

## Key Actions for Gender-Based Violence and Food Issues

*Note: This is an excerpt from the IASC GBV Handbook's Action Sheet on Nutrition and Agriculture.*

The following actions apply to the nutrition and agriculture clusters. These clusters identify focal points who participate regularly in the gender-based violence (GBV) working group and report on the clusters' achievements of the key actions.

- 1. Collect sex-disaggregated data for planning and evaluation of agricultural, food security and nutrition strategies.**
  - Participate in the coordinated situational analysis.
  - Conduct coordinated rapid situation analysis.
  - Consult with women and children, community leaders, and other relevant groups.
- 2. Incorporate strategies to prevent sexual violence in food and nutrition programmes at all stages of the project cycle (including design, implementation, monitoring and follow-up), giving special attention to groups in the community that are more vulnerable to sexual violence.**
- 3. Involve women in the entire process of implementing food security.**
- 4. Enhance women's control of food in food distributions by making women the household food entitlement holder.**
- 5. Include women in the process of selecting the location of the food distribution point.**
- 6. Establish sex-balanced food distribution committees that allow for the meaningful and equal participation of women.** Attention should be given to the following aspects:
  - Make sure food distribution is done by a sex balanced team. Provide packaging that facilitates handling and can be re-used for other domestic activities.
  - Select the time of distribution according to women's activities and needs so as to permit the organisation of groups that can travel together to and from the distribution point.
  - Distribute food during the day. Leave enough time so women can leave their homes after sunrise and return to their homes during daylight.
- 7. Provide enough and sufficient information about distributions using a variety of methods to ensure communication to everyone, especially women and girls.** Inform the community about:
  - The size and composition of the household food rations;
  - Beneficiary selection criteria;
  - Distribution place and time;
  - The fact that they do not have to provide services or favours in exchange for receiving the rations; and
  - The proper channels available to them for reporting cases of abuse linked to food distribution.
- 8. Reduce security risks at food distributions. Create 'safe spaces' for women at distribution points.**
  - Appeal to men in the beneficiary community to protect women and ensure safe passage of women from distribution sites to their homes.
  - Ensure sex balance of those carrying out the distribution.

- If necessary, segregate men and women receiving rations, either by having distributions for men and women at different times, or by establishing a physical barrier between them during the distribution.
- Assure that food distribution teams and all staff of implementing agencies have been informed about appropriate conduct, avoidance of sexual abuse and exploitation, and mandatory reporting.
- Create 'safe passage' schedules for child household heads.
- Begin and end food distribution during daylight hours.
- Consider placing two women guardians (with vests and whistles) to oversee off-loading, registration, distribution and post-distribution of food.

**9. Monitor security and instances of abuse in the distribution point as well as on departure roads.**

- Ensure there are women staff from the implementing agency present during food distributions.
- Establish a community-based security plan for food distribution sites and departure roads in collaboration with the community.
- Establish a security focal point at each of the distribution sites.
- Monitor security on departure roads and ensure that women are not at an increased risk for violence by having the food commodity.

**10. Reduce fuel consumption by implementing saving measures.**

- Provide fuel-efficient stoves to reduce the amount of fuel required.
- Consult with women for selection of the type of energy-saving fuel stove.
- Mobilise women and community leaders to promote the use of energy-saving stoves and to train women in their use.
- Add milling or other means to reduce cooking times for food rations.

**11. Implement strategies to increase safety and security during fuel collection.**

- Mobilize the community into mixed groups of men and women to collect fuel and to stay together throughout the fuel collection journey.
- Establish regular patrols with reliable security personnel, including UN peacekeepers, to designated areas where organized firewood collection can be done by the population at specified times.

**12. When feasible and appropriate, request and ensure adequate funding to meet temporary fuel needs during the early stages of an emergency and/or to provide fuel to community members unable to collect their own fuel.**

- Fuel that is distributed should be culturally acceptable and easy to use.
- Pay attention to the issue of displaced populations selling firewood as a source of income and risking exposure to violence while collecting fuel.
- Involve women and girls in any distribution of fuel.
- Identify priority groups that should receive fuel if fuel distribution is not available for everyone.

**13. Provide non-identifying information to security authorities and the community, about the location and circumstances of reported cases of sexual violence during fuel collection.**

- If the survivor does not give consent to refer his/her case to police/security, then incident information can be compiled anonymously into data reports that give no identifying information.
- Use this information to inform and problem solve with the community about security risks.