

Quick guide:

How to implement a PGI approach in LFS projects

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) / Livelihoods and Food Security (LFS)



To view this document in its complete and expanded version, please access the guide "Protection, Gender and Inclusion in the Livelihoods and Food Security Sector within the context of COVID-19"

Addressing PGI issues helps us to:



Ensure people's dignity, access, participation, and safety.



Practically implement the principle of "action without harm".



Be faithful to our Fundamental Principles of Humanity and Fairness



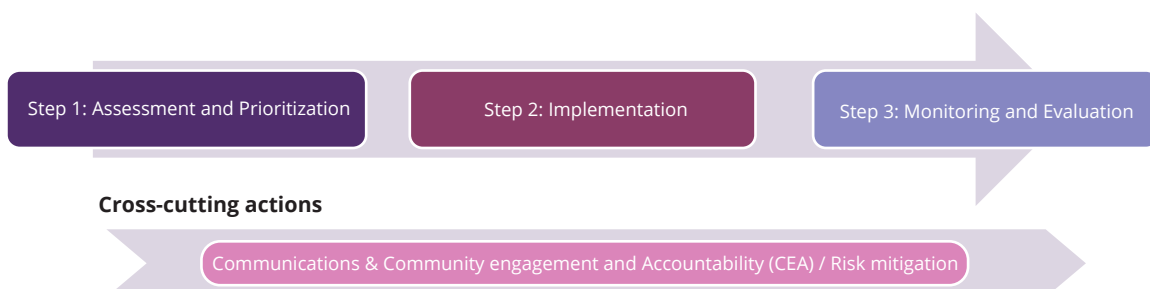
Leave no one behind and ensure that no one is insecure in our assistance.

PGI refers to all Red Cross actions that address violence, discrimination, exclusion, barriers to access services or other protection needs, as well as differential needs analysis. In parallel, the PGI approach promotes the visibility of those groups that experience marginalization and proposes affirmative actions for inclusion in all contexts and areas of intervention.

It also assesses how socioeconomic crises or emergencies have a disproportionate and unequal impact on specific collectives and population groups. These situations cause protection risks (domestic violence, marginalization and stigma, human trafficking, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), discrimination in access to employment, among other manifestations) that violate access to and control over livelihood resources, thus affecting the rights of certain populations.

STEP BY STEP

These are some recommendations for integrating the PGI perspective to LFS projects in 3 steps and 2 cross-cutting actions. This document presents a general overview to deepen in the detailed description of each action or tool access the "annexes" and "links".



Assessment and Prioritization



Needs assessment: At the community level group interviews are used to get an idea of the impact of a disaster on the way people make a living in the community and to establish the groups that subdivide it. There are several factors that can be assessed such as the roles and responsibilities that different populations have in the community.



Disaggregation of data by gender, age and disability: Gender- and age-specific data and analysis are critical to identify which groups are being marginalized and for what reasons, and to design a more effective response. They also adequately reflect differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men (including other gender diversities or non-binary identities) in all spheres of life. Depending on the context, it is important to disaggregate the data by other diversity factors such as: ethnicity, migration status, language spoken, income or educational level (all according to the context and the objective to be achieved).



Market analysis with a PGI approach: Questions should be incorporated to identify how the crisis affects men, women, age groups and diversity differently. In addition, understand the effect this has on market access for each group.

Resources:

Activity Profile Matrix disaggregated by gender/age¹: This is a tool that is applied to identify the activities that women and men perform in their daily lives. It is based on the sexual division of labour and considers the amount of time allocated to each activity, the time of day and the place where they are carried out.

Matrices of Access and Control of Resources and Project Benefits²: These matrices make visible the differentiated access to power that women and men have in a given society or community. The power imbalance is manifested in the unequal access and control of women and men to the resources and benefits of the project; therefore, these matrices are useful for identifying and understanding gender differences in access to and control of a series of resources within the household or community in general. The information gathered allows for planning and assessing the impact of a project, and in particular, the empowerment potential of a development action. The matrices also avoid assuming that certain projects are beneficial to the status of women in a society simply because they are the beneficiaries or participate in project planning.

Implementation

The following are minimum recommended actions. Refer to the Complete Guide for more information. You may also refer to the Minimum Standards for PGI in Emergencies and its LFS chapter.

