



# WFP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework

Module 2: WFP Environmental and Social Standards



## Overview

The WFP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (hereafter: “WFP Sustainability Framework”) consists of a set of principles, standards, and tools created to increase WFP’s environmental and social sustainability and to limit the potentially negative impacts WFP may have on people, communities or the natural environment.

The WFP Environmental and Social Standards, described in the present Module 2 of the WFP Sustainability Framework, form the benchmark for what constitutes environmental and social sustainability in WFP. They are a collection of commitments and minimum standards enshrined in existing WFP policies, directives, and guidelines, as well as commitments and minimum standards enshrined in relevant international law.

The WFP Environmental and Social Standards cover the following areas:

- Standard 1: Natural Resources
- Standard 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Waste and Pollution Management
- Standard 4: Climate Change
- Standard 5: Protection and Human Rights
- Standard 6: Gender Equality
- Standard 7: Community Health, Safety, Security, and Conflict Sensitivity
- Standard 8: Accountability to Affected Populations

Every standard is described as follows:

- rationale
- objective
- minimum requirements
- sources
- examples

In order to make them actionable, the WFP Environmental and Social Standards have been integrated into existing corporate tools and processes or have been translated into new tools. The logic of this is described in [Module 1](#) (Overview of the WFP Sustainability Framework), while the tools are described in [Module 3](#) (Environmental and Social Safeguards for Programme Activities) and [Module 4](#) (Environmental Management System for) of the WFP Sustainability Framework. Roles and responsibilities for the application of the WFP Sustainability Framework and its tools are also described in [Module 1](#).



# 1. Natural Resources

## Rationale

Natural resources such as water, soil, timber, plants, animals, minerals and metals are essential to the wellbeing and livelihoods of people. Without careful management of these resources, they can be over-extracted or over-used, leading to their degradation and, ultimately, their depletion. Scarce natural resources can cause immediate suffering, increase tensions and result in conflict among communities which depend on the same resources for their existence.

## Objective

- Promote the sustainable use and management of natural resources by not exploiting them beyond their regenerative capacity.

## Minimum requirements

- Integrate conservation needs in practices to promote sustainable natural resource management.
- Prioritise the use of renewable resources rather than non-renewable energy and materials, where technologically and financially feasible.
- Promote the sustainable management of living natural resources and support small-holder farmers to produce and harvest sustainably.
- Avoid, and where not possible, minimize soil erosion/removal and other adverse impacts on soils, their organic content, structure and water-retention capacity, and productivity.
- Promote the conservation and sustainable management of forests and avoid the depletion of fuel wood.
- Apply an integrated water resources management approach that encompasses up- and down-stream considerations of increased water demand, ensuring no significant adverse impacts on water quality and supply for other users, or adverse hydrological changes.
- Where possible, procure food from primary suppliers who can demonstrate that they are not contributing to significant conversion or degradation of natural or critical habitats.

## Sources

This standard reflects recognition in WFP's [Environmental Policy](#), [Climate Change Policy](#), and [Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy](#) that achieving food security and ending hunger require sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. The standard is also consistent with WFP's Food Assistance for Assets Guidance Manual; and Construction Manual.

## Examples

### *Procurement of sustainable palm olein*

In the context of WFP's environmental policy and a broader process of greening its procurement practices, WFP has continued the integration of environmental considerations into its procurement processes to promote sustainable palm oil production while adhering to its mandate of cost-efficient procurement. Availability of sustainably produced palm oil remains a challenge, with few suppliers able to produce enough to meet demand. In 2019, 25 percent of the palm olein procured by WFP was sustainably produced, exceeding its target. In its procurement of palm olein over the coming years, WFP will endeavor to continue to increase the proportion of palm olein that is certified as sustainably produced. Overall demand for palm oil has decreased due to large-scale operations, such as the one in Yemen, switching to sunflower oil.

### *Tree planting, solar power, and efficient stoves to combat deforestation*



For years, people in Mposa, a small village in southern Malawi, tried to make a living cutting down trees in the hills surrounding Mposa. They'd burn the lumber to make charcoal, which they'd sell in the local market for modest sums. The impacts of progressive deforestation became ever more glaring. Water running off the hills washed away crops and fertile topsoil. The people would go hungry more often.

For the past two years, WFP has been helping Mposa residents to rehabilitate their land. They have planted over 26,000 trees, to control water flow, and have also dug a 2-kilometer trench at the bottom of the hills to catch run-off water and prevent erosion downstream. As part of an integrated resilience-building programme, Mposa villagers have also begun irrigating land using solar-powered equipment, planting vegetable gardens that produce both food and compost, and using fuel-efficient stoves that consume less firewood.



## 2. Biodiversity and Ecosystems

### Rationale

Biodiversity and ecosystems provide the goods and services that sustain our lives: food, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems contributes to securing food and livelihoods, enhancing resilience, conserving threatened species, and increasing carbon storage and sequestration. Conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services are fundamental to food and nutrition security and sustainable development.

### Objectives

- Protect and conserve ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Maintain the benefits from ecosystem services.

### Minimum requirements

- Avoid significant reduction or loss of biodiversity, the degradation of natural ecosystems and/or the diminishment of ecosystem services. Avoid significant conversion or degradation of critical or natural habitats.
- Identify and assess direct and indirect impacts on habitats and biodiversity and apply a precautionary approach to natural resource use and management.
- Minimize clearing of land, particularly of natural forests and other natural resources of environmental importance. Implement any unavoidable clearing to minimize soil erosion, adverse hydrological changes and habitat degradation.
- Avoid impact on endangered species by protecting their breeding grounds, migration corridors or other habitats, and preventing habitat fragmentation and their hunting.
- Avoid erosion of local genetic resources, varieties/species; implement measures to avoid introduction/use of invasive alien species for forestry, livestock, crops, or aquaculture.
- Respect the position of individual nation states regarding the distribution in-country or national transit of genetically modified organisms and GMO-derived products.
- Site activities far from critical habitats, protected areas or areas of ecological significance, giving preference to sites where natural habitats have already been converted/degraded or areas of low value for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Seek to avoid siting activities on lands converted in anticipation of the activity.
- Protect/encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements.
- Seek to avoid the extraction of natural resources from protected areas, natural or critical habitats.
- Where activities may affect protected areas, ensure activities are consistent with the area's designation and/or management plans.

