

# Food Security and Livelihood PROGRAMMES: Quick guide on how to address protection

## Why focus on protection in Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) programming?

Even if you are already assisting people in need by providing FSL services it is crucial that you take specific steps to ensure that everyone's basic human right to FSL is fulfilled in a way that allows all to **feel safe and in a way that does not discriminate; lead to harm; reinforce existing inequality or exclusion or fail to reach vulnerable people and those most in need.**

### Planning phase: protection matters to consider

- **Protection and vulnerability concerns** should be part of your **planning phase** – you cannot reach everyone at the same time: consider who are the most vulnerable and what assistance is most appropriate when prioritising your work.
- **Communication with the community** (a) to consult on their needs and preferences of assistance (b) for information sharing about options is crucial for designing responses. Important to consult not only traditional community leaders but also those (women, children, elderly, and disabled) who may not be part of the normal decision making process. This helps to *minimize the risks that the project may fail*.
- **Non-discrimination:** provide support based on need and not simple geographic coverage; and avoid any form of direct or indirect discrimination. Has everyone been considered for response? Is there differentiation between refugees/non-refugees? those living with host families, those returned to damaged buildings or who remained in CC. Extend responses to local host population. Consider adapting assistance, including special arrangements for elderly or disabled, to the needs of the most vulnerable (e.g. female headed households, women or girls).
- **Do no harm:** assistance is provided in a safe environment, and must not expose people to hazards/risks at distribution sites and while travelling to and from these points.
- **Coordination of the response.** What is the mechanism to avoid duplication with other FSL providers?

### In practice: the right to FSL and protection in Gaza

- **Identify the needs of IDPs and host families and respect their preferences:** understand the needs of IDPs (including those of women, children, elderly, and disabled) and preferences for location, design, and methodology of assistance and make adaptations accordingly. E.g. adequacy/diversity of food (consumption needs of toddlers, pregnant/ lactating women, ailing and recovering persons etc.); access to cash or CFW (to cover IDP expenditure needs such as clothing, transport, school supplies, medicines, and preferred foods).
- **Ensure protection and security of staff and beneficiaries:** protection oriented ARA programming. Ensure that workers hired under your project and beneficiaries have been trained on behaviour related to of ERW.
- **Accountability and participation of beneficiaries:** Sensitize them about their right to equitable and safe assistance. Ensure representation of all groups in FSL committees. Establish accessible effective and confidential complaints feedback and appeal mechanisms.
- **Have you analyzed all aspects?** security environment, risks associated with ownership or management of assets or with access to assistance; available cash/savings or access to credit; unsteady income; post-conflict new expenditures, existing coping mechanisms, cost efficiency; outstanding debts to input suppliers, utility and/or municipalities; access to market; risks of insecurity, corruption and community tensions.
- **Assess and monitor access to FSL to ensure the most vulnerable reached:** for needs assessments and monitoring, ensure disaggregation of data related to gender/age/disability/location or specific community/illness of household members. This will assist in providing appropriate responses, and detecting possible discrimination, diversion, or corrupt practices.

This guide on FSL to be read in conjunction with “Protection & Prioritising Vulnerable Persons in the Gaza Humanitarian Response”

### We have started our work; how can we include a protection approach now?

With the massive caseload in Gaza it is clear not everyone can be reached at once, so be creative about how you can you identify and find ways to support those with greatest needs first.

- Ensure staff are aware of protection concerns associated with FSL interventions, such as need to ensure access for all beneficiaries including identified vulnerable groups?
- Develop policy and processes on how to prioritise within the limited resources?
- Can your organisation dedicate time/human resources to support those you prioritise as vulnerable?
- Can you find a way to fast-track vulnerable individuals and families?
- Can you expedite support/assistance/ payments to those most in need?
- Identify those who have major difficulties accessing FSL interventions.
- Identify safety and security risks for women, girls, elderly, and disabled that are relevant to FSL.
- Set up a mechanism where individuals or groups can raise concerns about FSL interventions?
- If you are not able to respond refer cases to FSL partners who focus on the specific need?
- Can you propose to your management ways to train colleagues in your organisation and implementing partners on protection?

### Good practices in Gaza – some examples

- WFP and OXFAM emergency voucher;
- Flexibility of targeting and design of modalities of FSL assistance;
- WFP monitoring of socio-economic situation beneficiaries;
- Effective coordination among FSL providers.

### Check list – make sure you can answer yes to these five questions

<b>Have you consulted with the community about what different groups need and want?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Are you prioritising the most vulnerable?</b> <i>E.g. In the geographic area you work, who are most in need? How do you prioritise time and where do you start?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is your planned response appropriate?</b> <i>to people’s preferences, ability to access services because of limited mobility;</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Does your response avoid doing harm?</b> <i>Have you considered if there might be unintended consequences?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Are you addressing the protection issues related to FSL?</b> <i>[risk of tension, violence or abuse, sexual exploitation, gender-based violence;; access for disabled people;]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### What should I do if I have protection concerns?

If you are aware of someone in need of protection support [child who may be abused/ an adult with a disability/ elderly person who is at risk) contact the UNRWA Protection section for refugees (059 960 9511 or 059 792 0807) and the Protection Cluster lead/OHCHR for non-refugees who can advise of relevant partner organisations to follow up on the case.