

**Background paper for the first informal consultation on
the updated protection policy**

Annexes



Informal consultation

16 July 2019

**World Food Programme
Rome, Italy**

WFP PROTECTION POLICY CHECK LIST
<i>Does the updated policy include/reflect the following?</i>
1. Main points of the independent evaluation 2018
<p>Summary: The updated policy should have a single objective that encompasses all populations affected by crisis and vulnerability – in both emergency and development settings – and that reflects the IASC definition of protection. The policy should define a role for WFP in reducing the risks for populations; should clearly articulate linkages to all policies, strategies and guidelines that are relevant to risks to populations; and should include a formal framework for accountability at all organizational levels.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ lack of leadership and corporate prioritization of policy implementation ➤ need for renewed commitment from senior management ➤ limited investment in meeting protection needs in the increasing number of complex operations with high protection risks ➤ a diffuse normative framework with multiple policies relating to protection to varying degrees ➤ need for deeper understanding of the connections between cross-cutting results on the one hand and the Integrated Road Map, the WFP Strategic Plan (2017–2021) and Corporate Results Framework (2017–2021) ➤ active participation in protection clusters but limited use of partnerships to implement protection approaches ➤ need for re-engagement with WFP’s core partners ➤ greater integration of protection into analysis and programming needed ➤ narrow definition of protection and indicators, definition should be more people-centred than assistance-centred ➤ the WFP-specific definition does not take account of situations where food insecurity is the outcome of practices that use hunger as an instrument of power. There is ambiguity in the policy concerning both WFP protection responsibilities for “crisis-affected or food-insecure” populations and its focus on beneficiaries ➤ a lack of clarity regarding protection reporting, hotlines and referral systems, including how to safeguard protection-related information collected by WFP and its partners ➤ staff were often motivated to protect the people that WFP serves but were uncertain about how to apply the humanitarian protection policy in practice ➤ difficulties of translating the policy into practice ➤ uneven progress in the six policy directions for implementations
2. Key elements and outputs of the consultations and strategic workstreams which are needed for the development of the thematic areas of the policy
<p>General objectives of the consultations:</p> <p>Make the policy resonate with the field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Good examples and challenges of WFP’s current protection implementation and boundaries of engagement documented ➤ Policy is shaped with the colleagues in the field, speaks the language of the field ➤ WFP’s comparative advantage and strength as a food security actor in protection documented <p>Inclusion of the perspective of affected populations/at risk groups/communities:</p> <p>Views of the beneficiaries, communities and affected populations at strategic level included – “think about protection from the perspective of those who need it”. A separate methodology is being developed for this purpose</p>

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Scope:

Linkages with all “sister” policies/strategies which are relevant to risks to populations, such as conflict sensitivity, Corporate approach to access, WFP Gender Policy (2015–2020), PSEA, policy on WFP’s role in peacebuilding in transition settings established. This includes a) identify overlapping areas b) differences and c) synergies and potential collaboration avenues

- Protection and Access:
 - Potential for collaboration between the two workstreams: Access Corporate Approach and Protection
 - Consider how WFP can ensure a do-no-harm approach and apply a protection lens in the facilitation and negotiation of humanitarian access. Collaboration with CCHN to learn and document WFP’s experiences negotiating safe environments for the delivery of our assistance with assertive states and non-state armed groups to support guidance for access negotiators and CO leadership in humanitarian diplomacy and inform the new protection policy
 - framing WFP’s dilemma between negotiating access (“implementation of WFP’s food assistance mandate”) and advocating for protection/human rights
- Protection and gender (including gender based violence)
- Protection and conflict sensitivity
- Protection and PSEA

Application:

- Details on WFP’s role and relevance in the different contexts and the specific application modalities – especially development contexts – provided
- Link nexus approach – protection established
- Differences and similarities of a “human rights-based approach” and “protection lens” unpacked
- WFP’s support to country-led efforts to achieve sustainable development to achieve peace and prosperity for all, with the strong commitment to leaving no one behind, identified

WFP’s vision, objective, outcomes and indicators:

- WFP’s vision, objective, roles and responsibilities and approach to protection – using the methodology of a theory of change developed: definite objective, expected results and a limited, quantifiable and realistic number of outcomes identified. Intended pathways of change, assumptions and risks, and a clear vision provided. Underpinning the policy with an explicit theory of change aligns the activities with an intervention logic, against which performance and results can be assessed¹
- Policy resonates with all the key units of WFP

