



# Guide to Gender-Aware Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

# FOREWORD

**P**ost-disaster experience reveals that: (i) women and men are affected by natural disasters in similar and different ways; and (ii) recovery activities are often effective when they reflect and address the specific articulated needs, priorities and interests of both women and men. There is also growing recognition that women play important roles in recovery processes, despite perceptions about women's roles and place in public and private spheres.

The international community in general, and the United Nations in particular, are in the process of developing various tools, several at the inter-agency level, to support efforts to identify and address jointly the most urgent post-disaster needs of women, girls, boys and men. This *Guide to Gender-Aware Post-Disaster Needs Assessment* is one such tool, and is designed to identify and assess post-disaster needs of women, girls, boys and men across sectors. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has facilitated this work, which builds on efforts initially conducted under the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Building on inputs from a range of international organizations – humanitarian, development and non-governmental – this guide also seeks to promote the recommendations articulated in the guidance handbook<sup>1</sup> of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) published in 2006, that assessors should:

- Put women, girls, boys and men at the centre of assessments;
- Understand the cultural context within which assessments are conducted;
- Refrain from making general assumptions; and
- Consult with the affected population.

**In addition, the *Guide to Gender-Aware Post-Disaster Needs Assessment* outlines how to:**

- i) Collect post-disaster quantitative and qualitative sex- and age-disaggregated data across sectors;
- ii) Identify post-disaster resilience and vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys and men who experience multiple forms of marginalization which class/caste, ethnic/racial, rural/urban distinctions may intensify;
- iii) Identify post-disaster context-specific needs and priorities of affected communities and authorities, and the gendered dimensions therein;
- iv) Identify public and private multi-sectoral strategies, mechanisms and processes that serve to reinforce gender-aware, community-based, spontaneous recovery initiatives; and
- v) Enhance post-disaster recovery planning through inter-agency collaboration and shared response to identified gender-aware sectoral needs.

1. IASC. 2006. *Women, Girls, Boys and Men: Different Needs – Equal Opportunities*. Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action

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## GLOSSARY

**Gender** – Refers to the social differences between females and males throughout the life cycle that are learned, have wide variations both within and between cultures and though deeply rooted in every culture, are changeable over time. ‘Gender’, along with class and race, determines the roles, power and resources for females and males in any culture. Historically, attention to gender relations has been driven by the need to address women’s needs and circumstances as they are typically more disadvantaged than men. Increasingly, the humanitarian community is recognizing the need to know more about what men and boys face in post-disaster situations.<sup>2</sup>

**Gender analysis** – Examines the relationships between females and males, their access to and control of resources, their roles, and the constraints they face relative to each other. A gender analysis should be integrated into the post-disaster needs assessment and in all sector assessments to ensure that gender based injustices and inequalities are not exacerbated by humanitarian interventions and that where possible greater equality and justice in gender relations are promoted.<sup>3</sup>

**Gender-aware post-disaster recovery needs** – Those needs that are specific to female or male members of the affected population, and partially result from women’s and men’s positions in the family and larger society.

**Gender-aware post-disaster needs assessment** – A process within which the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men are identified and analysed.

**Gender-aware priorities** – Key issues that reflect the main concerns of women and/or men, and are informed by their roles in the household and public life (commonly referred to as gender roles).

**Gender-sensitive qualitative information** – Gender-sensitive qualitative information reveals data on the quality of the daily realities of women, girls, boys and men, as well as the quality of their participation in different sectors.

**Gender equality** – Equality between women and men refers to the equal enjoyment by women, girls, boys and men of rights, opportunities, resources and rewards. Equality does not mean that women and men are the same, but that their enjoyment of rights, opportunities and life chances are not governed or limited by whether they are born female or male.<sup>4</sup>

**Gendered dimensions of disaster** – The different effects of a disaster on females and males.

**Sex** – Sex refers to biological characteristics that define women and men.

**Sex-disaggregated data** – Statistical information that differentiates between females and males.

## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BCPR</b>	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (UNDP)
<b>CWGER</b>	Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>IASC</b>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee (UN)
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organization
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>PDNA</b>	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNIFEM</b>	United Nations Development Fund for Women
<b>WASH</b>	Water and Sanitation Hygiene

2. IASC. 2006. *Women, Girls, Boys and Men: Different Needs – Equal Opportunities*. Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

## SECTION 1.

# Why Create a Guide to Gender-Aware Post-Disaster Needs Assessment?

This guide is intended to: (i) facilitate the identification and evaluation of existing needs, capacities and capabilities of women, girls, boys and men in post-disaster situations; (ii) promote the identification of programmatic gaps and shortfalls; (iii) anticipate future short-term needs and potential response gaps; and (iv) facilitate multi-sectoral and collaborative recovery planning and programming. Through its facilitation of a post-disaster, gender-aware and context-specific roadmap for operational planning across sectors, it aims to promote gender equality in countries recovering from disaster.

