



PROTECTION RISKS IN FOOD ASSISTANCE AND LIVELIHOODS



PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Focuses on the nexus between protection and food assistance as there is increasing interest to develop and promote more appropriate responses. Poorly conceived protection programmes can have a negative impact on food security and poorly conceived food assistance can have a negative impact on protection outcomes.
- Provides recommendations on how to realise integrated Protection and Food Assistance programming through analysis, tools for project design and monitoring and strategies for collaboration.
- Inspire innovative approaches where food insecurity and protection violations create a negative effect for affected populations achieved through collecting best practice.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION

1. Providing a framework for **improved context analysis that considers threats as well as the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of populations;**
2. Offering **guidance for programme design, indicator formulation, and monitoring for integrated food assistance and protection programming;**
3. **Breaking down silos between food assistance, livelihoods and protection** so as to improve programme design and implementation. Measures such as advocacy with relevant duty-bearers to enhance safety.
4. **Strengthening the synergies and complementarities** between assistance and advocacy.



AP

PROTECTION INTEGRATION VS PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING

Protection mainstreaming is protection as a cross-cutting theme which implies incorporating protection principles and promoting safety in humanitarian, development and advocacy programmes.

Protection integration refers to sector work that aims to prevent and respond to violence or threat of violence; coercion and exploitation; deliberate deprivation, neglect or discrimination, and supporting people to enjoy their rights in safety and with dignity, through sector specific work.



LIVELIHOOD PROTECTION: SAFEGUARDING ASSETS AND PREVENTING NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

1. Protecting key livestock and agricultural assets

- There are a number of examples of livestock-support programmes for conflict-affected populations. In some SS contexts, people have taken livestock with them which are essential for fetching water and firewood and travelling to markets.
- Agencies have provided veterinary care for livestock owned by IDPs and rural populations in a number of conflict situations.
- Providing services rather than material assets can be a conflict-sensitive way of delivering assistance in contexts where material goods are at risk of theft and manipulation

LIVELIHOOD PROTECTION: SAFEGUARDING ASSETS AND PREVENTING NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

2. Asset provision or recovery during conflict

- A key consideration for provision of assets in situations of conflict is that assets can potentially make people more vulnerable to attack. Affected people themselves may seek to reduce their investment in valuable assets, focusing instead on things that they can take with them if they have to move.
- Seeds and tools tend to be provided when the situation has stabilised, in particular for returnees.
- Seed interventions and seed fairs have been implemented both during conflict and in a more stable contexts. Assessments to determine appropriateness were also based on issues of access to land, land occupation and the security risks associated with farming.

LIVELIHOOD PROTECTION: SAFEGUARDING ASSETS AND PREVENTING NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

3. Income generation as livelihood protection

- In many cases, conflict-affected people may be provided with assistance to generate income without an assessment of the viability of this work as a livelihood strategy.
- Income-generating projects need to be based on an assessment of the market for the goods or services being produced.
- Savings and credit groups can also be used to improve people's financial assets, even in situations where livelihoods are constrained.
- Any provision of cash grants to groups needs to consider existing power imbalances and the potential to exacerbate existing tensions. The risk of diversion by more powerful groups must also be assessed.



KEY COMPONENTS OF LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS

- Includes cash transfers, cash for work and vouchers for different goods and services. Agencies in SS have started longer term programmes to strengthen community groups, promoting access to markets and improving basic services such as agriculture and livestock care.
- A number of different interventions are combined to increase people's livelihoods options, for example food aid, milling support, fuel-efficient stoves, income-generation and fodder for livestock in IDP camps
- Cash for work and cash grants are more often used in situations where conflict is less acute and theft is considered less of a risk.
- Vouchers are a safer and more effective way of providing assistance in situations of protracted conflict. Vouchers are considered more secure than cash, and less prone to theft and looting

PROTECTION RISKS IN LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMING

- Ensuring personal safety is a key element of livelihoods analysis in conflict. Livelihood strategies frequently entail risks to personal security and supporting livelihoods could enhance protection.
- Assets encompass what people have, control or have access to and can include natural, physical, social, financial and human assets.
- In conflict, vulnerability is often related to a lack of power, rather than a lack of material assets. Assets can also be liabilities because they may put their owners at greater risk of attack.
- The direct impact of conflict is that assets may be looted, destroyed or lost. Particular ethnic groups or areas may be targeted because valuable assets are present, such as fertile land

IMPLICATIONS ON LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMING

- i. Armed and Intercommunal conflicts are increasingly targeted at civilians, and has direct effects include the destruction, looting and theft of key assets. Indirect impacts include the destruction or loss of basic services and loss of access to employment, markets, farms or traditional pastures;
- ii. The underlying causes of conflict are related to access to land and other resources because of long-term economic and political marginalisation.
- iii. Livelihoods programming in conflict needs to be long-term, meeting immediate needs and longer-term work to support livelihoods at local, national and international level.



