

Protection In Practice: Building National Capacity for Protection Response and Coordination

Lead Agency: Oxfam GB **Consortium Members:** Oxfam, IRC and World Vision International **Budget:** £804,000
Countries of operation: tbc **Timeframe:** 3 years

This project will strengthen the protection¹ capacity of national humanitarian organisations to more effectively respond to the needs of people affected by crises. It is based on the understanding that protection encompasses both an approach which improves the quality of humanitarian interventions, and specific activities or projects to achieve protection objectives. IRC and WVI have experience building the capacity of national NGO/CBOs in protection mainstreaming, and co-lead the Global Protection Cluster Protection Mainstreaming Task Team. Oxfam has piloted partnering with national NGOs for community-based protection programmes and national advocacy on protection issues, and sits in the Strategic Advisory Group of the Protection Cluster.

Brief description

With the support of the Department for International Development (DFID) under the Disaster Emergency Preparedness Programme, this project will build the ability of local humanitarian staff/NGOs to implement effective and timely protection activities. It aims to build excellent protection capacity to drive high quality innovative protection work. In addition, in order to contribute to broader change within the internationally -dominated protection architecture, national protection actors will be supported to actively participate in protection coordination mechanisms. The project also aims to capture learning about 'what works and why' in capacity-building relationships between in country and international NGOs.

Why is collaboration fundamental to the success of this project?

Collaboration within the Start Network will enable national partners to draw on a wider range of capacity-building opportunities (e.g. financial management) to complement development of technical protection expertise including in gender and gender-based violence. The mutual learning includes national NGOs/CBO's contextual knowledge which is vital for effective protection work and needs to be included in the international protection structures more centrally.

Which other projects in the Start Network portfolio does this project rely on?

This project will draw on the wider network's experience (for example of mentoring/coaching approaches) and will refer key partners to other Start Network projects to build organisational skills in leadership, management, financial and legal governance – all of which are crucial for any credible protection actor.

What change does this project envision to achieve?

The project has two interlinked elements which will be implemented progressively in each context: firstly by promoting protection mainstreaming: ensuring that human rights principles are integrated into all aspects and at every stage of humanitarian assistance by national organisations; and secondly - by building the capacity of five national organisations to implement protection projects and activities within a humanitarian response situation and in coordination with other actors.

What are the key activities associated with this project?

National NGOs and humanitarian staff will participate in protection mainstreaming trainings targeting national capacity including assessment of current adherence to key standards for protection; identification of protection 'champions'; creation of protection action plans for each organisation to be implemented with mentoring support and funding will be available to carry out 'quick impact' remedial actions as required. Building on this, five national NGOs with potential as protection specialists will have the opportunity to 'learn by doing'. The exact model will vary by context, but may include secondments, staff exchanges, and co-implementation of protection pilot activities.

How will this project make a difference to people affected by crisis?

This project will enable national NGOs to effectively use specific protection approaches and actions that will improve the safety of people affected by conflict and disasters. It will also contribute to transformative change in the humanitarian sector through new types of partnerships and collaborations, and by identifying how the skills, experience, and analysis of local staff and partners brings great value to a protection response.



¹ Protection [Definition]: Protection is defined as 'all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of relevant bodies of law (human rights, humanitarian and refugee law)' IASC 1999