Protecting the rights of older people in humanitarian emergencies
Presentation overview

• Inclusion of older people in existing rights framework
• The principles of humanitarian action
• Examples of older people’s exclusion from humanitarian assistance
• Recommendations for a Convention on the rights of older people
Existing legal frameworks

- Older people’s rights are protected in a general sense, but not in a systematic or comprehensive way.
  - Human rights law
  - International Humanitarian Law
  - Convention on rights of persons with disability
  - MIPPA
Principles of humanitarian action

• Humanity

• Impartiality

• Neutrality

• Independence
Factors contributing to older people’s exclusion

- Lack of consultation or inclusion in assessments
- Limited data collection
- Programming based on assumptions of needs
- Limited access to information about available assistance
- Limited humanitarian awareness amongst partners of older people’s needs, or capacity to address them
Examples of operational exclusion – nutrition

- Life saving sector
- Compound factors including poverty, care roles and disability place older people at specific risk
- Yet, risks of under-nutrition faced by older people are not recognised in humanitarian policy or practice.
Convention Recommendations

• Protect older people’s right to be consulted and actively participate in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistance

• Protect older people’s rights to accessible, and where appropriate, targeted interventions

• Protect older people’s rights to information about assistance, in accessible formats

• Hold humanitarian partners and donors to account for ensuring appropriate funding and capacity for response delivery
Thank you.
Questions?