Sector-specific questions facilitate the identification of post-disaster needs and responses of women, girls, boys and men that can be used to inform the planning, design and implementation of context-specific recovery initiatives. In addition, the participatory nature of the assessment process facilitates a broadening of ownership and the sustainability of recovery initiatives through:

- Substantive consultation of women, girls, boys and men in the identification of their needs, priorities and interests;
- Identification of spontaneous recovery activities of women, men and marginalized communities that can be supported and strengthened;
- Inclusion of local authorities, including social ministries and national machineries, working on women's, gender and youth issues;
- Substantive participation of international and national non-governmental organizations (INGOs and NGOs) with demonstrated experience working with, and for, women, girls, boys and men, and marginalized communities; and
- Design of gender-aware recovery initiatives that are informed by, and respond to, the articulated and demonstrated needs of the affected communities and the entities serving them.

The focus is not on pinpointing everything (which is simply not possible), but on identifying those elements necessary to facilitate effective design, planning and implementation of post-disaster recovery initiatives that serve to strengthen spontaneous early recovery efforts and adequately address the specific and different needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men from affected communities.

Framed by these objectives, this action-oriented gender-aware assessment tool is guided by the following core principles:

### **Equity in Approach and Service Provision** to:

- (i) increase equality between women, girls, boys and men; (ii) broaden opportunities for women and girls within the larger society; and (iii) improve opportunities for men and boys from marginalized communities.

**Participatory Approach** to: (i) engage in substantive consultations with women and men, government mechanisms and NGOs working on women's, gender, and youth issues during the assessment process; and (ii) involve women and men in the Assessment Team.

**Relevance of Service Provision** to: (i) design recovery projects that are informed by the articulated needs, priorities and interests of women, men, boys and girls from the affected area; and (ii) deploy and use appropriate resources to address the specific and different needs of women, girls, boys and men.

**Adequacy of Service Provision** to: (i) provide resources in amounts that will enable women and men to improve their well-being; (ii) discourage dependency; and (iii) facilitate a smooth transition from recovery to development.

**Efficiency of Service Provision** through the: (i) use of context-specific delivery mechanisms; (ii) involvement of INGOs and local NGOs with demonstrated experience working with, and for, women and girls, and men and boys from marginalized communities; and (iii) use of goods and services that are easily obtainable.

## SECTION 2.

# Key Elements for a Gender-Aware Assessment

i) The Assessment Team shall have a Gender Specialist/Focal Point, preferably from the affected country, as a member.

ii) The Assessment Team shall be comprised of trained representatives from the United Nations (UN), regional organizations, government, local authorities, INGOs and NGOs. Participating INGOs and NGOs must have demonstrated experience working with, and for, women and girls.

iii) The Assessment Team shall be comprised of both women and men.

iv) The Assessment Team shall be comprised of individuals with knowledge of the affected area and population therein.

v) Both women and men from the affected population shall be consulted.

vi) Women and men shall be consulted together and in sex-segregated groups. Priority will be given to consulting with women and men separately if there are constraints on the number of consultations that can be conducted.

vii) Social ministries and national machineries working on women's, gender, and youth issues shall be consulted.

viii) Quantitative<sup>5</sup> and qualitative demographic and sectoral sex- and age-disaggregated data shall be compiled, analysed and used to inform recovery planning.

ix) Quantitative and qualitative sex- and age-disaggregated data gathered for humanitarian response will be fed into the analysis process in order to better inform recovery planning.

x) At least one member of the Assessment Team – Gender Specialist/Focal Point – will have the knowledge and capability to conduct a gender-sensitive analysis of the baseline (if available) and post-disaster data and use it, as appropriate, to inform recovery planning.

5. Sex- and age-disaggregated demographic and sectoral quantitative data document the numbers and/or percentages of women, men, boys, and girls residing in the affected area, and involved in certain sectors

## SECTION 3.

# How to Use the Guide to Gender-Aware Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

In order to facilitate effective, integrated and durable recovery planning and programming, this guide is designed to be used as early as possible in the recovery period and prior to the preparation of programming documents. This guide aims to make certain that gender equality issues are integrated at the outset of the needs identification process and is central to the analysis. It also lays the groundwork for ensuring that programming is gender-aware and inclusive, while building on the potentialities of women, girls, boys and men.

### Systematizing the assessment process

The following steps are suggested as a way of systematizing the assessment process:

#### I. Identify members of the Assessment Team

The Assessment Team should be composed of women and men with sectoral expertise in the areas of demography, housing, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education, agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods, governance, and environmental sustainability. At least one member of the Team should have expertise in gender issues.

