

Helpdesk Research Report: Donors' and agencies' humanitarian protection frameworks

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Query: Please identify any donor humanitarian and humanitarian agencies' protection frameworks/policies/strategies which exist. Please highlight the key focus of each of these.

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1. Overview

This report provides information on the strategy documents that frame different donors' and humanitarian agencies' approaches to protection, and highlights the key focus of each document. Many definitions of humanitarian protection exist, with many donors supporting, and agencies undertaking, protection activities. These are mostly in situations of conflict, or as a result of natural disasters, such as an earthquake or famine.

The starting point for most humanitarian organisations' approaches to humanitarian protection is the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. They provide for protection against the effects of hostilities, and for the general protection and administration of civilians in time of war (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/geneva-conventions/index.jsp>). They call specifically for the protection of people who are not taking part in hostilities (civilians, health workers and aid workers) and those who are no longer participating in the hostilities, such as wounded, sick or shipwrecked soldiers and prisoners of war.

Many agencies work collaboratively to ensure harmonisation of approaches to protection in the field, and much inter-agency effort has been made to work towards a common definition of protection. Accordingly, many humanitarian agencies have adopted the ICRC-NGO definition, which refers to protection as: 'All activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the

rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of international law (i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law).¹

However, many donors and the organisations they fund have developed and still maintain their own guiding principles for protection activities. This report contains details of some of these. It also briefly summarises documents that have resulted from inter-agency collaborations, in addition to UN guidelines and other international directives.

2. Donor protection frameworks

This section reviews documentation from the OECD DAC donor countries.² While not all countries are included here, this does not mean that they do not have protection policies but that they are not readily available, or not available in English.

Canada/CIDA

CIDA, 2006, 'Guidelines for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Project Proposals and Reports', Canadian International Development Agency, Gatineau

[http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Funds/\\$file/guidelines02.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Funds/$file/guidelines02.pdf)

CIDA's International Humanitarian Assistance programme funds projects that seek to provide goods, facilities and services that improve the physical protection and security of beneficiaries from threats posed by nature, armed belligerents, and increased domestic violence in complex emergency situations (p13). One of the seven key outputs the programme funds is providing International Human Law (IHL) and refugee law related protection services.

Denmark/Danida

Danida, 2010, 'Strategy for Danish Humanitarian Action 2010-15: Addressing Vulnerability, Climate Change and Protection Challenges', Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Copenhagen

<http://um.dk/en/~-/media/UM/Danish-site/Documents/Danida/Det-goer-vi/Udv-indsats/Stabilitet/StrategyforDanishHumanitarianAction2010-15.ashx>

The Danish approach to the protection of civilians is based on the global framework of international humanitarian law, human rights law, refugee law and the 'Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement'. The concerns, priorities and self-protection actions of at-risk individuals and communities are the starting point. Strategic protection priorities include, among others: conflict prevention and mediation to hinder violence and instability; global advocacy on humanitarian access; and implementing the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principles, which recognise that protection is first and foremost the responsibility of the state; a commitment to assisting states in meeting their obligations through capacity building; and supporting a timely, decisive and peaceful response when a state is failing to provide protection to its citizens.

¹ This definition was agreed in 1999 by a wide group of humanitarian and human-rights agencies regularly convened by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva. It was subsequently adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners (Act Alliance 2010; FCO 2010)

² Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA

The European Union

Over time, EU institutions and EU member states have increased their reliance on co-operation for the provision of civil protection assistance in order to be as effective as possible in disaster situations. There is a dedicated EU agency responsible for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection: DG ECHO. Its approach to an effective civil protection operation relies on three key modes of action: Prevention, Preparedness and Response (http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prote/cp01_en.htm). DG ECHO provides a needs-based emergency response aimed at 'preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity' in humanitarian crisis situations resulting from natural disasters or man-made crises. Key initiatives include the Community Mechanism for Civil Protection (http://ec.europa.eu/echo/civil_protection/civil/prote/mechanism.htm), which facilitates co-operation in civil protection assistance interventions in the event of major emergencies requiring urgent response. This applies also to situations where there may be an imminent threat of such major emergencies. Its main tools are: the Monitoring and Information Centre, a Common Emergency and Information System; a training programme to improve coordination of civil protection assistance interventions; and civil protection modules.

