

GROUP A: PROTECTION OF LIFE; SECURITY AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON; AND FAMILY TIES

A.1 LIFE SAVING MEASURES, IN PARTICULAR EVACUATIONS

A.1.1 The life, physical integrity and health of persons exposed to imminent risks created by natural disasters, including in particular of persons with specific needs, should be protected, to the maximum extent possible, wherever those persons may be located.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Informing affected persons, in a language they understand, about expected risks, proposed precautions and facilities such as safe escape routes and emergency shelters in their neighbourhood; and
- ❖ Activating alert systems and preventive protection measures in particular for persons with special needs.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Community/village-based disaster risk management planning; community awareness raising programs on the nature of the risks and how to protect themselves;
- ❖ Integration of disaster awareness into educational curricula;
- ❖ First aid trainings for all humanitarian responders;
- ❖ Implementation of disaster preparedness and mitigation measures, e.g. river-bed maintenance in flood-prone areas; participatory community vulnerability assessments; and
- ❖ Supply of protective measures for the communities and households, such as maps with evacuation routes or whistles to alert others of upcoming dangers.

A.1.2 If such measures are not sufficient to protect them, the departure of endangered persons from the danger zone should be facilitated.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Making arrangements for protective shelters and urging people to go to them;
- ❖ Providing information about evacuation routes in a language people can understand and in a manner that is accessible to them; and
- ❖ Providing assistance for persons with special needs enabling them to leave.



Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Creation of disaster management committees at the local level;
- ❖ Installation of signposts and information panels indicating evacuation routes/location of protective shelters in areas at a particularly high risk of disasters such as tsunamis or sudden floods; and
- ❖ Community evacuation exercises/training before the disaster strikes.

A.1.3 To the extent that endangered persons cannot leave on their own they should be evacuated from the danger zone.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Ensuring that information about evacuation measures and assembly sites are publicly announced in all areas at risk;
- ❖ Identifying persons with special needs and mobility challenges, including persons with disabilities, older persons, persons in hospitals and homes, or prisoners, and providing transportation for them;
- ❖ Providing transportation for affected populations in general; and
- ❖ Providing protection for homes and possessions left behind by evacuees.

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Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Participation of the population in the identification of suitable alternatives, evacuation routes and of measures to be taken to safeguard their homes and assets left behind; and
- ❖ Establishment of up-to-date photographic records of property and belongings.

A.1.4 Persons unwilling to leave should not be evacuated against their will unless such forced evacuation:

- (a) Is provided for by law;
- (b) Is absolutely necessary under the circumstances to respond to a serious and imminent threat to their life or health, and less intrusive measures would be insufficient to avert that threat; and
- (c) Is, to the extent possible, carried out after the persons concerned have been informed and consulted.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Informing and consulting populations at risk on where they are being evacuated to and for how long; and

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- ❖ Consulting populations at risk on the reasons why people do not want to be evacuated.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Adoption of legislation allowing for and circumscribing the conditions for evacuations;
- ❖ Technical assessments of the degree of risk and the possibility of less intrusive measures in disaster prone areas;
- ❖ Public awareness-raising of circumstances that may require forced evacuation;
- ❖ Information/consultation on how and when forced evacuations will be implemented; and
- ❖ Consultation with the potentially affected persons on possible obstacles to voluntary evacuation, and inclusion of identified needs in the contingency planning.

A.1.5 Evacuations, whether voluntary or forced, should be carried out in a manner that fully respects the rights to life, dignity, liberty and security of those affected and that does not discriminate against anyone. To the extent possible, the people concerned should be informed, in a manner that is accessible to them and in a language they can understand, of the likely duration and process of the evacuation as well as the reasons why it is necessary.



Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Registering evacuated persons and their belongings and monitoring of their evacuation; and
- ❖ Giving priority to persons with specific needs in situations where transportation means are limited.

A.1.6 Persons who leave or are evacuated should be supported to stay as close to their places of habitual residence as the security/safety situation allows.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Identifying and prioritizing suitable nearby evacuation sites; and
- ❖ Actively searching for host families in the vicinity.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Preparation for the reception of evacuated persons and their protection according to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; and
- ❖ Identification of host families as well as preparation of possible remuneration schemes for hosting.