IMPLICATIONS ON LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMMING

IV. Livelihoods programming in SS involves includes populations who are experiencing low-intensity conflict and people facing limited access to markets and informal taxation.

V. In protracted situations needs to be underpinned by a commitment to core humanitarian principles by meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable.

VI. Is unlikely to be sustainable as livelihoods options will remain limited in the absence of respect for human rights, ongoing violence, limited freedom of movement and weak institutions.



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS DURING CONTEXT ANALYSIS

- a. The **analysis should be done at the community and household levels** separately. Protection programmes focus on community-level strategies that support individual households, whereas food assistance target households.

- b. **Examine community and household level challenges to facilitate the identification of better solutions and to ensure coherency and build synergies.** Joint advocacy for access to safe land can have positive protection and food assistance outcomes for households receiving agricultural assistance.

- c. Ensuring that the **context analysis also identifies capacities of the local communities.** Threats in the mitigation of protection related concerns should be identified and careful analysis of the implication of any interventions.

- d. **All threats, vulnerabilities, and capacities should be analysed by relevant gender, age, and diversity and livelihood groups.** Using 'standardized' vulnerability groups should be avoided as it amounts to assumptions

TOOLS TO COMPLEMENT THE CONTEXT ANALYSIS

- a. **Mapping the capacity and willingness of duty-bearer stakeholders.** Varies on whether stakeholders are willing and capable of advocating for the protection of the population.

- b. **Household Economy Analysis to better understand livelihoods:** describes their assets, opportunities, constraints and strategies in times of crises. The analysis is not only at the household level but also describes connections between groups and geographical areas.

- c. **Coping Strategy Index to identify coping strategies and mechanisms** including self-protection strategies used by communities, households and individuals to maintain their lives and livelihoods and weigh them according to community perceptions of appropriateness and risk.

- d. **Market mapping:** Protection threats can impact: access to markets; capacity to store goods (less availability in the markets will increase prices); transport of goods by increasing costs but also by blocking movement from zones of surplus to zones of deficiency.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Integrated Protection and Food Assistance Programming can support an analysis in contexts of inter-communal violence where social and community cohesion should be prioritized. This occurs at two levels:

1. Where tensions and conflict arise due to issues of common interest (land, access to service, political power etc.); **identifying entry points and change agents to create dialogue and use programmes to mitigate risks.**
2. Where humanitarian programming can trigger tensions, it is important to **prevent escalation of tensions and mitigate the triggers of conflict.** In contexts of displacement, it is important to programme for the host community.

NEXUS OF FOOD ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION

- I. **Freedom of Movement:** ensures access to services, access to income, access to livelihoods, social and cultural interactions. Barriers to freedom of movement include roadblocks and confinement, lack of identification documents and cultural or gender restrictions. The potential consequences are complete loss of livelihoods, less time spent cultivating, less visits to markets to buy and sell services.
- II. **Control of Natural Resources:** Conflict between groups over control/access to natural resources is a cause of crises. Solutions and community dialogue should be sought to mitigate the impact of conflicts. A intercommunal conflict through localized agreements that regulate the movement of livestock.
- III. **Land tenure:** Intercommunal conflicts to control access to land and its resources include unresolved issues linked to land tenure, or poorly managed land tenure regulations and food insecurity. In SS, women cannot inherit land, widows are highly vulnerable. Land tenure issues are clearly structural, complex and can only be resolved over the medium and long term.

MODALITIES OF DISTRIBUTION

- Providing transfers through bank accounts or Microfinance Institutions may necessitate organisations to support beneficiaries to access identification- and all the protection and opportunities that this identification may offer.
- Mobile phone transfers are both an anonymous means to distribute cash/ assistance and also ensures that beneficiaries get, or will receive, a means of communication.
- Community-based targeting methods should take into account protection risks. There is an important exclusion risk in relying on this approach, as households that are socially marginalised risk being excluded.

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Food assistance actors identify vulnerabilities, while protection actors identify threats. Actions include:

- I. Establishment of Protection focal points in State and National FSL Clusters
- II. Development of harmonised tools that are relevant to particular regions and that are based on a shared analysis. E.G FSNMS
- III. Joint evaluations by protection and food assistance actors to ensure a shared analysis of a particular crisis. E.g IPC
- IV. Improved technical support “services” within the Cluster Coordination system: better coordination between clusters on shared analysis and response strategies.
- V. Stronger operationalization of the Centrality of Protection in Strategic Response Plans and similar plans.

THE END

