**Fida Humanitarian Assistance 2019**

1. **INTRODUCTION:**

Fida’s effective humanitarian response is based on a contextualized, location specific diagnosis (assessment, monitoring and evaluation), to analyze people’s needs, vulnerabilities and capacities in each context. Access to information concerning the mainstreaming issues is essential for mitigating the risks, population safety and possibility for people to influence the decisions which affect their lives. In following papers the 4 themes are addressed: Gender (and Gender equalities), Climate (and environment) sustainability, Reduction of inequalities, and the Rights and needs of vulnerable groups. The themes relating to Gender, Reduction of inequalities, and the Rights and Needs of vulnerable groups aim at dealing with particular vulnerabilities and capabilities of individuals and subgroups (children, older people, people living with HIV and AIDS, persons with disabilities, etc.). Climate and Environment sustainability and Disaster Risk Reduction will address vulnerability issues concerning the entire affected population. Pages below describe how each of the above themes will be mainstreamed across the 2019 relief operations.

People need to have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaint. The dialogue with the communities is one of the strengths in Fida humanitarian assistance, mainly because of the strong, trusted presence of their church partners in affected communities throughout the program cycle.

1. **GENDER EQUALITY BACKGROUND PAPER:**

**2.1 Background information**

There are many inequalities in women’s and men’s roles and workloads, access to and control over resources, and decision-making power. Women and girls are typically more disadvantaged, especially in access to education. The Humanitarian assistance project is based on careful assessment/analyses of gender situation.

Fida PCM systems will ensure that gender perspectives have been taken into account in the preliminary project planning and base line studies. Women’s and men’s equal opportunities to participate and influence the project planning and decision-making are realized through some of the approaches described below.

***Checklist***

* Have gender perspectives been taken into account in the preliminary project planning and base line studies?
* Do women and men have equal opportunities to participate and influence the project planning and decision-making?
* Do both genders have equal opportunities to be employed in the project?
* Does the project planning contain activities, which might cause tensions from traditional gender role perspective? E.g. Is it culturally appropriate for the men and women have the same distribution line?
* How is gender equality planned to be promoted in the project?
* Have the project activities been designed so that both women and men can benefit from them equally?
* Has a gender analysis been made for the project?
* Has the community suffered from sexual and gender based violence?

**2.2 Approaches and methods**

The project will address gender cross-cutting issues by applying the *mainstreaming* themes using following approaches:

**2.2.1 Human rights-based approach (HRBA):** the HRBA will help the project to be in line with the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and rights to analyze inequalities and injustices, and to develop programs, strategies and activities in all areas of work to recognize, which hinder the realization of human rights to both men and women, boys and girls.

**2.2.2 Gender-based violence programming (GBV): The** Fida programme is based on analysis of Gender-based violence situation, which is recognized as life-threatening factor, which poses unique challenges in the humanitarian context. The program will plan, establish and coordinate a set of minimum multisectoral interventions to prevent and respond to sexual violence during all the phases of an emergency. Psychosocial support and counselling is an intrinsic part of Fida humanitarian work in affected communities.

**2.2.3 Sexual exploitation and abuse programming (SEA):** Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) are forms of Gender-based violence that have been widely reported by interviewees in areas of many humanitarian crises. One of the methods used in humanitarian programs is the IASC six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse[[1]](#footnote-1).

**2.2.4 Gender balance in humanitarian agencies:** The program practices gender equality in recruitment, assistance and other project practices; such as NFI distribution, as well as in employment of PSS volunteers and caretakers in Child Friendly Spaces.

**2.3 Procedures of incorporating the gender cross-cutting theme into this project**

The framework for gender equality programming (**ADAPT**, **ACT** and **C**) will be used.

* **ADAPT** involves Gender mainstreaming activities such as 1) **A**nalyze gender differences, 2) **D**esign services to meet the needs of all, 3) **A**ccess for women, girls, boys and men, 4) **P**articipate equally, 5) **T**rain men and women equally.
* **ACT** involves actions such as: 1) **A**ddress GBV in sectors program, 2) **C**ollect, analyses and report sex- and age-disaggregated data 3) **T**arget actions based on a gender analysis.
* **C** means **C**oordinate Actions with all Partners.

