**Returns and relocations in Rakhine**

Background on returns/relocations

* In March 2015, the Government has agreed to allow IDPs either to return to their place of origin or, if this is not desirable or possible, to be relocated to a suitable place
* The first phase of the Government’s plan for a staged end of displacement in Rakhine State concerns 5,000 households
* Households received money to purchase materials for their new homes
* The protection monitoring activities associated with the return and/or relocation process for the first 2,000 households in early May revealed
  + No major protection incident has been observed until now\
  + With one camp being an exception, IDPs generally welcome the return process, are engaged and shelter construction has progressed rapidly
  + No major changes in access to basic services has taken place
  + Some relaxation in freedom of movement (access to market and main road) of returning IDPs has been noted in one locations but restrictions remain elsewhere
  + The price of shelter construction materials increased in some areas due to lack of access to the market by IDPs
  + Households that split as a result of marriage are resolving additional land requirements through their own local arrangements

Group work

Imagine that you are in charge of the returns/relocations process. Considering that Government Officials and Camp Management Committees are male-dominated, what will you do to make sure that the following commitments to Gender Equality Programming will be met during the returns/relocations process and as IDPs settle into their old/new living situation? Who will you give the cash to for the materials? How will you monitor how the money was used?

1. Increase women’s participation and involvement in decision making:
2. Share information to identify and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable:
3. Ensure gender analysis informs all activities in the returns/relocations sites
4. Take measures to reduce protection risks, including GBV, in all sectors (focus on Education, Health, and Nutrition)
5. Put in place feedback mechanisms, including for the prevention of exploitation and abuse (PSEA).