A.1.7 The designated evacuation centres or temporary shelter zones, which affected persons are brought to or received in, should be safe and not expose them to further risk.¹⁴ They should provide living conditions that respect the dignity of the persons concerned.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Conducting assessments of the safety of such sites to ensure that minimum physical safety requirements are fulfilled and, to the extent possible, taking measures to mitigate identified risks;
- ❖ Where identified risks cannot be sufficiently mitigated, organizing immediate relocation to safer sites;
- ❖ Establishment of suitable forms of self-governance and structures of participation among the displaced persons hosted in the evacuation centre, including persons with specific needs;
- ❖ Set up mechanisms to inform in a timely manner all persons hosted in the evacuation centre about the situation and future prospects; and
- ❖ Conducting awareness raising and training activities on protection of displaced persons hosted in the evacuation centre, and using these opportunities to collect information on potential protection issues.

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Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Selection criteria for evacuation centres (geographic location; building type and condition; capacity and size of the building; occupancy period; accessibility, communication, sanitation and cooking facilities, backup utilities, etc.);
- ❖ Determining roles and responsibilities for supervision, coordination and management at evacuation sites;
- ❖ Prepositioning of kits for persons with specific needs (recreational kits for children, etc.) or kits specifically designed for evacuation centres; and
- ❖ Ensuring that persons working with displaced persons hosted in evacuation centres or temporary shelters are trained in and sign codes of conduct.

A.1.8 International and non-governmental organizations providing protection and assistance should not carry out or participate in forced evacuations, unless an imminent and serious threat to the lives, physical integrity or health of the evacuees cannot be averted without the involvement of the organizations concerned.

¹⁴ See, in particular, below A.3 and A.4.

A.2 PROTECTION AGAINST SEPARATION OF FAMILIES¹⁵

A.2.1 During an evacuation, family separation should be minimized. To the extent possible, priority should be given to evacuating children together with a parent/grandparent or guardian. Evacuation of children as a group without their parents should be done as a last resort.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Using identification tags or bracelets for children;
- ❖ Registering evacuated children and their parents; and
- ❖ Registering locations evacuated children are brought to and informing parents about such locations.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Identification of single children/of households that are too numerous to be evacuated together;
- ❖ Distribution of identification material prior to evacuation; and
- ❖ Involvement of parents and schools in identifying evacuation locations for children.



A.2.2 Children who are separated or unaccompanied during an evacuation should be placed in temporary interim care. Institutional or long-term adoption arrangements should be avoided as long as the situation remains unsettled.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Identifying suitable foster homes/parents for temporary interim care and monitoring them; and
- ❖ Suspension of adoption proceedings to adoptive parents abroad that have not been finalized before the disaster occurred.

A.3 PROTECTION AGAINST THE SECONDARY IMPACTS¹⁶ OF NATURAL DISASTERS

A.3.1 Persons affected by natural disasters should be protected against the dangers of potential secondary impacts of natural disasters.

¹⁵ See also D.3 Re-establishing Family Ties.

¹⁶ For this notion, see Annex I, Glossary.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:¹⁷

- ❖ Informing affected persons about potential secondary impacts;
- ❖ Conducting risk assessment of sites where affected people continue to stay; and
- ❖ Conducting risk assessment of sites where affected persons have fled to or were brought to and, where necessary, introducing technical adaptation or correction measures, for instance to prevent flooding, sanitation overflow, etc. at such sites; or if not possible or sufficient, organizing relocation to other, safer sites.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Mapping and updating of risks; and
- ❖ Pre-identification of safe sites.

A.3.2 Persons affected by natural disasters should be protected against the dangers of chemicals, toxic waste, anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordinances, and other dangerous materials that may have been dislodged, concealed or obscured in the course of the natural disaster.

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Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Fencing off and marking relevant areas;
- ❖ Alerting specialized organizations to take appropriate measures; and
- ❖ Conducting information and awareness campaigns.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Mapping and removal of chemicals, toxic waste, landmines, unexploded ordinances, and other dangerous materials is given priority in areas that are at risk of disasters.

