TOOL 3.6 GUIDANCE FOR A PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION APPROACH WITHIN RECOVERY

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WHAT IS RECOVERY?

The emergency phase of humanitarian response is defined by acute needs. However, there are actions that can be taken that will provide support to affected communities (and to their environment and to local markets) beyond the emergency and into recovery. These actions should commence right from the onset of emergency operations.

'Early recovery' is an approach that helps address longer-term recovery needs (such as ensuring that sustainable development goals continue to be met) during the crisis phase of an emergency operation. Early recovery activities are defined as those that align to development principles, but that are implemented and planned in the emergency phase. They are embedded within humanitarian action and allow affected populations to develop opportunities, build resilience, and establish sustainable processes for recovery from the crisis (including resilience in the face of future crises). These activities are focused on building individual, community, and systems strengthening. Many PGI activities fulfil these criteria (such as ensuring dignity, access, participation and safety in access to health services, which in the longer term reduces health issues for at-risk groups and assists in better healthcare and maternal and child health outcomes).

Recovery activities are sometimes planned and delivered as separate, stand-alone, long-term programming after an Emergency Operation, the aim of which is to ensure a transition from emergency to recovery that enhances resilience and links to development initiatives of the government, national society, and civil society.

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The PGI minimum standards support mainstreaming PGI into all operations, including recovery. In some circumstances, a recovery plan may include development of PGI standalone programming such as the creation of new case management and referral programs, safe houses, or other necessary protection programs based on needs.

This document focuses on how to meet the minimum standards of mainstreaming PGI concerns into recovery programming. PGI personnel should keep early recovery and longer-term recovery as an underlying priority of their work at any stage in the emergency operation.

For more details of which tools to use during recovery, see the Timeline of Tools in the overview chapter.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT PGI APPROACHES FOR RECOVERY?

PGI mainstreaming contributes to addressing the root causes of vulnerability and therefore should be continued in transition and recovery approaches.

A PGI approach to recovery means focusing on local ownership and strengthening capacities; basing interventions on a thorough understanding of the context in order to address root causes of vulnerabilities, reduce risk, address ongoing safety concerns, promote equality and prevent discrimination, and to make communities more resilient in the face of future crises.

Basic steps for mainstreaming PGI in recovery:

- Follow the basic mainstreaming steps for an emergency response, keeping recovery objectives, exit plans, and transition to development programs in mind
- Ensure that there is a diverse and representative team (people of different genders, ages, disabilities) deployed in all recovery assessments
- Implement the PGI minimum standards in each sector
- Use the Assessment Question Library to identify sector-specific PGI questions that can be integrated into sectoral assessments
- Ensure a PGI focal point has been identified
- Conduct an updated PGI Analysis including collation of PGI documentation, lessons learned, and other information from the emergency phase
- Update referral pathways and basic case management and inform teams on implementation
- If during the operation it was determined that National Society policies or procedures related to PGI (child protection policy, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse procedures) may benefit from strengthening, these should be included in recovery programming to create sustainable implementation of the minimum standards in all programming of the National Society

If a PGI role is allocated within the recovery phase, they may consider the following tasks:

- Design and undertake the PGI needs assessment considering the situation, priorities, and preferences of those to assist, the market conditions, government policies, available payment mechanisms for potential use of cash transfers and their suitability from PGI perspective, the national society organisational capacity, and other relevant factors using the RCRC guidance and existing tools and templates

- Support community-based protection assessments to identify specific protection concerns, risk needs of girls, boys, women, and men; and (in coordination with other relevant protection actors) develop (and lead on implementation) strategies to address specific protection concerns and needs (i.e. women and girls)

- Work with PMER team and ensure that sex, age, disability disaggregated data are collected and analysed at the field level as per the IFRC Counting People Reached Technical Note.

- Ensure PGI is part of a fully integrated recovery programme

- In consultation with the National Society and other Partner National Societies supporting recovery, design the early recovery PGI interventions to include in the revised EPoA, including the logical framework with appropriate objectives, outputs, indicators, and activities and a detailed budget and advise on HR needs to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme. If cash is to be used, lead the provision of technical support to set up the targeting criteria and cash delivery mechanisms aligned with PGI minimum standards.

- Outline the PGI monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) plan, including beneficiary feedback and response mechanisms

- Identify training requirements in PGI for programme staff and volunteers as required

- Provide briefings on the application of the PGI minimum standards and identify (in collaboration with the National Society) systems that may need strengthening to transition from implementing minimum standards in operations to using them in all sectoral programmes of the National Society.

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