

M6HO1. Guidance for assessing a project from the point of view of protection

Note.- Remember the distinction between *protection oriented projects* (or vertical protection projects) and *mainstreaming protection into the project cycle management*.

I.- Guidance note for assessing *protection-oriented projects*:

- **Background information** needed:
 - Context analysis
 - Needs assessment (scenario), with main threats, vulnerabilities and capacities of a given target population.
 - Capacity/will of the duty-bearer stakeholders
 - Strategic approach to the scenario (complementarity of humanitarian actors)
- 1.- Does a **relevant normative framework** inform the project objectives?
- 2.- Do the project objectives address some of the existing **protection needs (according to the risk assessment done)**?
- 3.- How do the **project objectives/outcomes** fit within one or more of the 3 categories of general protection objectives? Do they reduce threats or have to do with vulnerabilities and capacities?
 - Do the protection objectives lead to stop/reducing perpetrators 'action'?
 - Do the protection objectives lead to improving the compliance by duty-bearer stakeholders?
 - Do the protection objectives promote direct changes in the people's lives?
 - Dealing with vulnerabilities and capacities linked to the main threats for the target population?
- 4.- Are the **risks and assumptions** linked to the protection objectives properly assessed and addressed?
 - Risks to their capacity to achieve the desired objectives
 - Risks to the safety and reputation of primary stakeholders
 - Risks to the safety and reputation of DG ECHO
 - Risks to the safety and reputation of third parties.

II.- Guidance note for assessing projects attending at how they mainstreaming protection

Introductory note from the DG ECHO Protection Funding Guidelines: Mainstreaming of basic protection principles in traditional assistance programmes is of paramount importance to DG ECHO. All humanitarian aid programmes need to 'think protection' and focus on reducing people's vulnerability to the various threats they face.

The humanitarian assistance programmes should be regularly scrutinized to ensure that they are not becoming counter protective in any way by exposing the people to further risk or danger.

As a minimum, we propose the following formulation for assessing the mainstreaming of protection in projects.

Please review the project and check whether its objectives and activities take clearly into account:

- **The principle of 'do no harm'**
- **The commitment of safe and equal access to assistance**
- **If there is the need for special measures to ensure access for particularly vulnerable groups.**

All proposals should demonstrate integration of these principles, not only into the section 5.3. of the Single Form, but also in its substantive sections, i.e. the logical framework, activity descriptions, etc.