Tools & Templates

Risk Analysis
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Purpose

In the field of advocacy, there are many risks and threats that may become a reality. However, if these risks are noticed in time and dealt with accordingly, the impact of the threat can be averted or minimised.

Matrix

A tool to identify possible threats is the SWOT analysis. After risks have been identified, they can be plotted into a risk assessment matrix based on their possible impact. In this matrix, you can enter the risks to gain an overview of which threats and risks are prioritized. The Y-axis portrays the likelihood that the risk becomes reality, and the X-axis gives insight on how big the threat will have on your advocacy.

Probability Impact Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minor</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequent</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote</td>
<td>Insignificant</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Adapted from Toolshero)

Measures

After the identified risks have been rated and plotted on the severity of consequences it can have, different measures can be taken to avert or minimise the damage.

Avoid

A preventive way of managing risks is to not undertake them at all. Another possibility will be to adjust the policy or process, or to outsource it. This kind of measure is happening quite often to ensure your advocacy does not carry too much risk.
Reduce
By addressing the cause of the threat, you reduce the risk. The measures that you make are restrictive to limit any damage.

Transfer
By transferring the risk, you outsource the policy or process to shift the responsibility to another party.

Accept
If the risk is almost insignificant or does not compensate the positive outcomes, no additional measures have to be taken. Accepting a risk does not mean that the risk cannot be influenced: you can simply work on the risk later on.

References & Resources
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK195418/
https://bia.ca/10-easy-rules-to-reduce-risks-on-projects/