Relevant government bodies, civil society organizations including women's associations, and international actors, should be involved in the conduct of the needs assessment to build ownership, as well as strengthen the assessment through different and complementary views and expertise.

#### II. Conduct brief training with Team to introduce the *Guide to Gender-Aware Post-Disaster Needs Assessment*

The following points should be highlighted during the training:

- The purpose of the post-disaster needs assessment is to enable the identification and/or estimation of the similar and different recovery needs of women, girls, boys and men in the different sectors.
- The assessment should provide the most complete picture as possible on the effects of the disaster on women, girls, boys and men and their resulting recovery needs and vulnerabilities.

- The identification of early recovery and longer term recovery needs will enable government and the international community to better: (i) define gender-aware priorities for programming; (ii) guide gender-aware planning and programming; and (iii) inform funding decisions.

- This needs assessment is a vital element of the gender-aware planning and programming process.

- The Team Leader should go through each question, as necessary, with the Assessors to ensure common understanding.

Given the inter-sectoral nature of the assessment, as well as the assumption that the assessment process, including the analysis and report writing, will be coordinated, an attempt has been made to avoid duplication of questions that apply across specific sectors. However, there are limited instances where a few questions are repeated across sectors. This is to ensure that relevant information will appear in the overall needs assessment report and response plan, as well as in the specific sectoral chapters. Such an approach also appreciates that different government bodies, as well as NGOs and UN agencies, often operate at a sectoral level.

#### III. Choose site(s)

Depending on the scale of the disaster, it may not be possible to visit all the affected areas. In this situation a sample must be chosen. Two criteria may be used for selecting sample sites: (i) areas with the greatest need; and (ii) areas as representative as possible of the affected populations.

Given that the scope of the assessment will most often be limited, analyses will seek to be deductive.

#### **IV. Collect data**

Data collection methods can include: (i) individual interviews with women and men; (ii) group interviews with single-sex and mixed groups of women and men, (iii) interviews with local associations; and (iv) observation and other techniques as appropriate.

#### ***Participatory Approach***

Participatory assessments ensure substantive involvement of affected women, girls, boys and men in the articulation of early recovery and post-disaster recovery priorities and solutions. A shared understanding of needs and gaps can lead to improved partnerships between service providers and the affected community, as well as between government and the international community. The process of participatory assessments, as well as the use of their results in planning and programming, will also serve to strengthen community ownership of recovery programmes, as well as contribute to ensuring the adequacy (or appropriateness) of state response at both the national and local levels.

The steps outlined below provide some general guidance on how to conduct participatory assessments that are built on the principles of equity.

#### ***Active and Mindful Observation***

Observing women, girls, boys and men to document:

- Where they are seen (at home, in shelters, in health facilities, on the streets). Note: if women and girls are not visible, a female member of the Assessment Team may be better positioned than a male member to search for, and communicate with them;
- Activities with which they are engaged (getting water, shopping, out/indoor cleaning, collective activities, playing, rebuilding, income generating work);
- With whom they are seen (women, girls, boys, men, children, the elderly); and

- General appearance of the affected population, and women and girls therein (distressed, angry, happy, unwell).

#### ***Substantive and Participatory Consultations***

Consultations with individuals, sectoral focus groups and representatives of local government, INGOs and NGOs are accepted practice during needs assessments. However, it is rare for women to be specifically targeted for consultation, either individually or as a group. Similarly, INGOs and NGOs working with, and for, women and girls are often overlooked during the assessment process.

Substantive and participatory consultations can take several forms. Gender-aware consultations prioritize consulting with women as well as men. When consultations are conducted with women and men – individually, together, and/or in single and mixed groups – assessors are able to identify their specific and different needs, as well as their differing priorities and interests. These articulated needs and priorities can be confirmed with INGOs, NGOs and local authorities with demonstrated experience working with the affected population. Gender-aware early recovery consultations seek to understand what solutions/initiatives/approaches will lead to longer term recovery.

There are different ways in which these consultations can take place including interviews, focus group discussions and joint meetings. The choice will depend on what is possible and most useful in a particular context.

Gender-aware consultations can include:

- Informal discussions with individual women and men, small single-sex or mixed groups, and representatives of INGOs and NGOs working with women, girls, boys and men, and marginalized communities.
- Semi-structured consultations with individual women and men, small single-sex or mixed groups, and representatives of INGOs, NGOs and local authorities working with women, girls, boys and men.

- Structured interviews with key informants with knowledge about women's, youth and gender issues.
- Sectoral focus group consultations with single-sex and mixed groups in order to identify the sector-specific needs and priorities of women and men.
- Focus group consultations with women or youth to identify their needs and priorities.

