



World Food Programme



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SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



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# WFP & Protection Mainstreaming

FSS Working Group Meeting – May 16, 2023

# WFP COMMITMENT PROTECTION



*“WFP has absolutely no tolerance for anyone working for or with us who brings harm to anyone we serve.”*

David Beasley, Former Executive Director of WFP

WFP remains committed to Protection, accountability to affected populations (AAP) and PSEAH.

# GLOBAL DEFINITION OF PROTECTION



- All activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law, i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law (Inter-Agency Standing Committee – IASC)

# WFP DEFINITION OF PROTECTION



Designing and carrying out food assistance activities that do not increase the protection risks faced by the crisis-affected populations receiving assistance.

Rather, food assistance contributes to the **safety, dignity** and **integrity** of vulnerable people”



# PROTECTION FOR WFP means...



preventing and responding to  
**protection risks** associated  
with hunger in all contexts and  
achieving successful  
**protection outcomes** for the  
people it assists

Protection Mainstreaming the process of incorporating all protection principles, and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity in all aspects of humanitarian response.

Mainstreaming means addressing protection concerns at all levels of programming

Protection mainstreaming focuses **not on WHAT we do** ( the assistance/services) but **rather on HOW we do it** ( Process)

02

IDENTIFICATION OF THE  
PROTECTION RISKS IN  
WFP INTERVENTIONS

## PROTECTION RISKS

= any harmful or abusive act that undermines a person's safety, dignity or integrity (violation of human rights)


= consequence of the actions of individuals or institutions

Protection risks can be seen as dependent on:

- the level and nature of the **threat**;
- the **vulnerabilities** of affected persons (women, men, girls, boys, older people, people with disability, marginalised groups etc.);
- their **capacities** to cope with the threat.




## When we talk about maximizing benefits and minimizing risks, what do we mean?



Incorporate protective elements to mitigate risks

Design interventions that mitigate unintended consequences

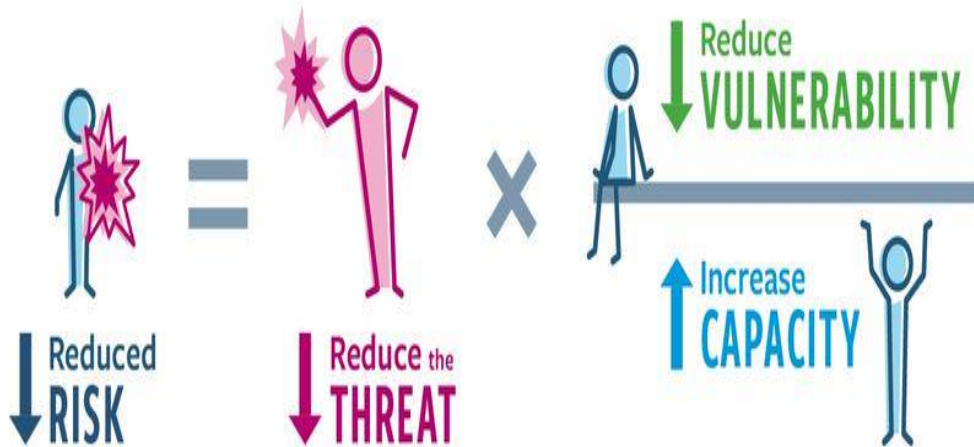


Design and revise programs to enhance protection benefits

Ensure participation, accountability and meeting the needs of different groups/individuals

# Focus for Protection

## RISK EQUATIONS



$$\downarrow \text{RISK} = \downarrow \text{THREAT} \times \frac{\downarrow \text{VULNERABILITY}}{\uparrow \text{CAPACITY}}$$