Finland

Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2007, 'Humanitarian Assistance Guidelines: Finland's national plan for implementing the good humanitarian donorship principles', Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Helsinki

<http://formin.finland.fi/public/download.aspx?ID=21843&GUID={EBD4A67A-289F-4B6E-9DF6-F6493CCFF76B}>

Finnish humanitarian aid (HA) focuses on extending protection to the civilian population, especially children and the most vulnerable groups, the wounded and injured, and also soldiers no longer participating in hostilities during armed conflicts. It emphasises the least developed countries, the importance of HA's effect on the environment, age and gender awareness, and human rights (p.4). In addition, Finnish civil protection operations respond to natural disasters and industrial accidents. These operations overlap with HA, but seek to save property and the environment as well as human life. While Finnish HA is primarily targeted at developing countries, civil protection operations are primarily targeted at EU Member States. However, the extension of the EU's civil protection mechanism to developing countries has increased the need for cooperation with the UN, which is responsible for coordinating civil protection operations with humanitarian aid in developing countries. Finland is working to promote this coordination, and to clarify the roles of the different actors (p.17).

Germany

Federal Foreign Office, 2007, 'The Federal Government's Humanitarian Aid'

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/cae/servlet/contentblob/475722/publicationFile/5122/HumanitaereHilfederBundesregierung2007.pdf>

Protection is considered third in terms of priorities in the German government's funding of humanitarian assistance, which it believes is designed 'to safeguard people's basic needs'. The top priority is potable water and food, followed by medical care. Protection in this context includes providing shelter from the elements, sanitary facilities and fuel for stoves and heating. However, it also often includes specific measures, as defined in the UN Refugee Convention, to protect refugees from attack and give them a minimum of legal protection, e.g. accommodation in secured camps, registration and the issuing of refugee documents (p2).

Ireland

Irish Aid, no date, 'Humanitarian Relief Policy', Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin

<http://www.irishaid.gov.ie/Uploads/Humanitarian%20Relief%20Policy1.pdf>

According to IrishAid, humanitarian need 'includes the protection of civilians and those no longer taking part in hostilities, as well as the provision of food, water, sanitation services, shelter, health, protection and other forms of life saving assistance' (p7). It defines protection in humanitarian practice as: 'any activity ... aimed at creating an environment conducive to the respect for human beings, preventing and/or alleviating the immediate effects of a specific pattern of abuse, and restoring dignified conditions of life through reparation, restitution and rehabilitation' (p19). The document focuses on the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In this, Irish Aid is guided by Refugee Law, which provides a protective legal framework, and the 'Guiding Principles in Internal Displacement'.

Norway

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2008, 'Norway's Humanitarian Policy',

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo

http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/UD/Vedlegg/Hum/humpolicy_eng.pdf

The first of Norway's four main humanitarian goals is to ensure that people in need receive the necessary protection and assistance (p7). It recognises that every state is responsible for protecting and helping its own citizens when they are affected by a humanitarian crisis, but the international community also has a responsibility for providing assistance when the state or the local community cannot or will not provide the necessary protection and lifesaving assistance. The policy recognises that women, children and young people have a special need for protection in humanitarian crises; that protecting civilians from violence and abuse has become an increasingly important element of humanitarian assistance; and that improved protection for IDPs and refugees is an important goal.

Switzerland

SDC, n.d., 'Advocacy Guidelines', Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation, Bern

http://www.deza.admin.ch/ressources/resource_en_24243.pdf

Protection in Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation comes under Advocacy, one of the four key tasks (as 'passive protection'). This includes supporting victims through a presence in the field, testifying to violations of international humanitarian law, and the protection of particularly vulnerable groups. Its bases are Geneva Convention Protocols I and II, relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed, and Non-International Armed Conflicts.

