# MERS Exercise: Productive Assets Standards

***Situation***

Hurricane Frank has just struck the coast of the country of Nilla. The hurricane killed at least 102 people and affected more than 180,000 others, according to Nilla’s National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Assistance. In the Northern Province, the storm damaged or destroyed:

* more than 19,000 houses and nearly 180 public buildings, including the public market and all stalls;
* approximately 95,000 hectares of corn, rice and other crops.

Romana is a municipality in the Northern Province of Nilla. The municipality and the entire region are indigenous lands, populated by Setha people, with the city of Romana the largest urban area in the region.

Setha women living in Romana have traditionally sold vegetables and grains in the local market. However, in recent years the number of vendors has increased – significantly impacting the profits of each individual vendor. Prior to the hurricane, there were approximately 120 Setha women selling vegetables and grains in the market and only 50% were earning sufficient money to meet the basic needs of their families. With the destruction of the market and stalls coupled with the significant reduction in the amount of basic crops available to sell, the ability of the women to earn a livelihood in the short-term and long-term is in question.

***The response***

Ferono, an international NGO aims to develop an intervention that will provide a new livelihood for approximately 60 Setha women – addressing the emergency needs caused by the destruction of the market and the significant decline in the supply of vegetables and grains. By addressing this short-term need, the intention is to create a long-term employment strategy for the women to enable them to provide for the basic needs of their households.

Interestingly, prior to the hurricane, the organization had begun to work with the Setha women and had collected preliminary information on some potential market opportunities. Notably, the city of Romana lacks a commercial bakery. Instead, bread and other baked products arrive weekly on a ship from Sophia, a city in the Southern Province.

In recent months the bakery has sent fewer and fewer products, as local demand in the Southern Province has increased. Early assessments indicate that there is a strong market in Romana and the surrounding areas for baked goods.

The Setha women are interested in developing a bakery – notably the president of the market approached a representative from Ferono to discuss the idea. However, the cost of purchasing a commercial oven as well as accessing and paying for training in the actual operation of the bakery, as well as basic business skills have been obstacles to date.

The beginning components of the program have been determined by Ferono’s senior leadership in the country and include:

* $1 million in funding from a donor government to fund an intervention;
* collaboration with the University of the Northern Province, which has a campus in Romana. The university has a strong small business program;
* developing an intervention that will solve the short-term need to earn money as well as the long-term need to develop a sustainable livelihood that can meet basic household needs.

**Task:**

**You have an hour to prepare a 15-minute presentation, using the notes below as a guide:**

* Referring to the Productive Assets Standards of MERS, state which specific standards will most influence the development of your response option, and why.
* Also indicate which of the foundational Core and Assessment/Analysis standards will relate to the development of your response option, and why.

***Note: The purpose of this task is not primarily to consider humanitarian response options, but to use your chosen option to study the MERS handbook in detail, and explore how it can help and guide the development of humanitarian interventions. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO USE THE HANDBOOK IN THIS EXERCISE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.***

***In your presentation, you will not need to outline the context of the emergency; the facilitator will summarize this.***

Use a flip chart for your presentation. It should look something like this:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Brief description of response option** | **Standards that will influence development of the option**  *[State number and name]* | **How specifically will this standard benefit the process and outcomes of this project?** |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* | \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* | \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* |