

# ICRC PROTECTION ACTIVITIES



# Definition

For the ICRC, protection, in the broadest sense, aims *to ensure that authorities and other actors respect their obligations and the rights of individuals* in order to preserve the lives, security, physical and moral integrity and dignity of those affected by armed conflicts and/or other situations of violence.

Protection includes efforts that strive *to prevent or put a stop to actual or potential violations* of international humanitarian law (IHL) and other relevant bodies of law or norms that protect human beings.

Protection aims *to eradicate the causes of violations*, or the circumstances that lead to them, *by addressing mainly those responsible* for the violations and those who may have influence over them.

Protection also includes activities that seek *to reinforce the security of individuals* and indirectly *to reduce the threats* they face and their exposure to risks.



# Who should be protected in conflict ?

- ▶ Persons not or no longer participating in hostilities :
  - ▶ civilians
  - ▶ wounded and sick combatants
  - ▶ POWs, other persons deprived of freedom
- ▶ Special protection for certain groups :
  - ▶ population of OT, children, women, elderly, foreigners, refugees and IDPs, etc.

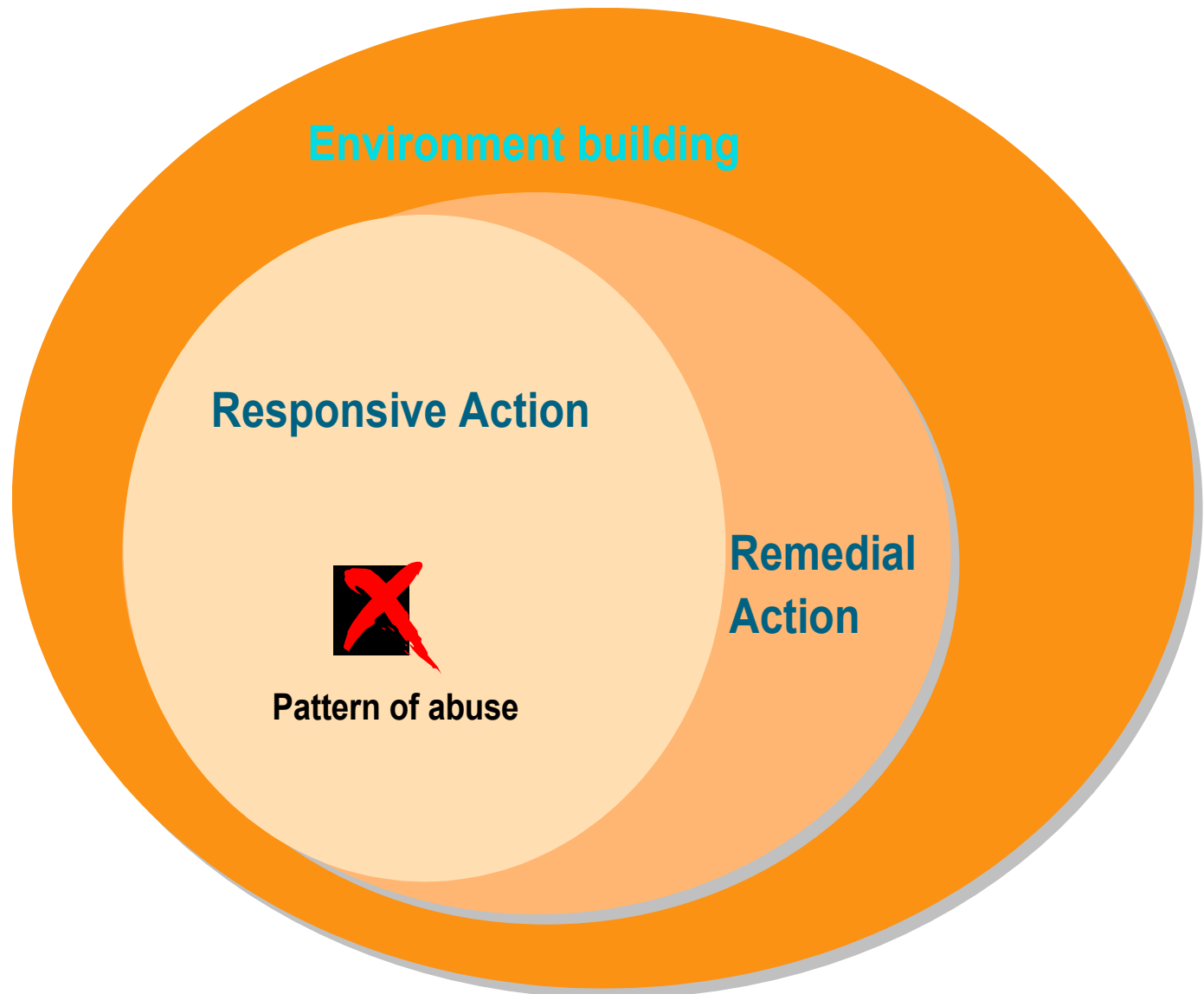


# ICRC's Approach

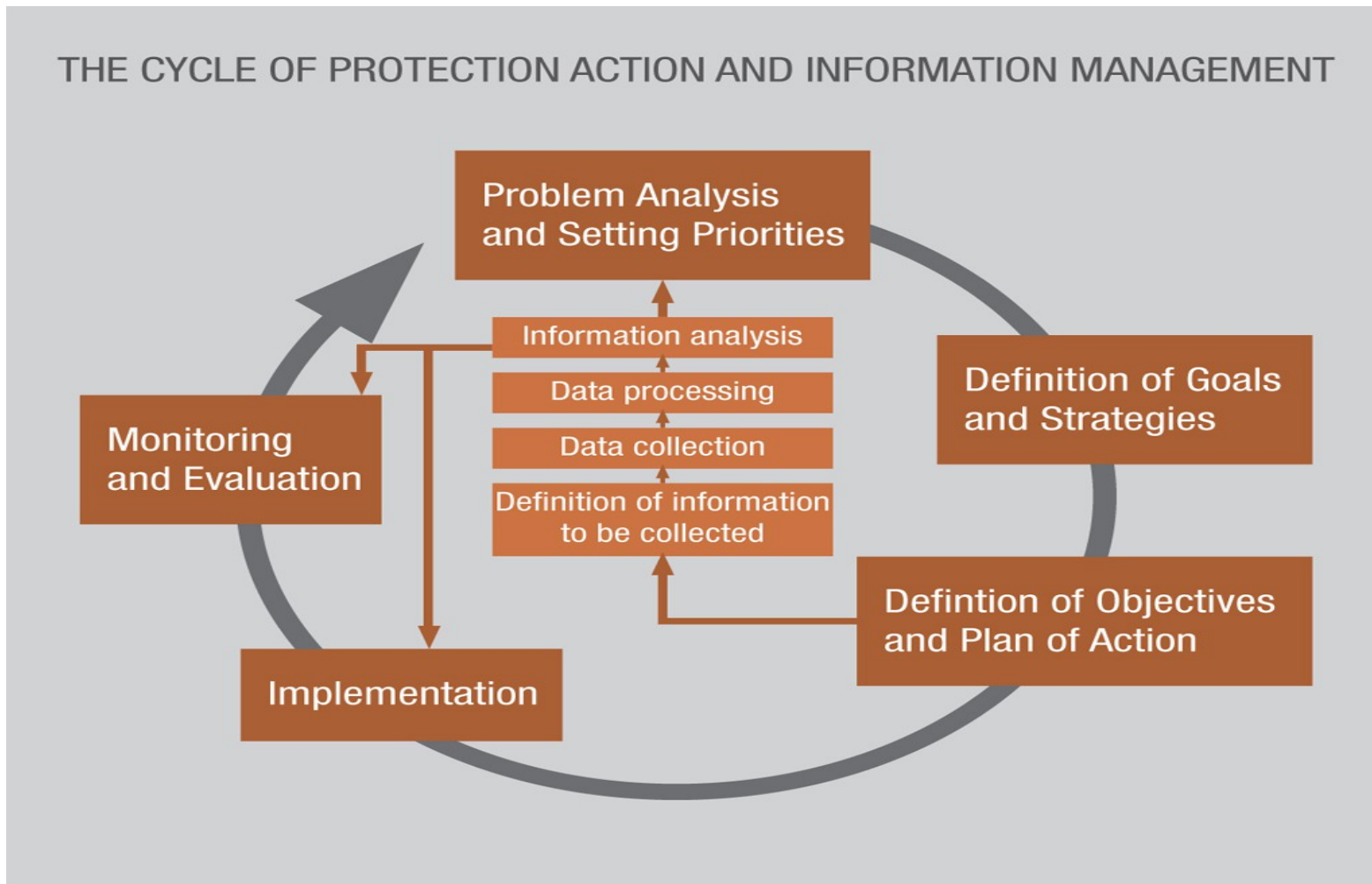
- ▶ *Situation based*
- ▶ *Strictly humanitarian, neutral and independant approach*
- ▶ *Proximity with the persons affected (point of clash)*
- ▶ *Dialogue and confidentiality*
- ▶ *Diverse and flexible operational engagement and rapid deployment in emergencies*
- ▶ *Mid to long-term commitment in a given context*
- ▶ *Long-standing experience and professionalism*
- ▶ *Holistic and multidisciplinary approach*