Caring for and protecting refugees, the displaced and homeless is also listed as an activity under 'Emergency relief' tasks in the Swiss Confederation's (2010: 10) Humanitarian Aid Strategy Document: http://www.deza.admin.ch/ressources/resource_en_153478.pdf

UK

FCO, MoD, DFID, 2010, 'UK Government Strategy on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict', Foreign and Commonwealth Office/UKAid/Ministry of Defence, London

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/about-us/our-publications/ukstrategy-protect-cvilians-arms-conflict>

This strategy sets out the actions the UK Government sees as necessary to help protect civilians in armed conflict. It covers actions aimed at responding to protection crises and/or strengthening the capacity of states and the international community to prevent or respond to

these crises. The policy areas are political engagement; humanitarian action; protection by peace support operations; and state capacity arising from moral and legal imperatives.

USA/USAID

USAID, 2004, 'USAID Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Policy' USAID, Washington, DC

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/%28httpKeyDocumentsByCategory%29/B2CC9B3D3AD2C784802570A0003395EB/\\$file/usaaid-oct2004.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/%28httpKeyDocumentsByCategory%29/B2CC9B3D3AD2C784802570A0003395EB/$file/usaaid-oct2004.pdf)

USAID asserts that humanitarian assistance and development strategies should do more to protect IDPs and other vulnerable populations from violence, abuse, exploitation, and harassment, and that a 'protection lens' in the design of country strategies will ensure that flexible and practical protection measures are integrated into all phases of programming for IDPs. It applies a broad definition of protection: IDPs must be granted the full security and protection provided for under norms of international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and national law. As part of its advocacy role, USAID promotes the protection of IDPs during all phases of displacement; accountability and evaluation of programmes; and wider international recognition of the UN 'Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement' (although the US itself does not) as a useful framework for dealing with internal displacement.

Other protection-related documents include the **2010 Protection Sector Update**

(http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/sectors/mods/docs/idp_protection_01-2010.pdf), in which USAID/the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance promotes the protection of disaster-affected populations by supporting specific protection activities that minimise the risks and address the effects of harm, exploitation, and abuse, and by working with implementing partners to incorporate protection principles into all other relief activities. In the **2010 Field Operations Guide**

(http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/resources/pdf/og_v4.pdf), the OFDA seeks to apply a 'protection mindset' to its assessments, strategies, monitoring, and evaluation of assistance programmes. At a minimum, the goal is to ensure that assistance programmes 'do no harm', e.g. do not aggravate local tensions, expose target populations to greater danger, or inadvertently further empower those who are responsible for conflict or abuse.

Other Donor Protection Documents / Frameworks

Donors have also made efforts to coordinate their approaches. The **Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative** (<http://www.goodhumanitarianandonorship.org>) is an informal donor forum and network which facilitates collective advancement of GHD principles and good practices. At its inception in 2003, 16 countries and the EC endorsed GHD, but membership has since risen to 37. It recognises that, by working together, donors can more effectively encourage and stimulate principled donor behaviour and improved humanitarian action. It agreed 23 principles in 2003, centred around the objectives and definition of humanitarian action; general principles; and good practices in donor financing, management and accountability. These include the statement that, 'Humanitarian action includes the protection of civilians and those no longer taking part in hostilities, and the provision of food, water and sanitation, shelter, health services and other items of assistance, undertaken for the benefit of affected people and to facilitate the return to normal lives and livelihoods'.

<http://www.goodhumanitarianandonorship.org/gns/principles-good-practice-ghd/overview.aspx>

Additionally, the OECD has established 10 Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations, endorsed in 2007. (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/61/45/38368714.pdf>). The lessons highlighted in the latest monitoring report (2011) on the implementation of these principles include the need for better coordination among donors and between humanitarian and development aid. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/14/14/48697077.pdf>

3. Humanitarian agencies' frameworks

UNHCR

UNHCR, 1999, 'Protecting Refugees: A field Guide for NGOs', UNHCR, Geneva

<http://www.unhcr.or.jp/protect/pdf/ProtectingRefugees-FieldGuideforNGOs.pdf>

This document offers both basic legal information about international protection for refugees and practical guidance for including protection measures in all field operations. The Field Guide illustrates how protection concerns can follow refugees through every phase of their lives as refugees; alerts NGO field workers to signs of possible protection problems during each phase of a refugee's life; and suggests specific actions that could be undertaken to address those problems. While many of the suggestions for action can apply to all persons of concern, it also discusses particular populations – women, children, older refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons – which have unique needs and problems that require special consideration.