# 03

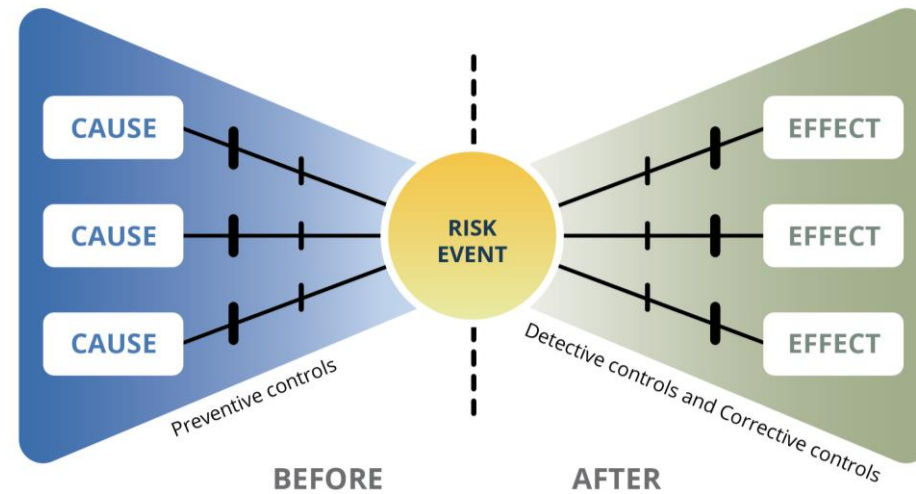
## EXAMPLES OF PROTECTION RISK AND MITIGATION MEASURES IN SC PROCESSES (CBT/GFD)

# Our Risk Identify Approach

## ★ Ask 3 key questions:

- 1) What could prevent us from **achieving our objectives**? What could go wrong? — **Risk Event**
- 2) Why is it happening? — **Risk Cause**
- 3) What would be the consequence if it actually happens? — **Risk Effect**

[RISK EVENT] due to [CAUSE] leading to [EFFECT]



**Bowtie tool** is a visual model to analyze this chain of risk cause and effect (for interactive tool).

## Example 1

| Risk  | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>  | Likelihood of Occurrence |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| <p>Lack of access to and/or informed use of technology: recipients eligible for cash-based transfers distributed by new technology may be unfamiliar or lack access to technology</p> | <p>Beneficiaries, particularly older or illiterate persons may have to rely on others to use their cash or vouchers, thereby running a risk of exploitation or abuse by shopkeepers, traders, or persons who assist them.</p> | <p>Train beneficiaries on the use of technology;</p> <p>Establish accessible and effective complaints and feedback mechanisms like a help desk or hotline;</p> <p>Train traders, monitor closely, and ensure traders who exploit or abuse others are expelled from the programme.</p> | <p>HIGH</p>              |

## Example 2

| Risk  | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / Opportunities   | Likelihood of Occurrence |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| <p>Exploitation by traders selected for voucher redemption who may engage in unfair practices such as increasing prices for those with vouchers, serving them last and stigmatizing them, giving them lower quality goods, or demanding bribes or sexual favours.</p> | <p>Low purchasing power of the Transfer value</p> <p>Stigmatization of beneficiaries – first priority for Cash clients and WFP beneficiaries served last.</p> | <p>Implement rigorous monitoring of traders;</p> <p>Raise awareness on prices and entitlements; enabling people to better know their rights, demand fair services, and report cases of exploitation through appropriate channels.</p> <p>Establish community feedback mechanisms and help desks at redemption sites – retailers to understand why they are located there;</p> <p>Sensitize traders on fair practices and inform of repercussions if violated and enforce codes of conduct.</p> <p>Ensure Code of Conduct on PSEA is signed with traders and those who work with them.</p> | <p>HIGH</p>              |



