



Protection Cluster Yemen Guidance on Protection cash assistance

Introduction

Protection cash assistance can be provided to vulnerable persons and households facing urgent protection risk, which requires urgent intervention to address and mitigate the effect of a protection incident. It can be used to prevent a worsening of the situation and mitigate current and further vulnerabilities, and to reduce reliance on negative coping mechanisms. In sensitive cases such as SGBV, the cash assistance can be used to safely access services in a dignified manner, without increasing the risk in breaching survivors' privacy and creating stigmatization. Protection cash assistance is not designed to help families meet their basic needs unless it is assessed that these unmet needs will result in immediate worsening of the protection risks. Protection cash assistance must be part of a holistic protection approach and must be disbursed as a part of a comprehensive case management.

Objectives of cash protection assistance

1. Mitigate or reduce an existing protection threat facing conflict affected people (such as women or elderly at risk)
2. Respond to urgent and immediate consequence of violence, coercion, deprivation and abuse (such as SGBV)
3. Prevent potential protection threats that might arise as a consequence of specific situation or context (such as imminent eviction)

Guiding principles in protection cash assistance

- Safety and avoid causing harm

The potential risks and benefits of protection cash assistance should be analyzed, to ensure they do not result in safety concerns. The provision of cash should not undermine individual capacities or exacerbate negative coping mechanisms, create dependency or expose individuals to further risks. Direct provision of cash to children should never occur. Money should be provided to the child's caregiver. Access to markets must be safe from sexual and physical violence, detention and harassment (at check points for example) and other risks. Payment modalities and locations must be examined with Age, gender and diversity lens prior to selection. Cash assistance to elderly is only provided if the individual has the capacity to access markets and purchase goods/services, or has a caretaker who can do so.

- Complementarity

Protection cash assistance should not replace other protection responses, but rather complements them. The impact of this assistance should be assessed not just at individual level, but at household and community levels too. The protection cash assistance is part of the comprehensive response that is provided in the community centres and is guided by the case management principles. The provision of cash should be accompanied by an action plan where



households are supported to identify long-term strategies to address their protection concerns beyond the cash intervention.

- **Gender analysis**

Gender must be taken into consideration when providing protection cash assistance. The impact of the assistance on the gender dynamics at household and community levels must be analyzed throughout the process. Issues like tension between husbands and wives, worsening the burden on women and girls and gender-based violence might be caused by the intervention if the threats were not prevented and mitigated.

- **Data protection**

Protection cash assistance requires collecting personal sensitive data from the vulnerable individuals, especially in cases of GBV and CP. Therefore, agencies providing the assistance must make sure to have reliable data protection policies, guidelines and tools in place to avoid creating any harm to the people that will benefit from the assistance. In cases of CP and GBV survivors, the personal data must be only handled by the case workers and must be kept locked and safe in the community center.

- **Accountability**

Implementing agencies must allow people benefiting from the protection cash assistance to inform the design and the implementation of the activity. Two-way feedback mechanism that is relevant and safe must be in place, the intervention must be communicated in a transparent way with the community. CBPNs and other community based structures can be engaged in this process. In addition, the implementing agency must consider changes in the intervention based on the feedbacks from the community.

- **Capacity building**

Staff involved in protection cash assistance must be trained on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and child safeguarding. Staff must be also trained on the referral pathway prior to their engagement in this intervention.

Implementation strategy

- **Risk analysis**

Risks must be analyzed to ensure that protection is mainstreamed throughout the process. ANNEX 1 can be used in this step.

- **Eligibility criteria**

Eligibility criteria that is based on vulnerability assessment must be developed in consultations with the affected communities. CBPNs can help in identifying and referring vulnerable individuals, or at least, can be consulted for what vulnerability factors must be taken into consideration for this intervention.



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The protection cash assistance is a one-off payment, maximum amount can reach 150,000 YER¹ per case. Cases that requires continues cash assistance must be referred for multi-purpose cash assistance, or other service providers. Eligibility criteria can include (but not limited to):

- Civilian victims of indiscriminate conflict, such as airstrikes or shelling
- Survivors of all kind of violence, coercion, deprivation, abuse and exploitation (forced prostitution, sexual slavery, sexual exploitation, forced or compulsory labour, forced displacement or return, restriction of movement, prevention of return, forced recruitment, being forced to commit acts of violence against others, torture, etc.)
- Survivors of SGBV and CP abuses
- Households at risk of protection threats having lost a primary income earner or lack of or worsened economic means.
- Eviction, imminent or actual
- Other emergency situations to be decided based on each case and recommended by the case manager

- **Identification and referrals**

Community center visitors, internal referrals between the different services provided, external referrals, community outreach, community-based protection networks and other means can be utilized to identify eligible people for the protection cash assistance. The protection cash assistance must be included in the case management plan of the case workers, with the exception of the cases that are considered under 'Civilian victims of indiscriminate conflict, such as airstrikes or shelling' because they can be life-threatening. In the mentioned exception, agencies can disburse the cash assistance based on lists shared by IHL and human rights monitoring agencies, or upon a referral from the national protection cluster.

- **Assessment (must be part of the case management)**

The case worker must assess the following:

- a) Whether the individual/HH is facing a protection risk, clearly define the risk and its harmful impact
- b) Whether it constitutes an emergency rather than a chronic or recurrent issue
- c) What the expected protection outcome is and whether the protection risk can be resolved or mitigated by one-off cash assistance

¹This is subject to change based on the exchange rate in the country. Agencies must seek clarification from the protection cluster prior to implementation



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The assessment will help the case worker to determine whether or not the individual/household is eligible for protection cash assistance, if not, the case should be referred to other relevant forms of assistance, following the appropriate mechanisms.

- **Counseling and payment**

The modality of payment must be selected based on proper assessment that take into consideration the safety, documentation requirements, access and accountability. Where no reliable institutions (or the modality cannot work) for money transfer, 'cash in envelopes' or mobile money can be used. Delivery of cash should be coupled with individual counselling on safety and security measures in accessing and managing cash, how the assistance received can support the household to address their protection need and how to access services through referrals and follow up to other services providers if applicable.

- **Post distribution monitoring**

It is important to conduct post-distribution monitoring to inform the process and the service. Monitoring should be conducted within 30 days from the delivery by phone call (where relevant) (minimum 20% of cases of total cases) and HH visit (minimum 10% out of the total cases) where applicable to verify the use, satisfaction and effectiveness of the assistance. If the individual did not overcome the protection risk, the person should be either referred to another service provider or another plan must be developed. Agencies can develop their own tools for PDMs, but at the minimum, the monitoring must capture how safe, accessible, efficient and relevant the cash assistance was. In addition to understanding whether the assistance helped the individual/household mitigate, address or prevent the protection risk identified during the assessment phase.



ANNEX 1 – risk analysis template

Risks	How the risks can be reduced or managed
Risks in protection cash assistance for the individuals (risks related to <u>access/dignity/safety/causing harm/accountability/participation/inclusion/empowerment</u>)	
Risks to staff:	



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Risks to organisation:	
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