UNHCR, 2006, 'Operational Protection in Camps and Settlements: A Reference Guide of Good Practices in the Protection of Refugees and Other Persons of Concern', UNHCR, Geneva

<http://www.unhcr.org/publ/PUBL/448d6c122.pdf>

This guide includes essential principles of 'good practice' including age, gender and diversity mainstreaming; a community-based approach, including participation by persons of concern; protection partnerships and using a multi-functional team approach; and a rights-based approach, including accountability to persons of concern. It also deals with specific issues, such as the administration of justice; camp security; freedom of movement; information dissemination; protection monitoring; registration and documentation; sexual and gender-based violence; and unaccompanied and separated children.

UNHCR, 2008, 'UNHCR Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls', UNHCR, Geneva

<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/47cfae612.html>

In every country and community women and girls are less likely to have access even to the most fundamental of rights. Violence against them is also endemic both during and after conflicts, and they have fewer opportunities to participate in peace and reconstruction processes. Their protection is therefore a core priority and programme activity for UNHCR. This handbook aims to improve staff understanding of the challenges and barriers, sets out key principles and approaches, legal frameworks and rights underpinning the approach, guidance on ways of working and information on additional resources, and provides guidelines and tools.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

OCHA, 1998, 'UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement', Brookings Institute, Washington, DC

<http://www3.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/resources/GPEnglish.pdf>

The Guiding Principles seek to protect all internally displaced persons in internal conflict situations, natural disasters and other situations of forced displacement. The Handbook identifies the rights and guarantees relevant to protection of IDPs in all phases of displacement, seek to provide protection against arbitrary displacement, offers a basis for protection and assistance during displacement, and set forth guarantees for safe return, resettlement and reintegration. This document also explains how best to implement these Principles in the field, aiming to provide practical guidance to those working with IDPs.

OCHA, 2007, Policy Instruction on OCHA's Role in Supporting Protection: International and Field Level Responsibilities, OCHA, Geneva

[http://protection.unsudanig.org/data/general/OCHA%20-%20Policy%20Instruction%20Supporting%20Protection%20\(Sep07\).pdf](http://protection.unsudanig.org/data/general/OCHA%20-%20Policy%20Instruction%20Supporting%20Protection%20(Sep07).pdf)

This policy instruction for OCHA staff clarifies the role of OCHA in protecting civilians in crisis and disaster settings. As a coordination body it does not provide direct protection services, so OCHA's role is aimed at supporting protection strategies. At international level, this includes advocating for respect for humanitarian laws and principles, and at field level, coordinating humanitarian action and supporting humanitarian coordinators in planning, safeguarding humanitarian space, negotiating access, monitoring and reporting, information sharing, advocacy, transition and policy.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

ICRC, 2008, 'Enhancing Protection for Civilians in Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence', ICRC, Geneva

http://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/icrc_002_0956.pdf

This document provides methodological guidelines developed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to share its experience and in setting up activities to enhance protection for civilians in armed conflicts or other situations of violence. Topics include: the promotion of multidisciplinary analysis and strategy; ICRC's approach to setting up and conducting a subset of activities aimed at preventing and/or putting an end to and/or avoiding the recurrence of breaches of the authorities' obligations or violations of the rights of individuals; and matters related to the management of data (collection, analysis, transmission) that every organisation working with protection data should take into consideration.

ICRC, 2009, 'Professional standards for protection work carried out by humanitarian and human rights actors in armed conflict and other situations of violence', ICRC, Geneva

http://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/icrc_002_0999.pdf

The overall increase in operational presence has meant an ever-closer proximity among humanitarian and human rights actors engaging in protection work, which have now developed complementarities and synergies in extremely complex operating environments. But differences in approaches and aspirations still exist. This document explores the common ground to establish a firm, shared basis for their protection work in armed conflict and other situations of violence. The document presents a series of standards and guidelines, each accompanied by explanatory notes. The standards constitute what are considered by the community of practitioners as minimum requirements for all humanitarian and human rights

actors planning or carrying out protection activities in armed conflict and other situations of violence.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF, 2008, 'UNICEF Child Protection Strategy', UN Economic and Social Council /UNICEF Executive Board Annual Session

http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/CP_Strategy_English.pdf

