



Step 7: Follow-up actions

Follow-up to participatory assessment exercises is an essential step. First, it lets refugees know that they have been heard and that their views are being taken into account, even if funding is restricted. Second, following up keeps channels of communication between refugees and multifunctional teams open, keeping the exchange of information flowing (see Ethics of participation, page 13) and enabling trust to be built over time. Third, proper follow up enables teams to validate certain information.

Multifunctional teams should:

1. Take immediate action, where feasible, to address protection-related problems. Simple interventions (appropriate referrals, sharing information, attending to SGBV cases and those with specific needs, supporting a refugee initiative, discussing issues with implementing partners, promoting age, gender, and diversity awareness, etc.) can make a big difference in the overall protection situation. At the end of each day, multifunctional teams can list all urgent follow-up actions to be taken, noting those actions which may not require resources but perhaps imply procedural changes or information-sharing.
2. Think preventively and apply preventive measures, if there are indications that an individual or group is ‘at risk’.

3. Follow up on commitments and agreements made. A field assessment is an opportunity to begin a mobilization process among refugees and other agencies on the ground. Following up is also a way of giving feedback to the community on their concerns and of demonstrating commitment.
4. Provide feedback to the community. After completing the participatory assessment, multifunctional teams should agree on how to inform the refugees of the overall findings of the participatory assessment, resulting actions, short and long term and next steps as well as any limitations. They should brief community structures, such as women's associations, youth groups and leadership (women and men) structures, to ensure that the majority of refugees are informed.

