future core	Pillar 1
4	ALL CP GBV	% of HHs engaging in harmful coping mechanisms in the last 30 days ► MSNA future core	Pillar 2
5	ALL	% of households reporting difficulties in accessing resources, doing activities or making choices to meet their needs due to the presence of protection threats in the community in the last 3 months ► MSNA agreed core	Pillar 2
6	ALL	% of households reporting difficulties in participating in social interactions, activities or decisions due to the presence of protection threats in the community in the last 3 months. ► MSNA agreed core	Pillar 2
7	ALL	% of households reporting negative changes in the behavior of children in the last 3 months ► MSNA future core	Pillar 2
8	ALL	% of households reporting difficulties in accessing services due to the presence of protection threats in the community in the last 3 months ► MSNA agreed core	Pillar 3
9	ALL HLP	% of households reporting difficulties in accessing justice, legal services or legal documents due to the presence of protection threats in the community in the last 3 months ► MSNA agreed core	Pillar 3

TARGETS SETTING

NEEDS ANALYSIS: Targets setting

PILLARS OF NEEDS

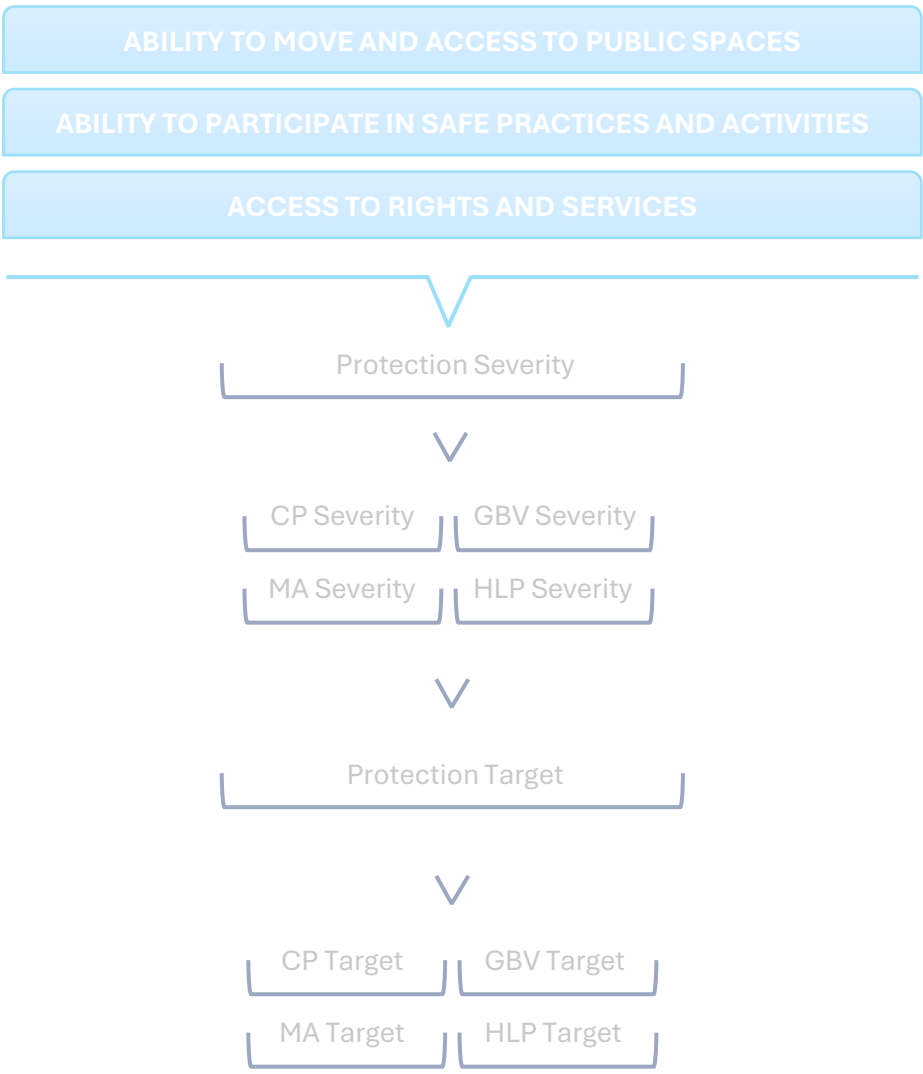


1. Total target caseload and coverage ratio

- **PiN estimate disaggregated by admin area and population group** as the starting point
- **AREA RESPONSE CAPACITY INDEX:** Coverage ratio based on assigned scores (1-5) to operational filters.
 - **Severity level:** Prioritize areas with severity 3, 4 and 5
 - **Operational capacity:** Presence of protection actors.
 - **Access feasibility:** Areas where assistance can be delivered.
 - **Absorptive capacity:** Number of people that can be served.
 - **Historical reach:** Past trends and scale-up potential.

