

Mainstreaming Protection in CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT

Somalia Operation

Camp coordination and camp management actors are responsible for managing and coordinating assistance and services to displaced populations in communal settings in a manner that promotes their safety, dignity and integrity. By mainstreaming protection into CCCM programs, humanitarian actors can support displaced persons access and enjoy their rights; help IDPs reside safely in camp settings and improve their quality of life and dignity during displacement.

This note provides guidance on how to practically mainstream protection into camp management programmes in Somalia. It is divided into four sections, representing the four key elements of Protection Mainstreaming. The content is not meant to be exhaustive, but presents examples of key actions that should be taken to ensure the incorporation of protection elements in the management of camps in Somalia.

KEY ACTIONS

Prioritise safety & dignity and avoid causing harm

- ✓ Ensure the **location** and **access routes** to camps and camp-like settings are safe.
 - Avoid placing camps near borders, military installations and conflict frontlines.
 - Consider safety risks associated with landmines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and busy roads.
- ✓ Identify **areas in and around the camp** that could be potentially unsafe or a risk of violence, especially gender-based violence e.g. around showers, latrines, child-friendly spaces, schools and routes to schools, health facilities, water collection points, etc.
 - Monitor high-risk zones regularly and at different times of day.
 - Install adequate lighting, especially in public or communal areas, or provide alternatives such as solar lamps or torches for each household.
- ✓ Ensure effective **safety** and **security** measures are in place:
 - Establish **community patrol groups**, where possible, to support prevention of forced recruitment, looting, GBV and other threats
 - Secure the camp premises with fencing
 - Design **escape routes** in the case of emergency evacuation and inform camp residents of fire safety and evacuation procedures.
 - Introduce a system to monitor the movement of persons and assets entering and leaving the camp

- ✓ Space arrangements, camps structures and distance between dwellings should **respect privacy and cultural norms** between men and women and minimise the risks of exploitation and abuse, whilst also allowing for family unity.
 - Install partitions or solid barriers between families in communal shelters and introduce door locks to better protect women and girls, particularly single women and female headed-households.
- ✓ Locate **recreational spaces for children** to play in areas where family members can watch children from shelters/community centres to avoid children playing in remote areas.
- ✓ Be aware of existing **land and property tenure arrangements**, including statutory/legislative and customary access rights to land when selecting sites. Advocate with local authorities and/or property owners to obtain formal agreement to use the land, as a precaution to reduce the risk of eviction, rental costs or conflict erupting due to lack of clarity on these issues.
- ✓ Be aware of existing friction between different groups inside the camps. Ensure **camp lay-out** adequately avoids fuelling tensions.
- ✓ Regularly **monitor** and discuss with beneficiaries, especially the most vulnerable, if they feel pressured, directly or indirectly, to return to their place of origin or relocate, or if they feel prevented from leaving the camp.
- ✓ In cooperation with local authorities, clarify and raise awareness of **camp rules** and sanctions for infractions to minimise safety threats and prevent inter-communal conflicts.
 - Combatants should be separated from civilian populations and interned outside the camp. Armed civilians should be informed that weapons are not permitted in the camp and where possible, disarmed by the relevant authorities.
- ✓ **Avoid community tensions** between camp and local/host communities:
 - Include host communities in decisions on site location and planning
 - Consult host communities in identifying assistance needed and consider providing the host community with access to camp services and assistance in situations where they are experiencing similar shortages of basic services and facilities.
- ✓ Keep **registration lists** of camp residents and their personal data confidential and safe from unintended use; apply secure **data protection** measures.
- ✓ Work in coordination with protection actors from the onset to put in place measures to prevent and respond to **protection concerns** including physical/sexual violence arising in camp settings.

Promote equitable and impartial access for all

- ✓ Put in place a registration system with population records disaggregated by **age, sex** and **diversity**. Ensure the system enables women to be registered in their own capacity and provisions are made for child-headed households. The purpose of registration should be properly communicated to all groups.
- ✓ Ensure that camp assistance and services are **reaching the most vulnerable** - Identify and prioritise the most vulnerable groups in the camps and prevent discrimination or exclusion of marginalised groups (refer to Vulnerable Categories guidance note).
 - Note which groups may have greater difficulty accessing services and are more prone to eviction.
 - Collect disaggregated beneficiary lists from camp service providers to ensure the most vulnerable are accessing their assistance.

