Module 1: What Is Refugee Protection?

Objectives

- Identify the international standards that form the framework for the international protection of refugees;
- Outline refugee rights in international refugee and human rights law;
- Articulate how assistance programmes can also enhance refugee protection.

Defining refugee protection

The phrase *international protection* covers the gamut of activities through which refugees’ rights are secured.

Source: Protecting Refugees: A Field Guide for NGOs
International legal instruments

International Human Rights Law
International Humanitarian Law
International Refugee Law

International refugee law

- Regional treaties:
  - 1969 Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Convention;
  - 1984 Cartagena Declaration.

International human rights law

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights;
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
Refugee rights

The right to:
- Seek and enjoy asylum;
- *Non-refoulement*;
- Non-discrimination;
- Freedom of movement;
- Work.

Additional refugee rights

The right to:
- Housing;
- Education;
- Public relief and assistance.

The obligation to:
- Not engage in activities that pose a threat to national security or public order.

Group questions

- What is the threat?
- Who/what is the protector?
- What does this object suggest to you about protection?
Five main modes of action

- Persuasion
- Denunciation
- Mobilisation
- Substitution
- Support