### Sources

This standard relates to recognition in WFP's [Environmental Policy](#) that achieving food security and ending hunger require healthy ecosystems, and that biodiversity loss can have significant consequences for livelihoods. The standard is also consistent with WFP's Food Assistance for Assets Guidance Manual and the Construction Manual.

### Examples

*Food Assistance for Assets programmes help rehabilitate ecosystems*

In its food assistance for assets programming, WFP is fostering healthier natural environments through projects that help the environment to "breathe" better. Among achievements in 2019, WFP rehabilitated 127,000 ha of land and planted 7,000 ha of forest, which will help to absorb excess carbon dioxide, a major contributor to air pollution and global warming.

*Integration of ancestral knowledge about the ecosystems in an early warning system*



If the birds living on the shores of Lake Titicaca, Bolivia, place their nests high up from the water, it means the level of the lake will rise and flooding is likely. The right time to sow crops is when the totora flowers are in bloom. And the calls of the Andean fox determines whether it will be best to sow in the lowlands or on higher ground. People in the Bolivian Andes have known this for centuries, and for centuries they have relied on natural signs — or bioindicators — to predict the weather and decide what, when and where to plant.

WFP is supporting the Government of Bolivia in its efforts to mitigate climate-related threats. Incorporating predictions based on bioindicators into the country's Early Warning System — which sends out alerts all year round about impending weather events — was one area of collaboration.

Forecasts based on bioindicators have proved to be an excellent complement to those generated by observatories. They give more detailed information and, crucially, they are the only ones that can give precise indications on when and where to sow different kinds of crops.

### 3. Resource, Waste, and Pollution Management

#### Rationale

Social and economic development consumes finite resources, often in a manner that can threaten people and environments at the local, regional and global level. Resource efficiency and waste management (including reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal) are core elements of a sustainable development agenda. WFP's programmes and support operations should use the least possible water, energy, raw materials and their derivatives or products necessary to achieve a given task or result. WFP's programmes and support operations should limit their pollution of air, water and/or land.

#### Objectives

- More efficient use of energy, water, raw materials and their derivatives or products through their sustainable procurement, right-sizing, and re-use, ensuring that the resources WFP uses are not wasted.
- Better management and disposal of waste, with a focus on reuse, recycling and recovery.
- Minimize discharges to air, land or water stemming from WFP's activities, with particular care taken to avoid discharging hazardous substances to the environment.

#### Minimum requirements

- Promote the efficient use of energy, water, and other resources and materials throughout their lifecycle.
- Adopt measures, to the extent technically and financially feasible, that avoid or minimize water usage.
- Actively minimize the generation of waste by-products by avoiding unnecessary resource use, seeking to prolong their useful life, re-using, recycling and/or recovering materials.
- Seek to treat and dispose of unrecoverable waste in an environmentally-sound manner, with control of emissions and residues; utilize reputable and/or certified contractors where these can be identified and licensed disposal sites where these are available; obtain chain of custody for third party disposal where possible.
- Avoid generation of hazardous waste to the extent possible, promote safe recovery and reuse of waste streams generated, assess health risks regarding any use of hazardous materials.
- Respect national and international laws governing transboundary movement of wastes, especially hazardous wastes (as may be applicable).
- Avoid, and if not possible, minimize and control release of pollutants to air, land and water due to routine, non-routine and accidental circumstances.
- Apply pollution prevention and control principles tailored to specific hazards and consistent with internationally recognized approaches and standards.
- Avoid the procurement, transportation and use of chemicals and hazardous materials subject to international bans, such as those under Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention.
- Progressively phase out ozone-depleting substances, in line with the Montreal Protocol.
- Minimize the use of agrochemicals and reduce reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers through application of Integrated Pest Management/Integrated Vector Management or other natural measures. Use least toxic pesticides known to be effective and that have minimal effects on non-target species and the environment.
- Do not use WHO Class 1a (extremely hazardous) or 1b (highly hazardous) pesticides; use Class II pesticides only if well-regulated and handled by trained personnel. Comply with the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management for the handling, storage, application, and disposal of pesticides.
- No procurement or use of pesticides, herbicides, or other chemicals specified as persistent organic pollutants, or of products derived from these substances in line with the Stockholm Convention.
- No distribution of foodstuffs whose contamination with persistent organic pollutants exceeds limits set by the FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives.
- No discharge of untreated wastewater and sewage to local waterways, aquifers, land or sea.



## Sources

This standard reflects commitments in WFP's [Environmental Policy](#), obligations enshrined in the [Rotterdam Convention](#), [Montreal Protocol](#), [Stockholm Convention](#), and [International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management](#), and the advice of the [Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#). Some requirements are also taken from WFP's [Climate Change Policy](#) and the [Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management](#). The standard is also consistent with WFP's Food Assistance for Assets Guidance Manual, Construction Manual, Warehouse Management Handbook, and the Food Storage Manual.

## Examples

### *Installation of photovoltaics on WFP premises*

Sudan country office launched a mammoth solar panel project with support from HQ Engineering and the logistics and ICT units. Today, WFP Sudan country office runs the largest solar project in WFP. So far, Sudan has installed solar panels in 11 out of 18 planned locations across the country for a total of about 290 kilowatt peak of installed solar power, with an estimated energy production of about 520 megawatt hours per year. Solar power inverters are used to convert the electricity generated from the solar panels so that it can be used by WFP field offices and warehouses. Any excess energy is stored in batteries for later use, with a 1-megawatt hour capacity, which is the largest storage capacity in WFP to date. Solar-powered energy systems are economically viable as they have low running costs and a life span of nearly 30 years. The total project cost is around US\$2.7 million, which is expected to be recovered in three years through cost savings.