### V. Analyse data

At the end of the post-disaster assessment phase, different sectoral teams should analyse the data alongside any baseline data that may be available. Recovery needs, gaps, and spontaneous community recovery activities,

underlining differences and similarities between women and men, must be highlighted. In addition, priority recovery actions, informed by the assessment findings and differentiated according to age and sex must be presented. These gender-aware inputs can be incorporated in narrative form into the assessment report.

### VI. Write report

A report on the gendered dimensions of the needs assessment, informed by the data collected and analyzed, should then be prepared.

## Example of a Gender-Aware Semi-Structured Consultation with Women's NGOs

During the recent past, specific UN organizations, including UNDP and UNIFEM, have consulted with women's NGOs in post-disaster contexts. Given the time, human resources and financial constraints involved in conducting assessments, these consultations with INGOs and NGOs working with, and for, women provided a quick and efficient means of acquiring knowledge about the post-disaster economic and socio-cultural situations, needs and realities of women and men (and to a lesser extent of youth), and suggestions about appropriate and effective recovery planning mechanisms.

A lesson learnt from this experience is that communities in distress are more likely to turn to women's NGOs in times of need because of the nature of their work *with* community members, specifically women, their physical and continued presence in the affected area, and their demonstrated commitment to specific issues. Women's NGOs are increasingly becoming accepted as key informants post disaster, and in some contexts are viewed as

partners in assessments and recovery efforts. For example, in Bangladesh NGOs participate in multilateral needs assessments, though most often they conduct their own informal assessments as well.

When mapping the presence, type and capacity of NGOs working with women, girls, boys and men from marginalized communities, the following categories are suggested:

- Type of NGO (international, regional, national, sub-national, local);
- Services provided (shelter, livelihood, education, agriculture and food security, health, water and sanitation);
- Characteristics of population served (sex, age, class/caste, ethnicity/minority, political, religious, linguistic);
- Geographic reach;
- Alliances (with donors, government, other NGOs); and
- Capacities for early recovery activities by sector.

## SECTION 4.

# Documenting Post-Disaster Needs of Women, Girls, Boys and Men

Understanding the scope and causes of a disaster, and the realities of affected women, girls, boys and men, are essential elements when framing an effective multi-sectoral recovery response. In the aftermath of natural disasters, across countries and in all regions of the world, women are engaged in, and concerned about, a multiplicity of activities related to both public and domestic life, while men are often primarily focused on income generation activities. These differing preoccupations are grounded in, and reflect, women's and men's specific roles and responsibilities in the household, and the larger society in times of normalcy.

Power relations and inequalities between women and men impact on their vulnerabilities and capacities with potentially deadly effects. Because gender roles are not natural to the human condition, change is possible; though change in what roles and to what degree may vary across countries, income groups and religions. The fluidity of gender roles, particularly among women, is often more visible in the aftermath of a disaster. This is evidenced by observations that women are engaged in what is traditionally perceived as men's work, and by surprise about women's adaptability and capacity to take charge.

Men's vulnerabilities surface in post-disaster situations when they are unable to perform in their role as protector and provider. In contrast, the hidden potential of women emerges in post-disaster situations and they are seen as strong, resilient and strategic in their ability to think through longer term family and community needs. Therefore the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men should be assessed in order to better support their spontaneous recovery efforts, and enable their substantive participation in early recovery activities. Such an approach will serve to make more effective recovery planning and longer term programmatic implementation. In addition, it will facilitate the erosion of those processes that reinforce vulnerabilities of, and inequalities among, women, girls, boys and men from marginalized communities.

### Gender-Sensitive Post-Disaster Data

In addition to gender-sensitive demographic and multi-sectoral baseline data, quantitative and qualitative information documenting the impact of a disaster on women, girls, boys and men, community resources and the public and private sectors are critical elements in assisting recovery and development planners and policy makers to best understand and respond to the scope, intensity and specificities of disasters. Sex-disaggregated data make visible the roles of women and men. If women are left out of post-disaster needs assessments, they will be left out of recovery projects. Within this context, the State cannot effectively respond to the needs of over half of the population, and recovery efforts are limited by not building on and strengthening the potentials and agency of women.

The following can facilitate the collection of gender-sensitive quantitative and qualitative post-disaster information across sectors. The scale of the assessment process will depend on the scope and extent of the damage, as well as the available financial and human resources. Table I (page 10) outlines suggested steps in a gender-aware assessment process – from the actual conduct of the assessment to validation of the findings/analyses.

