

Tips for Protection in Cash-based interventions

Identifying, monitoring and mitigating protection risks and maximizing protection benefits

- 1 Include affected communities as **participants** in all phases of the program cycle. Ensure that crisis-affected populations identify their own protection risks and benefits and self-protection mechanisms. Consider if the program could be community-led. Explain program goals to all community members, including non-beneficiaries.
- 2 Consider whether CBI will create or exacerbate **protection risks and benefits** for **individuals, households and communities**, and to what extent new risks could be mitigated by affected communities, humanitarian agencies and duty-bearers (governments) and/or by complementary program activities. Compare risks and benefits of cash, vouchers, in-kind, and no material intervention, e.g. limiting assistance to advocacy or services.
- 3 Apply an **age, gender and diversity** lens to assessments, targeting, design, implementation, monitoring and accountability, to ensure that people with specific needs and protection risks are identified. Engage a sample of all community members, with an AGD lens, in ensuring that mitigation strategies are incorporated into design based on risks and benefits identified in assessments.
- 4 **Cash and Protection colleagues should work together**, particularly during assessment, design and monitoring and evaluation. Include minimum protection questions throughout the program cycle, as outlined in the next sections.
- 5 Design CBI along with **complementary activities and services** – particularly if specific protection objectives are part of program design. Research has shown that CBI can contribute to protection outcomes including prevention of family separation, local integration, and improved household and refugee-host relations when combined with other activities e.g. livelihoods, psychosocial and education support and/or advocacy.
- 6 Consider **personal data protection** and the risks of sharing beneficiary data with government and/or the private sector, and incorporate data protection principles throughout the program cycle.
- 7 Embed **monitoring of identified protection risks and benefits** into program monitoring processes and post-distribution monitoring (PDM) or similar tools.
- 8 Establish an **accountability framework**, not limited to the cash-based component of programs, including a multi-channel **feedback mechanism**. Ensure that staff know how to deal with different types of feedback, including referrals for psychological and protection services and support.
- 9 **Train staff and partners** on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation and child safeguarding, including on referral pathways to protection and psychological services.