### *Biodigesters for resilience*

WFP, through its R4 Rural Resilience initiative, has set up six biodigesters in the Kolda area of Senegal. These biodigesters transform cow dung, collected by beneficiaries, into green energy in the form of domestic gas and organic fertilizer. The safe, clean gas is used to cook local products for sale, and to cook in two schools, reducing operating costs and limiting the cutting of wood. The fertilizer produced is used by R4 women's groups to grow crops. Biodigesters have also been installed in 15 "model canteens" as part of the WFP Senegal School Feeding programme project, an integrated approach to WFP school feeding.





## 4. Climate Change

### Rationale

Climate change is a fundamental threat to sustainable development and to the fight against poverty and hunger. It has the potential to stall and even reverse human development through its impacts on food systems and other key development sectors. Climate change exacerbates the frequency and severity of extreme weather events and climate variability, increasing the risk of high-impact disasters. It also increases stresses on ecosystems and natural assets including land and water resources, biodiversity, crops, and livestock. Planning and investment decisions must take the changing nature of climate risks into account. In the context of programme/activity design and investment planning, this can be done by a systematic approach to climate risk analysis, planning of actions to enhance the resilience of vulnerable livelihoods to climate-related shocks and stresses (climate change adaptation), and by minimizing the emission of greenhouse gases and enhancing carbon sinks.

### Objectives

- Ensure that WFP interventions take climate-related risks into account and that climate risk information is included in design stage.
- Prepare beneficiaries for impacts of climate change by including targeted activities which increase resilience and reduce vulnerability.
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from WFP's activities and create or enhance carbon sinks where feasible.

### Minimum requirements

- Conduct climate risk assessments and integrate recommendations during the design of country strategies and programmes.
- Consider the impact of climate-related hazards and stresses on WFP-supported activities and outcomes.
- Adopt technically feasible and financially cost-effective options to reduce GHG emissions wherever possible; offset unavoidable emissions falling within the UN common boundary.
- Track and report GHG emissions that fall within the UN common boundary. Seek to track other known significant sources where practical.
- Focus on increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability of beneficiaries when designing activities.
- Enhance the inclusion of multiple-benefit investments in the WFP portfolio of projects, which have benefits for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction (DRR).
- Implement targeted DRR and climate risk management activities in climate risk hot spots, including in response to climate-related disasters.

### Sources

This standard reflects commitments in WFP's [Climate Change Policy](#), [Environmental Policy](#), and the [Policy on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition](#). The standard is also consistent with WFP's Food Assistance for Assets Guidance Manual.

### Examples

#### *Massive drop in emissions thanks to repositioning and new access corridors*

In South Sudan, WFP has undertaken a series of measures to gain efficiencies by reducing the number of airdrops. WFP logistics teams managed to open new river corridors to locations that could previously only be served by air. In addition, WFP rehabilitated and reopened an important road corridor in collaboration with the Ministry of Roads and Bridges and other partners. The country office negotiated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to ensure that it would receive USAID's donations at the right time and in the right modality to enable pre-positioning of food. Altogether, these efforts reduced the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of WFP's operations in South Sudan by 40% and led to USD 100 million of savings in 2019.



*Adaptation to climate change through integrated risk management*

The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative combines four risk management strategies: improved natural resource management through asset creation and improved agricultural practices (risk reduction), microinsurance (risk transfer), increased investment, livelihoods diversification and microcredit (prudent risk taking) and savings (risk reserves). Surveys have shown that insurance payouts are mainly used to cover basic needs and livelihood investments. After several seasons of bad harvests, R4 farmers were able to maintain their food security compared to others exposed to the same risks.



## 5. Protection and Human Rights

### Rationale

Human rights and protection constitute a system-wide core responsibility of the United Nations system, including WFP. Protection means for WFP designing and carrying out food and livelihood assistance activities that do not increase the protection risks faced by the populations receiving assistance. Rather, food assistance should contribute to the safety, dignity and integrity of people in vulnerable situations.

### Objective

- Ensure that fundamental human rights are respected, protected, and observed in all WFP's activities.

### Minimum requirements

- Uphold human rights principles of accountability and rule of law, participation and inclusion, and equality and non-discrimination in all activities.
- Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) committed by a WFP employee or any other personnel associated with the work of WFP.
- Make protection core to WFP's implementation: ensure that WFP's programmes are implemented in a safe and dignified manner with respect for people's needs, rights and capacities. WFP programmes must not perpetuate protection risks or create more harm for the affected population. This means for instance that programme sites must be safe for beneficiaries; adequate facilities are available to protect people's well-being and dignity.
- Safeguard the personal data of beneficiaries during processing the information needed for WFP's activities
- Prevent the use of child labour and forced labour in all WFP operations and activities; prevent the inappropriate participation of children in all WFP operations and activities.
- Conduct due diligence on partners, contractors, and - where possible - primary suppliers to identify and minimize risks of human rights violations, including risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, forced labour, and child labour.
- Strengthen the inclusion and meaningful participation of the most marginalized and vulnerable, such as people with disabilities in WFP's programmes, apply - among others - the concept of universal access for persons with disabilities in the design and construction of facilities.
- Recognize and foster full respect for indigenous peoples and their human rights, dignity, cultural uniqueness, autonomy, identity, and aspirations, consistent with rights and responsibilities set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other international instruments relating to indigenous peoples.
- Avoid involuntary resettlement through any land or resource acquisition or restrictions on land or resource use that would lead to physical and/or economic displacement, and where avoidance is not possible, minimize adverse impacts. Improve or restore livelihoods and living standards of all such displaced persons through full and just compensation for lost assets and provision of adequate housing, security of tenure, and access to services and facilities.
- Protect cultural heritage from damage, alteration, or removal and support its preservation.