This strategy builds on the extensive international normative framework for child protection, and on relevant recommendations of the Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. It emphasises knowledge management and brokering; addressing social exclusion; integrating child protection into all sectors, including health and education, and into emergency work; capacity-building of governments and other partners; and working 'upstream' to obtain sustained results. The strategy's five principal sections are: (a) strengthening national protection systems; (b) supporting social change; (c) promoting child protection in conflict and natural disasters; (d) evidence-building and knowledge management; and (e) convening and catalysing agents of change.

World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP, 2011, 'WFP and Humanitarian Protection', World Food Programme, Rome

<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/resources/wfp241965.pdf>

In this draft policy, protection is listed as one of WFP's five principles. The way WFP food assistance is provided aims to contribute to the protection of conflict- and disaster-affected populations and, at the very least, will not expose people to further harm. The paper sets out WFP's immediate and longer-term protection agenda based on the following policy directions: investing in institutional capacity for context and risk analysis; incorporating protection concerns into programme tools; integrating protection objectives into the design and implementation of food assistance programmes; developing staff's capacity to understand protection concerns and formulate appropriate and principles-based responses; establishing informed and accountable partnerships; and establishing clear guidance and systems for managing protection-related information.

World Vision

World Vision, 2010, 'Inspiring Action for the World's Poorest Children: Introducing our Strategy for 2011-2015', World Vision, UK, Milton Keynes

http://www.worldvision.org.uk/upload/pdf/World_Vision_Strategy_2015.pdf

This strategy document outlines WV's plan to focus on three areas of expertise: child health, humanitarian action and child protection. Activities will include focusing on the poorest, most vulnerable children ('vulnerable' is defined on their website as living in extremely difficult circumstances due to a lack of protection and exposure to negative environmental impacts, leading to potential long-lasting consequences on their overall development, health, and well-being); demonstrating their impact; and campaigning for change at every level.

Save the Children

Save the Children, 2005, 'Statement & Recommendations for Protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) during Armed Conflict', Save the Children (UK), London

http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/protecting_children_from_abuse_armedconflict_1.pdf

This document highlights Save the Children's recommendations for protecting children from violations and abuses during conflicts, including: i) Prevention strategies including physical

security, adequate humanitarian provisioning and facilitating access to livelihood options and staff training; ii) Remedial action/ response such as medical assistance, reproductive healthcare and community-based support to survivors; iii) Ending impunity i.e. making sure perpetrators are adequately prosecuted and victims are protected; and iv) Environment building i.e. creating a political, legal, social, cultural and economic environment that respects the rights of the individual.

Plan International

Plan, 2010, 'Plan's Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2009-2013' Plan, Woking
<http://plan-international.org/files/global/publications/emergencies/disaster-risk-management-strategy.pdf>

This strategy aims to inform all Plan's work towards the goal that "Children and youth will realise their right to protection and assistance in emergency situations, which is one of its eight programme priorities. . The programme framework includes the concept of disasters, and the need for resilient communities, which will minimise the vulnerability of children and youth. It also includes rights and duties – that is, in implementing a rights-based approach, Plan will consider the responsibilities and capacity of duty bearers, and the power relations between rights holders and duty bearers.

Caritas International

Caritas, 2004, 'Child Protection Policy Framework', Caritas International, Vatican City
<http://www3.caritas.org/upload/opc/opchildrening.qxd.pdf> Child protection is considered a priority for Caritas. This document relates to protecting children in Caritas' care and aims to promote greater emphasis on and commitment to the issue of protection. It sets minimum requirements that can be adapted to local circumstances, including commitment to core values, a code of conduct for staff, and definitions of abuse. It also provides models for dealing with disclosures and reporting procedures.

OXFAM

Oxfam Protection Page, <http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-work/conflict-disasters/protection>

Oxfam's protection work is based on a risk-reduction model. The organisation tries to improve the safety of civilians in the face of violence (including deliberate killing, cruel treatment, and sexual violence); coercion (including sexual exploitation, compulsory labour and conscription, and forced displacement); and deliberate deprivation (including destroying civilian objects, and preventing access to land, jobs and relief supplies).

