**Returns and relocations in Rakhine**

**Notes for Facilitators**

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
* 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

Notes for group work

- the lack of women's participation in government appointed Camp Management Committees makes it very challenging for them to have their voices heard or influence decisions that have a direct impact on their lives.

ASSESSMENT

* Commit to forming gender-balanced assessments teams
* Consult women and men of different ages (separately and together), giving priority to women’s participation in the consultation process,  to ensure that cash transfer programmes equally benefit women and men
* Consult local actors, especially women’s organizations, where they exist, about who makes household decisions and controls cash and how community decisions are reached

DESIGN

* Develop context-specific targeting criteria based on separate consultations of women and men

IMPLEMENTATION

* Ensure that cash transfer mechanisms take gender considerations into account – ex. that distribution points take into consideration location, time and safety issues
* Put in place supports to minimize the risk that women will be adversely affected by cash transfers, including complaints and feedback mechanisms
* Inform beneficiaries of services for gender-based violence survivors

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

* Conduct routine consultations with women and men (separately and together) to find out
  + how cash transfers have benefitted households
  + what has changed for women and men, what are spending and consumption patterns
  + how have household relations improved or deteriorated
  + how existing coping strategies and household and community relations were strengthened
  + whether negative behaviours arose.