PROTECTION INDICATORS MONITOR

Codebook
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INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the structure of the ACAPS Protection Indicators Monitor Dataset. The dataset tracks protection events on a global level, using various publicly available sources, including – but not limited to – local, regional, and international operational and non-operational humanitarian organisations; UN agencies; media; and social media platforms. Data is collected and reviewed regularly, and the dataset is continuously updated.

METHODOLOGY

ACAPS has identified categories for tracking 'protection events', including one-time events, policies, and recurrent violations. Protection events are those that impede people's meaningful access to humanitarian assistance and their rights, safety, and dignity. These events may impose violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation. In the table below, we present the list of protection indicators and their scope. The Protection Indicators Monitor Dataset provides information relevant to the main protection threats, vulnerabilities, and coping strategies of affected populations and the existing capacities to address them. It informs decision makers and humanitarian responders about potential protection risks to the affected people and/or their service operations.

Table 1. List of protection indicators and their relative scope

PROTECTION INDICATOR	SCOPE
Abduction, kidnapping, enforced disappearances, or cases of missing people	This indicator pertains to the unlawful taking of one person by another. Enforced disappearances occur when the deprivation of liberty is carried out by state agents, people or groups acting with the state's support or acquiescence, or a non-state armed group. Those responsible refuse to acknowledge the abduction, kidnapping, or disappearance or they conceal the concerned person's fate and whereabouts, placing the person outside the protection of the law (OHCHR 23/12/2010).
Access to asylum process after entry	This pertains to when an asylum seeker is not granted access to the asylum system or the denial, by a state, of protection or asylum within its territory to one fleeing persecution and inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, including torture. This applies even if the person is in an irregular migratory situation (UNHCR 2017).
Arbitrary denial or deprivation of nationality or statelessness	An arbitrary denial of nationality pertains to when access to nationality or citizenship is denied either because of a national law or because of particular circumstances. This can lead to statelessness. The deprivation of nationality takes place when a person loses or is stripped of their nationality or citizenship as a result of discriminatory national legislation (UNHCR 07/2014).
Arbitrary or unlawful arrest and/or detention	These pertain to all situations where a person is deprived of their liberty as a result of unlawful arrest or detention. Arrest and detention can be unlawful when not carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the law and by competent officials or people authorised for that purpose. Other factors are if a person is arrested or detained without immediately being informed of the reason in a language they understand, if they are not brought promptly before a judge to confirm the lawfulness of arrest/detention, and/or if they are not provided with legal counselling or presentation (OHCHR 09/12/1988).
Child labour	This pertains to any work that is harmful to the physical and mental development of children (any person under the age of 18) and that deprives them of their childhood, potential, and dignity. Child labour also typically interferes with their schooling (ILO accessed 23/01/2023).
Child trafficking, abduction, or sale	A child has been trafficked if they have been moved within a country or across borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of being exploited. Abduction constitutes the removal or retention of a child in violation of the custody rights of their parents or other caregivers. The sale of a child means the transfer of a child "by any person or group of persons to another for remuneration or any other consideration" (Save the children accessed 23/01/2023; ILO accessed 23/01/2023).
Children being associated with armed forces or armed groups	These pertain to any person below 18 years of age who is or has been recruited or used by an armed force or group in any capacity, including, but not limited to, children used for sexual purposes or as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, or spies. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken an active part in hostilities (UNHCR 12/2007; UN 11/2013).
Constraints on children's education	These pertain to regulations imposed by the state or restrictions made by society/family that affect the children's/adolescent's education or access to schooling (Educate a Child accessed 23/01/2023).
Extrajudicial executions, deliberate or indiscriminate attacks on civilians, and other unlawful killings	This indicator pertains to any killing committed by, at the behest of, or with the acquiescence of state agents. 'Extrajudicial' refers to the absence of a judicial process. 'Killing' is a broader term that can refer to the deprivation of life by the state or non-state entities, either as a result of the use of force or through any other action or omission (OHCHR 29/06/2020).
Femicide and honour killings	Femicide comprises the killing of women and girls because of their gender. It can take the form of the murder of women as a result of intimate partner violence; the murder of women and girls in the name of 'honour', perpetrated by a member or members of her family who do not approve of her social behaviour in general and her sexual behaviour in particular; the targeted killing of women and girls in the context of armed conflict; dowry-related killings of women; the killing of aboriginal and indigenous women and girls because of their gender; female infanticide and gender-based sex selection foeticide; genital-mutilation-related deaths; and any other gender-based murders (OHCHR 08/2013; UN 16/06/2015).
Forced and/or early marriage	A forced marriage is a marriage in which one and/or both parties have not personally expressed their full, free, and informed consent. Child marriage is a form of forced marriage defined as any marriage where at least one of the parties is under 18 years of age (OHCHR accessed 23/01/2023 a).