### Sources

This standard reflects commitments in WFP's [Protection and Accountability Policy](#); [Statement of Humanitarian Principles](#); [2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development](#) and imperative to 'Leave No One Behind'. The standard is also consistent with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's [Principals' Statement on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) and [Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#); WFP's [Guide to Personal Data Protection and Privacy](#); Protection and Accountability Manual; Guidance Note on Free Prior and Informed Consent; and the Executive Director's Circular on Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Abuse of Authority, and Discrimination.



## Examples

### *Ensuring access to land*

In El Salvador, WFP is supporting, through a Food Assistance for Assets project, the households affected by long-term concurrent drought to build resilience infrastructure and create productive assets. One of the main challenges that influences the resilience program activities is the unequal land distribution: only 20 percent of the programme beneficiaries own their land. In order to decrease the existing land inequalities WFP is providing legal support by facilitating the conclusion of agreements between local landowners willing to lend for free their land parcels to landless programme beneficiaries. This win-win scenario allows the landless programme participants to benefit from improved livelihoods while the landowners benefit from improved soil and water management thanks to the work of the programme participants.

### *Process to obtain Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) from indigenous peoples*

In 2019, the country office of the Republic of Congo presented a concept note for a project proposal to the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund to build the resilience of communities and local government entities in three departments most affected by climate change. The envisaged target population of the project consisted for 44% of indigenous peoples (i.e. people belonging to one of the eight indigenous groups in the country). Once the concept note was endorsed, WFP set up a two-staged process to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the indigenous peoples targeted by the project. The first stage was activated during the project design and focused on obtaining FPIC on the overall setup and objectives of the project, while the second stage has been activated when the project implementation started and relates to the specific activities that will take place in each of the communities. The two stages of the FPIC process are firmly grounded on community consultations, but also involve the departmental representatives and the national representatives of the indigenous peoples.



## 6. Gender Equality

### Rationale

The pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment is central to fulfilling WFP's dual mandate to end global hunger and save lives. The lack of gender equality and women's empowerment in the contexts where WFP works has direct and indirect effects on the causes of food insecurity and malnutrition. Women and girls continue to face socio-cultural and structural discrimination across the spectrum of issues related to food security including education, livelihoods, health, command of assets, decision-making and leadership. Yet women worldwide generally have the main responsibility for household food security and nutrition, which is often unrecognised and unremunerated work.

### Objective

- Avoid gender-based discrimination and integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into all of WFP's activities.

### Minimum Requirements

- Promote gender equality, equal opportunities, and fair treatment of women and men (and girls and boys as applicable) in all phases of the programme cycle, from the initial needs assessment to the final evaluation, and in all operations.
- Ensure the particular food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are met, including by adapting food assistance and ensuring equitable participation and decision-making by women, men, girls and boys.
- Ensure supported activities do not discriminate against women, men, girls and/or boys, or reinforce gender-based inequalities and exclusion.
- Conduct participatory and inclusive gender and age analyses to promote the design and implementation of gender equitable, and as feasible transformative, programmes and operations. This includes integrating gender analysis in: all country strategic plans, context analyses, nutrition situation analyses; the programme cycle; and quality control systems.
- Systematically collect, analyse and use sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender indicators to track progress on gender equality results.
- Strengthen women's and girls' participation in programme/activity decision-making and promote, in a context specific manner, the involvement of men and boys.
- Utilize technologies, services and infrastructure that help to reduce women's (and girls') unpaid care and domestic work.
- Include specific lines for gender-related costs (e.g. gender analyses, gender specialists, partnerships) in all budgets and budget templates used for the preparation of field-level agreements.
- Adhere to the IASC minimum standards for prevention and mitigation of GBV (gender-based violence).

### Sources

This standard reflects commitments made in WFP's [Gender Policy](#). It is also consistent with WFP's [Gender-Based Violence Manual](#).

### Examples

*Cash-based transfers can reduce gender-based violence in households*

According to a study on gender equality and cash-based transfers (CBTs), depending on their design, programmes using CBTs as a means of assistance can lead to equitable and empowering impacts for women and men, girls and boys. In countries including Bangladesh, Egypt, El Salvador, Jordan, Mali and Rwanda, gender considerations were integrated into WFP assistance through the use of CBTs, which led to reported reductions in or prevention of violence, strengthened autonomy and mobility, increased skills and knowledge and reduced social exclusion for



women and girls. Also, WFP made transactions to each of the women in polygamous households to support their equal participation in food and nutrition decision making processes and care in meeting their children's basic needs.

*Empowering women smallholder farmers in the face of climate change*

Women in Côte d'Ivoire, as in other countries, are disproportionately affected by climate change. They make up more than 70 percent of the agricultural labour force while having little or no access to resources. WFP provided women smallholder farmers, who accounted for 93 percent of the membership of targeted farmer groups, with training in climate-sensitive agricultural practices and techniques for post-harvest loss management. The integrated and gender-transformative assistance package included SBCC activities that emphasized good nutrition, hygiene and environmental protection practices. For example, women farmers were informed of the negative impacts of unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash-and-burn and inappropriate use of chemical fertilizers. They were also encouraged to plant more trees and use less plastic in their day-to-day activities.



## 7. Community Health, Safety, Security, and Conflict Sensitivity

### Rationale

WFP recognizes that certain activities or operations can increase community and beneficiary exposure to health, safety or security risks or impacts, such as increased tensions or violence in or between communities, changes in natural resources and ecosystems, construction risks, changes in traffic and transportation, water and sanitation issues, hazardous materials and chemicals, the influx of alien labour force, etc. WFP seeks to minimize all risks of inadvertently contributing to conflict and maximize all opportunities to support peace in the areas in which it operations. It also seeks to ensure that activity- and operation-related health, safety, and conflict risks are avoided, minimized and appropriately managed, in particular the risks to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

### Objective

- Anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health, safety, and security of all stakeholders during all phases of programmes, operations, and supply chains.