NEEDS ANALYSIS: Targets setting

PILLARS OF NEEDS



1. Total target caseload and coverage ratio

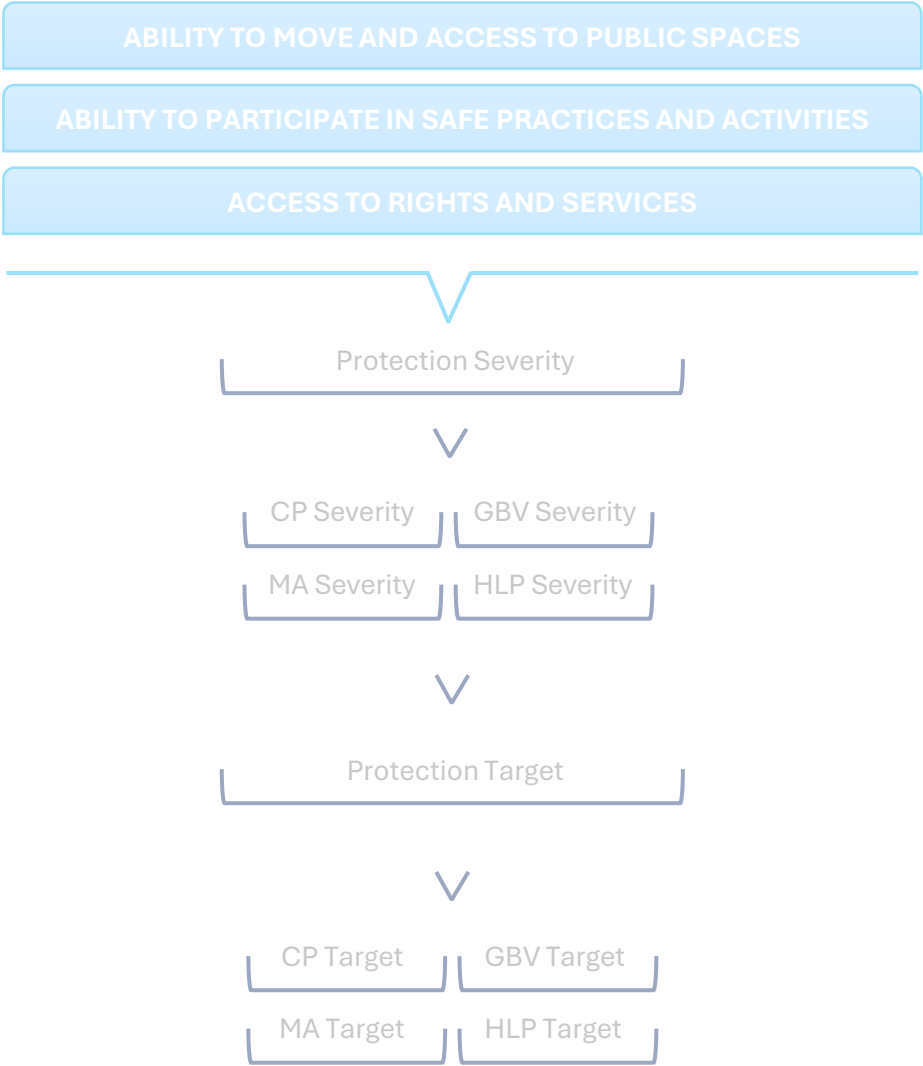
EXAMPLES

- **Severity level:** Prioritize areas with severity 3, 4 and 5
EXAMPLE: 1 = severity 1, 5 = severity 5 (prioritize areas scoring 3 and above)
- **Operational capacity:** Presence of protection actors.
EXAMPLE: 1 = no partners present, 3 = 1–2 partners delivering limited services, 5 = multiple partners with diverse protection programs
- **Access feasibility:** Areas where assistance can be delivered.
EXAMPLE: 1 = inaccessible, 3 = irregular or remote access, 5 = full and safe access for humanitarian actors.
- **Absorptive capacity:** Number of people that can be served.
EXAMPLE: 1 = overstretched services, 3 = moderate facilities, need additional support; 5 = capable infrastructure with room to scale up.
- **Historical reach:** Past trends and scale-up potential.
EXAMPLE: 1 = no previous reach, 3 = partial reach in previous years, 5 = sustained and effective reach over past years