Regarding people with diverse gender identity, age, disability and other backgrounds, LFS programs should:

- Culturally adapt and determine, in conjunction with affected community groups, the barriers or limitations individuals face in accessing LFS-related activities to implement actions.
- Consult on their specific livelihood needs, concerns, and priorities to inform the development and implementation of LFS-related activities and projects.
- Identify the relationship between barriers to accessing livelihoods and the likelihood of increased protection risk.

^{1,2} The matrices can be found in the complete guide "Protection, Gender and Inclusion in the Livelihoods and Food Security Sector within the context of COVID-19"

Internal Protection Mechanisms - Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): It is essential to ensure that staff and volunteers meet the highest standards of behaviour with communities. A PSEA Policy should be in place in each National Society, if possible. All LFS staff should receive a mandatory briefing on this Policy, including also other safeguarding mechanisms such as child safeguarding and the Code of Conduct.

Implementation should incorporate transformative approaches related to LFS

These approaches may include:

- Supporting agricultural productivity of women and other marginalized groups.
.....
- Target and prioritize interventions for youth, particularly those at risk of forced recruitment, or other protection gaps.
.....
- Develop social protection programs to support households headed by women and other marginalized and unequal groups.
.....
- Protect and stimulate the economy, from cash transfers to credit and loans, which should target women and other marginalized and unequal groups.
.....
- Promote specific strategies for the empowerment of women and other marginalized groups and economic recovery.
.....

Step 3 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are particularly important because they help to understand the community's perception of the program, as well as its effects on non-beneficiary groups. To ensure adequate incorporation of PGI aspects, it is recommended that the measures recommended in the Needs Assessment and Market Analysis stages, are incorporated into the planning, implementation and analysis of the information. Thus, it is key to consider:

- Formulate and incorporate questions about the effect of LFS activities to meet the needs, roles and dynamics of women, girls, boys and men, as well as other dimensions of diversity (e.g., disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, caste and religion).
.....
- Identify:
 - Whether security issues have been generated for at-risk groups.
 - Whether and what kind of change, has been generated in the degree of participation, decision making and leadership (or lack thereof) of the identified at-risk groups in all aspects of LFS programming.
 - Effects on coping and survival strategies of at-risk groups.
 - Trends in child labour, sex work, and safe market spaces for survivors of gender-based violence.
.....

CROSS-CUTTING ACTIONS

Communications & Community engagement and Accountability (CEA) / Risk mitigation

Communicating and making actions visible

Communication is strategic for the activities of livelihoods with a PGI approach, since it makes it visible to external audiences and raises awareness of the situation of groups living in marginalization. It also allows disseminating the work implemented to build relationships with donors and future funding of similar programs.

Some tips when implementing activities:

- Before conducting the field visit, hold a meeting with the National Society's Communications team to identify a dissemination plan and the most appropriate forms and content to collect in the field.
- Identify and store data on those success stories associated with the activities implemented, as well as challenges at the community and individual level. Consider a perspective associated with the gaps experienced by women and diverse populations.
- Ask for and share with the communications teams the authorization and data of people interviewed through written formats or through an on-camera or audio statement.
- Share the products developed with the communications team with IFRC-Americas to give greater regional and international visibility to the actions implemented in support of diverse populations.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

CEA is a way of working that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, whose diverse needs, priorities and preferences guide everything we do. It is about integrating meaningful community participation, open and honest communication, and mechanisms for listening and acting on feedback into programs and operations.

Some options for including CEA in livelihoods programming are:

- Understanding community needs, capacities and context through a participatory approach and Including demographics and profiling.
- Train livelihoods staff in communication skills and grievance and feedback management.
- Promote LFS programs, providing opportunities for communities to lead projects, with only technical or financial support from the National Society.
- Consult with women and girls and other at-risk groups to determine the risks of cash and which transfer mechanism is safest and most appropriate to meet needs.

Risk Mitigation

- Implement the Minimum Standards for PGI.
- Cash and voucher assistance should consider women's ability to safely access markets.
- Establish safe and easily accessible communication channels for women and at-risk groups.

More information

To view this document in its complete and expanded version, please access the guide "Protection, Gender and Inclusion in the Livelihoods and Food Security Sector within the context of COVID-19"