A.4 PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE, INCLUDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A.4.1 During and after the emergency phase, the security of persons affected by the natural disaster should be ensured.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Preventive measures:
 - Identifying and mapping potential sources of violence outside and within the affected population;

¹⁷ For other measures, see also A.1.7.

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- Identifying and mapping persons particularly exposed to the risk of violence, for instance single women or girls, single parent households, single or non-accompanied children, older persons, persons with disabilities, etc.;
 - Advocating for additional deployment of law enforcement personnel able to provide the necessary protection to areas or sites at risk of or experiencing instances of gender-based violence, robberies, looting, etc. or a general break-down of law and order;
 - Conducting awareness raising among persons who are exposed to new specific protection needs as a consequence of the disaster about these new risks, e.g. exploitation, trafficking, etc.;
 - Avoiding large or overcrowded collective shelters; and
 - Including representatives of affected populations, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in the design of camps and collective centres, in particular regarding:
 - Design, location and lay-out of shelter;
 - Lighting, fencing and other security measures; and
 - Safe location of and access to food distribution and water points, sanitation facilities, fuel sources, health, education and other community facilities.
- ❖ Protection against hostility of host communities: for such measures, see A.5.
- ❖ Protection against violence within the affected population in camps and collective centres:
- Separating men who are not family members from women and children where appropriate;
 - Setting up, in collaboration with local law enforcement officials, the judiciary and, where relevant, shelter management committees, of child and women-friendly procedures to enable victims and their families to report incidents of domestic violence and to address such incidents;
 - Using community mobilizers to organize the sheltered persons as a community, including e.g. community policing within the shelter; and
 - Establishing, in close cooperation with the shelter residents, in particular the women, a guard and/or buddy system among the shelter population.
- ❖ Establishment of monitoring, reporting and referral mechanisms:
- Establishing a system of shelter ombudspersons or other complaints and monitoring systems;
 - Establishing complaint mechanisms in camps and collective centres to ensure that all agencies and service providers are accountable towards evacuees/displaced persons;
 - Establishing referral mechanisms to refer victims of human rights violations or abuses in a timely manner to the required services; and
 - Ensuring regular visits by national human rights mechanisms to areas of displacement and camps or collective centres.



- ❖ Protection of affected population from organized crime: for such measures, see A.4.3.
- ❖ Protection of affected populations at sites where humanitarian assistance is being distributed:
 - As far as possible, providing prior information to the beneficiaries as to when and where assistance will be distributed;
 - Organizing separate distributions to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities at different times or places than other beneficiaries; and
 - Where humanitarian assistance is provided by armed forces or groups, ensuring that civilian authorities or humanitarian organizations supervise the provision of such relief.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Preparation of awareness-raising material targeted towards young women and men, girls and boys;
- ❖ Training of law enforcement personnel to work in emergency situations;
- ❖ Mapping of potential sources of security concerns; and
- ❖ Inclusion of safeguards for women's and girls' physical and personal security by including them in the pre-identification and planning of shelters.

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A.4.2 Affected persons, in particular women and girls, should be protected against gender-based violence and survivors of such violence should be provided with appropriate support.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Mobilizing community-based action to protect women and children from gender-based violence;
- ❖ Education campaigns on the risk of gender-based violence, as well as on the criminal sanctions for such violence;
- ❖ Distribution of cell-phones with hotline numbers;
- ❖ Establishment of safe places for women and children;
- ❖ Enrolment of children in formal or informal educational activities or provision of other child-friendly spaces at the earliest moment possible;
- ❖ Identifying strategies to meet women's needs for non-food items and planning safe ways of distribution;
- ❖ Ensuring access to gender-sensitive and confidential services (including health, security, legal/justice and psychosocial support), and referral mechanisms as well as adequate

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material support for survivors of gender-based violence. This may entail building capacity among service providers and material and technical support to health and other systems;

- ❖ Capacity building for law enforcement agencies on how to investigate and respond to incidents of gender-based violence; inclusion of a sufficient number of trained female security staff, either through fast-track recruitment or use of the women from among affected communities;
- ❖ Setting up, in collaboration with local law enforcement officials, the judiciary and shelter management committees, of child and women-friendly procedures that enable survivors and their families to report incidents of gender-based violence;
- ❖ As soon as possible thorough investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence in a timely manner; as well as effective witness protection;
- ❖ Systematic monitoring of reported incidents of gender-based violence and emerging trends;
- ❖ Education campaigns on the risk of gender-based violence, as well as on the penalties they entail; and
- ❖ Deployment of community mobilizers.

