

MODULE 3 ASSESSMENT, DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

PART 2 Project Design

In this part of module 3, we are going to explore Beneficiary and Community Engagement in Project Design.

It is imperative that aid organizations involve beneficiaries and communities in their project design. The most important reason for this is that *beneficiaries are partners in their own assistance, they are not objects of aid.*

When designing aid projects, you should look at the *capabilities and capacities* that the beneficiaries and community members have and *adapt your design to suit their strengths.* This will encourage more egalitarian relationships based on sincerity, recognition, and mutual respect, and will also help to foster enthusiasm and engagement.

Beneficiaries and communities can also help to:

1. Advise you on what type of aid to prioritize in order to meet their needs
2. How to respect their cultural values
3. They can make you aware of existing materials and services
4. They can advise you on when and where is best for you to offer your assistance
5. They can also direct or refer you to important individuals or authorities whom you should consult regarding project design, such as community leaders, local councils, refugee camp managers, other NGO or INGO focal points, and more

By engaging in this manner, you will enable all local stakeholders to see and understand that your *project is part of an integrated plan* that actually brings broad *benefits* to *the community* you're trying to assist.