## Example 3

| Risk   | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood  |
|--|---|--|-------------|
| <p>Beneficiaries spend on/redeem items outside the recommended food basket or programme's objectives</p> | <p>Spending that does not benefit the household:<br/>Cash can be diverted for uses that do not benefit the household, depriving other members of the household of assistance.</p> | <p>Consultations with communities to identify most preferred household food needs to inform food basket determination and Transfer Modalities.</p>     | <p>HIGH</p> |
|  | <p>Conflicts and misunderstandings in the households</p>  | <p>Contribute to gender empowerment by enabling women to participate in decision-making processes within the household and receive cash transfers.</p> |             |
|  | <p>Beneficiaries purchasing low quality items that might be harmful to their health ( ref. black oil)</p>   | <p>Conduct PDM and identify spending patterns and priorities. Utilise monitoring data to inform decision making.</p>                                   |             |
|  | <p>Encourage households to hold family conversations on what items to redeem during the redemption time to avoid conflicts.</p>   |  |             |

## Example 4

| Risk   | Consequences   | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>  | Likelihood  |
|--|--|---|-------------|
| <p>Persons with disabilities cannot access the retailer outlets/market</p> | <p>Redemption of funds/food items by beneficiary difficult</p> | <p>Provide assistance to PSN to access the market and POS agents.</p>   | <p>High</p> |
|  |  | <p>Work in collaboration with the Persons with disability organizations on how best to facilitate PWDs to access markets/delivery of their assistance</p> |             |
|  |  | <p>HH targeting reduces reliance on outside help.</p>   |             |

## Example 5

| Risk   | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood  |
|--|---|--|-------------|
| <p>Difficulties by Persons with Special Needs in using the payment instruments ( Pre-paid cards and e-vouchers</p> | <p>Redemption of funds by beneficiary difficult</p> | <p>Work with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities on issues related to supporting PWDs.</p>  | <p>High</p> |
|  | <p>Missing out on entitlements</p>                  | <p>Ensure that households with HH heads that have a disability nominate a person that can have easy access to be part of the Primary or Alternate on the SCOPE Card.</p> |             |
|  |   | <p>Inclusion of an awareness raising budget on financial literacy/ digital technology for persons who do not know how to read and write.</p>                             |             |

## Example 6

| Risk   | Consequences   | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood  |
|--|--|--|-------------|
| <p>Increased domestic violence/ tension over decision making about the use of the entitlements</p> | <p>Household violence, increased SGBV, or loss of control of assets by women</p> | <p>Utilise the findings of the gender analysis to determine who to include as a primary and alternate.</p>   | <p>High</p> |
|  | <p>Divorce and Separation</p>  | <p>Conduct community dialogue meetings/male involvement on issues of gender and joint decision making on use of humanitarian assistance</p>  |             |
|  | <p>Missed entitlements</p>   | <p>Be Aware that GBV may arise as a result of merging polygamous households together – need for consideration of polygamous households as independent households while the man registers in one household.</p> |             |

## Example 7

| Risk  | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / Opportunities  | Likelihood |
|---|---|--|------------|
| Financial Service Provider agents/retailers not able to meet cash and food needs of beneficiaries | Beneficiaries unable to redeem Cash and food enough to Meet their needs   | Ensure there are enough FSPs/retailers to meet the caseload per location.  | High       |
|   |   | Consider FSPs/retailers that reside from within the locations to allow beneficiaries to redeem at different intervals within the distribution cycle. |            |
|   | Beneficiaries being coerced to redeem items not within their preferences. | Ensure that the redemption period is not short to allow for a staggered cash out/food redemption over time.  |            |

## Example 8

| Risk   | Consequences   | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood  |
|--|--|--|-------------|
| <p>Technological failures with cash transfers to beneficiary pre-paid cards</p> <p>Technical issues with SCOPE cards</p> | <p>Missed Entitlements pending resolution of the complaints</p> <p>Beneficiaries opting for negative coping mechanisms</p> | <p>Timely transfer of Careful/uploading of client transfer information to reduce possibilities of errors;</p> <p>Ensure timely resolution of complaints so that beneficiaries do not miss out on their monthly entitlements</p> <p>Explore option of providing those beneficiaries with FRCs and enable them have access to Food in-kind pending resolution of the technical issues.</p> | <p>High</p> |