### Minimum requirements

- Conduct a conflict analysis to understand key causes and drivers of conflict, and the positions of different actors / groups.
- Identify conflict sensitivity risks and opportunities, dilemmas and trade-offs, and other unintended consequences on peace/conflict; develop and implement mitigation measures; document risks in a risk register.
- Establish monitoring mechanisms to track whether the programme and support operations are inadvertently worsening conflict or instability - with mechanisms to monitor both known and unknown risks.
- Evaluate health and safety risks due to construction and operation of supported infrastructure and adopt appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.
- Design, construct, operate, and decommission structural elements of programmes/activities in accordance with national requirements and good international practice.
- Structural elements and services will be designed and constructed by competent professionals and approved by appropriate authorities or professionals. Ensure effective control of site access (e.g. fencing, security), use of appropriate personal protective equipment, safely designed work platforms, appropriate engineering and administrative controls (e.g. detours, traffic calming, signs), and safety barriers.
- Structural elements will take into account reasonably expected impacts of climate change and consider incremental risks of potential exposure of the public to operational accidents or natural hazards.
- Avoid or minimize potential community exposure to hazardous materials and substances that may be utilized in or released by supported activities.
- Identify and implement measures to address emergency events and ensure that emergency preparations and response plans are in place, resourced, reviewed, updated, and publicized.
- Avoid or minimize potential community exposure to diseases that could result from programmes/activities, including water-related and vector-borne diseases, and communicable and non-communicable diseases. Give due consideration to potential differentiated exposure and higher sensitivity of health impacts on vulnerable groups.
- Avoid or minimize risks and impacts on health and safety associated with the influx of labour to programme/activity areas, including threats of sexual violence and harassment and transmission of sexually-transmitted and other communicable diseases.
- Ensure potential risks posed by programme/activity-related security arrangements are assessed, security personnel are appropriately vetted and trained, and that security arrangements are monitored and reported.



## Sources

This standard reflects commitments in WFP's [Protection and Accountability Policy](#); [Policy on WFP's Role in Peacebuilding in Transition Settings](#); [Climate Change Policy](#); [Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy](#); [HIV and AIDS Policy](#); and [WFP's adherence to the OECD-DAC Recommendations on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#). The standard is also consistent with the WFP Construction Manual; Food Assistance for Assets Manual; Protection Guidance Manual; Emergency Preparedness Response Package; Emergency Needs Assessment; and the Infrastructure for Food Security circular.

## Examples

### *Reducing water tenure conflict*

In the Kyrgyz Republic WFP is supporting the rehabilitation of water structures in the volatile border region between the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. A lack of border demarcation means there are not functioning governance structures to deal with natural resource management. Infrastructure deterioration has resulted in significant water loss and tensions between communities in the drier months when there is insufficient water to meet all needs. Given tacit understandings on the ownership of each canal among conflicting communities, the programme is carefully navigating choices of which infrastructure to work on, in what order, and who can work on it. Since control over water is a contentious issue, the project team continually assess whether rehabilitation efforts might enhance actual control of water by one community, or whether it might give an implicit message of increasing assertion of control over water to another.



## 8. Accountability to Affected Populations

### Rationale

WFP has been entrusted with responding to the needs of people affected by food and nutrition insecurity and is accountable to them for achieving results and for the manner in which programmes and activities are designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated. Affected people have a right to be actively involved in the decisions that affect their lives. Ensuring that programmes/activities are accountable to affected people is therefore a key aspect of rights-based programming. Engaging affected people in programme/activity decisions makes food and nutrition assistance more effective by aligning it with the needs and preferences of affected people. Engagement can also help flag problems in programme activity implementation early on, allowing for adjustments to take place.

### Objectives

- Taking account: Promote meaningful and effective participation of affected groups and individuals.
- Giving account: Provide affected people accurate, timely and accessible information.
- Being held to account: Ensure affected people have access to effective community feedback mechanisms.

### Minimum requirements

- Demonstrate that programme activity design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes and decisions are informed by and reflect the views of affected people, disaggregated by gender, age, disability, and are informed by a protection analysis.
- Identify affected stakeholder groups, in particular those who may be disadvantaged, marginalised or at risk and may require specific forms of engagement. Plan how affected groups and individuals will be engaged throughout the programme/activity.
- Ensure consultations include all relevant stakeholders (with a particular focus on affected people) and are conducted in a meaningful, accessible, effective, and culturally appropriate manner, free of external and internal manipulation, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.
- Ensure consultations are inclusive (e.g. by gender, age, socio-economic status, cultural identity) and also respond to the needs and interests of marginalised and disadvantaged groups, with processes tailored to each group's language, information and accessibility needs, such as those due to literacy, gender, mobility, language, or disability.
- Provide accurate, timely, accessible and understandable information to stakeholders on key aspects of the programme/activity as early as possible, including on the purpose, nature, scale, and duration; potential social and environmental risks and impacts; proposed stakeholder engagement process; community feedback mechanisms; and how to obtain further information on the programme/activity.
- Ensure appropriate measures taken to protect private information of beneficiaries.
- Ensure affected people have access to fair, transparent, and inclusive Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFM). CFM systems must include clear procedures for recording, referring, taking action and providing feedback to the complainant to close the feedback loop. A CFM is considered functional if it demonstrates that feedback led to programmatic improvements.
- CFM systems must address concerns promptly and effectively in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate, at no cost to affected persons and without retribution, respects requests for confidentiality, and will not prevent access to judicial or administrative remedies.

### Sources

This standard reflects commitments in WFP's [Protection and Accountability Policy](#) and [Gender Policy](#). The standard is also consistent with WFP's [Guide to Personal Data Protection and Privacy](#); Protection and Accountability Manual; the Community Feedback Mechanisms Standardization Guidance; the Guide to Participatory Techniques and Tools; and the Food Assistance for Assets Guidance.