A.4.3 Affected persons should be protected against trafficking, child labour, contemporary forms of slavery such as sale into marriage, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation, and similar forms of exploitation.

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Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Conducting awareness-raising campaigns targeted towards affected population on the risks of trafficking, exploitation, etc.;
- ❖ Enrolment of children in formal or informal educational activities or provision of other child-friendly spaces at the earliest moment possible;
- ❖ Building the capacity of law enforcement agencies on how to investigate and respond to incidences of trafficking, child labour, and similar forms of exploitation;
- ❖ Including sufficient trained female staff into law enforcement activities, either through fast-track recruitment or involvement of the women in the shelters;
- ❖ Setting up, in collaboration with local law enforcement officials, the judiciary and shelter management committees, of child and women-friendly procedures to enable victims and their families to report incidents of trafficking, child labour, and similar forms of exploitation; and
- ❖ Conducting, as soon as possible, thorough investigations and prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking, child labour, recruitment of children, and similar forms of exploitation; as well as effective victim and witness protection.

A.4.4 Access to the affected areas and populations should be facilitated for other mechanisms, such as National Human Rights Institutions, Ombudspersons or local bar associations, in order to address instances of violence and other violations of human rights.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Advocating and raising-awareness with these institutions to take up cases of affected persons; and
- ❖ Providing logistical and staff support to such institutions.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Inclusion for an extension of the monitoring mechanisms' operating budget within the budgetary provisions for humanitarian response; and
- ❖ Training of members of monitoring mechanisms on the specificities of the protection risks in disaster response.

A.4.5 If the natural disaster occurs in a region of armed conflict, appropriate preventive measures should immediately be taken or already existing measures reinforced to protect children affected by the natural disaster against recruitment and use by armed forces or armed groups, including by local defense forces, in line with international standards and procedures (see Annex III).

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Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Organizing awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of child recruitment by armed forces and armed groups and their use in armed conflict, as well as on the fact that recruiting or using them to participate actively in hostilities may amount to war crimes;
- ❖ Mobilizing community-based action to protect children from such recruitment and use;
- ❖ Ensuring access to appropriate services for children associated with armed forces and armed groups as required, including medical and psychosocial support, interim care and family reunification;
- ❖ Facilitating access to educational and livelihood opportunities for children at risk of recruitment and use as both a preventive and protective measure;
- ❖ In the displacement context, assuring that the humanitarian and civilian character of camps and collective shelters is respected (see A.5.3 and B.2.3);
- ❖ Establishing links with law enforcement and military bodies operating in the disaster-affected areas, with appropriate referral mechanisms, and conduct capacity building as required;
- ❖ Ensuring children who flee from the disaster affected country to another country to

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escape recruitment or use by armed forces or groups can effectively exercise their right to seek asylum. Confirm that the refugee determination takes into account the particular forms of persecution experienced by boys and girls, including recruitment or deployment in armed conflict; and

- ❖ Systematic monitoring of the occurrence and trends of recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups.

A.5 SECURITY IN HOST FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, OR IN COLLECTIVE SHELTERS

A.5.1 Appropriate monitoring and ombuds-mechanisms should be put into place when internally displaced persons live with host families.

In addition to the above, the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Establishing hotlines or neighbourhood watch systems;
- ❖ Setting up of community/women centres with counselling and legal advice services;
- ❖ Conducting regular visits by social workers, NGO staff and staff of National Human Rights Institutions in areas with a significant number of internally displaced persons; and
- ❖ Ensuring that the monitoring and ombuds-mechanisms are child- and women-friendly, as well as accessible to persons with disabilities.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Monitoring and ombuds-mechanisms are included in the disaster preparedness and contingency plans to be able to operate in a disaster area; and
- ❖ Members of monitoring and ombud-mechanisms are trained to identify the specific risks that disaster situations create or exacerbate.