## Example 9

| Risk   | Consequences   | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood  |
|--|--|--|-------------|
| <p>Disclosure of beneficiary data and privacy to third parties without their consent</p> | <p>Beneficiary data landing in the hands of actors that exposes them to further harm</p> | <p>Adherence to the WFP data protection and privacy guidance/policy</p>  | <p>High</p> |
|  |  | <p>Data sharing agreements with other third parties and monitor compliance</p>                                     |             |
|  |  | <p>Information and sensitization campaigns to population on their right to report any data protection breaches</p> |             |
|  |  | <p><i>Conduct training for staff and any retailers/vendors and FSPs in data protection and privacy</i></p>         |             |

## Example 10

| Risk  | Consequences               | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>  | Likelihood  |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| <p>Potential abuse of power and authority to their sexual advantage by FSP vendors, retailers and transporters of the vulnerable community members who are not on the beneficiary list and would use their position of vulnerability to seek assistance in exchange for Sex</p> | <p>Reputational Damage</p> | <p>Community sensitization that WFP assistance is free and should not be exchanged for anything else.</p> <p>Disseminate standards of conduct for retailers and prohibited practices in line with the six core principles of the IASC on PSEA</p> <p>Encourage reporting of suspected through established channels.</p> <p>Make affected communities aware of their rights and available complaints and feedback mechanisms/Toll free Line and Inter-Agency reporting mechanism</p> | <p>High</p> |

# HOW DO WE IDENTIFY AND MITIGATE RISKS

## Example 11

| Risk   | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / Opportunities  | Likelihood  |
|--|---|--|-------------|
| <p>The risk of crowds forming at the redemption or GFD centres</p> | <p>The FRC process flow from issuance to redemption of assistance will lead to a long period of delays thus leading to formation of crowds at the FRC distribution and redemption site.</p> | <p>Consider timing of the distribution is suitable - beneficiaries should have enough time to return back to their homes before dark.</p>                      | <p>High</p> |
|  |   | <p>Create a safe environment with adequate crowd control measures in place – use of trained civilian crowd controllers.</p>                                    |             |
|  | <p>Beneficiaries will be spending longer duration of time at the distribution site.</p>   | <p>Set up the distribution site with a clear entrance and exit, barriers to allow for crowd control and ensure only beneficiaries can access the premises.</p> |             |
|  |   | <p>Consider separate waiting queues for women and men, including priority queues for those with special needs (elderly and PWDs) mechanism</p>                 |             |

## Example 12

| Risk  | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / Opportunities   | Likelihood    |
|---|---|---|---------------|
| <p>Safety Problems at Distribution/redemption Sites</p> | <p>Violence due to uncontrolled crowds</p>                                  | <p>Ensure Crowd Control measures are in place – proper planning for early arrival at distribution sites etc</p>                                     | <p>Medium</p> |
|   | <p>Harassment of Women by crowd controllers</p>                             | <p>Consider separate waiting queues areas for various vulnerable groups – Pregnant 4<sup>th</sup> trimester, PWDs, Breast feeding – 1month etc.</p> |               |
|   | <p>Injuries of children, women and men</p>                                  | <p>Use of civilian crowd controllers – trained on code of conduct, signed code of conduct</p>   |               |
|   | <p>Distribution sites being used as recruitment grounds by Armed Groups</p> | <p>Armed Security within the distribution area for safety and security. ( Use for crowd Control as a last resort)</p>                               |               |

## Example 13

| Risk   | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>  | Likelihood |
|--|---|---|------------|
| Safety problems enroute to and from the distribution and redemption points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attacks on the people</li> <li>• Physical barriers or natural hazards</li> <li>• Theft of Rations</li> </ul> | Consider moving distribution points to other locations  | Medium     |
|  |   | Consider establishing additional distribution points to increase proximity to communities and reduce travel time      |            |
|  |   | Consult with communities on safest transfer modality and consider adjusting accordingly.                              |            |
|  |   | Encourage people to travel in groups<br>Increase frequency of distributions to reduce on ration size per distribution |            |