## Examples

### *Community Feedback Mechanism helps making access to distribution points safer*

In Libya, the WFP hotline received calls from more than 2,000 people – 50 percent men and 50 percent women – aged between 18 and 59 years on average. Callers' main requests were for information related to registration or distribution followed by reports of inclusion or exclusion errors in WFP food assistance programmes. Following several calls from women and persons with disabilities reporting challenges to their safe access to distribution sites, some distribution points were relocated to sites that were closer to the communities they served.

### *Disaggregation of data can improve the design of school meals programmes*

Disaggregated data to identify who is being targeted in school feeding programmes is recommended to understand which communities are being affected by the intervention. Programmes in Burundi, Colombia, Republic of Congo, and Bangladesh work in areas with large indigenous communities; however, data on how many indigenous children are being fed is not captured in these countries. Indigenous children can benefit from school feeding as they tend to have low access to schooling and nutrition. For example, 67% of indigenous children under five suffer from malnutrition in Guatemala and in Republic of Congo 65% of indigenous children are out of school compared to 39% nationally. In addition, as support to local economies and agriculture is a component of the school feeding programme, attention to indigenous peoples' knowledge on the use of local plants for food could also be more widely used and developed in accompanying small holder farming initiatives.



## Glossary

**Accountability:** Whether to affected populations, to donors, or internally, WFP's management is accountable. Accountability implies a genuine commitment to meeting specific goals and targets, including through tracking, implementation and verification processes as well as non-compliance mechanisms.<sup>1</sup>

**Affected Populations:** The women, men, girls and boys with varying needs, vulnerabilities and capacities who are in situations of vulnerability or are adversely affected by poverty, armed conflict, disasters or other crises negatively affecting their food and nutrition security or who face barriers to participation or access in food security interventions.<sup>2</sup>

**Biodiversity:** The variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.<sup>3</sup> Biodiversity underpins the functioning of ecosystems that sustain life and that provide people with food, medicines, natural resources, ecological services and spiritual and aesthetic benefits.

**Capacities:** Abilities and knowledge, including education, resources and networks.

**Carbon sink:** Element of the natural environment that absorb atmospheric carbon into plants, soils, and water - for example forests, peatlands, wetlands, oceans.

**Child labour:** The employment of children below the minimum age of employment. It is understood as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. WFP respects ILO standards on child Labour (ILO Conventions No. 138 on Minimum Age<sup>4</sup> and No. 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour<sup>5</sup>) and requires the following<sup>6</sup>:

- Children will not be employed in any manner that is economically exploitative or is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development.
- Children under the age of 18 will be identified, will not be employed in hazardous work, and their work will be subject to an appropriate risk assessment and to regular monitoring of health, working conditions, and hours of work.
- The general minimum age of employment will be 14 unless national law specifies a higher age. An exception for education and vocational training for children between 12 and 13 is possible, if in accordance with ILO Convention No. 138, but is not encouraged.

**Conflict sensitivity:** Minimising the negative effect of operations and programmes on conflict or tensions within society and parties to a conflict, and maximising the positive effects on peace where possible..

**Climate change adaptation:** Making changes in the way we do things to respond to changes in climate in order to reduce potential harm from adverse effects (e.g. sea level rise, severe weather) and/or to take advantage of beneficial changes. Put another way, adaptation addresses the impacts of climate change.

**Climate change mitigation:** Limiting or controlling emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) so that total accumulation is limited. Put another way, mitigation addresses the causes of climate change (accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere).

<sup>1</sup> Source: WFP Protection and Accountability Policy, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119393/download/>

<sup>2</sup> Source: WFP Protection and Accountability Policy, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119393/download/>

<sup>3</sup> Source: Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2, <http://www.cbd.int/>

<sup>4</sup> Source: International Labour Organization, Minimum Age Convention (C138), [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0:NO::P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312283](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0:NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:312283)

<sup>5</sup> Source: International Labour Organization, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C182), [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0:NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C182](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0:NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C182)

<sup>6</sup> Source: WFP Guidance Note to Prevent the Use of Child Labour in WFP Operations and Programmes <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000015141/download/>



**Cultural heritage:** Includes tangible and intangible heritage, which may be recognized and valued at the local, regional, national, or global level, as follows:<sup>7</sup>

- Tangible cultural heritage includes moveable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural significance, which may be located in urban or rural settings or above or below ground/water.
- Intangible cultural heritage includes practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated with them – that communities/groups recognize as part of their cultural heritage. Intangible heritage is transmitted from generation to generation and constantly recreated by people in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, providing them with a sense of identity and continuity.

**Data:** Facts and information, such as numbers, measurement details and observations. Data can be qualitative or quantitative and may include personal data.

**Dignity:** The respect due to affected persons, including their inherent worth, identity and culture. Affected people have the right to receive assistance that will empower them and pave their way to new opportunities, as opposed to reliance on external support or the adoption of degrading survival mechanisms. It also means that sensitivity and responsiveness to the identity and culture of affected populations must be fully integrated in the manner in which food assistance is provided by WFP and received by affected people.

**Disability:** Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.<sup>8</sup>

**Ecosystem:** They dynamic complex of plant, animal, and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

**Ecosystem functions and services.** Ecosystem functions are the natural processes and components (e.g. biological, geochemical, physical) that occur within an ecosystem. Ecosystem services are the set of ecosystem functions that benefit humans. Ecosystem services can be organized into four general types: (i) *provisioning services*, which are the goods people obtain from ecosystems (i.e. food, freshwater, timber, fibres, medicinal plants); (ii) *regulating services*, which are the benefits people obtain from the regulation of ecosystem processes (e.g. surface water purification, carbon storage and sequestration, climate regulation protection from natural hazards); (iii) *cultural services*, which are the nonmaterial benefits people obtain from ecosystems (e.g. sacred sites, areas of importance for recreation and aesthetic enjoyment); and (iv) *supporting services*, which are the natural processes that maintain the other services (e.g. soil formation, nutrient cycling, primary production).