# The Protection Egg



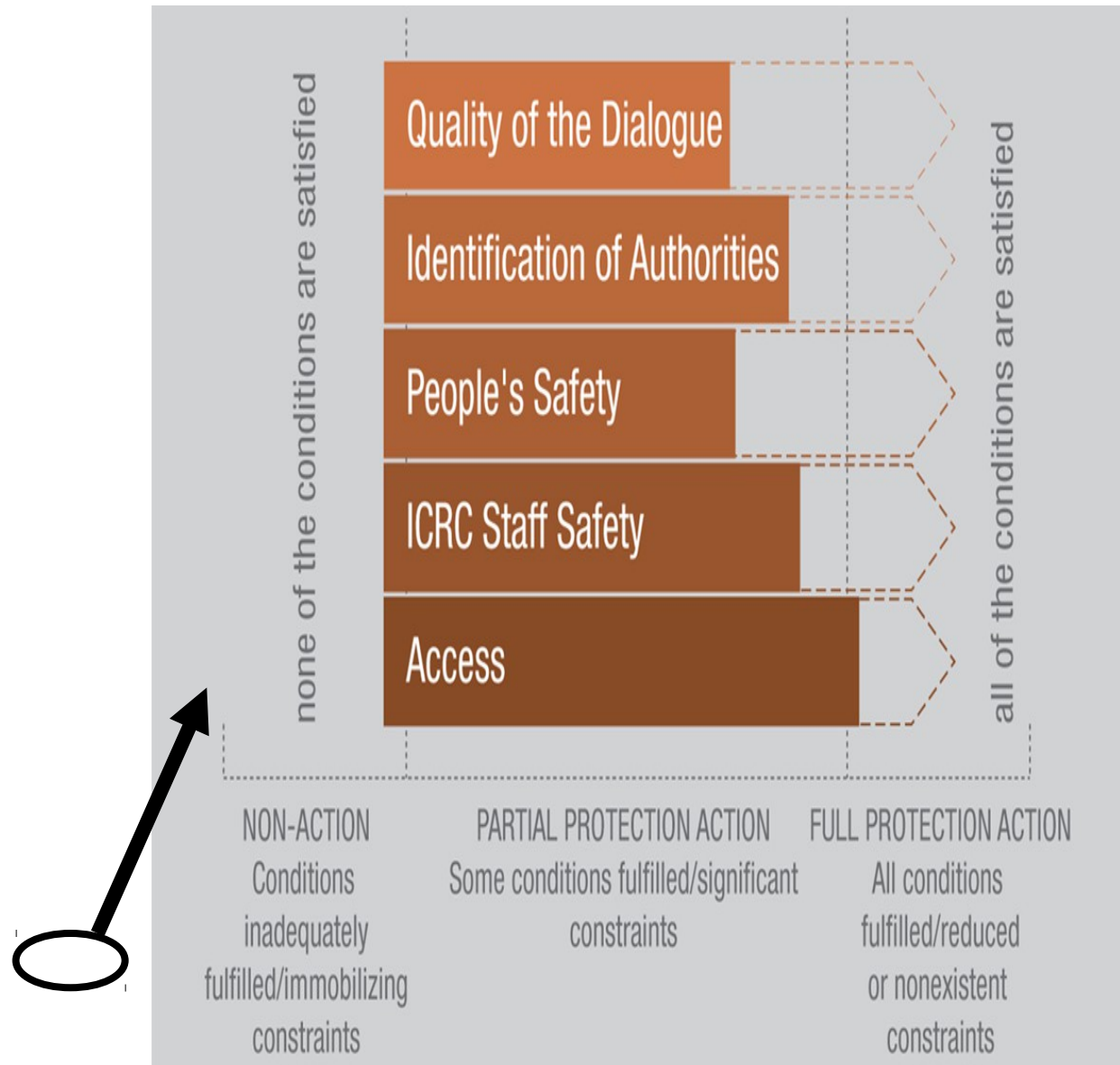
# The Cycle of Protection Action and Information Management