**Table I: Suggested Entry Points for Integrating Gender-Aware Actions in the Conduct of Post-Disaster Needs Assessments**

Assessment Steps	Suggested Entry Points for Gender-Aware Actions
<p><b>Conduct gender-aware assessment</b></p>	<p>Gender Specialist/Focal Point participates as member of Assessment Team</p> <p>Women are members of Assessment Team</p> <p>Hold consultations with single-sex and mixed groups (if both are not possible, consultations with female groups are a priority, as the needs of males are also captured in issue-related focus groups)</p> <p>Hold consultations with INGOs and NGOs working with, and for, women and marginalized communities</p> <p>Gather quantitative and qualitative data on post-disaster needs across sectors, and the specific capabilities, needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men, and marginalized communities therein</p>
<p><b>Conduct gender-aware analysis of findings</b></p>	<p>Review and analyse sex- and age-specific demographic and sectoral findings, compare with baseline data, link with information about women and men's roles in the public and private spheres, and the processes and mechanisms which contribute to vulnerabilities experienced</p> <p>Draft both sectoral and integrated multi-sectoral reports, as required, that highlight specific and different needs, capabilities, vulnerabilities and priorities of women, girls, boys and men</p> <p>Gender Specialist/Focal Point conducts gender-sensitive analysis of findings</p>
<p><b>Validate findings</b></p>	<p>Validate findings with social ministries, national machineries working on women's, gender and youth issues, INGOs and NGOs</p> <p>Gender Specialist/Focal Point provides technical assistance</p>

## SECTION 4.1

# Gender-sensitive post-disaster demographic data

### Name of affected district, sub-region, country:

- Total area affected, in square kilometers (kms<sup>2</sup>)/square miles
- % of population affected
- # of households displaced, by sex of head of household
- % of households living below the poverty line, by sex of head of household
- # of unaccompanied children in affected area, by sex

### Suggested qualitative gender-aware post-disaster inter-sectoral information

1. Describe the type and capacity of local government, UN, INGOs and NGOs, and the affected community's response to the disaster. Describe the type and capacity of individual response, disaggregated by sex and age.

2. Describe the ways in which the needs of women and girls are addressed.

3. What are the direct and indirect financial costs of the disaster on: (a) female-headed households; (b) male-headed households with no women present; (c) traditional households; and (d) local authorities?

4. Are there changes in the primary roles and responsibilities of, and relations between, women and men? If yes, can such changes strengthen women's well-being? Which mechanisms are needed to support women and men as they assume new roles? How can the post-disaster time-use patterns of women and men be described?

5. To what extent are environmental, economic, political, infrastructural factors influencing internally displaced persons' (IDPs) decision to return or not to return? Is the decision different for women and men? If yes, why?

6. Are there changes in prevailing attitudes and cultural norms and practices that could constrain women's participation in recovery efforts and limit their well-being? What support mechanisms are needed to strengthen women's participation?

7. What are the needs of orphaned girls and boys? What measures should be introduced to address them?

## SECTION 4.2

# Gender-sensitive post-disaster employment and livelihoods (agricultural and non-agricultural) data

### Name of affected district, sub-region, country:

- % of households who lost sole income earner, by sex of head of household
- % of households who lost primary income earner, by sex of head of household
- % of households who lost primary means of income generation, by sex of head of household
- % of households who lost productive assets, e.g., crops, livestock, seeds, tools, by sex of head of household
- % of individuals in need of temporary employment, by sex and age

### Suggested qualitative gender-aware post-disaster employment and livelihoods information

1. Which economic sectors are damaged (agriculture, tourism, fisheries), and to what extent (partially or fully). In what direct and indirect ways were women and/or men involved in these sectors? Are seasonal crop cycles and other income generating activities interrupted?

2. What are the economic impacts of the disaster on the affected region and women and men therein? What types of economic infrastructure have been destroyed, e.g., markets? What types of economic infrastructure have been damaged? How have the key economic assets for women and men (land, markets, access to markets) been affected?

3. Describe the condition of the public distribution system responsible for making low cost food/rations available to poor citizens.

4. What are the short- to medium-term income generation strategies and needs of female- and male-headed households? Are specific recovery mechanisms necessary to support each type of household?

5. Are there changes in the practices, norms and regulations that contribute to vulnerabilities experienced by women and girls, e.g., customary norms preventing women from access to, and control of, credit and property? If yes, will they improve the socio-economic well-being of women and girls? What early recovery mechanisms are needed to support the broadening of opportunities?

6. What are the current levels of involvement of women and men from the affected area in employment and livelihood programmes (where such programmes exist)? Who is responsible for these programmes?

7. Are the public and private sectors collaborating to respond to identified livelihood needs of women, men and families? What can be done to facilitate and strengthen this process?