4. Inter-agency and UN frameworks

While individual countries and agencies have guiding principles, many consider collaboration on humanitarian protection to be critical, requiring consensus and coordination between the various groups involved. As a result, a number of inter-agency initiatives have been established, and cross-agency strategies developed. Important initiatives include The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), a body created by a UN General Assembly resolution, to strengthen inter-agency coordination in emergencies. The United Nations also provides a number of overarching frameworks.

Inter-agency protection frameworks

International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, 2001, 'The Responsibility to Protect', Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, IDRC, Ottawa

<http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/ICISS%20Report.pdf>

The International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) was formed in September 2000 under the sponsorship of the Government of Canada with the goal of developing global political consensus about how and when the international community should respond to emerging crises involving the potential for large-scale loss of life and other widespread crimes against humanity. Its 2001 report concludes that state sovereignty entails responsibility for the protection of the state's population. The report also emphasises that there is a secondary responsibility of the international community: where a population is suffering serious harm, as a result of internal war, insurgency, repression or state failure, and the state in question is unwilling or unable to halt or avert it, it becomes the responsibility of the international community to intervene for protection purposes. The ICISS principles have become known collectively as the **Responsibility to Protect (R2P)** and the international community is urged to support these principles, including through prevention efforts.

In 2009, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon released the first comprehensive document from the UN Secretariat on the R2P entitled 'Implementing the Responsibility to Protect' ([http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/SGRtoPEng%20\(4\).pdf](http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/SGRtoPEng%20(4).pdf)). It suggests a three-pillar approach, namely i) the protection responsibilities of the state, ii) international assistance and capacity building, and iii) timely and decisive response to prevent and halt genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

IASC Global Protection Working Group, 2010, 'Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons', Global Protection Cluster Working Group', UNHCR, Geneva

http://onerresponse.info/GlobalClusters/Protection/Documents/IDP%20Handbook_FINAL%20All%20document_NEW.pdf

This Handbook, the result of joint efforts by the staff of over 30 international organisations, seeks to: i) ensure staff members are familiar with the core concepts, principles and international legal standards that form the framework for protection work; ii) assist staff in operationalising these concepts, principles and legal standards and in carrying out their protection responsibilities; iii) improve understanding of the particular protection risks faced by internally displaced women, men, boys and girls of various backgrounds; iv) provide guidance on how to prevent and respond to the protection risks faced by IDPs through a range of different activities; v) enhance staff skills for carrying out protection work; and vi) promote a consistent and well-coordinated protection response in different operations. The focus is mainly on the protection of IDPs and other affected populations in situations of internal displacement in complex emergencies, although much of the guidance provided is relevant for natural disasters.

IASC Protection Cluster Working Group / Early Recovery Cluster working Group, 2008, 'Protection of conflict-induced IDPs: Assessment for Action', UNHCR, Geneva

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/%28httpKeyDocumentsByCategory%29/56A215CC9F0A190AC125743300404CBA/\\$file/PCWG_protectionIDPs.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/%28httpKeyDocumentsByCategory%29/56A215CC9F0A190AC125743300404CBA/$file/PCWG_protectionIDPs.pdf)

This framework is the product of two working groups created as part of the United Nations humanitarian reform process under the auspices of the IASC, facilitated by the UNHCR. The assessment framework comprises two parts. The first contains a framework for analysis, guiding the user through areas that need to be assessed. The second part provides general guidance on participatory methodologies, designed to elicit information from displaced and affected communities, to hear from them the protection risks they face, as well as their capacities and proposed solutions to address those risks.