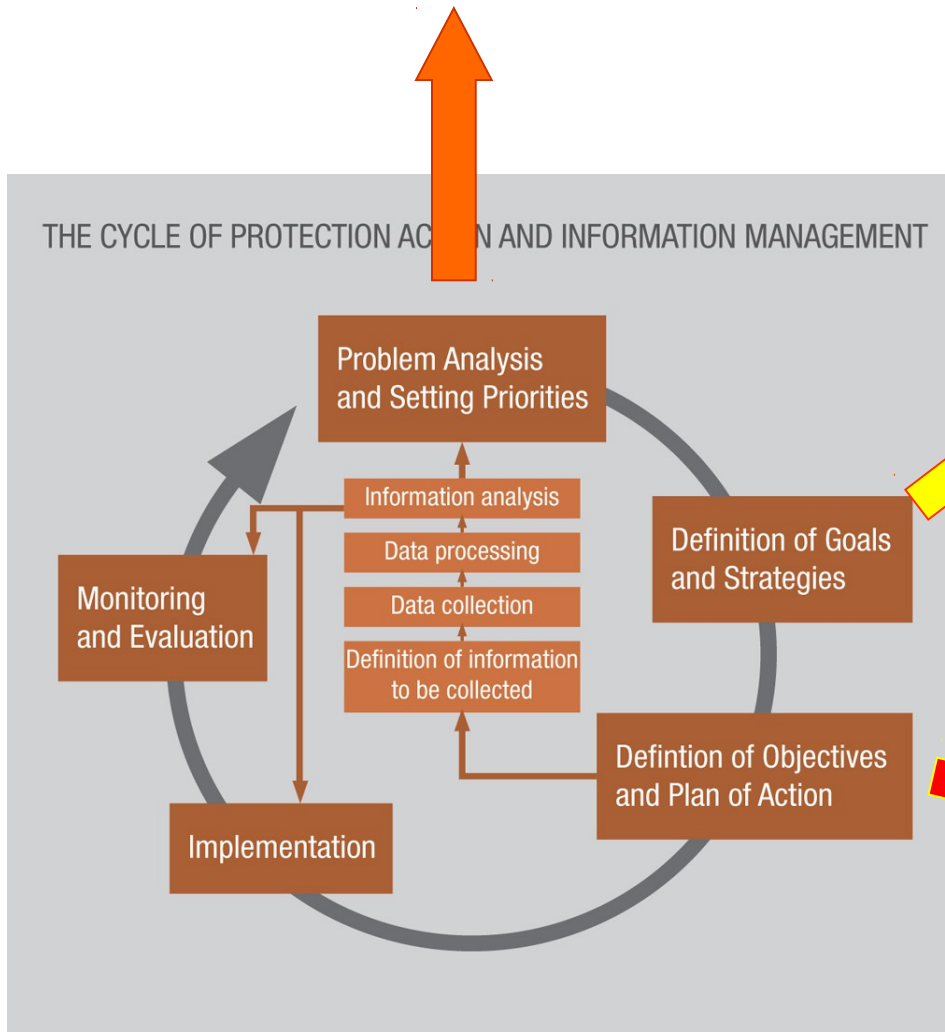


# Conditions for Actions





- Holistic approach
- Attention to specific vulnerabilities
- ICRC and external resources

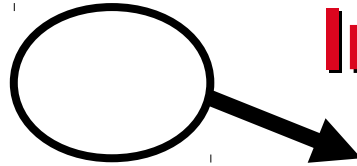