NEEDS ANALYSIS: Targets setting

PILLARS OF NEEDS



1. Total target caseload and coverage ratio

- Once scored, areas can be grouped as follows for **coverage ratio application**:

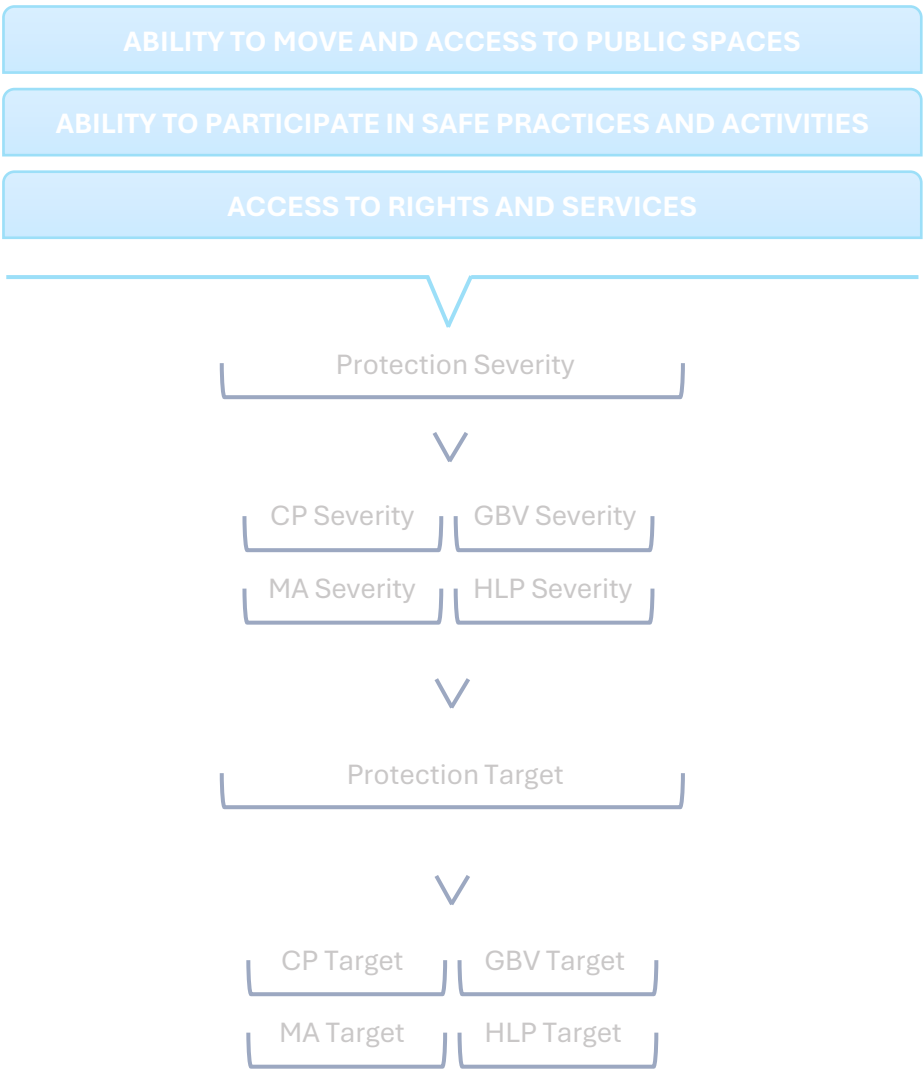
Composite Score	Suggested Coverage
20–25	70–80%
15–19	50–60%
< 15	≤ 40%

Location A (District X)		Location B (District Y)	
Severity	5	Severity	4
Operational Capacity (3 partners)	4	Operational Capacity (1 partner)	2
Access Feasibility (full access)	5	Access Feasibility (full once a month)	2
Absorptive Capacity (moderate)	4	Absorptive Capacity	2
Historical Reach	5	Historical Reach	2
Total Score = 23 ⇒ Coverage ratio = 75%		Total Score = 12 ⇒ Coverage ratio = 35%	

Target can be broken down by **Age** (children, adolescents, adults, older persons), **Gender** (men, women) and **Disability**.

