

HO 2.1: Protection Risks

Adapted from: Caritas Australia, CRS, Trócaire, CAFOD. *Protection Mainstreaming Training*. 2018.

Protection risks means the possibility of someone experiencing danger or harm—including through violence, coercion, discrimination or deliberate deprivation. It is important to map protection risks in program areas, as there are things we can do to mitigate against them. We might also be able to help those who have been harmed.

The first step in a protection risk analysis is to identify the risks that exist where the project is implemented. Below is a list of common protection risks. Remove the risks that do not exist in your context and add those that are included.

For risks marked with asterisks (**), it is important to think about each risk separately. For example, for physical violence, think about physical assault, trafficking and slavery individually, as only certain types of physical violence may exist in your context (e.g., physical assault) but not others (e.g., slavery).

Sexual and gender-based violence

- Sexual violence (rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation)**
- Physical violence (physical assault, trafficking, slavery)**
- Psychological violence (emotional abuse, isolation)
- Harmful traditional practices (female genital mutilation/cutting, early or forced marriage, “honor” crimes, witchcraft accusations, female infanticide)**
- Socioeconomic violence (discrimination, denial of opportunities or services, denial of property rights, e.g., income or inheritance on the basis of gender or ethnicity)**

Child protection

- Physical violence (e.g., corporal punishment)
- Sexual violence
- Forced recruitment into armed groups or gangs
- Child labor
- Separation or unaccompanied minors
- Lack or limited access to human rights (food, education, shelter, family, health services, documentation)**
- Psychosocial distress and mental disorder

Physical safety of civilians

- Unsafe or inadequate infrastructure
- Unsafe or inadequate housing
- General insecurity and criminality (extra-judicial killing, kidnapping, unlawful detention, torture)**
- Forced displacement
- Deliberate controls on freedom of movement
- Deliberate denial of access to basic services
- Deliberate targeting of civilian or protected infrastructure (such as schools, hospitals)
- Landmines and explosive remnants of war

Housing, land and property

- Loss of land tenure documentation (lost or destroyed)
- Forced evictions
- Destruction of property
- Lack of land, property and housing rights for specific groups (women, marginalized groups)

Exclusion or lack of access to services

- Lack of information on available services or assistance
- Lack of documentation
- Exclusion of specific groups
- Marginalization/stigmatization of specific groups
- Other barriers to access to services (social, political, cultural, geographical, logistical)

The two types of risks below are more specific to contexts where aid or development actors (NGOs, government or civil society) are present to assist a population.

Safeguarding

- Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment by anyone linked to humanitarian assistance and development programs (e.g., staff, volunteers, contractors, consultants, vendors, visitors, partners, etc.)
- Other exploitation and abuse by anyone linked to humanitarian assistance and development program
- Other forms of humiliating or degrading behavior

Data protection

- Information misuse or leakage that may negatively impact project participants (e.g., by leading to stigmatization, retaliation or abuse of power)
- Taking images or videos of program participants without asking for their informed consent and/or using these inappropriately.