### Summary

An introduction to the four Protection Principles which should inform humanitarian action: 1/Avoid causing further harm as a result of your action; 2/Ensure people’s access to impartial assistance; 3/Protect people from physical and psychological harm due to violence or coercion; 4/Assist with rights claims, access to remedies and recovery from abuse, and their implications for action, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved in humanitarian action.



### Aim

This module aims to explain why protection is important and to present the four Protection Principles.

### Learning objectives

*By the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

* Explain the meaning of ‘protection’ and why it is important
* Explain the role of humanitarian agencies in protection, in light of the roles of other stakeholders
* Illustrate actions guided by the four Protection Principles outlined by Sphere.

### Key messages

* Protection is concerned with the safety, dignity and rights of people affected by disaster or armed conflict.
* All agencies should be guided by Protection Principles, even if they do not have a distinct protection mandate or specialised capacity for protection.
* The four Protection Principles outline the way agencies can avoid exposing the affected population to further harm, and can help people to achieve greater safety and security.

#### Preparation & resources

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| For the facilitator | For each participant | For each group of 4-5 participants |
| * Slides printed with notes * One copy, Handout ‘Frequently asked questions around Sphere and the Protection Principles’ | * Sphere Handbook, highlighter * One copy, Handout ‘Protection Principles in action: Suggested answers’ | * A flip chart, marker pens, post-its * A set of action cards: Handout ‘Protection principles in action’. Print one copy, in size A3, cut out each card (even the empty ones) and put the set of cards in an envelope, repeat the same for the 4 groups |

### You may also want to look at:

* **Module A9** – Sphere and the Humanitarian Charter
* **Module A11** – The Code of Conduct, a foundation for the Sphere Humanitarian Charter
* **Module B6** – Sphere and advocacy

### To know more:

* **Browse** the Global Protection Cluster website for specific information to prepare this module: [www.globalprotectioncluster.org](http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org)
* **Do** the ‘Sphere Handbook in Action’ e-learning course, modules ‘Safe from Harm’ and ‘Claims, Remedies and Recovery’ [www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/learning/e-learning-course](http://www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/learning/e-learning-course)

#### Session plan

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| Activity | Description | Timing |
| Slide presentation  ‘Overview of the Protection Principles’ | Present in an interactive manner slides 2 to 8, referring to the slide notes. | 25' |
| Group work  ‘Overview of the four Protection Principles’ | Display slide 9 with the instructions for group work.  Participants draw an image for the Protection Principle they have been assigned.  After each group has presented its principle for 3’, explain that the next exercise will give each participant more insight on what the four principles actually mean in practice. | 30' |
| Group work  ‘Set of cards on Protection Principles in action’ | Display slide 10 with the instructions for group work.  Distribute the envelopes with the set of action cards (prepared in advance) to be classified by each Protection Principle.  Participants can also suggest additional actions relevant to their operating contexts on the blank cards.  Keep the exercise to 20’ to have time to debrief. Action cards are examples only and by no means exhaustive, so they don’t need to classify all of them.  For the debriefing:   * Distribute the handout with suggested solutions to the groups, and let them discuss by group before facilitating the plenary discussion. * Ask if groups have also filled in the blank cards with additional context-relevant examples. * Point out that one action can often help strengthen several areas of protection at the same time. You can also take one or two examples from the action cards and show participants where they come from in the Handbook (from the guidance notes under each Protection Principle). | 30' |
| Wrap-up | Use slide 11 to wrap up.  Ask one participant to read out loud one key message, then another participant will read out the next message, etc. After each key message is shared, ask participants if it is clear and clarify any remaining questions. | 5' |

### Tips for facilitators

* Read the FAQs to be better prepared for participant questions.
* This module will be a success if participants relate the ‘actions’ presented to protection actions which directly correspond to protection concerns in their own environments.
* Be aware of the different sensitivities of some agencies regarding advocacy and protection. Some agencies are worried about speaking out about abuses while needing to maintain an operational presence. Make sure that every point of view in the room is respected.
* Make sure to read and refer to the Child Protection Minimum Standard (CPMS) handbook as a Sphere companion.