NEEDS ANALYSIS: AoRs targets setting

PILLARS OF NEEDS



1. Target caseload and coverage ratio

- Use the **AoR-specific PiN figures by population group and geographic area.**
- For each AoR apply the **same 5 operational filters** relevant to the AoR
- Combine the scores to create an **Area Response Capacity Index** and apply an **appropriate coverage percentage to the AoR-PiN** in each area.
- Sum the target figures from each area to get **national-level targets** for each AoR.
- AoRs target cannot be higher than protection.

RESPONSE PLANNING

RESPONSE PLANNING

PILLARS OF RESPONSE

IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING & ANALYSIS

PEOPLE-CENTERED SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

COMMUNICATION & PROVISION OF INFORMATION

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

ADVOCACY & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

CP Resp. GBV Resp. MA Resp. HLP Resp.

Harmonization of all **activities & indicators** under **one common response framework**

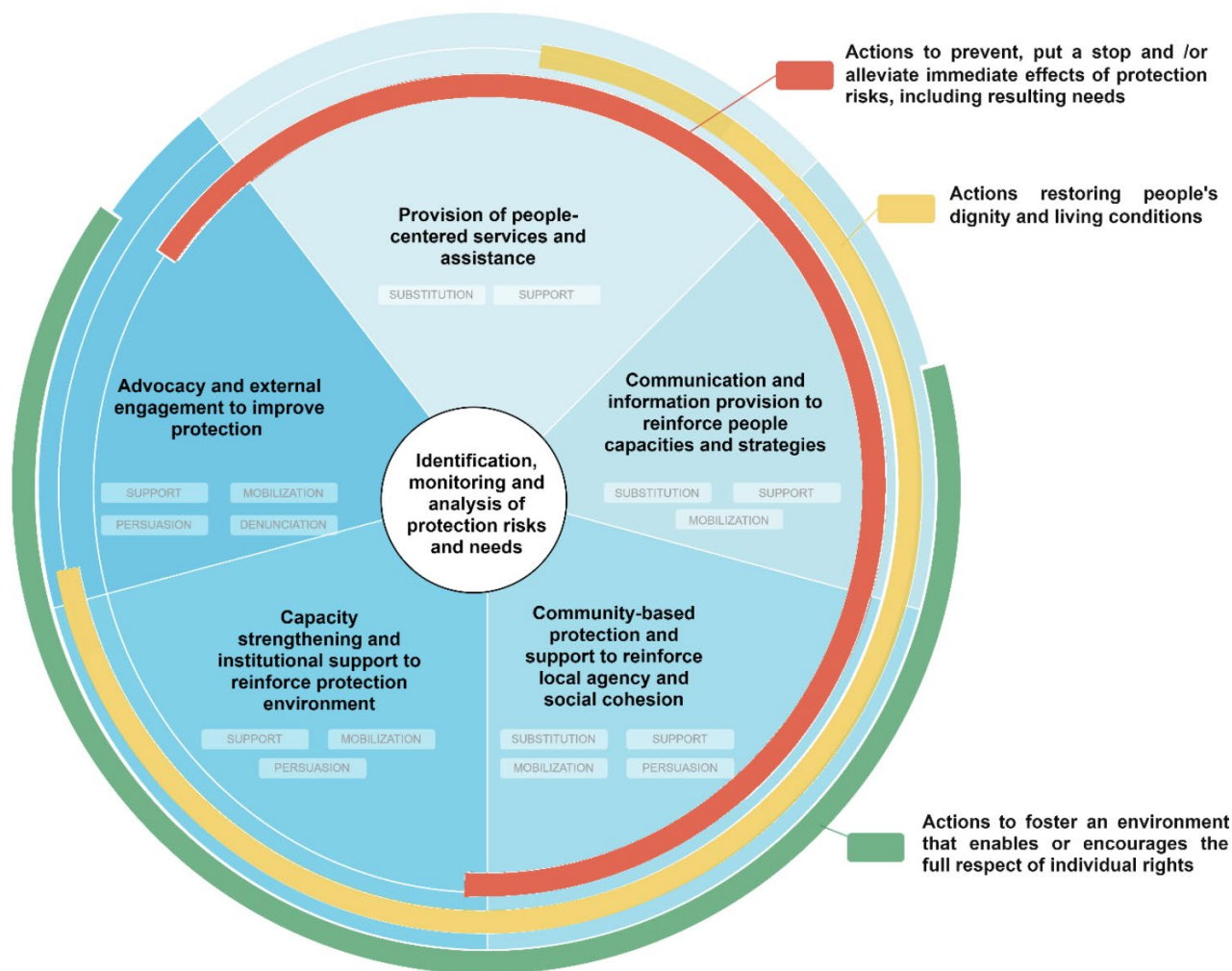


Protection Response Logframe

COMMON RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

- The common framework includes:
 - Common **Response Pillars**
 - Common **Programming Modalities**
 - Common **Activities**
 - Common **indicators**
- These should be used to define one **protection response planning, including objectives, results, activities & indicators.**
- The framework provides as well *detailed activities, specific AoRs activities and indicators, unified units of analysis and suggested disaggregations beyond SADD.*

