

CCCM Programs

Tips for Protection Mainstreaming

Edition 1 (May 2014)


The content for this note is taken mainly from the following sources:

- [Minimum Inter-Agency Standards for Protection Mainstreaming \(WVI\)](#)
- [Disabilities among Refugees and Conflict-Affected Populations - Resource Kit for Fieldworkers \(WRC\)](#)
- [Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action \(CPWG\)](#)
- [GBV Guidelines \(IASC\)](#)
- [Humanitarian Charter & Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(SPHERE\)](#)

This note is divided into three sections, representing the four key elements of Protection Mainstreaming. The content is not meant to be exhaustive, but presents examples of key actions that should be taken to ensure the integration of protection principles *in the delivery of humanitarian assistance*.

Although each action described should be considered throughout implementation, there are some key actions which are especially important to consider during emergencies and during the assessment/project design stage of the project cycle. These are highlighted with the following symbol-codes:

- Emergencies 
- Assessment & Project Design Stage 

Some actions can be sensitive by their nature. In these cases, it is suggested to reach out to a Protection specialist. These are highlighted with the following symbol: 

Prioritize safety & dignity, and avoid doing harm

- Ensure camps and camp-like settings meet standards for distance from borders and conflict frontlines. Consider safety risks associated with landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and natural hazards. If the area of intervention is mined or contaminated by ERW, please refer to Mine Action working group / organisations.
- Carefully examine risks of violence, especially Gender Based Violence (GBV), to boys, girls, men and women in their daily activities (e.g. fetching water, going to the market or to school, collecting firewood or getting fuel), and work with them and protection actors to identify preventive measures and responses.
- Ensure that effective security measures are in place, especially at night, such as police and/or community patrols where possible, adequate lighting or other security measures. Monitor high-risk security zones regularly and at different times of day (e.g. around showers, latrines, child-friendly spaces, schools and routes to schools, health facilities, water collection points, etc.).
- Be aware of existing land and property tenure arrangements, including statutory/legislative and customary access rights to land when selecting sites. If the land or property is privately held, consult with relevant stakeholders to obtain authorization and formal agreement from owners. For technical support, refer to the working group or actors specialized on Housing, Land and Property within the Protection Cluster.
- Be aware of existing tensions between different ethnic, religious or other groups and consider cultural practices within the affected community. Regularly monitor and discuss with beneficiaries if they feel pressured, directly or indirectly, to return to their place of origin or relocate, or if they feel prevented from leaving the camp.

- Treat all displaced persons equitably, regardless of their living situation (i.e.: host-families, collective centers, are self-settled in urban or rural locations, or are living in spontaneous sites or planned camps.
- Make sure that a comprehensive registration system is in place, enabling women to be registered in their own name and provisions are made for child-headed households. Ensure that the purpose of registration is properly communicated to all groups and that effective data protection measures are applied.
- Ensure that information about camp/site facilities and services is accessible to everyone, including persons with disabilities (sensorial impairments) and other persons with specific needs.
- Ensure that the design of the camp/site set-up and services are accessible to all categories of beneficiaries. Carry-out regular spot-checks as part of ongoing monitoring in the camp/site, to collect information – disaggregated by age and sex - from the various services and assistance providers.
- Ensure that service providers consider the needs of different ethnic, racial, national or social groups and ensure that the quality of their services is equitable.
- Ensure that all persons have equal access to work opportunities in the camp. Consult with all actors operating in the camp to determine whether monetary compensation will be offered for work, and ensure consistency in agreed approach. If compensation is offered, ensure equal payment for all persons without discrimination.

Accountability, Participation & Empowerment

- Set-up referral systems in partnership with protection actors to provide an appropriate response and specialized assistance to persons with specific needs. Apply standards on data management and implement measures to secure referral data i.e. to ensure that personal data and lists of beneficiaries of specialist protection interventions are kept confidential and stored in a secured manner to avoid unintended uses.

Notes:

- A referral mechanism is not a rigid structure but a dynamic and inclusive process, which should incorporate: a) guidance on how to identify and appropriately treat persons with specific needs and survivors while respecting their rights and giving them power over decisions that affect their lives; b) a protocol or “pathway” to refer persons with specific needs and survivors to local and/or international agencies providing specialist protection and assistance, including medical, psycho-social and legal counselling services.

- Set-up feedback and complaints mechanism to receive and investigate requests and grievances regarding CCCM interventions, facilities and services at the displacement sites, as well a allegations of intimidation, coercion, violence and sexual exploitation and abuse experienced by women, girls, boys and men in receiving assistance. Respond to all complaints, regardless of whether corrective measures can/need to be put in place.

Notes:

- Note: a complaints mechanism should a) include a standard complaints form; however all complaints should be reviewed, regardless of format; b) give persons submitting a complaint the opportunity to identify themselves whilst respecting their anonymity should they fear retaliation; c) include provisions to submit complaints through a person other than the one about whom the complaint is made; and d) must incorporate appropriate procedures for effective follow-up. The complaints mechanism should be staffed with both men and women, and it should be accessible for children and persons with specific needs.

- Ensure that camp/site managers and coordinators have signed a code of conduct stating their commitment to respect and foster humanitarian standards and the rights of beneficiaries. Train managers and coordinators on the code of conduct and effectively monitor their adherence to the code. Compliance with the requirement to have a code of conduct is a non-derogatory criterion for the selection of all service providers.
- In partnership with protection actors, identify dedicated focal points and raise awareness about Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) by UN staff members, related personnel and partners. Provide clear information on the fact that beneficiaries do not have to provide services or favors in exchange for receiving services or accessing facilities.

- Ensure that women, men, girls and boys are fully involved in decisions relating to their situation, such as the development of camp/site policy, management, and site closure.
- Establish appropriate and sustainable mechanisms for meaningful dialogue with different age, gender, diverse groups of beneficiaries. To incorporate the views of persons with specific needs in decision-making processes, designate focal points within camp/site management structures and beneficiaries 'committees.
- Ensure that local authorities and host communities are informed, consulted and included in decisions on site location and planning in order to reduce tensions between host communities and displaced populations.
- Involve all categories of affected persons (such as children, persons with disabilities and older persons) in assessments in order to collect accurate information about their specific needs.
- Provide appropriate support to national/local authorities and stakeholders, including capacity building, and encourage government ownership of the protection and assistance strategy for camps and settlements.