



# Handout 3: 4 key elements of Protection Mainstreaming

## Module 3

Use this handout to plan the activity on Protection Mainstreaming

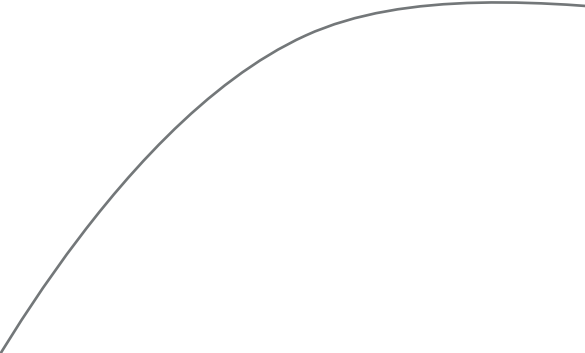
### Prioritize safety and dignity and avoid causing harm


- Always avoid causing harm and prioritize safety and dignity- (a) Understand the context and norms/values and (b) Identify potential risks
- Ask if our work causes or could cause harm or result in negative consequences for the affected population as whole or some groups within the affected population?
- Think and analyse critically programmes
- Be ready to make tough calls- Sometimes, not providing assistance is the right thing to do
- Continuously monitor activities and impact to ensure they are not being/becoming counter-productive or causing harm
- Think critically about the planned intervention and its implementation

### Ensure meaningful access

- 3 dimensions of access- (a) Reaching the location of the service; (b) Receiving the service and (c) Benefiting from the service
- Assistance based on needs (not status)- Identify all groups of affected populations (A-G-D approach) to identify the specific needs and related threats, vulnerability, capacities of each group
- Identify all the groups within the population and their specific needs (intersectionality!)
- Removing barriers (physical and non-physical)

### Accountability

- The primary objectives of Accountability and Participation:
    - Develop trust between populations and humanitarian actors
    - Ensure that activities are appropriate and effective
    - Provide and share crucial information on safety, dignity and access
    - Contribute to provide a certain control over their lives and self-worth and respect to affected populations
  - We are responsible for: (a) quality of our programmes/services and (b) quality of our behaviour (competences and code of conduct)
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- Transparency- is about who we are, what we can (and cannot) do because of our resources and ethically as humanitarians (this is crucial in terms of expectations management)
  - Set-up appropriate feedback and complaints mechanisms, preferably inter-agency collectively managed mechanisms
  - Respond to expressed concerns

## Participation and empowerment

- Allow affected populations to play an active role in the decision-making process on issues that affect them
- Together with accountability, it is a key means to ensure both the safety & dignity and meaningful access of affected population
- Ensure that most vulnerable and marginalised populations are represented
- Acknowledge that affected populations have resources and capacities
- Take benefit from existing capacities
- Avoid reducing the resilience capacities of the communities