RESPONSE PLANNING | Response Framework



- **Systematic protection analysis** of the situation, is foundational to the Protection Cluster response
- The **protection cluster response** brings together **core programming modalities** to address **priority protection risks**
- These can involve
 1. **Preventing, put a stop and/or alleviate immediate effects of protection risks**, including resulting needs,
 2. **Restoring people's dignity and living conditions** and/or
 3. **Fostering an environment that enables or encourages the full respect of individual rights**

RESPONSE PLANNING | Response Framework

IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING AND ANALYSIS OF PROTECTION RISKS AND RESULTING NEEDS	PROVISION OF PEOPLE-CENTERED SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE	COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION AND SUPPORT TO REINFORCE LOCAL AGENCY AND SOCIAL COHESION
<i>Identify, monitor and analyze protection risks, and resulting needs to tailor responses for affected people and continually adjust based on changing circumstances.</i> - Protection monitoring - Protection assessments and consultations, including risks identification - Protection analysis, including prioritization of critical protection risks	<i>Promptly address the most pressing humanitarian needs, and actively contribute to prevent, mitigate and respond to the immediate effects of threats.</i> - Individual protection assistance, including protection case management, mediation as well as provision of various forms of assistance, including cash - Legal services (information, counseling, legal assistance) - Assistance and support to ensure safe spaces and environments - Referral to respond to protection risks and resulting needs, including protection desks - Coordination and support for intersectional safeguards in preparedness, contingency planning and response	<i>Empower and equip local communities to proactively reduce protection risks and strengthen their self-protection capacities.</i> - Community-based/led activities to prevent, reduce or address protection risks - Strengthened community self-protection through community-based/led protection planning and activities - Conflict/dispute resolution and social cohesion interventions - Establishment or strengthening of community mechanisms, including local structures and networks - Protection by presence
COMMUNICATION & PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO REINFORCE PEOPLE'S CAPACITIES AND STRATEGIES	CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO REINFORCE THE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT	ADVOCACY AND EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT TO IMPROVE PROTECTION
<i>Guarantee critical information to individuals to understand and claim their rights and make informed decisions to cope with existing threats and their consequences.</i> - Rights awareness - Protection risks education and awareness - Awareness, information, communication and education campaigns to access rights and entitlements - Early warning systems	<i>Address critical capacity, skill and capability gaps exacerbating or enabling protection risks and resulting needs of affected people stemming from protection threats and their consequences.</i> - Capacity strengthening for local and national authorities, other actors responsible for adhering to laws and policies and protection service providers - Institutional and technical support on laws and policies - Training of frontline responders and protection actors - Training of other humanitarian actors and non-protection service providers	<i>Change drivers of protection risks (including behaviors, norms, policies, practices and laws) that cannot be fully addressed or mitigated through humanitarian protection response alone.</i> - Specific advocacy to strengthen protection through law and policy - Targeted private or public advocacy actions, strategies and campaigns - Advocacy and engagement for the realization of the Centrality of Protection, including integrating and mainstreaming protection into humanitarian response. - Mediation, negotiation and conflict resolution - Strengthening of advocacy and lobby efforts on protection