## Example 14

| Risk   | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>  | Likelihood    |
|--|---|---|---------------|
| <p>Safety problems following distributions</p> | <p>Retaliation attacks on recipient communities by armed groups or neighbouring communities</p> | <p>Advocate with armed groups on neutral nature of WFP assistance</p>                                       | <p>Medium</p> |
|  | <p>Diversion of assistance to armed groups</p>  | <p>Create awareness on targeting criteria with neighbouring communities.</p>                                |               |
|  | <p>Community or household tension directed at recipient</p>                                     | <p>Involve communities – recipients and non recipients on defining vulnerability and targeting criteria</p> |               |
|  |   | <p>Consider need for inclusion of vulnerable groups in host communities.</p>                                |               |
|  |   | <p>Consult with men and women on identification of most appropriate household entitlement holders</p>       |               |



## Example 15

| Risk   | Consequences                                    | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>                              | Likelihood |
|--|---|---|------------|
| Lack of basic services at distribution sites | Dignity of recipients of assistance compromised | Designate specific waiting areas  | Medium     |
|  |   | Ensure shade or protection against cold or wet weather in waiting areas |            |
|  |   | Ensure access to potable water, particularly in hot climates            |            |
|  |   | Ensure designated and safe toilet facilities                            |            |

## Example 16

| Risk  | Consequences        | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood |
|---|---------------------|--|------------|
| Lack of access to distribution sites for particularly vulnerable groups | Missed entitlements | Consult with community leaders to identify and arrange distributions for people unable to travel to distribution points , including new mothers, elderly, PWDs and chronically ill | High       |
|   |                     | Make distribution points accessible for all people with disabilities.  |            |
|   |                     | Create preferential lines for extremely vulnerable individuals   |            |
|   |                     | Identify and include marginalized groups in targeting  |            |

## Example 17

| Risk  | Consequences                              | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood |
|---|---|--|------------|
| Child labour at distribution/<br>Livelihood sites<br>points and<br>enroute to and<br>from sites | Hazardous Work,                           | Create awareness on WFP standards on child labour  | High       |
|   | Work not for age and capacity of children | Raise awareness on problems related to child labour in the community.  |            |
|   | School drop out<br>Exploitative work      | Ensure assistance for people unable to transport rations to transport rations to reduce on reliance on children. |            |

## Example 18

| Risk  | Consequences           | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood |
|---|------------------------|--|------------|
| Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by WFP and CP staff | Reputational damage    | Train staff and partners on SEA  | High       |
|   |                        | Designate a PSEA focal point   |            |
|   | Too many complaints    | Encourage reporting of suspected cases of SEA through established channels                                 |            |
|   | Acceptance compromised | Establish complaint and feedback mechanisms for affected communities capable of handling complaints of SEA |            |
|   |                        | Make affected communities aware of their rights and available complaints mechanisms.                       |            |

03(a)

PROTECTION RISKS IN  
NUTRITION  
INTERVENTIONS

## Example G

| Risk   | Consequences  | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>  | Likelihood  |
|--|---|---|-------------|
| <p>Sharing of the Plummy Doze amongst the other children/family members.</p> | <p>Affected children getting less than what is required per month</p> | <p>Awareness creation on use and application of WFP assistance for Nutrition and who qualifies to take it. ( Develop sensitization messages on the Dos and Donts)</p> | <p>High</p> |
|  |   | <p>Routine and regular check of MUAC at every distribution.</p>   |             |
|  |   | <p>Ensure all children in the household within the age range are registered and targeted – especially all those that meet the selection criteria.</p>                 |             |
|  |   | <p>Ensure complaints and feedback mechanisms are available to register any complaints/side effects arising out of consumption of the food</p>                         |             |