**Taking into account resources/ opportunities and conditions for action**

**Multidisciplinary strategy combining activities**



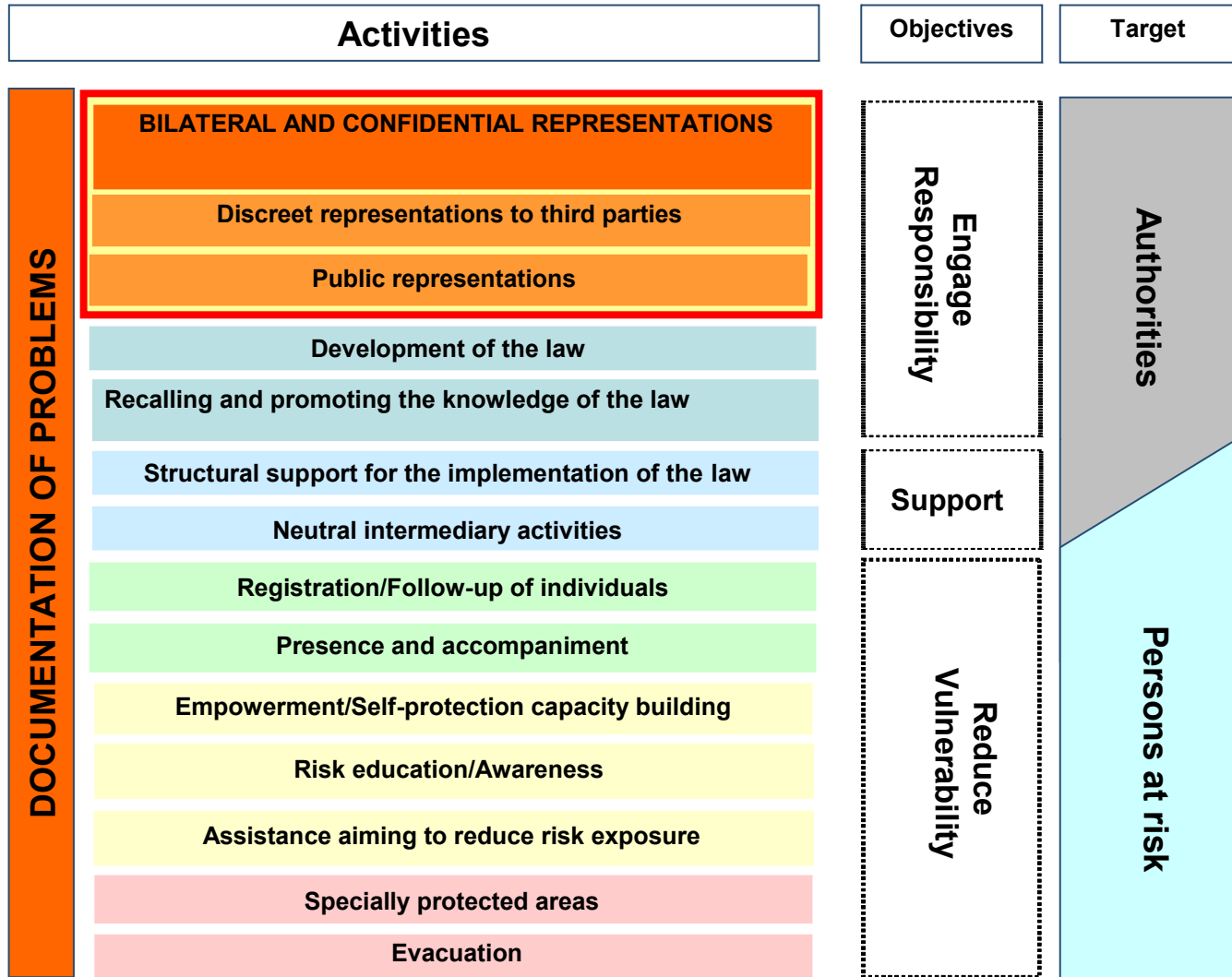
# Defining a strategy: combining modes of action and levels of Intervention