WFP’s definition of protection:

- WFP’s definition of protection updated, ensuring adequate reflection of its role and approach to protection and to articulate the essence and strategic value of protection for WFP, in a manner that is easily understood by everyone

WFP’s commitment to the centrality of protection:

Key implications of WFP’s commitment to the centrality of protection identified

WFP’s protection approach: mainstreaming and integration

- WFP’s standard approach of protection mainstreaming is developed and fully aligned with the IASC policy on the centrality of protection and the global cluster definition
- WFP has positioned itself on when and how to engage into protection integration and has developed criteria when to do protection integration

¹ Top 10 lessons for policy quality, WFP Office of the Evaluation.

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Working as a team in protection:

- Partnerships and work as a team in protection strengthened
- Cooperating partners: Collaboration in mainstreaming protection clarified and support needed identified
- Implementation of the centrality of protection: Prioritize protection and contribute to collective protection outcomes:
 - Non-protection mandated partners: peer-to-peer experiences on mainstreaming and integrating protection, such as 1) definition of mainstreaming and integration 2) formulation of protection outcomes and indicators shared 3) challenges as a non-protection mandated actor and best practices as well as learning opportunities identified
 - WFPs roles and responsibilities and boundaries in protection identified in all the “concentric circles”: 1) protection in WFP operations 2) food insecurity context and related protection problems 3) overall operational context, protection problems witnessed
 - Mutual responsibilities with protection mandated actors identified, such as establishment of referral systems
 - Best practices of joint protection initiatives captured, which can be expanded in the future, such as: the protection information management initiative for a common/joint analytical framework, joint complaint and feedback mechanisms, joint protection capacity building and peer-to-peer exchanges
 - Bridges between the different sectors: food assistance and protection “silos” built
 - WFP’s role in the protection cluster at global, regional and country level strengthened and clarified, taking into consideration WFPs food security mandate
 - Linkages with child protection, GBV AoR, Mine action AoR, HLP AoR established
 - WFP’s contribution as part of the HCT to enhance protection and collaboration in country protection strategies captured
 - Peer-to-peer learning and experiences shared with the wider protection community (NGOs, ICRC) on protection approaches, strategies and policies
 - Building on the localisation-related commitments of the “Grand Bargain”, partnerships with key national actors (protection and non-protection mandated) strengthened and captured
 - WFP’s role in mainstreaming protection in the food- logistics and emergency communications cluster as part of HCT’s effort on centrality of protection clarified

WFP’s roles, responsibilities and boundaries in protection

- WFP’s core corporate responsibilities in different operational settings (protection issues related to WFP’s operations and food security or whether identified in a broader context) clarified and mapped out
- WFP’s partners mutual responsibilities mapped out (protection mandated partners, clusters)
- Concentric model consulted with WFP’s operational divisions and adopted as needed
- WFP’s role in protection advocacy and protection negotiations/protection lens in humanitarian negotiations clarified

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Context-specific approach:

WFP's roles and responsibilities in protection in each of the different typologies of response clarified:

- a) relief response to armed conflict – either international or non-international armed conflict/life-saving activities/integrated missions/shrinking humanitarian space/access issues
- b) response to natural disasters, in which a natural hazard combines with poverty and social vulnerability to render people materially, personally and socially at extreme risk²
- c) protracted crisis/transition/partially weakened governments/states. WFP's policy on peacebuilding has developed principles for transitions settings
- d) development settings and unified governance structure

Areas of particular attention:

Leaving no one behind and strengthening inclusion

- inclusion of food-insecure people with disabilities in WFP's programmes strengthened and commitment to this critical group reflected in the most powerful way in the updated policy framework
- inclusion of food-insecure marginalized groups strengthened

Protection risks involving gender-based violence (GBV)

- links with the global efforts of the GVB AoR and gender and PSEA workstreams established to take actions to minimize risk of GBV through WFP programmes and interventions

Personal data protection and privacy

- clarity and guidance on how to safeguard the personal data of individuals established
- principled digitalization process in WFP towards a newer approach to personal data protection, focused on the individual (data subject), their rights and the respect for their ownership and control over their data developed

Requirements for implementation – accountability framework:

The following elements consulted and worked out in detail with the respective units in headquarters and the field, including a detailed implementation strategy:

- Establishing an effective organizational and accountable structure
 - Accountability framework at headquarters/RB/CO level (including boundaries where WFP is not responsible and establish link with United Nations framework for security risk management) including clear roles and responsibilities of WFP staff and including it in the PACE
 - Integration into risk management
- Leadership: making protection central to WFP's decision making
- WFP's capacity to implement with the cooperating partners: financial and personnel implications
- Effective integration of protection into WFP strategic instruments/documents, country strategies, programme design, using SOPs, integration into FLA's – limitations to capture protection information with VAM instruments
- Improved management of data
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Operational requirements for protection mainstreaming and integration at headquarters, regional and country level

² ALNAP protection guide.

International legal framework and linkages with global developments to achieving better protection outcomes for risk affected population:

- Promoting and encouraging respect for human rights is a core purpose of the United Nations and defines its identity as an organization for people around the world: “The United Nations (UN) is an international organization whose stated aims are to facilitate cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress and human rights issues”.
- At the Millennium Summit, humanity was at the heart of the values agreed upon by world leaders to guide international relations in the twenty-first century. In September 2015, global leaders built on that vision for humanity, placing people at the centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), Member States have recommitted to protecting civilians and the human rights of all by respecting the rules that they have already agreed upon, promoting a more effective and integrated approach. Ensuring the centrality of protection and preserving the humanity and dignity of affected people in all circumstances must drive the individual and collective action. The Secretary-General stated in his report on “One humanity: shared responsibility” that “Our commitment, strategies, activities and resources must be geared towards preserving the safety, physical integrity and dignity of affected people”.³
- In September 2015, United Nations Member States unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The new agenda puts the imperative to “leave no one behind” and “reach the furthest behind first” at its heart, recognizing the need to combat poverty and inequalities. This marks a significant shift in approach from the MDGs to the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda reflects a new determination among Member States to break the cycles of disadvantage and inequity that threaten to leave people irrevocably behind. The 2030 Agenda and the pledge to leave no one behind are fundamentally rooted in long-standing commitments of Member States to human rights and the principles of equality and non-discrimination.⁴
- WFP’s Strategic Plan has endorsed the recent global developments and states that “the pledge to leave no one behind places a new obligation on us all to reach those in situations of conflict, disaster, vulnerability and risk first so that they benefit from and contribute to sustainable long-term development”.⁵
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) policy on protection in humanitarian action 2016 and statement on centrality of protection in 2013 state that all humanitarian actors have the responsibility to place protection at the centre of humanitarian action.
- The Human Rights up Front (HRuF) 2013 seeks to achieve a cultural change within the United Nations system, “so that human rights and the protection of civilians are seen as a system-wide core responsibility.”
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), (2006), the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (2016); United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy 2019 (UNDIS).
- The 2004 Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.
- The 2018 United Nations Security Council resolution 2147 stresses the impact of armed conflict on women, children,civilians with specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities and older persons, and stressing the protection and assistance needs of all affected populations and the need for humanitarian assistance to be gender- and age sensitive, and to remain responsive to the different needs of the population, ensuring that these needs are integrated in the humanitarian response.
- The WFP Integrated Road Map and associated strategic planning documents reference the protection policy and related policies. In the WFP Strategic Plan (2017–2021) and the Corporate Results Framework (2017–2021), protection figures as a cross-cutting objective for development and humanitarian operations, alongside gender equality and accountability to affected populations.