IASC, 2008, 'Human Rights And Natural Disasters: Operational Guidelines and Field Manual on Human Rights Protection in Situations of Natural Disaster', Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Brookings-Bern Project on Displacement, Washington, DC

http://www.humanitarianreform.org/humanitarianreform/Portals/1/cluster%20approach%20page/clusters%20pages/Protection/IASC_Op%20Guidel&Manual%20on%20HR&Nat%20Disasters_2008.pdf

These guidelines and operational manual aim to address the perceived gap between human rights protection and humanitarian disaster relief. They aim to ensure that human rights principles and protection standards – including the fundamental principles of non-discrimination and accountability – are integrated into all disaster response, recovery and reconstruction efforts from the earliest stage possible, as well as to ensure active participation of affected persons, complement existing humanitarian guidelines, provide monitoring and assessment benchmarks, and a basis for dialogue with governments on their obligations.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2002) 'Growing the Sheltering Tree: Protecting Rights through Humanitarian Action, Programmes and Practices Gathered from the Field. Geneva: Inter-Agency Standing Committee', UNICEF

<http://www.icva.ch/gstree.pdf>

The report aims to help humanitarians work more effectively in environments where civilians are suffering because of violations of international humanitarian, human rights, and/or refugee law. It is intended to provide a way to exchange, test and create new information on the promotion and protection of rights through humanitarian work. It considers: where humanitarians work and what they witness; developing an integrated approach to humanitarian assistance and protection; broader initiatives and approaches to strengthen the protection environment; preserving and protecting life, health and dignity through humanitarian action; and remedial activities and action to ensure accountability.

Sphere Project, 2011, 'Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response' Handbook, 2011 Edition

http://www.sphereproject.org/dmdocuments/The_Sphere_Project_Handbook_2011.zip

The Sphere Project was initiated in 1997 by a group of NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements to develop universal minimum standards in core areas of humanitarian response. It includes a section on Protection Principles, which translates several of the legal principles and rights outlined in the Charter into strategies and actions that should inform humanitarian practice from a protection perspective. The four protection principles are: all humanitarian agencies should ensure that their actions do not result in further harm; that their activities benefit in particular those who are most affected and vulnerable; that they contribute to protecting affected people from violence and other human rights abuses; and that they help affected people recover from abuses.

Slim, H. and Bonwick, A., 2004, 'Protection – An ALNAP Guide for Humanitarian Agencies', Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)/ODI, London

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/%28httpKeyDocumentsByCategory%29/862E6A9FAE2FB6FEC12572330056ABBC/\\$file/alnap_protection_guide.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/%28httpKeyDocumentsByCategory%29/862E6A9FAE2FB6FEC12572330056ABBC/$file/alnap_protection_guide.pdf)

This guide aims to consolidate policy papers, agency guidelines and manuals that have been written on this topic into a single document, to provide humanitarian agencies with a general field guide for designing and managing protective programming. It is divided into nine main sections, broadly divided into two parts: understanding protection and programming for protection. It also incorporates the 'egg framework' of protection, which includes three main spheres of protective action, which gravitate outwards from the point of violation. It includes checklists for fieldworkers (such as on monitoring and reporting violations, legal standards, and humanitarian advocacy), and identifies the key skills required for assessment and analysis of protection programming.

ACT Protection Working Group, 2010, 'Humanitarian Protection Policy For The Act Alliance', ACT Alliance

<http://www.actalliance.org/resources/policies-and-guidelines/humanitarian-protection/ACT-Humanitarian-Protection-Policy-1.pdf>

ACT is an alliance of 125 churches and church-related organisations that work together in humanitarian assistance, advocacy and development. The purpose of this policy is to strengthen ACT Alliance's commitment to the protection of women, girls, boys and men in its humanitarian assistance programmes. It outlines 11 core principles for the Alliance's protection work.

UN protection frameworks

A variety of UN Security Council Resolutions (<http://www.un.org/documents/scres.htm>) on protection provide a normative framework for humanitarian protection efforts, including:

- Resolutions 1265 (1999), 1296 (2000), 674 (2006), and 1894 (2009), all on the protection of civilians in armed conflict
- Resolution 1612 (2005), establishing the monitoring, reporting mechanism on the use of child soldiers
- Resolution 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) relating to the protection of women in armed conflict and their role in promoting peace and security.

Other relevant documents include the UN Secretary General's Bulletin 2003/13 on 'Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse' (<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/SE%20A%2059%20782.pdf>), and the Conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>), and on the Rights of the Child (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>).

5. Further references and documents

This section presents a small selection of documents which evaluate and provide recommendations for improved humanitarian protection.

