

Guidance on Minimum Standards and Criteria for 3RP Protection Programming

This document should be read in conjunction with the **Recommendations for Scope and Content of Appeals** ([English](#) and [Turkish](#)) document. Please also note that the following suggestions are not written in order of importance.

- All appeals should mainstream **Core Humanitarian Standards on Quality and Accountability**¹.
- All appeals should mainstream and demonstrate clear commitments as related to **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**² (risk mitigation, prevention and response including through predictable and structured investigation procedures, availability of Whistleblower policies, annual capacity development of staff, established complaint mechanisms etc.), **Child Safeguarding and Accountability to Affected Populations** (participation and inclusion; communication and transparency; feedback and response; organizational learning and adaptation).
- All appeals should mainstream Child Protection and mainstream and demonstrate commitments to **gender equality and empowerment** and should take into consideration different status and needs of women, girls, men and boys.
- All appeals should be designed in a participatory manner; **consultation with the target community** is essential.
- All appeals should have a **leave no one behind and intersectionality approach** and should enhance people's safety, dignity, inclusive participation and rights and avoid exposing them to further harm.
- Partners should ensure that their appeals and programme designs are in line with the **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) approach**. All appeals should apply principle of non-discrimination, meaning programmes should not discriminate against individuals based on their race, sex, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, disability or any other status.
- All appeals should incorporate **disability inclusion** and mainstream across different stages of the programme management cycle. Must do actions³ towards ensuring disability inclusion include promoting meaningful participation, removing barriers to inclusion and participation, empowering persons with disabilities and supporting them to develop their capacities.

¹ For further information on Core Humanitarian Standards, please refer to the [Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability](#) (2024 Edition).

² For further information, please refer to [Secretary-General's Bulletin: Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#) and [IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#).

³ For further information on disability inclusion and mainstreaming in protection and humanitarian action overall, please refer to the [IASC Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action \(2019\)](#).

- All appeals should aim to monitor inclusion by **collecting, timely reporting and analyzing disaggregated data** (by sex, age, disability, nationality, status, and others if relevant).
- In aiming to identify challenges and solutions, **programmes should aim to be as local as possible** (designed and implemented in collaboration with authorities and affected community groups/beneficiaries). Local protection needs should be identified and analyzed before incorporating into the design of programmes and periodically reassessed to inform programme and service improvement.
- All appeals should be designed and implemented through an **evidence and needs-based approach**, wherever possible referring to the latest analysis from the Inter-Agency Protection Needs Assessment or other relevant organizational assessments, and in a spirit of complementarity with other stakeholders to avoid overlaps and gaps. Course corrections should be undertaken throughout implementation when needed/appropriate.
- Partners should have sufficiently **qualified, trained and experienced technical staff** at all levels to mitigate risks and ensure programme outcomes are relevant, effective, impactful and do no harm. This includes sufficient M&E capacity, to effectively track, monitor and document programmatic results at both output and outcome levels.
- All appeals should incorporate **advocacy components** in line with the sector's strategic direction and response in relation to facilitating consistent implementation of national legislation, inclusion of refugees into existing national services and access to rights and services.
- To ensure programme design, implementation and monitoring & evaluation processes are in line with standards promoted at the sector level, all appealing partners assigning focal points and alternates should **actively participate and contribute to relevant inter-agency coordination fora** (at national and sub-national level as relevant and including to sub-sectors of Protection sector on CP and GBV) and efforts, including on efforts for data collection for evidence-based programming.
- During the planning phase of programmes, partners should aim to be familiar with and **consider legal frameworks, including international law and domestic legislation**. All protection programmes with response components should aim to support the implementation of the protection services per national legislation (including through referrals to relevant national services), if necessary supplement it, however, should not aim to replace it.
- All programmes should aim to **promote and foster social cohesion** between refugee and host communities, and prevent, mitigate and address risks of social tension as a result of programmatic implementation. These programmes should build on different experiences and approaches of women, girls, men and boys.
- All programmes should aim to **strengthen and mobilize community members' self-protection capacity**. Programmes should be community-based in design, implementation and monitoring. Programmes should aim to empower individuals (ensure

to provide equal opportunities for women, girls, men and boys, as well as vulnerable groups) to prevent risks rather than create/maintain dependency on civil society response service provision.

- Partners, throughout all stages of the program cycle, should consider **working with gender & GBV focal points** in order not to do harm during program implementation and mitigate GBV risks.
- All partners appealing under the Protection Sector should ensure that **staff-care components** are integrated within their programmes and is a priority across the organization, including as related to mental health and psycho-social wellbeing of frontline staff.