Forced eviction from property	This pertains to the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families, and/or communities from the homes and/or land that they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection (OHCHR accessed 23/01/2023 b).
Forced family separation	Children are at risk of becoming separated from their families or usual caregivers as a result of any emergency situation or any issues related to the separation of families. A family is defined as all those who consider themselves, and are considered by each other, to be part of a family and who wish to live together. There are many reasons why children become separated from their families in emergencies. Separation occurs either accidentally – when fleeing from danger or during evacuation – or deliberately, when children are abandoned or given over to the care of another individual or a residential centre, perhaps in the belief that they will have a better chance of survival or better access to services. This indicator includes intentional and non-intentional separation from family or caregivers (ICRC 01/2014; IAWG-UASC 22/03/2017).
Forced labour or slavery	Forced labour refers to situations in which people are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation or by more subtle means, such as accumulated debt, the retention of identity papers, or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities. Forced labour includes debt bondage and slavery (ILO 10/03/2014). Slavery is the status or condition of a person or people over whom any or all of the powers of ownership are exercised. It includes the purchasing, selling, lending, or bartering of a person or people and other similar forms of the deprivation of liberty (Allain 26/04/2007).
Forced recruitment into armed forces or groups	This pertains to any manner in which an adult is forced, coerced, threatened, or intimidated to join an armed force or group (Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre 26/01/2019). If it involves individuals under 18 years of age, it is categorised as 'children associated with armed forces or armed groups'.
Human smuggling	Human smuggling involves the facilitation, transportation, or illegal entry of a person or people across an international border, in violation of the laws of one or more countries. The difference between human trafficking (which is another indicator) and smuggling is the presence of coercion and exploitation. People pay and voluntarily choose to be smuggled, but they are exploited, coerced, or forced involuntarily into trafficking. Both cases impose protection risks on individuals (Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center 15/06/2016; UNODC accessed 23/01/2023).
Human trafficking	Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or the giving of payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim for the purpose of exploitation (Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center 15/06/2016; UNODC accessed 23/01/2023).
Refoulement/pushbacks/forced returns	This involves all information related to the attempted or successful coercion of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people, and other migrants to return to their areas of habitual residence, which places their lives, safety, liberty, and/or health at risk. Coercion does not necessarily require the open use of force. It involves any attempted or successful coercion of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people, and other migrants from their jurisdiction or effective control when there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would be at risk of irreparable harm upon return, including persecution, torture, ill treatment, or other serious human rights violations. Refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people, and other migrants can be coerced into returning through any actions by responsible parties intended to result in returns (for example, the halted provision of essential utilities to camps or the closure of existing shelters) (OHCHR 06/03/2018 and 2014; UNHCR 04/2011).
Sexual and gender-based violence	This pertains to any form of non-consensual sexual contact, including rape and the non-consensual penetration (however slight) of the vagina, anus, or mouth with a penis or any other way. Examples also include attempted rape, as well as the unwanted kissing, fondling, or touching of the genitalia and buttocks. Enforced sterilisation and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) are acts of violence that affect the sexual organs, and as such should be classified as sexual assault. These acts could affect not only women and girls but also men and boys (UNHCR accessed 23/01/2023; OHCHR 10/2014).
Torture or inhumane, cruel, or degrading treatment	This indicator pertains to acts that cause or result in severe physical and/or mental pain or suffering to a person for a specific purpose. Although physical assault or abuse can constitute torture, inhumane, cruel, or degrading treatment does not always involve torture, as the perpetrator does not need to have any particular purpose in inflicting suffering. Torture requires the existence of a specific purpose behind the act: to obtain information or a confession from someone, punishment for something someone has done or is suspected to have done, to intimidate or coerce someone, and for reasons based on discrimination (Freedom from Torture 25/11/2020; OHCHR 10/12/1984).
Violence/abuse/intolerance towards individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE)	This pertains to any form of violence, abuse, intolerance, bias, or discrimination practised on individuals based on their SOGIE and involves the lack of acceptance by society, individuals, or the state (through laws and regulations). This might result in hate crimes that are led by cultural, religious, or political norms and misconceptions (OHCHR 01/06/2015; UNESCO 2016; OCFS 2016).