- ✓ Provide **information** and **raise awareness** about camp/site rules, security management, facilities and services available equally to women, girls, boys and men.
 - Provide information through various communication means to reach the all members in the community and to account for different literacy levels (eg. posters, community boards, camp committees, door-to-door, poster, radio, social media, use of pictograms).
- ✓ Ensure the **design of the site** allows for services and facilities to be accessed by all, including persons with reduced mobility (eg. persons with physical disabilities, older persons, chronically ill).
 - Make **infrastructure adaptations** where necessary – smooth and non-slippery access paths and fit ramps for wheelchair access.
 - Place persons with impaired mobility and their families close to essential facilities
- ✓ Introduce **special arrangements** for persons who have difficulty accessing water collection or distribution points or are unable to carry provisions, assemble their shelters eg. community mobilisation, ‘home’ distributions, youth groups assisting older persons.
- ✓ Ensure that both men and women have **equal** and **fair access to work opportunities** in the camp and that they receive the same benefits for their work. Also offer livelihood opportunities for persons with disability and older persons.
- ✓ Consider the **gender balance** of camp staff and committees to ensure that there are enough women available as a contact point for women in the community.
- ✓ Ensure that service providers consider the **specific needs** of different beneficiaries (women, girls, boys, youth, men, older persons) and that the quality and quantity enough of their services is equitable for each group.
- ✓ Identify the **power dynamics** in camp management. Who has access to camps? Who is able to influence decisions on camp interventions? Use this information to inform monitoring activities and identify any barriers to access, discrimination against particular groups or whether assistance is being diverted. Take this into consideration when determining support for camp settings.

Ensure accountability to affected populations

- ✓ Be **transparent** with the affected populations by providing them with accessible and timely information on selection criteria for residency, organisational procedures and processes that affect them.
- ✓ 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. feedback box in community centre or at site of facilities
 - Set up mechanisms for submitting feedback that do not require the beneficiary exposing themselves to project staff.
 - RESPOND to complaints, regardless of whether corrective measures can/need to be put in place.
 - Organize awareness raising sessions so that people know how it works.
 - Consider a joint feedback mechanism with other sectors to minimize confusion.
- ✓ Ensure camp/site managers and staff/volunteers working in the camps understand, sign and adhere to a **Code of Conduct** stating their commitment to respect and foster humanitarian standards and the rights of beneficiaries.

- ✓ Ensure all staff, implementing partners and volunteers involved in distributions and in direct contact with beneficiaries have received training in **prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)**.
- ✓ Provide clear information to distribution actors and affected population explaining that beneficiaries **do not have to pay** or provide services/favours in exchange for receiving services or accessing facilities. Ensure that this information is communicated to women and girls.
- ✓ In cooperation with protection actors, enhance the capacity of camp staff and managers to **monitor, report** and **refer protection concerns** (such as abuse and exploitation) and set-up **camp referral systems** to provide an appropriate response to persons with specific needs.

Strengthen participation and empowerment

- ✓ Ensure that both women and men are fully engaged in the **management** of camp facilities.
- ✓ **Involve** and **consult** all categories and layers of the affected population in identifying and responding to camp issues. Different criteria may affect the power dynamics.
 - Consult women, men, boys, girls, persons with disabilities, older persons and marginalised persons during assessments to collect accurate information about their specific needs and preferences for the design and management of camp settings.
- ✓ Set-up **camp committees** to **represent camp residents** in camp governance structures. Ensure members are representative of all groups within the community (ie. gender, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic group, disability).
 - Support and build their capacity in camp coordination and management and train members in protection mainstreaming.
- ✓ Establish appropriate and sustainable **mechanisms for meaningful dialogue** between camp leaders/managers and camp committees to ensure beneficiaries are fully involved in decisions relating to their situation such as the development of camp/site policy, management and site closure.
- ✓ Designate **focal points** within camp management structures and camp resident committees to incorporate the views of persons with specific needs in decision-making processes eg. female representative, youth representative, older persons representative, representative of persons with disability.
 - Focal points can play a key role in identifying issues related to exclusion and discrimination and be proactive in ensuring the voice of marginalised groups is represented.
- ✓ CCCM staff and camp committees should be **representative of all groups** within the community (e.g. and all staff, camp leaders and committee members should be trained in
- ✓ Provide appropriate support to relevant local stakeholders and **camp leaders/managers**, including capacity building on protection mainstreaming, and encourage ownership of the protection and assistance strategy for camps and settlements.
- ✓ Reinforce the **capacity of the community** to maintain camp infrastructure (provide tools for minor repairs to infrastructure) and act as a protective layer for children and women against violations (eg. child recruitment, early and forced marriage, hazardous labour).

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