

# THINK PROTECTION!

## A PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING TOOL FOR DROUGHT, FAMINE AND DISPLACEMENT IN SOMALIA

In severe emergency situations, members of certain groups are exposed to heightened protection risks and further marginalization or even exclusion in accessing humanitarian assistance. Due to the current crisis in Somalia, the most vulnerable categories face the risk of being neglected; it is thus essential to ensure that the key protection concerns during an emergency situation are kept at the forefront of all humanitarian interventions. Unaccompanied children, women and children, GBV survivors and minorities are just some of the groups of particular concern. In order to raise awareness of specific protection risks and to ensure equal access to humanitarian assistance for persons of concern, the Protection Cluster has developed this protection mainstreaming tool.

### A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY...

Protection mainstreaming is a shared responsibility of all humanitarian actors to avoid creating or exacerbating protection threats. All humanitarian actors should actively seek ways to enhance the protection of the newly displaced and most vulnerable people in Somalia, even if they do not have a distinct protection mandate or specialist capacity in protection. In particular, they must actively seek to mainstream protection in their activities, which means making sure that such activities do not result in or perpetuate discrimination, abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation. All programmes and activities in Somalia should therefore take the following humanitarian principles into account when designing interventions: **DO NO HARM** and **NON-DISCRIMINATION**. Humanitarian actors should also pay particular attention to diversity. A cluster-specific checklist is provided below. For more detailed guidance on child protection and GBV, refer to the mainstreaming checklists provided by the Child Protection Working Group and the GBV Working Group.

### FOOD AID

- Ensure all implementing agencies and implementing partners involved in food distribution have identified the most invisible groups in the community, the power relations, and the existing specific needs of any group according to age/gender, in order to avoid the distribution exacerbating vulnerability.
- Adopt and implement protocols to ensure that vulnerable populations, such as women, children, members of minority clans as well as persons with disabilities access humanitarian assistance.
- Ensure that the situation of all displaced populations, including those who are not in camps or broader settlements, as well as those dispersed in smaller groups and living with host families is reflected in humanitarian assessments.
- Assess food needs, nutrition and public health conditions of the host communities to avoid creating tensions.
- Avoid turning food aid into a pull factor if there are other alternatives.
- Avoid registering only the male head-of-household / head of family and never exclude the registration of other adult family members or unaccompanied minors. Provide women with individual ration cards for them and their children including separate cards for each woman in polygamous families.
- Disaggregate beneficiaries by gender and age.
- Consider the frequency of distributions to avoid any eventual protection risks – the greater the time between distributions the larger the quantities distributed, which puts IDPs and other affected populations at risk of attacks and pillage.
- Consider the quantities of the distributed food taking into account the distance to the place of distribution, in order to ensure that beneficiaries are able to carry the food home safely. Home-distribute food where necessary such as in the case of persons with disabilities, older persons and others.
- Rotate distribution teams so no one team constantly visits the same settlements.
- Keep personal data and lists of recipients firmly restricted to concerned actors and safe from unintended use, due to the sensitivity of the information.
- Provide information on distributions through different methods to ensure communication reaches all beneficiaries.
- Ensure that the distribution site is safe (e.g. making sure that queuing beneficiaries are sheltered from stray bullets or crossfire), accessible to those whose mobility is impaired and in close proximity to places of residence. Recipients should not have to traverse long distances or pass through conflict zones where they may be exposed to serious safety risks.



- Ensure that distribution time is safe for beneficiaries to get to the place of distribution and get home safely. Monitor security at the distribution point and on departure roads before and after the distribution to avoid violence.
- Ensure that all staff involved in food distribution have received training in prevention and response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- Ensure that camp/settlement committees dealing with distributing agencies are representative and include women and minorities.
- Set up a complaints mechanism to address individual concerns and ensure accountability.



## WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

- Involve women, girls, boys and men in all consultations and assessments to identify safety and security risks, and to identify locations of water points and sanitation facilities that are accessible and safe.
- Ensure that water is of sufficient quality for consumption and use for cooking and personal and domestic hygiene without causing risk to health. Avoid mixed use of water sources by humans and animals.
- Locate water sources in a visible location and not more than 500 meters from the settlement in order to avoid the risk of physical attacks. Design sanitation facilities to ensure privacy and safety. Bathing facilities and toilets should have doors and facilities should be well lit and located in visible and central locations.
- Ensure accessibility of water and sanitation facilities for children and people whose mobility is impaired, including the elderly and disabled. Ensure that women, children and other vulnerable groups are given priority in receiving a fair and equal share where water sources are limited.
- Water points should be easy to operate by children as well as adults, due to women and children being the primary collectors of water in Somalia.
- Provide the host population with WASH services on an equitable basis where they are experiencing similar shortages of basic sanitation facilities to avoid the creation of tension.
- Ensure that facilities are not dominated by a particular clan and that resources are not being bartered or sold.