8. Identify the natural disaster risks and vulnerabilities to the main sources of agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods of affected women and men.

9. What types and level of support are necessary to local authorities so that they can best respond to early recovery employment and livelihood needs?

## SECTION 4.3

# Gender-sensitive post-disaster education data

### Name of affected district, sub-region, country:

- # of schools to be repaired/rebuilt, by level
- # of single-sex schools to be repaired/rebuilt, by sex and level
- # of teachers to train and hire, by sex and level
- # of school administrators to train and hire, by sex and level
- % of children removed from elementary school, by sex and age

### Suggested qualitative gender-aware post-disaster education information

1. Are there new challenges facing female and male heads of households in educating their children and increasing their own skill levels?

2. Are there changes in the retention rates of girls and boys in elementary and/or secondary schools? If yes, why? What early recovery mechanisms are needed to ensure that both girls and boys attend school, e.g., female teachers, tuition, exam fees, books and other materials, school feeding programmes?

3. Are there sufficient single-sex and co-educational schools, with adequate toilet facilities, within easy reach of girls and boys from the affected areas?

4. Are there health education and awareness programmes and are they targeted to women and children?

5. Are there violence against women education, awareness and prevention programmes, and are they targeted to women, children and men? Who is providing them?

6. What types and level of support is necessary to local authorities so that they can best respond to identified needs of women and girls?

## SECTION 4.4

# Gender-sensitive post-disaster shelter, housing and land issues data

### Name of affected district, sub-region, country:

- # of households in temporary shelters, by sex of head of household
- # of households in need of transition shelter
- # of home owners who must rebuild their homes, by sex of head of household
- # of home owners who must repair their homes, by sex of head of household
- # of orphanages destroyed
- # of orphanages damaged

### Suggested qualitative gender-aware post-disaster shelter, housing and land issues information<sup>6</sup>

1. Percentage of population affected and in need of housing assistance, by sex and age. Specify type and possible duration of assistance.

2. Identify the different uses of the house, e.g., shelter and micro-entrepreneurship, and possessions lost, such as furniture, cooking utensils, equipment related to livelihood, school supplies, clothes, and legal documents.

3. What in terms of residential and non residential infrastructure is needed to help female- and male-headed households rebuild their lives?

4. Are the public and private sectors collaborating to respond to identified housing and infrastructure needs? What can be done to facilitate and strengthen this process?

5. Are beneficial changes in formal, informal and traditional land tenure practices for women and men from marginalized communities anticipated? If yes, what early recovery mechanisms are necessary to reinforce such changes? What early recovery mechanisms are necessary to ensure that families who have lost male household heads can transfer ownership rights to women in those contexts where ownership rights are often not granted to women? Do housing, land and property restitution programmes, policies and practices recognize the joint ownership rights of both female and male heads of households?

6. Identify environmental, architectural and economic risks and vulnerabilities related to housing for affected female heads of households, as well as ways to address them.

7. What early recovery mechanisms are needed to facilitate sustainable use of natural resources (e.g. capacity development, infrastructure development, knowledge transfer about natural resources management)?

8. Identify the primary person responsible for home repair/rebuilding. Identify the main building materials used. Are the houses built in ways to survive extreme weather conditions? If yes, identify sustainable strategies and if no, explain.

9. Are affected community members in general, and women in particular, consulted about housing design and reconstruction? What early recovery mechanisms can be deployed to facilitate the use of sustainable construction techniques and materials by the women and/or men responsible for home repair and rebuilding?

10. Do planning authorities consider the patterns of life of the returning community in the design of economic infrastructure, such as roads? Are affected community members in general, and women in particular, consulted about the planning and rebuilding of communities, e.g., regarding the location of public areas such as playgrounds and water points etc?

11. What types and levels of support are necessary for local authorities to best respond to early recovery needs?

6. See Asian Development Bank's (2003) comprehensive check list for resettlement.

## SECTION 4.5

# Gender-sensitive post-disaster health, nutrition, water and sanitation hygiene (WASH) data<sup>7</sup>

### Name of affected district, sub-region, country:

- # of public medical facilities to be rebuilt/repared in same location
- # of public medical facilities to rebuilt/repared in new location
- # of medical personnel to train and hire, by sex and level
- % of individuals who experienced gender based violence (GBV) during the disaster, by sex and age
- # of individuals at risk of malnutrition, by sex and age
- Distance to nearest water access point, by sex and age
- Distance to nearest sanitation facility, by sex and age

### Suggested qualitative gender-aware post-disaster health, nutrition and WASH information

1. What are the main post-disaster health problems experienced by affected females and males in various age groups? Are these different from the unaffected population? If yes, why?

