

## Checklist for Protection Mainstreaming in Food Distribution

### Key protection concerns – WHAT AUTHORITIES SHOULD CONSIDER

#### KEY MESSAGE

In planning and implementing food distribution, it is important to pay attention to vulnerable groups/ groups with specific needs such as women, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and displaced persons are considered. **Authorities planning on food aid have the responsibility to ensure that food aid reaches all intended recipients and that nobody in need is excluded.**

#### 1. General access

- Ensure that vulnerable people, including widows, female-headed household, child-headed households, people with disabilities, older persons and people with special needs have equal access to food aid.
- Pay attention to the **LAY OUT of the distribution points** ensuring **separate access for women and girls** so that they are not prevented to attend the distribution points.
- Plan additional measures to reach vulnerable persons including person with disabilities and older persons in their homes or temporary shelters. (See also **AGEING AND DISABILITY CHECK LIST FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE**)
- No beneficiary selection criteria should be based on religious, political, racial, ethnic or social grouping. (Refer to the presentation on beneficiary selection criteria provided by the Protection Cluster)
- Avoid discrimination based on local cultural norms and traditions that may discriminate against particular groups, such as women and ethnic/religious minorities.
- Ensure that workers in food aid and nutrition programs know where and how to **refer people in acute health or protection needs**. Food aid coordinators link up with health actors / health NGOs or with the Social Welfare Department and local NGOs active in protection, social support etc.
- **Person with disabilities** and older persons may have difficulty to use usual utensils, plan appropriate utensils for them. They may also have specific diet and eating requirements; ensure the proper intake of food for them by extra assistance.

#### 2. Safety and Security

- Ensure good planning, clear registration procedures and clear criteria.
- Share information, to avoid tensions sometimes resulting in violence or riots.
- Ensure presence and monitoring so that cases of misuse are identified. Take all possible measures to guard against the misuse of food aid and to prevent abuse, including the trading of food for sex by aid workers or persons in power positions.
- Women, unaccompanied children, person with disabilities and older persons are especially vulnerable to physical, sexual and emotional abuse and require additional protection considerations.
- **A complaints mechanism should be in place for food recipients to feed back on concerns.**

### 3. Special attention: CHILD LABOUR

#### Child Labour

- Child labour is any work that is done by children which restricts or damages their physical, emotional, intellectual, social or spiritual growth as children, and which denies them their right to fully develop, to play or to go to school.
- The International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions define child labourers as:
  - All children younger than 12 working in any economic activity
  - Children 12 – 14 years old engaged in more than light work, and
  - All children engaged in the worst forms of child labour – including in which they are working as slave, trafficked or exposed to hazards.
  - Working at home or on a family farm or family business is not child labour as long as it is not a danger to the children's health and well-being, and doesn't prevent them going to school and enjoying childhood activities.
- Child labour is a significant social and economic problem in Pakistan. The most affected groups are children from very poor families, orphans, children with disabilities. They become even more exposed in emergencies. Every effort should be made to ensure that interventions do not encourage or include child labourers. Child labour concerns should be referred to the Social Service Department, NGOs active in Child protection, to the District Protection Working Group.

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