

Key Actions for Gender-Based Violence and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Note: This is an excerpt from the IASC GBV Handbook.

The following actions apply, at a minimum, to actors in the security and environment sectors as well as actors in shelter/site planning and camp management. The gender-based violence (GBV) working group should ensure that the following actions are taken, and that progress is reported and discussed in GBV working group meetings. In most settings, the shelter/site planning/non-food sector focal point reports on progress in taking these key actions.

- 1. 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.
 - Mobilize 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.
- 2. 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 and peacekeepers, to designated areas where organized firewood collection can be done by the population at specified times.
 - Closely monitor these efforts and ensure they are meeting the needs of women and girls
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Distribute suitable materials for the absorption and disposal of menstrual blood for women and girls who menstruate.**
 - Estimate the number of menstruating women and girls at 25 percent of the total population.
 - Consult with women and girls to identify materials most culturally appropriate.
 - Actively seek participation from relevant groups in the distribution of sanitary packs. Seek input and participation from community-based health providers (e.g. health promoters, animators). Note that in some situations, the first distribution of sanitary materials will need to occur without community consultations, in order to avoid delay.

- Distribute sanitary packs at regular intervals throughout the emergency and distribute to any new arrivals.

6. If there is an accurate database with disaggregated age and sex data, use that database to develop the distribution list for sanitary packs. If there is no database, or if it is uncertain, inaccurate or incomplete, collaborate with women and girls and community health providers to develop a distribution list. Avoid using family ration or registration cards unless there is a clear indication of sex and age breakdown.