2. What types of medical personnel are needed? Which national authority is responsible for training and hiring? Which national authority is responsible for rebuilding and equipping medical facilities in the affected communities? What mechanisms are necessary to ensure that the work of the national authority is strengthened and supported?

3. Are the medical facilities within an accessible distance from the affected community?

4. Are the survivors of sexual assault and/or other forms of GBV seeking medical and legal help? From which agency/agencies are they requesting assistance? Are these agencies adequately staffed and resourced to respond? If no, what mechanisms are needed to ensure that survivors get the assistance they require?

5. What mechanisms are in place to identify persons at risk of GBV? Who is leading these programmes? How can local government be supported to provide effective services to survivors of GBV?

6. What early recovery mechanisms are needed to reinforce efforts to end violence against women?

7. What recovery mechanisms are needed to address the psychological needs of women, girls, boys and men?

8. Have additional health care services been established to assist affected populations? If yes, how are they linked to the national/regional health care systems?

9. What types of services are provided by the health care systems – state and NGO etc? What is the service capacity? Are there any gaps in service delivery?

10. Are awareness programmes in place to increase knowledge about water-borne diseases and violence against women?

7. It is important to note that the WHO's Ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies [http://www.who.int/gender/documents/EthicsSafety\\_web.pdf](http://www.who.int/gender/documents/EthicsSafety_web.pdf) provides a useful guide when conducting original research on sexual violence.

## SECTION 4.6

# Gender-sensitive post-disaster governance and reintegration data

### Name of district, city, sub-region, country:

- Sex ratio of population of voting age
- Sex ratio of registered voters
- # of candidatures submitted, by sex
- # of elected officials, by sex
- # of appointed officials, by sex
- % of seats in parliament held by women

### Suggested qualitative gender-sensitive post-disaster governance and reintegration data

1. What are the access patterns to basic social services, by sex and geographic location (urban and rural)?

2. What is the condition of the public distribution system responsible for making low cost food/rations available to poor citizens?

3. Do women and members of marginalized communities have leadership roles in local and national governance structures?

4. What are the roles of local leaders and religious figures in governance structures and processes?

5. Are there changes in the norms, practices, policies and laws that influence female and male behaviour and gender roles; what are they?

6. Are there plans to engage in, or is there, periodic, structured dialogue with affected women, girls, boys and men to identify their evolving needs and priorities, coping strategies and proposals? How are participants selected? In what ways will/do the findings inform the planning process?

7. Were displaced women and men able to rescue/attain formal documents, including identification documents and land deeds? Do both women and men have the same rights to identity and other key documents?

8. Is there a reliable mechanism for registering post-disaster births?

9. Do affected women and men have adequate and up-to-date information regarding their homes, communities, family members, services offered etc? Which institutions are providing such information? Are they linked with the local and national authorities? Is additional assistance necessary?

10. Which UN prevention and/or recovery programmes are targeted to women and girls?

11. Can the available capacities of the local and national administrative systems adequately respond to the multiple demands of the affected communities? If no, what resources are necessary to strengthen and facilitate necessary service delivery?

## SECTION 5.

# Gender-Aware Post-Disaster Recovery Planning

The results of the gender-aware post-disaster needs assessment should constitute the basis for joint planning by all stakeholders. It is therefore recommended to organize a stakeholders meeting where discussions can be held on identified needs, and agreements can be made on priority areas to address and the appropriate measures to be undertaken.

**Table II: Suggested Entry Points for Integrating Gender-Aware Actions in the Recovery Planning Process**

Assessment Steps	Suggested Entry Points for Gender-Aware Actions
<b>Develop integrated gender-aware recovery initiatives with related costings</b>	<p>Design recovery initiatives that: (i) are informed by the documented similar and different needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men; (ii) reinforce identified mechanisms that reduce social and economic vulnerabilities; and (iii) support spontaneous sustainable recovery activities of women, men and marginalized communities</p> <p>Involve INGOs and NGOs, as appropriate, in local planning of recovery initiatives</p> <p>Gender Specialist/Focal Point provides technical assistance</p>
<b>Draft and present final report</b>	<p>Finalize gender-aware recovery report</p> <p>Promote findings on the gendered dimensions of disaster and recovery in multi-stakeholder settings</p> <p>Promote gender-aware recovery initiatives for public and private sector support</p> <p>Gender Specialist/Focal Point provides technical assistance</p>
<b>Conduct Lessons Learnt (self-evaluation) Workshop</b>	<p>Conduct 'Lessons Learnt Workshop' highlighting successes and constraints in: (i) integrating gender-aware tools in the assessment process; (ii) facilitating female participation in Assessment Team; and (iii) consulting social ministries, national machineries working on women's, gender and youth issues, INGOs and NGOs, and women, girls, boys and men from affected communities</p> <p>Draft lessons learnt report with recommendations</p> <p>Gender Specialist/Focal Point provides technical assistance</p>

