

# FOOD DISTRIBUTION

*➤ Make sure that women and children can safely carry their rations, and establish measures to prevent 'sex for food' such as increased security in/around distribution site and special distribution spaces for women*

1. **Incorporate strategies to prevent sexual violence and HIV in food and nutrition programmes at all stages of the project cycle** (including design, implementation, monitoring, and follow-up), giving special attention to groups in the community which are more vulnerable to sexual violence and HIV. Consider innovative ways to increase women and girls' protection (e.g. radio broadcasts during distribution about women's protection from sexual violence and exploitation and include messages on HIV prevention and where to access services).
2. **Enhance women's control of food in food distributions by making women the household food entitlement holder and/or ensuring women's safe access to food.**
3. **Establish sex-balanced food distribution committees that allow for the meaningful and equal participation of women.** Attention should be given to the following aspects:
  - Make sure food distribution is done by a sex balanced team. Provide packaging that facilitates handling and can be re-used for other domestic activities.
  - Select the time of distribution according to women's activities and needs, to permit the organisation of groups that can travel together to and from the distribution point.
4. **Provide enough and sufficient information about distributions using a variety of methods to ensure communication to everyone, especially women and girls.** Inform the community about:
  - The size and composition of the household food rations;
  - Beneficiary selection criteria;
  - Distribution place and time;
  - The fact that they do not have to provide services or favours in exchange for receiving the rations;
  - The proper channels available to them for reporting cases of abuse linked to food distribution.
5. **Reduce security risks at food distributions. Create "safe spaces" for women and girls at distribution points.**
  - Appeal to men in the community to protect women and ensure safe passage of women and children (girls especially) from distribution sites to their homes.
  - If necessary, segregate men and women receiving rations by using a physical barrier or separate times.
  - Assure that food distribution teams and all staff of implementing agencies have been informed about appropriate conduct, avoidance of sexual abuse and exploitation, and mandatory reporting.
  - Consider placing two women guardians (with vests and whistles) to oversee off-loading, registration, distribution, and post-distribution of food.
6. **Monitor security and instances of abuse in the distribution point as well as on departure roads.**
  - Ensure there are women staffs from the implementing agency present during food distributions.
  - Establish a community-based security plan for food distribution sites and departure roads in collaboration with the community.
  - Establish a security focal point at each of the distribution sites.
  - Monitor security on departure roads and ensure that women are not at an increased risk for violence by having the food commodity.