



Field Level Agreement

WFP Guiding Principles, Protection, and Accountability to Affected Populations of the Field Level Agreement

WFP and its Cooperating Partners design and deliver food assistance that advances gender equality and does not increase protection risks of affected populations but rather contributes to their safety, dignity and integrity based on humanitarian principles and the “do no harm approach”. Food Assistance must also ensure accountability to affected populations (AAP). Gender equality, protection and AAP are integrated across the programming cycle, including the humanitarian programming cycle, encompassing, *inter alia*, assessment, design, implementation, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.

Principles:

1. *Human rights, international law and humanitarian principles:* WFP and Cooperating partners respect and uphold the humanitarian principles, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and international law, including International Humanitarian Law, International Refugee Law and the nine core international human rights instruments:
 1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD);
 2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
 3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);
 4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
 5. Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);
 6. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
 7. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW);
 8. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED);
 9. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
2. *Protection and context:* Food assistance is informed by possible protection threats faced by affected populations, the sources of vulnerability beyond food insecurity, and people’s coping mechanisms and other capacities of the different women, men, girls and boys.

3. *Do no harm*: Food assistance does not exacerbate tensions or discriminate between and within population groups. Rather, where feasible, food assistance contributes to social cohesion and reconciliation.

Protection

As a core responsibility, WFP must ensure that food assistance is designed and implemented in ways which contribute to the safety, dignity and integrity of all persons with respect for people's needs, rights and capacities. Design, implementation and monitoring of food assistance is tailored to the particular needs, interests, capacities and vulnerabilities of the diverse women, men, girls and boys served, and does not perpetuate discriminatory norms and practices based on sex, gender, race, colour, ethnicity, language, marital status, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, birth, disability, HIV and AIDS, as well as occupational, migrant, legal or other status.

Accordingly, WFP's Cooperating Partners should integrate protection into their programmes and projects by ensuring that:

- projects by Cooperating Partners under this agreement are designed and implemented in a protection sensitive manner, identifying protection risks faced by the targeted population, designing and implementing strategies and measures to reduce and prevent those protection risks, and evaluating the impact of those measures, in cooperation with key stakeholders (equitably representing the diverse women and men);
- based on analyses that include assessments of vulnerabilities related to age, sex and diversity, Cooperating Partners give priority to the most food-insecure, marginalized individuals and communities to ensure the equitable and inclusive provision of assistance.
- they work in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and commit to render humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities, by lifting barriers persons with disabilities are facing in accessing relief, protection and recovery support and ensuring their participation in the development, planning and implementation humanitarian programmes;
- staff of Cooperating Partners are trained and aware of protection principles and "do no harm" and are able to integrate protection into the programme / project cycle and to implement Codes of Conduct preventing direct and indirect harm; and
- Cooperating Partners have designated Protection Officers/ Focal Points to ensure technical expertise and the capacity to integrate protection into the programme / project cycle.

Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

WFP's first accountability is to food insecure people who are the primary actors in their own survival and protection. WFP's Cooperating Partners should integrate AAP throughout their programmes and projects by ensuring that:

- beneficiaries are properly informed of their entitlements;
- safe, accessible and trusted channels for communicating complaints and feedback are available to the diverse women, men, girls and boys;
- in coordination with WFP, Cooperating Partners ensure that beneficiaries' feedback and complaints are duly received, acknowledged, addressed and feed into food assistant programme quality; and
- Cooperating Partners conduct a mapping exercise prior to the planning and implementation to understand the demographic composition (e.g. gender, age, disability, ethnicity, religion) of the population and obstacles for inclusion in consultation and participation throughout each stage of the project cycle.

WFP Technical Support and Capacity Strengthening

WFP provides technical guidance to, and supports the capacity strengthening of, Cooperating Partners in gender transformative programming, protection and AAP; such that gender equality, protection and AAP are integrated across all stages of the implementation of programmes and projects by Cooperating Partners.