## HEALTH / NUTRITION

- Ensure equal access to effective, safe and quality health services to prevent avoidable morbidity, mortality and disability.
- Involve from the outset beneficiaries in health assessments, paying special attention to women and children and other vulnerable groups, and local health workers where possible.
- Make sure that health workers working in health facilities with no psycho-social support are aware of the nearest facility where this support is provided and create referral procedures to address such cases whose complications cannot be addressed within the local health system.
- Provide mental health services that are culturally appropriate and ethically sound for populations affected by violence and trauma.
- Ensure an appropriate response to the clinical management of rape is a priority. Develop protocols that are GBV-survivor friendly, with clear standards for the care and treatment of children and women survivors, and create protocols to protect the privacy of victims of violence.
- Liaise with UNFPA for provisions of PEP kits for health facilities.
- Ensure that women and girls are seen by the same sex health practitioner and that consultations and documentation are private and confidential.
- Ensure nutrition programmes are designed in a manner that takes into account the special needs of vulnerable groups, such as pregnant and lactating women, under 5 year olds and the elderly.
- Encourage the use of substitute mothers who have been breast-feeding their own infants for infants whose mothers have died or cannot lactate.
- Document and register the presence of unaccompanied minors. Ensure that staff with knowledge and skills relevant to working with children are available at the health facility or can be contacted immediately.
- Enhance the capacity of community health workers to monitor, report, and offer provider referrals on protection issues. Ensure that health staff are aware of the need to report protection concerns in confidence, in particular to a protection professional, such as a member of the Protection Monitoring Network system.



## SHELTER / NFI

- Ensure all implementing agencies and implementing partners involved in distributions have identified the most invisible groups in the community, the power relations, and the existing specific needs of any group according to age/gender, in order to avoid the distribution exacerbating vulnerability.



- Ensure that the situation of all displaced populations, including those who are not in camps or broader settlements, as well as those dispersed in smaller groups and living with host families is reflected in humanitarian assessments.
- Assess the shelter and non-food item needs of host communities early also to avoid creating tensions.
- Avoid turning distribution locations into a pull factor if there are other alternatives.
- Avoid registering only the male head-of-household / head of family and never exclude the registration of other adult family members or unaccompanied minors.
- Disaggregate beneficiaries by gender and age.
- Rotate distribution teams so no one team constantly visits the same settlements.
- Keep personal data and lists of recipients firmly restricted to concerned actors and safe from unintended use, due to the sensitivity of the information.
- Provide information on distributions through different methods to ensure communication reaches all beneficiaries.
- Ensure that the settlements and distribution sites are not located in conflict zones where they may be exposed to serious safety risks.
- Ensure that distribution time is safe for beneficiaries to get to the place of distribution and get home safely. Monitor security on the distribution point and on departure roads before and after the distribution to avoid violence.
- Ensure that camp/settlement committees dealing with distributing agencies are representative and include women and minorities.
- Ensure shelter assistance takes into account the land tenure situation of IDPs. Advocate with land and property owners and local authorities to avoid eviction or disproportional rising in rent.
- Set up a complaints mechanism to address individual concerns and ensure accountability.



## AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOOD

- Adopt and implement protocols to ensure that the specific needs of vulnerable populations, such as female-headed households, children, members of minority clans as well as persons with disabilities are considered in designing livelihood activities and cash programs.
- Confirm that agriculture initiatives for women do not add an intolerable work burden and that they take into account child labour concerns.
- Design agriculture programs that do not expose agriculturalists to attack or other abuse, through schemes such as synchronized work schedules and accompaniment services to the fields.



## EDUCATION

- Ensure equal access to education for all, including to children with disabilities or HIV/AIDS, and others belonging to disadvantaged or marginalized groups.
- Ensure educational programs take into account the specific situations of former child soldiers and unaccompanied children.
- Locate safe spaces, temporary learning centres, and classrooms in safe locations near or within IDP settlements. Ensure that IDP children have access to available education services at the same level as host communities.
- Create protocols for prevention, reporting and referral of cases of child abuse in safe spaces, temporary learning centres, and classrooms.
- Ensure child protection checks are carried out when recruiting new or temporary staff.
- Provide separate toilets in safe locations for boys and girls in each safe space, temporary learning centre, or classroom.
- Ensure safe spaces, temporary learning centres, and classrooms are in good condition and pose no risk to children and teachers. Situate play areas in clearly visible and safe locations.

This protection mainstreaming tool is a non-exhaustive guide based on the principles outlined in the Sphere Handbook 2011. For further reading, please see:

*Sphere Handbook 2011*, available at:

[http://www.sphereproject.org/component/option,com\\_docman/task,doc\\_download/gid,466/Itemid,203/lang,english](http://www.sphereproject.org/component/option,com_docman/task,doc_download/gid,466/Itemid,203/lang,english)

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