

PAKISTAN FLOODS 2010

Importance of GENDER in EMERGENCIES

ISSUE ONE

Experience from past natural disasters reveals that important differences between men and women often go unrecognised. In the midst of the urgent humanitarian response, the provision of food, shelter, health, clean drinking water and sanitation facilities receives a lot of emphasis, but failing to address the differentiated needs of men, women, boys and girls can increase disparities between women and men, and further marginalize vulnerable groups. **Taking into account the different needs of women, girls, boys and men makes our humanitarian response more effective.**

Gender is a cross-cutting issue, requiring a gender-responsive approach that meets needs equally and recognises the different capacities and vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys and men. It is the **responsibility of all clusters** to ensure access to and benefit of services to all segments of the population. The Gender Task force and number of humanitarian gender advisors and women's advocates are available to assist you in this task.

Take these 3 immediate actions to ensure that women, girls, boys and men get access to and benefit from humanitarian response:

A **SSESS NEEDS:** The needs of women, girls, boys and men are different after an emergency so special efforts must be made to assess the needs of each of these groups. Ensure that women and men are part of any needs assessment teams and that the needs of all portions of the affected population are assessed.

B **E ALERT:** to risks experienced by unaccompanied women, boys and girls, especially the risk of violence they may face. Put in place measures to ensure

C **OLLECT DATA BY SEX AND AGE:** All efforts should be made to collect data on who has been affected, including deaths, injuries, displacement, and who is receiving services. Remember from the tsunami: mortality for women was three times higher than for men.

Immediate Concerns: How to address Gender in your Cluster?

EMERGENCY SHELTER

In overcrowded collective centres families and individuals belonging to different areas feel exposed and uncomfortable. Ensure that special measures have been taken to provide separate accommodation for unaccompanied girls, boys and young women away from adult males so that that adequate privacy is offered to all. In case the shelter materials distribution, ascertain the impact and usefulness of distribution systems for women and girls .

HEALTH

Flooding and non-availability of water for drinking or cooking are contributing elements in the outbreak of diseases like diarrhoea, malaria, respiratory infections etc. Some of the identified are needs listed below and critical for gender-responsive health care in this emergency:

- Anti-Diarrheal Kits and effective mechanisms for distribution
- Psycho-social support by the trained counselors
- Vaccination for children under 5 and pregnant mothers
- Obstetric and gynecological care (by trained doctors and skilled TBA)
- Food supplements for lactating mothers
- Presence of women staff especially trained doctors and other health professionals
- Medicines especially life saving

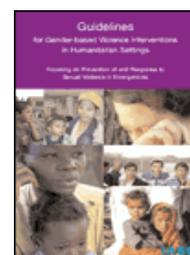
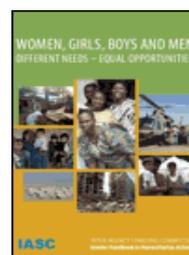
WASH

Non-availability of safe drinking water and damage to sanitation infrastructure are causing skin problems and infections especially among women and children. It is essential that WASH actors consult with women and girls on the location of sanitation facilities to ensure that the route is safe; that latrines be well lit, lockable from the inside, and offer privacy and accessible by those with disabilities.

NFIs DISTRIBUTION:

Initial assessments carried out by Provincial Disaster Management Authorities and humanitarian agencies such as the World Food Programme indicate that the floods have damaged or destroyed at least 250,000 homes across the flood-affected provinces. Distribution mechanisms must be responsive to access-related issues and cater to the needs of women and vulnerable individuals. Be mindful of and find ways to address the conservative social

For more details, please refer to aspects of the ADAPT and ACT framework for gender programming found in the IASC Gender Handbook and use the GBV guidelines on <http://gender.oneresponse.info> and <http://gencap.oneresponse.info>



The Gender Task Force has identified a pool of gender Field Gender Advisors for participation in the field missions. Contact email: aziz.khan@unifem.org, ummar@un.org.pk and nayab.azizi@un.org.pk