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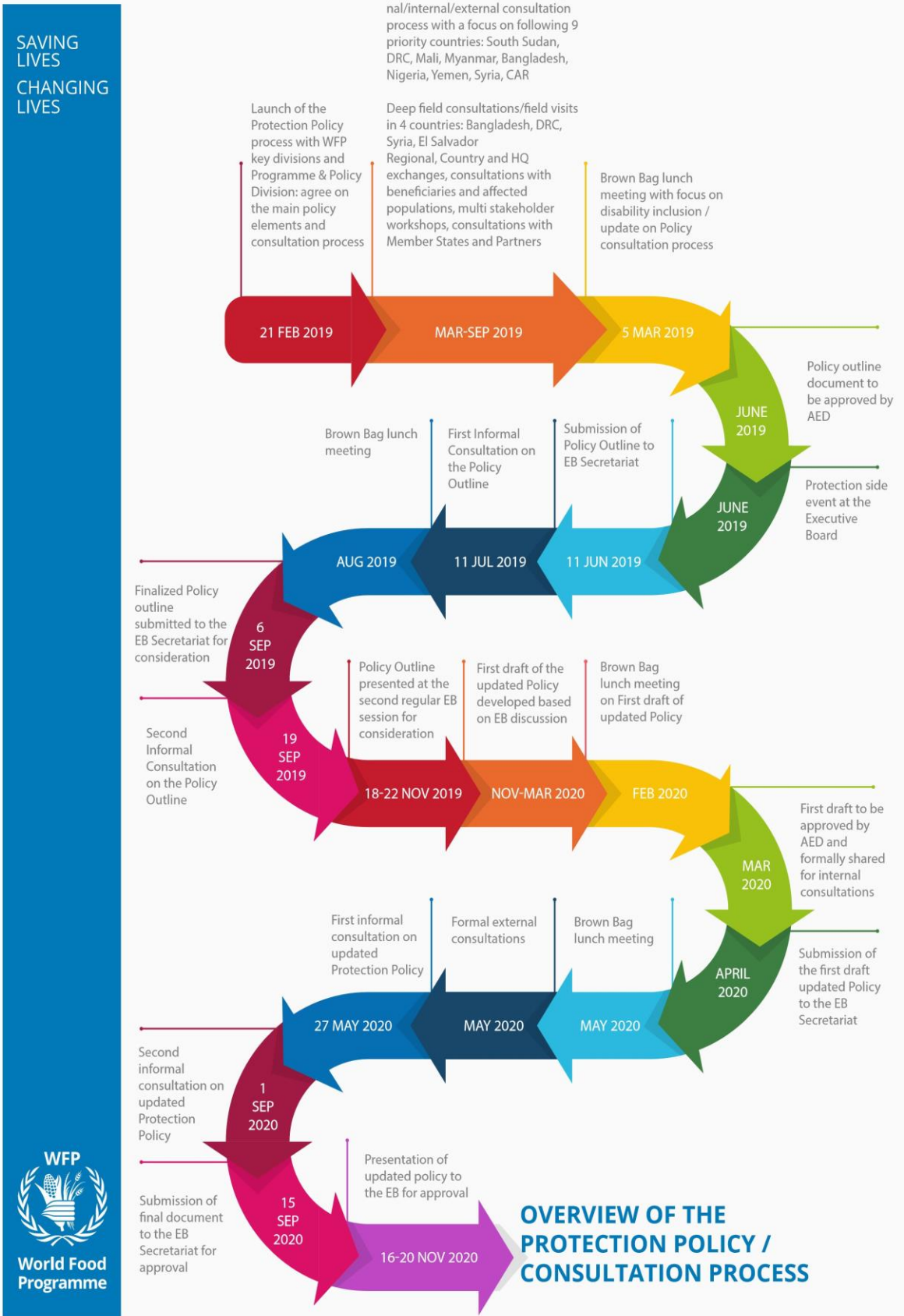
- Refugee Convention: Refugees have the same basic human rights as all other people, but they also have special rights, such as the right to seek asylum and the right not to be forcibly returned. The Refugee Convention also contains special provisions for refugees with regard to employment, freedom of movement, education and social security.
- Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement are a compilation of basic human rights standards that most countries have already ascribed to. They are therefore not hard law per se, but reflect rights contained in legally binding conventions.
- UNMAS Mine Action Strategy 2019–2023.
- Regional instruments and national law: There are a number of regional instruments that mirror international human rights laws, such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, also known as the Kampala Convention. The Cartagena Declaration on Refugees contains a set of principles and criteria guiding the states' signatories on the treatment of refugees in the Central American region. These regional instruments are sometimes incorporated into national law.
- National law: A state that ratifies international law can reflect this in national law and rights can sometimes be enforced through national legal systems.

³ UNSG report for the World Humanitarian Summit: One Humanity: shared responsibility.

⁴ Interim draft: Leaving no one behind, guide for United Nations country teams.

⁵ WFP Strategic Plan.

ANNEX II



Acronyms used in the document

AAP	accountability to affected populations
GBV	gender-based violence
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals