



Save the Children



SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING, 28/05/2024 NGO RECOMMENDATIONS TO HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT DONORS

General recommendations in terms of funding

- Stay engaged in all countries of the region, including in Central Sahel countries by finding alternative funding modalities, with specific attention to national and local NGOs, CSOs, and INGOs, and with greater emphasis on basic needs, resilience and livelihoods.
- Live up to Nexus policy commitments by ensuring funding in support of nexus approaches in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and become more adaptable when investing in such contexts. If development funding is withdrawn in the Central Sahel for political reasons the most vulnerable will be double punished.
- Ensure flexible funding accessible for national and local NGOs to match evolving needs throughout the displacement cycle, as well as to exhaustively address different types of vulnerabilities exacerbated by the crises, incl. but not limited to women and children.
- Depoliticize aid, by ensuring that any response, whether emergency or development is based exclusively on the needs of the population, independently of any political considerations.

Providing assistance to forcibly displaced populations, reinforcing protection and compliance with International Humanitarian Law

- Support initiatives on the collection of data on protection and humanitarian access data, which are more than ever necessary to inform on the evolution of the protection situation and needs, and to adapt humanitarian operations to evolving access constraints.

Protection

- Ensure that the protection of civilians is prioritized in every strategy on the region, including in stabilisation efforts.
- Mobilize all competent actors, across the humanitarian, development and peace sectors, to integrate/mainstream Gender Based Violence (GBV) and children protection in all technical areas of intervention.
- Support reforms of all countries' protection systems, including social protection systems, to foster national structures' capacities to recognize/identify, register/enroll, integrate those in need of national and international protection including returnees and offer it.



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- Ensure that the entire spectrum of durable solutions is considered and supported, and that all organized movements are conducted in a voluntary, safe and dignified manner, in line with international standards.

Humanitarian access and humanitarian leadership

- Foster necessary diplomatic engagement with national and local authorities to contribute to populations' unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance and application of international norms such as international humanitarian law (IHL). There is an urgent need to prioritize humanitarian diplomacy using every diplomacy resource available (such as the Sahel Special Envoys).
- As a strong humanitarian leadership is essential to safeguarding humanitarian space and for the respect of IHL, donors must support a more efficient and effective humanitarian coordination at national and regional level between humanitarian actors, as well as between donors themselves. A particular focus must be given to local coordination mechanisms and capacities.
- Advocate for Humanitarian Coordinators Resident Coordinators (HCRCs) with strong humanitarian background to be in place in all countries, without latency. In addition, think about additional regional humanitarian leadership to support HCRCs in their role and interact with relevant African regional organizations and initiatives.

Responding to the food and nutrition crisis and supporting access to essential social services in times of crisis

- Sustain investment in basic social services, to ensure a holistic response to the needs of communities affected by the multifaceted crisis in the region (including widespread school closures, insufficient health care provision, or undernutrition, and livelihood opportunities). Assistance needs to address particular and differential needs of girls and women who face the most risks.
- In order to prevent social cohesion issues (and notably to mitigate risks associated with integration of Internal Displaced People in communities) and to facilitate and restore access to essential services, provide support to both displaced population and host communities, improve all countries' urban centers' capacities to host displaced populations, and reinforce community-led social services.
- Recognize the link between food insecurity and conflict and put in place mitigation measures, including the preservation of humanitarian access.
- Take immediate action to reinforce emergency response capabilities, enabling the rapid delivery of essential food and nutritional assistance to populations, including IDPs/refugees, experiencing food and nutrition insecurity (Phase 3 to 5), while prioritizing the National Response Plans (NRPs), through various funding streams and with specific focus on resilience.