RESPONSE PLANNING | Response Framework

POTENTIAL PARTNERS ACTIVITIES



Specific support for relocation to safe sites
Protection for homes and possessions left behind
Setting up separate lines/channels and places of distribution where cultural traditions limit women’s mobility in public spaces
Establishment of referral pathways and mechanisms
Establish or adapt physical spaces for group activities in line with minimum safety, accessibility, and inclusion standards.
Establish and equip Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) or similar fixed safe spaces in line with minimum standards.
Deploy mobile teams to deliver structured group activities in mobile child-friendly settings (e.g., tents, buses, temporary setups).
Set up school-based or learning center-based spaces to host regular group activities (e.g., SEL clubs, resilience groups).
Adapt and use existing community centers or multipurpose halls to run inclusive, structured MHPSS and recreational programs.
Create or upgrade temporary learning or support centers in displacement settings to include child well-being activities.
Establish safe peer-support spaces for adolescents (in or out of school), especially in host communities or camps.
Coordinate with faith or cultural institutions to provide safe, structured activity spaces for children where culturally appropriate.
Set up safe, moderated online or hybrid platforms to reach children with structured psychosocial and developmental group content.
Support to safe spaces/women's centers
Fencing off and marking relevant areas affected by dangerous materials
Mapping and removal of chemicals, toxic waste, landmines, unexploded ordinances, and other dangerous materials is given priority in areas that are at risk of disasters.
Alternative arrangements for separated and unaccompanied children
Identification of safe and adequate alternative shelter for displaced population
Place child in foster care.
Place child in kinship care.
Place child under legal guardianship.
Assess the child’s needs and best interest, and identify a suitable family-based care arrangement (e.g., biological family, kinship care, or foster care).
Prepare the child and caregiver for placement through counseling, care planning, and pre-placement meetings.
Facilitate the placement and conduct structured follow-up visits to ensure the child’s safety, stability, and well-being in the new family setting.
Demobilize the child from an armed force or armed group, either through formal DDR processes or spontaneous release, ensuring safe separation procedures.
Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) & Survey
Conducting security assessments of sites for return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in the country
Protection activities and support to camps and collective centres

ACTIVITY

Establishment, support & adaptation of safe and inclusive spaces or areas



INDICATORS

- Number of individuals supported through safe, inclusive locations established and maintained for persons well-being
- Number of sites and locations with appropriate safety, safeguards and protection for individuals
- Number of safe and inclusive group locations secured, established and maintained for persons well-being



PROGRAMMING MODALITY

Assistance and support to ensure safe spaces and environments



PILLARS OF RESPONSE

Provision of targeted essential services and individual assistance



RESPONSE PLANNING

PILLARS OF RESPONSE

IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING & ANALYSIS

PEOPLE-CENTERED SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

COMMUNICATION & PROVISION OF INFORMATION

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

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Harmonization of all **activities & indicators** under **one common response framework**



Protection Response Logframe

1. Identify the partners programmatic approaches

- Map and revise the **partners activities and programs**.
- Check those against the common activities in the framework to **ensure a context-based definition of the programming modalities and related response pillars**.

2. Scope the capacity of response

- Share the common *draft* Logical Framework, engage partners and revise **according to actual contribution to reduction of needs**:
 - The contribution of activities to **geographic severity** of needs or as a minimum, the contribution to the reduction of risks.
 - The **capacities** to implement, including access, expertise and presence.
 - How the common indicators suggested can **measure success** in responding to the needs.

RESPONSE PLANNING

PILLARS OF RESPONSE



CP Resp. GBV Resp. MA Resp. HLP Resp.

Harmonization of all **activities & indicators** under **one common response framework**



Protection Response Logframe



3. Framework definition

- Use the **common indicators** associated to the final revision of common activities.
- Define with partners the simplest modalities of reporting on the basis of the **common units of analyses**.
- **Adapt the language** to the context is necessary
- **Pillars** and **programming modalities** can be used for the definition of common objectives and results.
- In the case that **specialized partners (CP, GBV, MA, HLP)** wants to use indicators according to their own frameworks, align them with the corresponding common indicators, and discuss monitoring modalities.

FUNDING REQUEST

FUNDING REQUEST

- Funding estimation based on **target population size** per **response type**, **standard unit costs**, and **projected operational costs**.
- It is suggested to base the costing on
 - **Common activities**, helpful to harmonize costing
 - **Common programming modalities**, avoid complex harmonization of activities.
- **Standard unit costs** are applied to each service type. These are typically based on national averages and reflect the cost per individual, household, or activity.
- The total funding requirement is calculated by multiplying **the number of targeted individuals by the respective unit cost for each service**.
- Funding request is reviewed for coherence, feasibility, and alignment with the overall response strategy.
- Funding requests is consolidated under a single protection cluster request, while still allowing funding calculation and visibility for AoRs.

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

AUGUST		Helpdesk GPC / GAOs for operations
MID OF AUGUST		OCHA proposal on HPC revised approach
SEPTEMBER		Finalisation of the Response Framework
LAST QUARTER		Fine tuning of the Protection Cluster streamlined approach upon field application and testing
LAST QUARTER		Optimization of MSNAs and Protection Monitoring for PCs calculation 2026
2026		Online tool for Protection Cluster Severity and PIN automatized calculations

