INTRODUCTION TO: PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER, YEMEN

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Protection Cluster

Protection Cluster in Yemen

- Coordinate protection activities which aim to safeguard the respect for and protection of the rights of individuals affected by the crisis in Yemen.

- Promotes and supports **centrality of protection** and **mainstreaming** through all humanitarian activities.
IASC Statement of the Centrality of Protection

“The IASC affirms the commitment to ensuring the centrality of protection in humanitarian action and the role of Humanitarian Coordinators, Humanitarian Country Teams and Clusters to implement this commitment in all aspects of humanitarian action”.

Extract from the IASC Principals on 17 December 2013

- **Primary responsibility to protect is with States.** Humanitarian community provides support
- HCs, HCTs and Clusters need to **develop and implement a comprehensive protection strategy**
- Protection activities to **address these risks and to prevent and stop the recurrence of violations**
- **Protection must be included in all aspects of humanitarian response.**
- **Understanding context** – What do people need? How are they coping? What risks do they face in their everyday lives? Do they face specific vulnerabilities?
Protection mainstreaming

What is protection mainstreaming?

- Protection mainstreaming is the process of incorporating protection principles and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity in humanitarian action.

- Although not all agencies implement protection programming, every agency has a responsibility to include protection principles into programmes.
Protection mainstreaming

Why should we mainstream protection?
- Ensure activities target the most vulnerable.
- Enhance safety, dignity.
- Rights-based approach. Promote and protect human rights of beneficiaries.
- Ensure NOT contributing to or perpetuating discrimination, abuse, violence, neglect or exploitation.

When should we mainstream protection?
- Ongoing – throughout project cycle – from assessment to delivery to evaluation.
- Specific protection indicators to measure progress.
- Focus on how assistance is delivered.
Video on Protection Mainstreaming
Protection mainstreaming

Four main elements

1. **Prioritising safety and dignity and avoid causing harm**

   Identify the physical and psychological threats populations can face in accessing the services, and act to prevent, minimize, or mitigate the negative effects.

   **Examples:** Provide assistance in safe and secure locations. Ensure access to services respects culture.

2. **Meaningful access**

   Ensure access to assistance and services is in proportion to need and without any barriers (e.g. discrimination). Pay special attention to those who are particularly vulnerable or have difficulty accessing assistance and services.

   **Examples:** Consult with all population groups to identify specific needs and challenges they may face. Develop criteria that takes into account identified needs.
Protection mainstreaming

3. **Accountability**

Set up appropriate mechanisms through which affected populations can measure the adequacy of interventions and address concerns or complaints.

*Examples:* Be transparent – e.g. provide information about how to access assistance. Monitor how assistance is delivered – is it reaching the identified population? Is it meeting the needs identified? Set-up comprehensive complaints mechanism.

4. **Participation and empowerment**

Support the development of self-protection and capacities. Assist people to claim their rights, including (not limited to) the rights to shelter, food, water, sanitation, health, education.

*Examples:* Consult regularly with all beneficiaries and include in project design and evaluation. Understand coping mechanisms and support if positive.
Protection mainstreaming

Who is responsible?

- **ALL of us as humanitarian actors.** Authorities, NGOs, UN agencies, Donors.
- Protection cluster can support but all clusters remain responsible to ensure protection is central to activities and interventions.
- Understanding how to include protection in your work will help to provide safety and dignity for affected persons and improve the quality of assistance provided.
Yemen Protection Cluster with support of Global Protection Cluster have Support Package that 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
Keep lists of beneficiaries and personal data confidential and safe from unintended use—apply effective data protection measures.

Have clear **vulnerability criteria** for selection of beneficiaries and provide information and explanation about these.

Avoid placing distribution points near military installations or threats such as attacks, stray bullets, crossfire or violence.
Ensure the ration size is appropriate for the beneficiaries to be able to carry home with no additional physical or financial burden and without being dependent on others to carry it for them.

Make sure beneficiaries know how to obtain food assistance and livelihood opportunities, where and when the distributions will take place, what they will get, how long it should last and how to use the items.

Distributions should take place in daylight hours giving beneficiaries sufficient time to travel home before nightfall.
Food Security and Agriculture Cluster – some initial considerations for project cycle

- Establish mechanisms to give priority to those who cannot stand in line for long periods, such as older persons, persons with disability, unaccompanied children, pregnant and lactating women.

- Set up accessible, confidential and well understood feedback mechanisms for suggestions and complaints with a view to improve programming, understand community perceptions, promote beneficiary empowerment and assist in detecting misconduct. Eg. place feedback surveys in food baskets, feedback box at distribution site, phone lines.
Next steps to mainstream Protection

- Select protection mainstreaming focal points from each cluster.

- Plan more in-depth training for focal points and cluster coordinators.

- Focal points to help gather practical examples and case studies to use for training.

- Protection Cluster to support preparation of protection mainstreaming action plan for each cluster.
THANK YOU 😊
Questions or Comments?