



BRIEF ON PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING

WHAT IS PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING?

Protection mainstreaming is the process of incorporating protection principles and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity in humanitarian aid. **The following elements must be taken into account in all humanitarian activities:**

- 1 – Prioritize safety & dignity, and avoid causing harm: prevent and minimize as much as possible any unintended negative effects of your intervention which can increase people's vulnerability to both physical and psychosocial risks
- 2 – Meaningful Access: arrange for people's access to assistance and services - in proportion to need and without any barriers (e.g. discrimination). Pay special attention to individuals and groups who may be particularly vulnerable or have difficulty accessing assistance and services.
- 3 – Accountability: set-up appropriate mechanisms through which affected populations can measure the adequacy of interventions, and address concerns and complaints
- 4 – Participation and empowerment: support the development of self-protection, capacities and assist people to claim their rights, including - not exclusively - the rights to shelter, food, water and sanitation, health, and education

WHY SHOULD WE MAINSTREAM PROTECTION?

Mainstreaming protection ensures that the protective impact of aid programming is maximized. Through the incorporation of protection principles into aid delivery, humanitarian actors can ensure that their activities target the most vulnerable, enhance safety, dignity, and promote and protect the human rights of the beneficiaries without contributing to or perpetuating discrimination, abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation.

HOW DO WE MAINSTREAM PROTECTION?

Protection can be mainstreamed:

- By including the above elements in the general project management as central to delivering humanitarian aid;
- By incorporating the above elements into project cycle management through protection mainstreaming indicators for each sector.

WHO SHOULD MAINSTREAM PROTECTION?

All humanitarian actors share an ethical responsibility for mainstreaming protection across the humanitarian response, including general and sector staff, programming staff, advocacy staff, design, monitoring and evaluation staff, and their managers. Cluster lead agencies and partners are responsible for ensuring that activities within their respective sector are carried out with a "protection lens", and in particular for ensuring that their activities integrate protection principles. Field Protection Clusters can provide advice, guidance and training on protection mainstreaming.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING?

The Global Protection Cluster maintains a Support Package which includes:

- A Protection Mainstreaming Training Package
- A tip sheet for field protection clusters in support of protection mainstreaming efforts
- Tip sheets with specific measures for other humanitarian sectors/cluster
- An annotated reference list of protection mainstreaming guidance, tools, and manuals
- A collection of examples