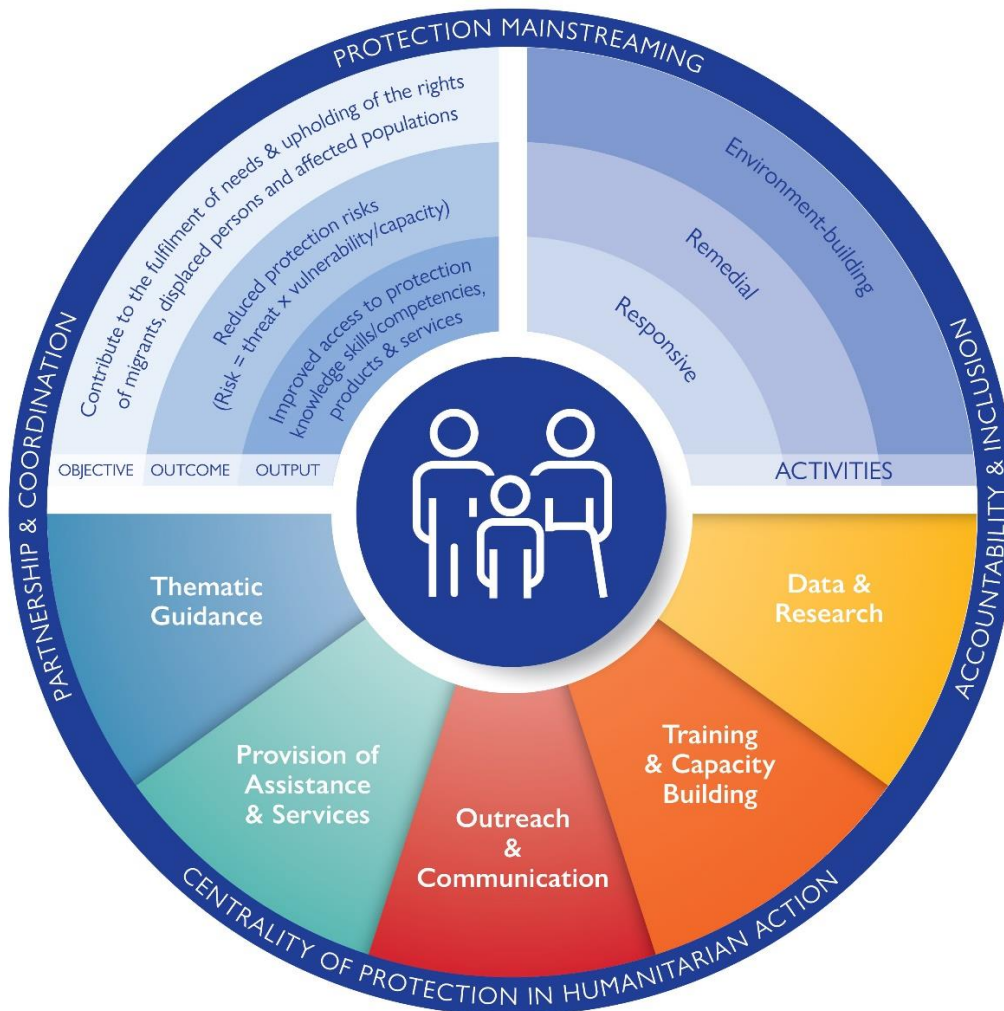


PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



In the spirit of the humanitarian imperative to save lives and alleviate human suffering, IOM is committed to providing humanitarian assistance and protection in accordance with international law and norms, where it is needed and where IOM has an added value. The overall objective of IOM’s humanitarian action is to contribute to the fulfilment of needs and upholding of the rights of migrants, displaced persons and affected populations. In working towards the achievement of this objective, IOM is committed to the Inter Agency Standing Committee’s (IASC) definition of protection¹ and statement on the Centrality of Protection². IOM’s Protection in Humanitarian Action (PiHA) roadmap aims to streamline these commitments as reaffirmed in IOM’s Humanitarian Policy³. Consistent implementation of PiHA is intended to reduce protection risks to migrants, displaced persons and affected populations reached by IOM. PiHA addresses issues only at the programmatic level and complements IOM’s existing internal policies, frameworks, instructions and guidance notes as well as inter-agency commitments. It is meant to be a tool for a strategic, predictable, principled and professional performance.