A.5.2 Camps and collective centres for persons displaced by the disaster should, to the extent possible, be located and designed so as to maximize the security and protection of internally displaced persons, including women, older persons and others whose physical security is most at risk, and to minimize their impact on host communities.

In addition to the above, the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Locating washing and communal sanitary facilities, water points, food distribution points, fuel sources, health and education facilities close to living and sleeping quarters; if this is not possible, providing secure access to them, especially at night, including through presence of guards and adequate lighting for all walkways;



- ❖ Designing shelters and living/sleeping quarters in a way that allows for a maximum degree of privacy and protection against unwanted visitors and intruders; and
- ❖ Monitoring security through law enforcement personnel and through camp/shelter committees drawn from among the displaced communities that are representative of the gender and age composition of the population (see also A.4.1 above).

A.5.3 Once the immediate emergency phase is over, camps or collective centres set up by armed forces or groups should be managed by civilian authorities or organizations. The role of police and security forces should be limited to providing security.

A.6. DEALING WITH MORTAL REMAINS

A.6.1 The mortal remains of those deceased should be collected and identified, to prevent their despoliation or mutilation, and to facilitate the return of the remains to the next of kin.

A.6.2 If remains cannot be returned – for example, when the next of kin cannot be identified or contacted – they should be disposed of in a manner which will facilitate their future recovery and identification. Cremation of unidentified bodies should be avoided. Instead, they should be stored or buried temporarily, pending future identification and return to families.

A.6.3 Local religious and cultural practices and beliefs on the disposal of bodies should be taken into account from the outset. Such disposals should be conducted in a manner that respects the dignity and privacy of the dead and of their family members. Measures should be taken to protect funerary sites and monuments from desecration or disturbance.

A.6.4 Family members should be fully informed about the location of grave sites or places where the bodies have been disposed of, and should have full access to them. They should be given the opportunity to recover the human remains for reburial or cremation according to their own religious and cultural beliefs and practices, as well as to erect memorials and conduct religious ceremonies as needed.

Amongst others the following activities can be considered:

- ❖ Conducting comprehensive census or registration exercises to determine the number, age, gender, ethnicity and religion of people who have died in the disaster. Incorporating proper collection and management of ante-mortem data (AMD) into the identification process, in order to facilitate the identification of the dead;
- ❖ Ensuring that the bodies are numbered and photographed and details of the deceased (e.g. clothes) are identified or recorded before mass burials or other forms of disposal are

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undertaken. In addition to photographs, personal effects and documents of the deceased, methods of forensic human identification that are based on matching ante-mortem data (AMD) of the deceased with post-mortem data (PMD) obtained from the remains (e.g. fingerprints, dental records, unique medical traits, general physical characteristics, DNA, etc.) may be used.

- ❖ In cases of mass disposal:
 - Carrying out a public information campaign to inform affected communities in a language and manner they understand about the procedures for identifying the bodies. The information provided should, in particular, indicate where photographic and other documentation of the dead can be viewed, where personal effects and documents are being kept, and where forensic examinations are being carried out; and
 - Putting in place emergency legal and administrative measures to issue death certificates expeditiously, if and when requested by surviving relatives, to allow families to resolve legal and civil matters related to the disappearance of a relative. This should not undermine the rights of affected families, including the right to dignity, truth and the eventual recovery of the remains of their kin if ever found.
- ❖ In the specific case of mass graves:
 - Avoiding commingling of bodies;
 - Marking and mapping the position of each body within the grave; and
 - Carrying out a public information campaign to inform affected communities about the location of mass graves.
- ❖ Ensuring close collaboration with foreign consulates and embassies as well as INTERPOL in assisting family members with the identification and repatriation of remains of foreign national victims of disasters.

Preparedness measures:

- ❖ Stock of disposable cameras for the quick establishment of means of identification;
- ❖ Preparation of identification data forms; and
- ❖ Identification of morgues and other cold storage areas as well as sites suitable for mass graves.