**2.4 Objective of Gender mainstreaming objectives**

**2.4.1 Overall objective**

Contribute towards gender equality, promoting proportionality and impartiality, equity between women and men, boys and girls and equality of outcome to entitled persons in the sphere of activities.

**2.4.2 Purpose**

Improved entitlement of both women and men to humanitarian assistance and protection; to respect for their human dignity; to acknowledgement of their equal human capacities including the capacity to make choices; to avail the same opportunities to act on those choices and to the same level of power to shape the outcome of their actions.

**2.5 Gender mainstreamed practices (activities)**

2.5.1 Conduct wide consultations with equal number of men and women to learn about both groups’ needs and capacities (gender analysis).

**2.5.2 Select balanced number of women and of men as either project staff or beneficiaries (gender balance targeting).**

**2.5.3 Conduct sensitization meetings with both beneficiaries and community leaders on gender.**

**2.5.4 Communicating in various ways with information about positive ways of living gender-balanced interactions.**

**2.5.5 Give equal chance to both females and males to participate and contribute in the operation.**

**2.5.6 Use Program trainings, and distribution events as mass sensitization opportunities to rise concerns about gender issues.**

**2.6 Tools and guiding instruments to achieving gender mainstreaming actions**

3.6.1 Tools: Assessment findings, Human rights; Minimum Standards for Aid in Emergencies; Humanitarian principles; Do No Harm principles and practices[[2]](#footnote-2); the countries Humanitarian strategies.

**3 CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY BACKGROUND PAPER:**

**3.1 Background information**

Climate sustainability means the adoption of appropriate measures and policies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on human rights.[[3]](#footnote-3) Even in crises situation people are still dependent of environment, and the sustainability of the humanitarian assistance practices need to be planned accordingly. How to do this, without putting pressure on vulnerable communities’ capacity to adapt needs to be thought when both PCM and the budget of the project are planned. The following guidelines are planned to ensure, that the (possible) positive and negative impacts of the project activities on the environment and on human health are be taken into account in project planning. Although the mapping of the environment impacts may be challenging, it is good to keep in mind that even small and relatively simple actions can produce positive impacts on the environment.

**3.2 Disaster risk reduction**

Reducing disaster risks is a systematic practice to analyse and manage the factors which cause and influence the situation and environment, where the humanitarian assistance is delivered. The risk and needs assessments (attached with humanitarian funding proposals), analyses the project practices which aim to reduce people’s exposure to hazards, protection of the vulnerable people and property, informed management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events, the disaster risk management is an essential part of Fida humanitarian assistance practices. Mainstreaming the cross-cutting issues and following the carefully thought guidelines becomes increasingly important in crises situations including the natural disasters like storms, floods, droughts and sea-level rise. As they appear to become more variable and severe, these phenomena are attributed to global climate change.

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| ***Checklist***   * Have the possible environmental impacts of the project been notified in the initial assessment and project planning? * Does the project have possible short term or longterm environmental impacts? (For example, waste treatment, construction, materials, use of natural resources, paper use, traveling, energy consumption, etc.) * Does the project have possibility to support and strengthen local capacity to adapt to and to mitigate the consequences of the environmental change or other natural catastrophes? * How vulnerable is the environment in the project area? Is there valuable (rare) flora in the region, protected waters, or sensitive soil to contamination? |
| * Is the project or its nature vulnerable to floods, drought, forest or bush fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, geological accidents (e.g. landslides), extreme weather conditions or technology-related accidents? * How can the project prevent natural catastrophes and support local disaster risk reduction? |

Can the project have a positive impact on local attitudes about environmental issues, for example, by increasing environmental awareness, taking care of the nature, protecting watercourse, recycling, consuming ethically (preferring nature saving products) etc.?

**3.3 Approaches to promoting climate sustainability**

Three approaches will be used in this project to promote climate sustainability: - the *mainstreaming approach (MA)*, the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and the community based approach (CBA).

**3.4 Procedures to mainstreaming climate sustainability**

**3.4.1 Assessments of current and future climate risks.**

**3.4.2 Incorporating Climate sustainability in humanitarian policies**

**3.4.3 Work with local communities using local capacities when rising voices about climate sustainability.**

**3.4.4 Mainstream the planned activities.**

**3.4.5 Monitor the achievement and then - evaluate the impact.**

**3.5 Climate sustainability objectives:**

**3.5.1 Overall objective**

To contribute to increased awareness about climate sustainability and its advantages on human life, on environmental natural resources and on livelihoods.

**3.5.2 Purpose**

Increased knowledge among communities about climate issues (climate, sustainability, climate changes and its consequences on human life, on the environment and on future generation) and about practices to maintain climate equilibrium.

**3.6 Climate sustainability mainstreamed practices (activities).**

To maintain climate sustainability, following concrete practices will be undertaken:

**3.6.1 Conduct analysis to assess physical, social, economic, cultural or legislative barriers to having rights and access to resources and decision-making in each context.**

**3.6.2 Sensitize communities about climatic hazards, preventing over-exploitation, pollution and degradation of environment, secure the life-supporting functions of the environment, and reduce risk and vulnerability.**

**3.6.3 Stick up billposting with messages about wise management of environment resources.**

**3.6.4 Use distribution events for mass sensitization to rise up concerns about climate sustainability.**

**3.7 Tools and guiding instruments:**

3.7.1 Tools: Assessment findings, Minimum standards for aid in emergencies, Human Rights, Humanitarian Principles, Do No Harm principles and practices.

3.7.2 Guiding Instruments: Assessment report, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,[[4]](#footnote-4) Sphere project handbook, Finland’s Humanitarian Policy, Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA),[[5]](#footnote-5) Do No Harm, and Fida International Project Manual.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**4 REDUCTION OF INEQUALITIES BACKGROUND PAPER**

**4.1 Background information about reduction of inequality**

In Fida humanitarian assistance reduction of inequality is realized by actions to ensure equal access to assistance for all beneficiaries. Reduction of inequality includes strengthening the local implementing partners’ advocacy towards eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.[[7]](#footnote-7) Inequality slows down growth and poverty reduction, limits the quality of relations in the public and political spheres and individuals’ quality of life. The operation, especially delivery of aid goods and other commodities, may without careful analyses of the situation, impact the equality within target territories in adverse or unexpected ways.

**4.2 Reduction of inequality towards equity**

Equity comes from the idea of moral equality that people should be treated as equals. Equity mean that people have:

1. Equal life chances: There should be no differences in outcomes based on factors for which people cannot be held responsible.

2. Equal concern for people’s needs: Some goods and services are necessities and should be distributed according solely to the level of need.

3. Positions in society and rewards should reflect differences in effort and ability, based on fair competition.[1]

Equity means that there should be a minimum level of income and environmental quality below which nobody falls. In Fida humanitarian assistance it is recognized, that inequity is often culminated in a disaster or a conflict situation. Power relations can cause and sustain inequity and are important to recognize, since they can hinder equal access to the distribution of relief. Access to humanitarian assistance is universal and arrangements should be made to ensure that the most vulnerable people are not excluded.

The following checklist for ensuring the equal distribution of aid is used to ensure this:

**4.3 Approaches**

The project will address this cross-cutting theme using both the *Mainstreaming* Approach (MA) and the *Right-Based Approaches* (HRBA), across the main areas of the relief operation.

**4.4 Procedures**

4.4.1 Adhering to human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination, universality, interrelatedness and indivisibility, participation and inclusion, and transparency.

4.4.2 Integrating the “reduction of inequalities cross-cutting them into Humanitarian policies.”

4.4.3 Monitoring the commitment of staff and stakeholders in applying the theme.

**4.5 Objective of mainstreaming reduction of inequalities**

**4.5.1 Overall objective**

Contribute to reduced factors that cause power imbalances or possible discrimination of marginalized groups of people.

**4.5.2 Purpose**

Reduced factors that cause power imbalances or possible discrimination of vulnerable groups of people or vulnerable areas.

**4.6 Practices in mainstreaming reduction of inequalities**

To increase reduce inequalities, the following concrete activities will be undertaken:

4.6.1 Conduct wide consultations with women and relevant vulnerable and marginalized groups aiming at analyzing physical, social, economic, cultural or legislative barriers to accessing own rights.

4.6.2 Practice equalities while distributing relief aid of this operation on the basis of Right based approach.

4.6.3 Conduct sensitization meetings with both beneficiaries and community leaders.

4.6.4 Communicating information about positive ways of accessing resources.

4.6.5 Give equal chance to both females and males to participate and contribute in the operation.

4.6.6 Use meetings and distribution opportunities events for mass sensitization to rise up concerns about equality.

**4.7 Tools and guiding instruments**

4.7.1 Tools: Human Rights, Minimum standards about aid in emergencies, Humanitarian principles, Do No Harm principles and practices, Country specific current Humanitarian Strategies.

4.7.2 Guiding instruments: Human rights documents, Sphere project handbook & Humanitarian Charter, Finland’s Humanitarian Policy, the country specific Humanitarian Response Plans, the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and Do No Harm.

**5 RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS BACKGROUND PAPER**

**5.1 Background information about Rights and needs of vulnerable groups**

The project recognizes the rights of all individuals, including vulnerable individuals to relief assistance. The assessment observed complaints of vulnerable individuals against power-holders who accumulate both jobs and good quantity of aid while vulnerable people are struggling. This project strives to achieve this theme in order to meet the sphere statement: effective humanitarian response must be based on a comprehensive, contextualized diagnosis, in order to analyze people’s needs, vulnerabilities and capacities in each context.[[8]](#footnote-8)

**5.2 Children and old people**

Special measures must be taken to ensure that children are protected from harm and given equitable access to basic services. It is crucial that children’s voice is heard during emergency assessments, and their views are considered in humanitarian service delivery and its monitoring and evaluation. Children and young peoples’ are vulnerability and need of protection, is addressed in Fida programme by focusing on their physical and psychosocial security. Without this they easily fall prey to adverse influences of crises situation, such as malnutrition, exploitation, abduction and recruitment into armed groups and fighting forces, sexual violence and lack of opportunity to participate in decision-making.

The old people have both vulnerabilities and capacities, which may either complicate or ease the circumstances in crises situations. While their decreasing mental or physical strength may make them especially vulnerable, their experience and knowledge about the environment may be a valuable resource for survival.

*Checklist*

* Does the operation have significant impacts on the lives of people with disabilities, HIV positive persons or people living with AIDS, minority ethnic groups, etc.?
* Have these vulnerable people been considered in the planning and initial assessment phases? Have they participated in the project planning?
* Does the project staff have sufficient knowledge about the vulnerable people groups? Have the possible prejudices and attitudes towards them been discussed openly?
* Do the vulnerable people have equal possibilities to benefit from the project and to participate in its activities?
* Do the vulnerable people groups have equal opportunities to be employed in the project and proceed in their work? Have adequate resources been reserved to meet their situation? Have the labour statuses and rights of the vulnerable people been secured?
* Have vulnerable-people-specific indicators been formulated and regularly monitored? Has disaggregated data been collected and analysed within the monitoring and evaluation system and in the final evaluation?

**5.3 People with Disabilities**

People with sensory, physical, mental or intellectual impairment suffer not only because of a diagnosable condition, but because they are denied access to education, health care, employment and participation in political and public life. PWDs become even more vulnerable in disaster and conflict settings and need specific attention and protection in ensuring that no one is left behind. Emergency situations also often generate an increase in the number of PWDs because of new injuries and lack of access to services.

It is essential, that also in humanitarian assistance the plans and decisions which affect the lives of the people living with disabilities are made with the principle, that they are included in everything, especially concerning the decisions affecting their lives. It is often forgotten, that the beneficiaries of the humanitarian assistance as a whole, PWDs included, are not only in the receiving end of humanitarian action but have a lot to contribute.

Disability mainstreaming is about building awareness about disability into existing project structures and activities. It means that both the needs and contribution of PWDs are taken into account in the full project cycle, from initial planning, to implementation, monitoring and finally evaluation. PWDs and their organisations should play an active role in process, both as beneficiaries and as experts.

*Checklist*

* Does the project take into account the Fida International Disability Policy?
* Have PWDs been identified in the project area? Have their vulnerabilities and needs been identified in the specific crises setting?
* Have the main barriers hindering active participation of PWDs (cultural, attitudinal, environmental, institutional) been identified?
* Have PWDs been taken into account in the planning and initial assessment phases of the project?
* Has disability disaggregated data been collected and analysed within the monitoring and evaluation system and in the final evaluation?

**5.4 Approaches**

The project will address this cross-cutting theme using both the *Mainstreaming* Approach (MA) and the *Right-Based Approaches (HRBA)*, across NFI and PSS main components of the programme.

**5.5Procedures**  5.5.1 Adhering to human rights principles of Equality and non-discrimination, Universality, interrelatedness and indivisibility.

5.5.2 Identifying the root causes for inequalities.

5.5.3 Defining priorities, actions and objectives for reaching equality in different humanitarian operations.

5.5.4 Addressing those root causes for inequalities.

**5.6 Rights and needs of vulnerable groups mainstreaming objectives**

**5.6.1 Overall objective**

Contribute to reduced physical, social, economic, cultural or legislative barriers to achieving rights and access to resources and decision-making for all, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

**5.6.2 Purpose**

Increased equalities between individuals, groups and societies by ensuring that human rights are enjoyed by all, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the areas of humanitarian crises.

**5.7 Rights and needs of vulnerable groups mainstreamed practices (activities)**

5.7.1 Identifying disadvantaged groups and factors that cause power imbalances or possible discrimination of groups of people or areas.

5.7.2 Planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities about ensuring rights and needs of vulnerable groups.

5.7.3 Conduct sensitization meetings with both beneficiaries and community leaders to raise issues about physical, social, economic, cultural or legislative barriers to having rights and access to resources and decision-making in each context.

5.7.4 Establishing functioning communication systems and giving information about rights for access to resources.

5.7.5 Give equal chance to females and males, power-holders and right-bearer to relief services.

5.7.6 Use community meetings and distribution event for mass sensitization to rise up concerns about the rights and the needs of most vulnerable & marginalized people.

**5.8 Tools and guiding instruments of the integration of “rights and need of vulnerable groups”**

5.8.1 Tools: Humanitarian principles, minimum standards for aid in emergencies, Human rights, Do No Harm practices and principles.

5.8.2 Guiding instruments: Human rights documents, Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), Sphere project handbook & Humanitarian Charter, Finland’s Humanitarian Policy, Do No Harm, Fida International Project Manual,[[9]](#footnote-9) Country Based Humanitarian Response Plans.

**Sources:**

[1] Report of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises of 13 June 2002, Plan of Action, Section I.A.

[2] The Do No Harm Handbook (The Framework for Analysing the Impact of Assistance on Conflict) <http://cdacollaborative.org/publication/the-do-no-harm-framework-for-analyzing-the-impact-of-assistance-on-conflict-a-handbook/>

[3] MFA, Human rights Based Approach in Finland’s Development Cooperation, Guidance note, 2015, P.13

[4] UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992 (UNFCCC),<http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/2627.php>

[5] MFA, HRBAin Finland’s Development Cooperation, Idem h

[6] Fida International, Project Manual, 8.4.2015, P. 9

[7] Open Working Group proposal for, Sustainable Development Goals, P.16, <http://undocs.org/A/68/970>,

[8] Sphere Project handbook, Section 11, Version 2011, P. 18

[9] Fida International, Idem, P. 9, 14, 42.

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1. See Report of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises of 13 June 2002, Plan of Action, Section I.A. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Do No Harm [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. MFA, Human rights Based Approach in Finland’s Development Cooperation, Guidance note, 2015, P.13 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992 (UNFCCC),<http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/items/2627.php> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. MFA, HRBAin Finland’s Development Cooperation, Idem https://rdc.humanitarianresponse.info/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Fida International, Project Manual, 8.4.2015, P. 9 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Open Working Group proposal for, Sustainable Development Goals, P.16, <http://undocs.org/A/68/970>, [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Sphere Project handbook, Section 11, Version 2011, P. 18 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Fida International, Idem, P. 9, 14, 42, Fida International, Idem, P. 9, 14, 42, [↑](#footnote-ref-9)