



Women and Disasters

*Providing Emergency Food Assistance
through a Gender Lens*



World Food Programme

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Women and girls, men and boys affected by an emergency are not homogeneous and deserve equal opportunities.
- Evidence shows that women/girls are most vulnerable with respect to disasters.
- Women and girls, men and boys usually do not have the same access to opportunities, assets and information.
- In emergencies, a host of issues that often negatively affect gender-differentiated access to and control of life-saving resources – such as food – are exacerbated.



GENDER BALANCE IN RESPONSE

- Ensuring sensitivity to gender differences is critical for effective emergency response.

- The gender composition of response teams must be considered and appropriately managed to fit the response context.

- Female responders can often reach women more easily than men can. There is, as well, a greater appreciation for their needs, priorities and constraints.



GENDER IN THE INTER-AGENCY CONTEXT

UN Standards for Gender Mainstreaming

The UN has established certain standards and tools to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment:

- ✓ Several Security Council Resolutions.
- ✓ 1999 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) obliging statement.
- ✓ IASC Handbook and training titled "Women, Girls, Boys and Men: Different Needs -Equal Opportunities".
- ✓ UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN SWAP).
- ✓ A "Gender Marker".
- ✓ The IASC Transformative Agenda's protocol on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).

GENDER IN THE INTER-AGENCY CONTEXT

Case Study: Philippines Typhoon Haiyan

- The Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) operational framework was used in the Philippines.



-
- WFP secondee to OCHA launched a set of community consultations regarding the delivery of assistance.
-
- AAP facilitated the identification of gender-specific concerns and allowed for more coherent advocacy and response.
-
- Findings included gender-specific comfort needs, stigmas, health requirements and safety concerns.
-
- Projects were specifically oriented to AAP and/or rapid adjustments to programming were based AAP findings.

GENDER AND FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Some of WFP's key tools include its Strategic Plan (2014-2017), its Gender Policy (2009) and a Gender Mainstreaming Accountability Framework (GMAF).

- Using a gender lens and conducting a gender analyses are key to understanding differing food requirements.

- Emergency food assistance methodologies and programming must be adapted to adequately respond to the differentiated gender needs.

- Integrating a gender approach does not require doing different projects but doing projects differently.

CHALLENGES

- Balancing the urgency of merely delivering response with the necessity of factoring differing gender considerations.

- Ensuring appropriately gender-balanced emergency response teams.

- Ensuring effective female representation and participation/“voice” in related decision-making bodies.

- Ensuring systematic gender sensitization, training and capacity development, including in gender analysis, for emergency responders and other humanitarian professionals.



25 March 2014



World Food Programme

World Food Programme

Via C.G. Viola 68/70

Rome, Italy 00148

Tel: +39 06 6513 1