¹ IASC, [Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action](#), 2016, “... all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Humanitarian Law, International Refugee law (IRL)).”

² IASC, [The Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action](#), 2013.

³ [IOM’s Humanitarian Policy](#), 2015.

THE WHY- PROTECTION OBJECTIVE

Through the consistent application of PiHA, IOM aims to contribute to fulfilling the needs and upholding the rights of migrants, displaced persons and affected populations in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law.

PROTECTION OUTCOME

Risks to which migrants, displaced persons and affected populations are exposed to are reduced through the application of the formula: 'Risk = Threats X Vulnerabilities/Capacities.' IOM's protection activities will aim to reduce threats and/or vulnerabilities while increasing capacities, including those of duty bearers.

PROTECTION OUTPUTS

IOM's protection activities will result in improved access to protection knowledge, skills/competencies, products and services. These can include availability of protection focused reports for quality and accountable programming; enhanced skills in identification of protection concerns; availability of protection-enhancing tools; and improved case management.

THE WHAT- PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

IOM's protection activities in the context of PiHA follow the established 'egg model'.⁴

- **Responsive action:** any activity undertaken to address human rights violation and pattern of abuse, aimed at preventing recurrence, ending it, and/or alleviating its immediate effects. E.g.: protection monitoring; evacuation of migrants out of crisis affected areas; strengthening community networks to prevent violations to the rights of migrants; referring survivors of human trafficking for immediate assistance.
- **Remedial action:** any activity undertaken to restore people's dignity and to ensure adequate living conditions after they have suffered abuse. E.g.: provide safe shelter to vulnerable migrants; support voluntary return and reintegration; and reunite unaccompanied and separated children with families.
- **Environment-building action:** all efforts to establish or foster a social, cultural, institutional and legal environment in which the rights of migrants, displaced persons and affected populations will be respected. E.g.: promote knowledge and respect for the rights of migrants, displaced persons and affected populations; advocate for ratification of related treaties; technical assistance on related policy matters.

THE HOW - FIVE OPERATIONAL PILLARS

- **Thematic Guidance:** guidance on specific protection related thematic issues both for staff and partners.
- **Provision of Assistance & Services:** delivery of direct assistance and services to meet protection needs of migrants, displaced persons and affected populations, including through referrals.
- **Outreach & Communication:** preparation, production and dissemination of protection focused messages, including jointly with partners, which contribute to highlighting protection needs of and promote respect for the rights of migrants, displaced persons and affected populations.
- **Training & Capacity Building:** theoretical and practical protection focused face-to-face or online training, mentoring, coaching and on-the job training for staff and external actors.
- **Data & Research:** the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of primary or secondary protection-related data, especially for programming purposes.

CORE COMMITMENTS

- **Centrality of Protection:** statement by IASC making a formal commitment to placing protection at the center of humanitarian action. It emphasizes the individual and collective responsibility of all humanitarian organizations to design and implement a humanitarian response that helps keep vulnerable people from harm.
- **Partnerships & Coordination:** complementary roles and responsibilities among humanitarian stakeholders to contribute to protection outcomes aimed at achieving common protection goals and developing long term solutions for affected populations.
- **Accountability & Inclusion:** identifying, understanding and supporting affected populations' own protection measures through meaningful engagement of diverse groups in all decisions and actions that have a direct impact on their lives.
- **Protection Mainstreaming:** inclusion of protection principles into the humanitarian response by ensuring that any response is provided in a way that avoids every unintended negative effect (do no harm), is delivered according to needs, prioritizes safety and dignity, is grounded on participation and empowerment of local capacities and ultimately holds humanitarian actors accountable.

⁴ IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2016