## Example J

| Risk  | Consequences        | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood |
|---|---------------------|--|------------|
| Lack of access to distribution sites for particularly vulnerable groups | Missed entitlements | Consult with community leaders to identify and arrange distributions for people unable to travel to distribution points , including new mothers, elderly, PWDs and chronically ill               | High       |
|   |                     | Make distribution points accessible for all people with disabilities.  |            |
|   |                     | Establish waiting areas at distribution sites to allow for identification of persons/groups of persons that will require preferential treatment based on their vulnerability/existing conditions |            |

## Example K

| Risk   | Consequences                                      | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood |
|--|---|--|------------|
| Beneficiaries spend cash assistance on items outside the programme's Objectives ( Hair Salons, Beautification) | Objective/target of the intervention not achieved | Sensitization campaign on the proper use of the assistance at household level.   | High       |
|  |   | Understand the general power dynamics in the households and encourage joint decision making at household level on use of assistance. |            |
|  |   | Conduct post distribution/cash out monitoring to track how assistance was used, any challenges to inform programming.                |            |
|  |   | Identify gender-differentiated spending patterns to help understand who to target with key sensitization messages and dialogue       |            |

## Example L

| Risk                              | Consequences   | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>  | Likelihood |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| Selling of the Nutrition Products | Denial of assistance to the affected children in the household | Sensitization campaign on the value and importance of the Nutrition assistance ( BFSP and others) | High       |
|                                   |  | Behaviour change communication to the Mothers and parents including men                           |            |
|                                   | Increased exposure to malnutrition                             | Community engagement with beneficiaries on potential risks caused by the sale of the assistance.  |            |

## Example O

| Risk   | Consequences   | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>   | Likelihood |
|--|--|--|------------|
| Targeting criteria leading to increased rates of pregnancy | Increased population growth<br><br>Increased vulnerability of the children.                                      | Ensure adequate community sensitization on the rationale for the nutrition assistance  | High       |
|  |  | Inclusion of vulnerable families in the assistance - <i>support to most vulnerable can help address of resorting to negative coping mechanisms</i> |            |
|  | Information and sensitization campaigns  |  |            |
|  | <i>Include all vulnerable households as part of the beneficiaries of the assistance as part of the targeting</i> |  |            |

# HOW DO WE IDENTIFY AND MITIGATE RISKS

## Example P

| Risk   | Consequences   | Mitigation measures / <i>Opportunities</i>  | Likelihood |
|--|--|---|------------|
| Targeting criteria leading to deliberate efforts by parents to make their children malnourished ( Parents giving children Tamarind and water from Potash – Sodium Bicarbonate – Lake Salt) | Exposes innocent children to additional harm ( skinny and unhealthy) | Ensure adequate community sensitization on the rationale for the nutrition assistance<br><br>Inclusion of vulnerable families in the assistance - <i>support to most vulnerable can help address of resorting to negative coping mechanisms</i><br><br>Referral of similar cases to WFP for possible assistance if they are not WFP beneficiaries<br><br><i>Community dialogue and feedback mechanisms to identify negative coping strategies applied by various groups in order qualify for WFP assistance</i> | High       |

## ✓ Why is Protection Mainstreaming important?

- ✓ We are able to understand who is most at risk and why
- ✓ We are able to keep affected populations safe when they receive assistance from us
- ✓ We are able to take decisions and design programmes that keep affected people at the centre and that have an impact on addressing protection risks (we know and mitigate the protection risks)
- ✓ We can improve the quality of programming by ensuring the most vulnerable access assistance that is appropriate and relevant to their needs and delivered in a safe and dignified way.

## ✗ What are the risks if Protection is not mainstreamed?

- ✗ We can create new protection risks or exacerbate existing protection risks for the affected populations (and WFP staff)
- ✗ We can hamper recovery and resilience building in affected communities
- ✗ Our actions or inactions may perpetuate discrimination, abuse, violence, and exploitation and unnecessarily cause competition, tension and conflict in communities.
- ✗ Community acceptance is compromised – hostilities against humanitarian staff

**Questions? Thank you**