**Endangered species:** Species in danger of extinction throughout all or part of its range. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species catalogues and highlights those plants and animals that are facing a higher risk of global extinction, i.e. those listed as 'Critically Endangered', 'Endangered' and 'Vulnerable'.<sup>9</sup>

**Forced labour:** Situations in which persons are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or by more subtle means such as accumulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities. Forced labour, contemporary forms of slavery, debt bondage and human trafficking are closely related terms though not identical in a legal sense. Most situations of slavery or human trafficking are however covered by ILO's definition of forced labour.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Sources: UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>; UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage <https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention>

<sup>8</sup> Source: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, [https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CTC/Ch\\_IV\\_15.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CTC/Ch_IV_15.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Source: International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Red List of Threatened Species, <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

<sup>10</sup> Sources: International Labour Organization, Forced Labour Convention (C29) [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C029](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C029); International Labour Organization, Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (105), [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C105](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C105)



**Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC):** A process that allows for indigenous peoples to negotiate the conditions under which projects will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. Free means that the process is free from coercion and manipulation. Prior implies consent has been sought sufficiently in advance of any approval or commencement of activities and that enough time is provided for indigenous decision-making processes to take place. Informed means that all information regarding the proposed activity or project is shared, is accurate, and easily understandable. Consent refers to a community's agreement through consultation and participation and reached through customary decision-making processes.

**Gender-based violence (GBV):** Acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threat of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty, that target individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender.

**Genetic resources:** The genetic material of actual or potential value. Genetic material is any material of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity. Examples include material of plant, animal, or microbial origin, such as medicinal plants, agricultural crops and animal breeds.

**Genetically modified organisms (GMOs):** Organisms (i.e. plants, animals or microorganisms) in which the genetic material (DNA) has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination, typically possessing a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.

**Greenhouse gases (GHGs):** Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation. GHGs include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfurhexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) from five sectors (energy; industrial processes and product use; agriculture; land use, land-use change and forestry; and waste).

**Habitat:** Terrestrial, freshwater, or marine areas or airways that support assemblages of living organisms and their interactions with the non-living environment.

**Hazardous waste:** All waste listed in annex I of the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal*.<sup>11</sup> Hazardous waste is waste that is dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. Hazardous wastes can be liquids, solids, gases, or sludges. They can be discarded commercial products, like cleaning fluids or pesticides, or the by-products of manufacturing processes.

**Human rights:** Agreed international standards that recognize and protect the dignity and integrity of every individual, without any distinction. Human rights form part of customary international law and are stipulated in a variety of national, regional and international legal documents generally referred to as human rights instruments. The most prominent of these are the United Nations Charter, and the United Nations Bill of Rights, made up of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights.<sup>12</sup>

**Hydrological change:** Alterations in the water cycle and in the availability of water. The concern is primarily with adverse changes to local water systems that may arise from a range of actions, including: significant withdrawals or diversions; discharges (e.g. pollution, wastes); and degradation of watersheds and catchment areas.

**Inclusion:** A needs and rights-based approach to programming, which must have the outcome of ensuring that people of concern have knowledge and agency on an equal basis, access to basic services and a voice in the development and implementation of those services.<sup>13</sup>

**Indigenous Peoples:** Although there is no official definition, UN human rights bodies, the International Labour Organization, and international law apply the following criteria to distinguish indigenous peoples: they usually live within (or maintain collective attachments to) geographically distinct habitats and ancestral territories; they tend

<sup>11</sup> Source: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, [https://www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel\\_Convention/docs/text/BaselConventionText-e.pdf](https://www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel_Convention/docs/text/BaselConventionText-e.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Sources: United Nations Charter, <https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>; Universal Declaration of Human Rights, [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR\\_Translations/eng.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>;

<sup>13</sup> Source: WFP Protection and Accountability Policy, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119393/download/>



to maintain distinct social, economic, and political institutions within their territories; they typically aspire to remain distinct culturally, geographically and institutionally rather than assimilate fully into national society; they self-identify as indigenous or tribal. Refer to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to view the criteria agreed upon by the African Union in 2005 on the term indigenous peoples in Africa.<sup>14</sup>

**Integrity:** Actions and efforts that are, to the degree possible, holistic and implemented responsibly in ways that reduce protection risks and foster trust and reciprocity with the affected populations served by WFP.<sup>15</sup>

**Internal displacement:** Involuntary movement of people inside their own country. This movement may be due to a variety of causes, including natural or human-made disasters, armed conflict, or situations of generalized violence.

**Internally displaced persons (IDPs):** Those persons forced or obliged to flee from their homes, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

**Invasive alien species:** Non-native species that thrive in the host ecosystem and threaten the native biological diversity. Invasive alien species invade or spread rapidly by out-competing native plants and animals when they are introduced into a new habitat that lacks their traditional controlling factors.

**Involuntary resettlement:** A situation whereby persons do not have the choice to refuse resettlement and displacement due to land acquisition or restrictions of access to lands and resources.<sup>16</sup> Economic resettlement indicates that people have to move to a new area because they lost access to productive assets or livelihood resources. Physical resettlement indicates that people have to move to a new area because they lost their shelter or the land on which they lived.

**Living natural resources:** The plants and animals cultivated for human or animal consumption and use, whether in the wild or in a cultivated situation. It includes all types of forestry, biofuels, agriculture, including both annual and perennial crops and animal husbandry, including livestock; and both wild and capture fisheries including all types of marine and freshwater organisms, both vertebrate and invertebrate.

**Natural forest:** Forest composed of indigenous trees and not classified as plantation. This includes primary forests (naturally regenerated forests of native species where there is no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed) and other naturally regenerated forests that are predominantly composed of trees established through natural regeneration but where there are visible indications of human activity (e.g. selective logging, regeneration after agricultural land use).

