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Protection By Presence

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This resource is part of the work of the Consortium for Civilian Safety and Security. Together with the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI Global and NORCAP, and with the generous support of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this resource is one of a series on protection interventions aimed to improve the safety and security of civilians in humanitarian settings.

In the context of the project “Preventing and Mitigating Violence Against Civilians in Humanitarian Contexts: A Proactive Protection Capacity Development, Training, Coaching, and Research Project”, the objective of this consultancy is to complement the realization of the manual “Protection By Presence - Practical Guide for Implementers” offering practical tools, collecting best practices and recommendations.

The purpose of these documents is to gather easy-access practical guides for practitioners, organisations and other actors interested in learning and implementing protection by presence in different contexts. We want to acknowledge the wide range of implementations of protection by presence. In that sense, this work is not exhaustive and does not seek academic rigour.

The extent to which the PbyP can be implemented depends on the context, the organizational capacity, and the nature and interests of the potential aggressors. Moreover, the PbyP strategies can be effectively deployed depending on the capacities of the implementing organization and its mandate. The approach will need to be adapted whether it involves smaller civil society INGO (such a SweFOR, PBI, etc) or a larger-scale humanitarian NGO or UN agency. PbyP will face different constraints and opportunities depending on whether operations take place within the territory of a functioning state, under foreign military occupation, or in areas where macro-criminal, paramilitary or insurgent groups operate, and where the state has little or no control. Furthermore, at-risk individuals and communities are not static or passive actors in their own reality; the degree of civil organization within communities is a key contextual factor that must be taken into account.

Products

The results of this consultancy are 7 mutually dependant and interrelated deliverables.

1. Protection By Presence Definition
2. Protection by Presence Key Operational Phases
3. Protection by Presence Project Structure
4. Pitching Protection by Presence
5. Differential and Intersectional approach and decolonisation
6. Protection by Presence for policy makers
7. One week scenario-based learning course

The goal of these products is to provide practical guides for field teams and also for the management, including tips and recommendations on gathering and measuring the results and pitching to donors.

Complementarily, the following annexes are delivered

- Annex 1: Guidelines for a protection needs assessment
- Annex 2: Guidelines for a field mission risk assessment
- Annex 3: Guidelines for the construction of proactive and reactive messaging
- Annex 4: Guidelines for the construction of general procedures
- Annex 5: List of funding agencies and donors



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- Annex 6: Glossary
- Annex 7: PbyP budget example
- Annex 8: Comments and responses to first review



And the following PowerPoint presentations, to support the learning course – deliverable 7

- Introduction to Protection by Presence
- Advocacy – Communications and Self Protection
- Differential and intersectional approach and decolonisation
- Practical tools for PbyP

Methodology

The products were developed starting from a draft text elaborated by Liam Mahony, and expanded on the basis of the consultant's direct experiences in the field, the consultation of literature on the matter and 24 semi-structured and in-depth interviews with experts and practitioners.

We would like to specially mention Liam Mahony and Luis Enrique Eguren for their fundamental and valuable contributions to this work. We have interviewed experts and practitioners in the fields of protection by presence, humanitarian aid, MEAL systems, security, self-protection, decolonisation and anti-racism in international cooperation, program and project managers, advocacy, communications and networking and fundraising. They shared with us their insights, reflections and recommendations gathered from their experiences in multiple organisations, including Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel - EAPPI, Community Peacemaker Teams - CPT, Peace Brigades International - PBI, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Medical Aid for Palestinians, Swedish Movement of Reconciliation - SweFOR, International Action for Peace IAP, Norwegian Refugee Council – NRC, among others. These experts and organisations are deploying work in Palestine, Philippines, Nepal, Colombia, Ukraine, Iraqi Kurdistan, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, United States of America, Burkina Faso, European Union and UN system, among others.

To all of them, we are grateful for their contribution to the consultancy and we would like to express our profound admiration for their work.

Additional sources

We would like to highlight the following relevant sources:

- Nonviolent Peaceforce. (2021). *Unarmed civilian protection: Strengthening civilian capacities to protect civilians against violence*. <https://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/ucp-manual/>
- Mahony, L., & Eguren, L. E. (1997). *Unarmed bodyguards: International accompaniment for the protection of human rights*. Kumarian Press.
- Mahony, L. (2006). *Proactive presence: Field strategies for civilian protection*. Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. <http://www.fieldviewsolutions.org/publications>



- Mahony, L., & Nash, R. (2012). *Influence on the ground: Understanding and strengthening the protection impact of United Nations human rights field presences*. Fieldview Solutions. <http://www.fieldviewsolutions.org/publications>

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