The Protection Analytical Framework, which was structured by the Global Protection Cluster, has been used as a main reference to build this indicator list.

SOURCES

ACAPS' data is derived from a range of credible publicly available sources, such as reports from international and local humanitarian organisations, UN agencies, human rights organisations, think tanks, international and local media, social media platforms, and governments (official sites, embassies, etc.). Data collectors use their expert judgement in deciding which data to include.

LIMITATIONS

ACAPS aims to monitor and track protection events almost daily. This dataset presents a broad coverage of the reported information to flag events that fall under the scopes of the protection indicators. The goal is to inform operational, strategic, and policy decision makers, although there are some limitations:

• Considering the sensitivity and confidentiality of the protection events, not all the information is publicly reported, and there are many information gaps in certain countries and contexts. Data might not be complete because of various factors, such as unpublicised protection reports and datasets because of sensitivity and privacy, the dynamics of a certain crisis (active displacement and/or violence), and/or obstacles from the state or armed groups in conducting a protection analysis.

• Protection incidents are under-reported, meaning the information and figures consolidated in the dataset should not be interpreted as a representation of prevalence. Therefore, the number of entries should be carefully considered, as it might be affected by human capacities dedicated to specific crises and the overall availability of information.

• Considering the diversity and complexity of different crises, some types of events may appear to fall outside the given categorisation.

• Data might not be complete because of the high volatility of some crises, and some events might be recorded with some delay.

• ACAPS relies on open sources and the judgement of trained data collectors in selecting the most reliable sources. Secondary data sources are sometimes outdated with no exact information about the events' dates.

• ACAPS does not have operational presence in every country, meaning some events might not be recorded.

• The linguistic skills of data collectors might not cover all the languages used in the sources, which might prevent ACAPS from identifying all the available information.

• ACAPS cannot be held responsible for the misinterpretation or misuse of the information provided by the dataset.

If you think a protection-related event is currently not in the dataset and should be added, please contact us at info@acaps.org.

DATA COLLECTION AND REVIEW

A team of ACAPS data collectors collects the data. These data collectors are trained on data collection methods, protection principles and mainstreaming, protection indicators, the inclusion criteria, and the dataset structure. The intended coverage of the dataset is global, but it is focused on the countries where, according to ACAPS' methodologies, there is an active humanitarian crisis.

ACAPS collects data daily from a wide range of reports. The data collectors then aggregate the information per event type and administrative level. If the source includes information relevant to multiple indicators, it will be repeated, and separate lines will be created in the dataset. Each line in the dataset should include information relevant to one protection indicator.

The collected data goes through a review process to check the completeness, validity, and reliability of the information included.

DATASET STRUCTURE

Data is logged in the dataset following these rules:

- Data collection is done at administrative level 1.

- If the whole country (all of admin 1, maybe) is affected, the event is tagged as countrywide.

- One data point refers to one event.

- If the same source covers one event in multiple administrative level 1 areas, it is logged in one row.

- If the same source covers multiple types of protection indicators, the source is logged in separate rows.

Data is uploaded to the dataset according to the following structure and coding system:

VARIABLE NAME	FORMAT	DESCRIPTION	CODES
ID	Numeric	Unique progressive code for every entry	None
ISO3	Text	Country ISO3 code	None
Country	Text	Country name	None
Countrywide	Checkbox	Checkbox that is marked if the event affects all the country	Boolean (checked)
ADM1	Text	The largest subnational administrative region where the event took place	ADM1 code (GADM standards)*
ADM1 Eng name	Text	The English name of the largest subnational administrative region where the event took place.	None
Indicator	Text	The type of protection indicator that has been reported	See the list of protection indicators provided. See table 1.
Targeting specific population groups	Text	Multiple choice if the protection concern is targeting a specific group	Age, gender, people with special needs and disabilities, language, religion, ethnic or tribal affiliation, political affiliation, displacement status, sexual orientation, and members of other population groups
Justification	Text	Narrative description of the event	None
Source name	Text	Source name	None
Source date	Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	Publication source date	None
Source link	Text	Source link	None
Additional source	Text	Other publications and alternative sources that support the findings	None

*Access through this link: https://gadm.org/data.html.