# Defining a strategy: example

| Violation                          | Persuasion   | Support  | Mobilisation   | Substitution  | Denunciation  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Responsive Action</b>           | Data Collection and Demarche to the authorities              | Help the camp social workers (authorities) to sensitize the community to the risk of sexual violence | Call on a friendly State to influence the authorities                | Provision of firewood   | Public report on sexual violence  |
| <b>Remedial Action</b>             | Community education to avoid stigmatization of the victims   | Setting up community centers   | Mobilize other actors to fund rehabilitation centers for the victims | Provision of rapid and adequate health care<br>Provision of psychological support | Public appeal denouncing the lack of adequate structures for victims of sexual violence |
| <b>Environment-building Action</b> | Encouraging the authorities to involve female police officer | Development of the law prohibiting sexual violence   | Encouraging the media to cover the issue of sexual violence          |   | Public appeal denouncing the lack of prosecution for sexual violence                    |

# PCP Activities



# Specific challenges

- ▶ Security constraints, risks for victims + staff
- ▶ Quality of information and analysis
- ▶ Perception and acceptance
- ▶ Manipulation
- ▶ Substitute for political action ?
- ▶ Hard choices: access, impact, effectiveness?
- ▶ Difficulty of evaluating protection activities



# Coordination challenges

- ▶ Preservation of the perception of ICRC as a neutral, impartial and independent organization: distinct identity?
- ▶ Increasing of "protection" focus from humanitarian organizations: risks and opportunities?
- ▶ Developing operational complementarity
- ▶ Understanding each other mandates and activities



# PoC debate: Need for clarification of concept and activities of Protection

## Distinguishing

1. Codes of conduct
2. Respect for IHL /IHRL in carrying out military or police operations
3. Improving protection for the civilians





# PoC debate: Need for clarification of concept and activities of Protection

## Distinguishing distinct elements captured within the notion of protection:

- ▶▶ protection as a set of legal obligations (ie. the law defines what constitutes protection)
- ▶▶ protection as an objective and a result to be achieved (ie: people at risk are actually protected)
- ▶▶ protection as a set of activities (humanitarian action distinct from physical protection, distinct from legal action, distinct from political action - all in the efforts to ensure that the rights of the individuals (ie: protection as defined by the law) is achieved.



Example:  
UN police  
working with  
national police  
(on the job  
training)

**PROTECTION BY  
PEACEKEEPING  
MISSION**

Political

Example in  
detention:

Linking with  
judiciary to  
enhance  
treatment of  
individual  
cases waiting  
for trial

Strengthening environment  
conducive to respect of  
individuals and communities  
(rule of law, legal framework)

Working with  
communities and  
individuals at risks to  
reduce their exposure to  
threats

Mainstreaming protection concerns into  
assistance / development activities

**PROTECTION BY  
HUMANITARIAN / HUMAN  
RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS**





*Thank you for your attention !*



ICRC