**Personal data, also personally identifiable information (PII):** Includes biographical data such as name, sex, marital status, date and place of birth, country of origin, country of asylum, individual registration number, occupation, religion, and ethnicity; biometric data such as a photograph, fingerprint, facial or iris image; and any opinion about the individual, such as an assessment of their legal status or specific needs.

**Physical and economic displacement:** Physical displacement refers to relocation or loss of shelter and/or land, whether full or partial, permanent or temporary. Economic displacement refers to loss of assets or of access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or means of livelihood as a result of activity-related land or resource acquisition or restrictions on land use or access to resources that people depend on.

**Pollution prevention and control:** Pollution prevention is the reduction or elimination of wastes and pollutants at their sources. Key principles include redesigning products/processes to cause less waste or pollution during manufacture, use, or disposal; altering production processes to minimize the use of toxic chemicals; controlling leaks and emissions; and reducing energy consumption. Pollution prevention should follow a hierarchy of preferred options: if pollution cannot be prevented pollutants should be recycled in an environmentally safe manner whenever feasible, and where prevention and recycling are not possible, pollutants should be disposed or released in an environmentally safe manner. Disposal or release should be considered only as a last resort. Pollution control

<sup>14</sup> Source: Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa, <https://www.achpr.org/specialmechanisms/detailmech?id=10>

<sup>15</sup> Source: WFP Protection and Accountability Policy, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119393/download/>

<sup>16</sup> Source: UN Habitat / OHCHR, Forced Evictions Fact Sheet 25/Rev.1, <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS25.Rev.1.pdf>



seeks to isolate contaminants from the environment and apply emissions limits and abatement techniques to point source discharges.

**Precautionary approach.** If an activity might harm human health or the environment, measures to prevent potential impacts should be taken even when some cause-effect relationships are not fully addressed.

**Primary suppliers:** Suppliers who, on an ongoing basis, directly provide goods and materials to WFP that are essential for the core functions of WFP activities.

**Protected areas:** Clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. Areas proposed by governments for such designation are included, as may be areas that are not legally established but are recognized as protected by local communities.

**Protection:** All activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law for WFP reflected in monitoring safety, integrity and dignity (i.e. international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international refugee law).<sup>17</sup> More specifically, protection is understood as aiming to prevent, reduce, mitigate and respond to the risks and consequences of violence, coercion, deprivation and abuse for persons, groups and communities.

**Protection mainstreaming:** Enhancing the quality and maximizing the impact of all food security and nutrition activities to enhance protection. Mainstreaming is not a substitute for protection programming; it determines how WFP provides assistance. It means addressing protection concerns at all levels of programming. It must inform how WFP develops operational programmes in a clear strategic framework from the bottom up.

**Protection outcomes:** Alleviation of human suffering, reduction of risks and threat levels, or improvement of the safety and dignity of individuals.<sup>18</sup>

**Protection risk:** The likelihood that harm could befall an individual. The harm may negatively affect the physical or mental integrity of a person or her or his material safety or violate her or his rights, with or without barriers to legal recourse.

**Renewable resources:** Natural resources that, after exploitation, can return to their previous stock levels by natural processes of growth or replenishment (provided exploitation does not exceed a level beyond which regeneration will become impossible). Non-renewable resources are exhaustible natural resources such as mineral resources that cannot be regenerated after exploitation (finite stock or reserves).

**Significant adverse impacts:** Impacts that negatively affect people and/or the environment that have a high magnitude (substantial degree of change), spatial extent (affecting a large area or numbers of people), frequency and duration (repeating, long lasting, often irreversible). Areas impacted may include areas of high value and/or sensitivity (critical habitats, ecosystems). May also refer to adverse effects to rights, lands, territories, and health of local communities and indigenous peoples, or that may exacerbate social tensions and conflicts.

**Sustainable management of living natural resources:** The use, development, and protection of living natural resource in a way or at a rate that enables people and communities to provide for their current social, economic, and cultural well-being while sustaining the potential of these resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations. This includes safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of the atmospheric, hydrological, and soil systems. Living natural resources typically refer to plants and animals cultivated for human or animal consumption and use, whether in the wild or in a cultivated situation.

**Tenure:** The set of formal or customary rules for ownership of, access to, and usufruct of natural resources, including land.

**Threats:** Actions, behaviours and policies entailing violence, coercion, discrimination or deliberate deprivation that cause harm (physical or psychological) or constitute a barrier to access to WFP support.

<sup>17</sup> Source: Inter-Agency Standing Committee 2016 Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action, [https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/iasc\\_policy\\_on\\_protection\\_in\\_humanitarian\\_action.pdf](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/iasc_policy_on_protection_in_humanitarian_action.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Source: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 2, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>



**Universal access:** Unimpeded access for people of all ages and abilities in different situations and under various circumstances. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities<sup>19</sup> requires “appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas” (Article 9).

**Unrecoverable waste:** Waste material that cannot be reused or recycled. Unrecoverable wastes are the residual wastes remaining after reduction and recycling efforts. Unrecoverable wastes may also include materials that would generally be reusable and recyclable but have been rendered unrecoverable due to contamination or improper handling and sorting.

**Vulnerability:** The characteristics of a person or community in terms of their capacity to anticipate, prepare for, cope with, resist or recover from the impact of shocks or intersecting, structural or other inequalities. A person is not inherently vulnerable but the situation they are in may render them vulnerable. This means that WFP must analyse factors contributing to heightened risk and related needs, including barriers to access to assistance and intersecting structural inequalities. In this regard, vulnerability must not be viewed in a generalized way because that is too broad to be practical when seeking to reduce risk. Similarly, people cannot be seen as one homogenous group. Group needs should not obscure the likelihood of intra-group vulnerabilities.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Source: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

<sup>20</sup> Source: WFP Protection and Accountability Policy, <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000119393/download/>