Waszink, C., 2011, 'Protection of civilians under international humanitarian law: trends and challenges', NOREF Report, Oslo

http://peacebuilding.no/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/79402c6ed40540e666edf1c59c7b0fe1.pdf

This paper examines challenges faced in ensuring the adequate protection of civilians during armed conflict in accordance with international humanitarian law (IHL). While IHL establishes a comprehensive legal framework to protect civilians from the effects of military operations, this stands in stark contrast to the situation that civilians in conflict-affected areas face on the ground. This paper focuses on how parties to armed conflicts – both states and non-state armed groups – implement their obligations under IHL, in particular the rules on distinction, proportionality and precautions that are fundamental to protecting civilians during hostilities.

Save the Children, 2010, 'Strengthening National Child Protection Systems In Emergencies Through Community-Based Mechanisms: A Discussion Paper', Save the Children Fund, London

<http://onerresponse.info/GlobalClusters/Protection/CP/Documents/Strengthening%20National%20CPS%20low%20res.pdf>

This paper aims to review experience and further the understanding of how community-based child protection mechanisms can contribute to strengthening national child protection systems in emergencies. It elaborates on the term 'system-strengthening', which refers to actions taken to improve the functioning, coordination, integration and, ultimately, effectiveness of the available child protection components on the ground, and their interaction. These components include laws, policies, regulations, monitoring processes, services and workers and their availability, quality, reach, integration and coordination.

Paul, D. and S. Bagshaw, 2004, 'Protect or Neglect? Toward a More Effective United Nations Approach to the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: An Evaluation', New York: Brookings Institution and the United Nations

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2004/1123humanrights_bagshaw/protection_survey.pdf

This study presents an extensive set of practical recommendations for addressing the protection problems of the internally displaced. It calls for more assertive advocacy on behalf of the displaced by both staff in the field and by senior officials at headquarters. It urges the creation on the ground of focal points and working groups on protection and the establishment of early warning systems and systematic monitoring and reporting procedures. It urges greater international presence in the field, especially outside of capital cities, and for the integration of protection concerns into the programs and plans of humanitarian, development, human rights, peacekeeping and political offices. It emphasizes the importance of strengthening local and national institutions to deal with displacement and of developing national laws and policies based on the 'Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement'.

InterAction, 2004, 'Making Protection a Priority: Integrating Protection and Humanitarian Assistance', InterAction Protection Working Group. Washington DC: InterAction

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/reliefweb_pdf/node-21957.pdf

This paper highlights ways for agencies to bring their diverse mandates, areas of geographic coverage, sources of influence and tools, to bear on protection issues and contribute to more comprehensive protection. Six areas in particular are identified where humanitarian agencies can contribute practically to protection in their ongoing work: multi-sectoral integration; data collection; capacity building; coordination; and advocacy.

Paul, D., 1999, 'Protection in Practice: Field Level Strategies for Protecting Civilians from Deliberate Harm', Relief and Rehabilitation Network Paper no. 30, Overseas Development Institute, London

<http://www.odihpn.org/documents/networkpaper030.pdf>

This paper holds that international organisations present in areas where violations occur have an obligation to act in ways that will enhance protection (or at minimum will not undermine protection). It is believed that an integrated approach to protection is required; one which builds a strategic, field-level response based on the complementary strengths of various actors. Success requires the identification of a 'focal point' for protection (the 'protection facilitator') in every crisis. The protection facilitator's role would be to raise the profile of protection, ensuring its place on the international community's agenda and pressing for decision-making which takes protection into account.

5. Sources

Selected websites

Humanitarian Reform Protection Section

<http://www.humanitarianreform.org/Default.aspx?tabid=613>

The Global Database on the Guiding Principles

<http://www.idpguidingprinciples.org/>

Global Protection Cluster Working Group

<http://onerresponse.info/GlobalClusters/Protection/Pages/default.aspx>

Humanitarian practice network

<http://www.odihpn.org/index.asp>

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/>

International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/>

One Response Protection Library

<http://onerresponse.info/GlobalClusters/Protection/Pages/Protection%20Library.aspx>

About Helpdesk research reports: This helpdesk report was based on 3 days of desk-based research. Helpdesk reports are designed to provide a brief overview of the key issues, and a summary of some of the best literature available.