

# PROTECTION

Living in **Safety**, with **Dignity** and enjoying **Human Rights** without Discrimination

## What is Protection Mainstreaming?

Protection mainstreaming is a **practical, efficient and effective** means to maximise the protective impact of aid programming. Through **incorporating protection principles** into aid design and delivery, humanitarian actors can:

- o Promote the human rights of affected populations
- o Enhance affected populations' safety and dignity
- o Reduce the risks of discrimination, abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation

Protection mainstreaming is also an **ethical obligation** that has been widely accepted and endorsed by the broader humanitarian community:

- o **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group Progress Report 2005:**  
"All humanitarian actors share responsibility for ensuring that activities in each cluster and other areas of the humanitarian response are carried out with "a protection lens".
- o **Sphere Standards 2011** (revised edition) included four basic protection principles that must inform all humanitarian action:
  - o Avoid causing harm
  - o Ensure access to impartial assistance
  - o Protect people from violence and assist with rights claims
  - o Access to remedies and recovery from abuse

### What does Protection mainstreaming mean to World Vision?

Protection is concerned with people's **safety, dignity and human rights**. In World Vision, protection operates as both a **cross-cutting theme** that involves mainstreaming protection principles throughout all activities including advocacy; and as a sector which involves preventing and responding to specific protection issues affecting individuals, families and communities. World Vision focuses on protection mainstreaming in **large-scale emergencies** and **fragile contexts**.

In 2012, World Vision published the 'Minimum Standards for Protection Mainstreaming' which was developed and field tested over several years in five countries in consultation with other humanitarian agencies including CARE, Oxfam, Caritas, IRC, UNICEF, ICRC, Save the Children and UNHCR amongst others.

The 'Minimum Standards for Protection Mainstreaming' set out **five core standards**:

1. Agencies **prioritise** the **safety** of disaster-affected populations
2. Agencies **promote dignity, inclusive participation and diversity** within disaster-affected populations
3. Agencies **support** disaster-affected populations to **claim their rights**
4. Agencies **prioritise those individuals and groups most vulnerable** to the effects of conflict or disaster
5. Agencies **respond safely and ethically to incidents of human rights abuses** in conformity with their mandate and recognised good practice

The *Minimum Standards for Protection Mainstreaming* sets out additional sector specific standards for mainstreaming protection into:

Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene; Food and Non-Food Items; Livelihoods; Shelter and Settlement; Health; Education programs

Practically, World Vision staff are expected to:

- o **Review** core standards and **integrate** applicable standards into the assessment, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes, projects and activities (including indicators);
- o **Review, adopt and adapt** as necessary the sectoral specific standards applicable to their intervention;
- o **Seek specialist assistance\*** from a Protection Specialist where needed.

World Vision is currently leading the Protection Mainstreaming Task Team within the Global Protection Cluster and will be working closely with other agencies to develop common tools to promote protection mainstreaming including a training manual and sectoral specific checklists. World Vision plans to strengthen internal capacity building on protection mainstreaming in the first quarter of 2013

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Safety



Dignity



Human Rights