The above minimum criteria are sought for all Protection sector partners. For partners appealing under CP and GBV areas, below additional criteria apply:

Additional Guidance on Minimum Criteria for Child Protection Programming

- All appeals should align with the **Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action** (CPMS)⁴ and should ensure equal access to girls and boys.
- Partners aiming to appeal under the child protection objective should strive to **incorporate prevention programming for child protection**, and not solely focus on response related activities. Prevention programming should align with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action's [Primary Prevention Framework for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) and [INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children](#).
- Child protection programming should aim to support children, families and communities to protect children and adolescents with an **empowering approach**, supporting self-reliance and minimizing dependence on NGO-delivered services.
- All programmes should aim to **prioritize the best interests of the child**, ensuring their safety, well-being, development and participation while strengthening their resilience and capacity to claim their rights.
- Child protection programs must **avoid causing harm** to children and ensure that their rights and dignity are always upheld.
- **Children should be actively involved in decisions** that affect them, and their views should be taken into account in the design, development, implementation and monitoring of child protection programmes.
- Child protection programmes should be **designed by informed analysis** of different protection needs, risks, vulnerabilities and capacities of various groups of children and adolescents and their families, with the integration of age, gender, nationality, ethnicity,

⁴ For further information on Minimum Standards, please refer to the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, available at: https://alliancecpha.org/en/CPMS_home.

disability, religion, status considerations, so to support targeted and relevant programming rather than ‘one size fits all’ programmes/projects.

- ❑ Child protection programmes should **focus on addressing ‘gaps’** identified in Protection Sector Guidance documents (e.g. removing barriers, increasing access through targeting particularly vulnerable/less served population groups, tackling emerging child protection concerns, focusing on support to national child protection systems promoting a strategy of inclusion into national services, while providing complementary services and support, etc.).
- ❑ Due to the structurally complex nature of child protection concerns, child protection programmes should strive to have **clear linkages/connections with other cross-sectoral components**, e.g. as related to household economic empowerment, education, health, including MHPSS and adolescent health, gender and GBV programming, etc.
- ❑ Child protection programmes should be based and focused on **non-discrimination, impartial assistance and inclusion** principles.
- ❑ Child protection programming should include **child-friendly communication and accountability channels, including** child-friendly complaints and feedback mechanisms.
- ❑ Child protection programming should ensure that **all staff providing child protection services possess the relevant skills and competencies** by ensuring organizations’ adequate investment in capacity development initiatives and plans.
- ❑ Child protection considerations should be mainstreamed across **all phases of emergency programming** (preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and evaluation).
- ❑ All partners appealing under the CP objective should present **alignment with the objectives under the protection sector and GBV sub-sector**.

Additional Guidance on Minimum Criteria for Gender-Based Violence Programming

- ❑ All appeals should align with the **Inter-Agency Minimum Standards (16 standards) for GBV in Emergencies Programming**⁵.
- ❑ All appeals under the GBV objective should demonstrate commitments to the basic guiding principles of GBV programming implementation: **safety, confidentiality, respect and non-discrimination and a survivor-centered approach** should be followed.
- ❑ All appeals under the GBV objective should ensure the implementation of **GBV case management with an ecological approach**; strengthening individuals should be expanded further on working with the family, the community and the society.
- ❑ All partners appealing under GBV objective should ensure that **all staff receives the respective minimum trainings** such as ethics, humanitarian principles, PSEA and safety followed by technical trainings for the GBV personnel such as gender equality, GBV,

⁵For further information on Minimum Standards, please use this [link](#).

Prevention of GBV, GBV Case Management, GBV Risk Mitigation in other sectors and international and national legislation both on refugees and GBV.

- All appeals under the GBV objective should **consider the differentiated needs of different communities** (urban to rural, host communities to refugee communities, GBV survivors with disabilities, different nationalities and/or ethnic groups, etc.). A bottom-up approach should be followed while designing programs.
- All appeals under the GBV objective should be designed through the **strong participation of the target community**.
- Appeals on GBV Risk Mitigation in other sectors should consider **GBV risk mitigation in overall program implementation from design to the M&E** part of the program cycle including hiring personnel with a gender-equal approach and training personnel on gender equality keeping into account do no harm principle continuously.
- All partners appealing under the GBV objective should **implement comprehensive service delivery for GBV survivors** with the consideration of the needs of safety & security, MHPSS, legal and health/particularly sexual reproductive health.
- Partners aiming to appeal under the GBV objective should **implement the GBV program in a safe space where physical and emotional safety is respected**, including WGSS (women and girls safe spaces, including adolescents), or safe spaces for KRG (Key Refugee Groups) ensuring child-friendly spaces as well. Such spaces should be established in easily reachable areas ensuring the safety-enough lightning & accessible transportation- in the respective neighborhood.
- Partners aiming to appeal under the GBV objective should **consider distributing dignity kits or collaborating with basic needs & cash and voucher assistance** will facilitate outreach to communities.
- All appeals under the GBV objective should **identify relevant service providers in the respective area, and after full training of service providers, should establish continuous collaboration, coordination and communication** with service providers in order to ensure that GBV survivors are supported in a timely and effective manner.
- Appeals under GBV objective should highlight **conducting regular joint assessments to identify any evolving GBV risk factors**.
- All appeals under the GBV objective should ensure a **strong advocacy component** within program implementation to strive for change in social norms with a focus on gender transformative approach.
- All appeals under the GBV objective should support **GBV survivors to access to economic empowerment and livelihood programmes**.
- All partners appealing under the GBV objective should **cooperate with the protection sector and child protection sub-sector partners**.