

## Protection in Outbreaks

### Resource Package

Over the past two decades the humanitarian community has struggled to effectively address the relationship between disease outbreak and experiences of violence for women and children, and inequitable access for at-risk groups to outbreak prevention and response programming. The characteristics of certain pathogens, the physical environment, the sociocultural context, or some combination thereof means that women and children, in particular, are often more vulnerable to infection, have more limited access to information and services, and face greater risk of negative outcomes.

When not addressed, the simultaneous, immediate, and long-term impacts of disease outbreak lead to increased risk of exploitation and abuse, and setbacks in children's development, women's economic empowerment, and violence prevention efforts. Waiting until the immediate health impacts of an outbreak are mitigated to address protection concerns will not only lead to increases in vulnerabilities and risk for already vulnerable populations, but will also significantly hamper the effectiveness of infection prevention and control efforts and other public health risk mitigation measures during the response. Given the historic relationship between disease outbreak and exacerbated protection concerns, along with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the IRC has developed resources for evidence-based, impactful and integrated outbreak responses that address both health and protection needs and considerations simultaneously.

The **Protection in Outbreaks (PiO)** resource package is part of the **Integrated Health and Protection Outbreak Response** toolkit, and aims to **equip frontline protection and health service providers with tools and guidance on how to mitigate protection risks, respond to protection needs associated with outbreaks, and ensure inclusion of marginalized groups**. The resources are organized across three modes of transmission — bloodborne or body-fluid borne, respiratory, and waterborne, with a particular focus on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), COVID-19 and Cholera.



New **operational guidance and tools** for different programmatic and cross-cutting components in outbreaks including:

- Protection mainstreaming
- Key health interventions
- Key protection interventions
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- Referrals
- Duty of care
- Safeguarding
- Measurement
- Staffing, budget and procurement

## For each component:

- Summary guidance note
- Implementation tools (templates, adaptation examples, training resources, etc.)
- Equipment/supplies lists
- M&E guidance
- Key reference guidelines and standards



**Waterborne  
Transmission**



**Body Fluid and  
Bloodborne Transmission**



**Respiratory  
Transmission**

The resources are now available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#).

You can easily navigate all the resources through the following **table of contents**:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Body-fluid and bloodborne transmission package](#)
- [Respiratory transmission package](#)
- [Waterborne transmission package](#)

The Integrated Toolkit, and specifically the Protection in Outbreaks resource package, is the product of collaboration with multiple sectors, outbreak specialists, and humanitarian actors. It was developed through a design, consultation and validation process with an interagency Advisory Committee, as well as frontline staff from multiple countries and regions.

For more information about the project, you can reach out to [camille.andre@rescue.org](mailto:camille.andre@rescue.org).

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