

## UNHCR: Guidance on Community Based Protection

Reference Materials	Description
Understanding Community Based Protection <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/51d19cb79.html">http://www.unhcr.org/51d19cb79.html</a>	For over a decade, UNHCR has used community-based approaches to strengthen protection. Though the term ‘community-based protection’ (CBP) is not widely used, for humanitarian organizations the concepts and approaches are familiar. Drawing on documents, interviews with practitioners and field visits, this document sets out key lessons that have emerged in recent years during the delivery of CBP. It aims to help UNHCR staff and partners at all levels to integrate community-based approaches to protection in their humanitarian work.
Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/4ec3c81c9.html">http://www.unhcr.org/4ec3c81c9.html</a>	All persons who are forcibly displaced face challenges. However, persons with disabilities are at particular risk because they may be invisible, and because they are less able to participate actively in decisions that concern them and are less likely to have their protection needs met. To ensure that persons with disabilities do not suffer discrimination, staff should make themselves aware of their own preconceptions or attitudes towards disability and ensure that programmes are inclusive and participatory. Prejudice may stem from lack of knowledge about disability or the rights of persons with disabilities. Exclusion of persons with disabilities during displacement can be inadvertent or purposeful: in either case, nevertheless, it is discriminatory.
Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Persons in Forced Displacement <a href="http://www.refworld.org/docid/4e6073972.html">http://www.refworld.org/docid/4e6073972.html</a>	All persons who are forcibly displaced face challenges. However, LGBTI refugees are at particular risk because they often face targeted discrimination and violence in countries of asylum. Many avoid seeking protection out of fear of further harm. Their protection needs often go unmet, and they are unable to participate in activities or access support that could benefit them. To ensure that LGBTI refugees are protected throughout the displacement cycle, UNHCR and NGO partner staff need to make themselves aware of their own preconceptions or discriminatory attitudes towards sexual orientation, gender identity, and bodily diversity and ensure that programmes are inclusive and participatory. Prejudice may stem from lack of knowledge about this group or their rights. Exclusion of LGBTI persons during displacement can be inadvertent or purposeful: in either case, it is discriminatory.
Working with National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and Indigenous Peoples in Forced Displacement	Members of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples can comprise a large proportion of those seeking international protection. Furthermore, in many parts of the world, they are the victims of severe human rights violations, violence, conflict, ethnic or religious persecution, and in extreme cases, genocide.

<p><a href="http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ee72a2a2.html">http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ee72a2a2.html</a></p>	<p>Moreover, minorities and indigenous peoples are among the most marginalized communities in many societies: they are often excluded from participation in socio-economic life, rarely have access to political power and frequently encounter obstacles to manifesting their identity. These obstacles are multiplied during forced displacement and increase protection risks. It is important for UNHCR to ensure that the rights of refugees and other displaced populations who are members of minority and indigenous groups are met without discrimination.</p>
<p>Working with Men and Boy Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Forced Displacement</p> <p><a href="http://www.refworld.org/docid/5006aa262.html">http://www.refworld.org/docid/5006aa262.html</a></p>	<p>Sexual violence against women and girls in conflict situations is increasingly understood to be a weapon of war. Following long-term national and international advocacy, more countries are legislating against it, although prevention and redress remain extremely inadequate. Sexual violence against women and girls has also become a central protection concern in displacement contexts. By contrast, sexual violence against men and boys is less understood or acknowledged. It is increasingly evident, nevertheless, that this is a recurrent protection concern in situations of conflict and displacement. It can be a cause of flight and, for some refugee men and boys, a key source of vulnerability in the country of asylum.</p> <p>Where social and cultural norms reinforce gender inequality by casting men as inherently strong and expected to protect women and children, attacks on markers of gender identity are a powerful weapon of war. Where social norms and taboos on sexuality and sexual orientation marginalize or stigmatize same-sex relations, sexualized attacks against men serve not only to diminish their masculinity in their own eyes and the eyes of perpetrators, but can be interpreted by the survivor, perpetrators, and the wider community to be an expression of his sexual orientation or gender identity.</p>
<p>Working with Older Persons in Forced Displacement</p> <p><a href="http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ee72aaf2.html">http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ee72aaf2.html</a></p>	<p>Older persons are at risk of exclusion from protection and assistance programmes if humanitarian actors do not fully understand their needs, and do not involve them actively in decisions that concern their wellbeing. It cannot be presumed that they will always benefit from family assistance programmes, or from family or community support networks. Staff and partners need to deliberately adopt an inclusive and participatory approach. Through consultation processes (such as Participatory Assessments), older women and men can help to design and implement programmes that really meet their needs, and can be supported to do what they can to improve their own situation.</p>