## ANNEX I:

# Example of Gender-Aware Pre-Assessment Planning Checklist

<b>Gender-Aware Pre-Assessment Planning:</b> <i>(please check appropriate column)</i>			
Organization:			
Completed by:			
Assessment Place:			
Assessment Date:		Date Checked:	
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>No</b>
Assessment Team provided with gender-sensitive baseline data			
Assessment Team comprised of women and men			
Assessment Team trained on ways to identify the specific and different needs, priorities and interests of women, girls, boys and men, and marginalized communities			
In all geographic contexts, female and male assessors are available as women are more comfortable speaking with other women			
In those situations where it is necessary for an assessor to be female, one is available			
Local female and male assessors are deployed as their local knowledge enables them to best capture the social dimensions of the disaster			
At least one of the local organizations involved has a solid record of working with/for women			
At least one member of the analysis team (Gender Focal Point) has both knowledge and capability to conduct a gender-sensitive analysis of the data and use it to inform the recovery planning process			
An inventory of baseline data sources and sex- and age-disaggregated demographic and sector-specific data has been developed			

## ANNEX II:

# Example of Gender-Aware Assessment Checklist

<b>Gender-Aware Assessment:</b> <i>(please check appropriate column)</i>			
Organization:			
Completed by:			
Assessment Place:			
Assessment Date:		Date Checked:	
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>No</b>
Sex- and age-disaggregated baseline and post-disaster data, including information documented during the humanitarian phase, are collected and analysed			
Employment and livelihood needs of women and men are identified			
Natural resource needs of women and men are identified			
Women and men from affected population are consulted			
Assessments are conducted with women and men separately and in same-sex focus groups, in order to identify gender specific needs and priorities			
Organizations working with, and for, women are consulted			
The assessment does not assume that all women or all men have the same needs, priorities and interests, and resists stereotyping women as solely a vulnerable group			
Women's organizations are represented in local Assessment Team			
An inventory of data sources and data on effects of disaster on women, men, boy, girls and marginalized communities, their spontaneous coping strategies, and response from the public and private sectors has been developed			
Gender Advisor participated substantively in the conduct of assessment			

## ANNEX III:

# Example of Gender-Aware Early Recovery and Post-Disaster Recovery Planning Checklist

<b>Gender-Aware Assessment:</b> <i>(please check appropriate column)</i>			
Organization:			
Completed by:			
Assessment Place:			
Assessment Date:		Date Checked:	
<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>No</b>
Sex- and age-disaggregated quantitative data are analysed and used to inform planning			
The results of the consultations with women and men, and women's and youth organizations, have informed recovery priorities and planning			
Proposed early recovery mechanisms aim to reinforce sustainable, spontaneous recovery activities of women and men			
Proposed early recovery mechanisms aim to strengthen women's well-being through support of mechanisms (e.g. regulations) and processes that broaden their opportunities			
Proposed early recovery mechanisms aim to support men as they assume new roles, particularly in the home			
Proposed early recovery initiatives incorporate identified processes that facilitate and retain female and male participation			
Women's NGOs are represented in the local planning committees			
Women's organizations are represented in local Assessment Team			
Gender Advisor involved substantively in early and post-disaster recovery planning			

# CWGER Member and Observer Agencies

## **Action Aid**

**Danish Refugee Council** – International

**FAO** – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Groupe Urgence Réhabilitation Développement** (URD)

## **HelpAge International**

**ICRC** – International Committee of the Red Cross

**IFRC** – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**ILO** – International Labour Organization

**INEE** – Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies

**IOM** – International Organization for Migration

**ISDR Secretariat** – International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

## **Mercy Corps**

**OCHA** – Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**OHCHR** – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

## **ProAct Network**

## **Shelter Centre**

**UNDOCO** – United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office

**UNDP** – United Nations Development Programme

**UNEP** – United Nations Environment Programme

**UNESCO** – United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization

**UNFPA** – United Nations Population Fund

**UN-HABITAT** – United Nations Human Settlement Programme

**UNHCR** – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**UNICEF** – United Nations Children’s Fund

**UNOSAT** – United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)  
– Operational Satellite Applications Programme

**UNV** – United Nations Volunteers

**WFP** – World Food Programme

**WHO** – World Health Organization

## **Women’s Refugee Commission**

**WSPA** – World Society for the Protection of Animals

**Caritas International** (Observer)

**Interaction** (Observer)

**Terre des Hommes International Federation** (Observer)

This **Guide to Gender-Aware Post-Disaster Needs Assessment** was prepared by Dr. Savitri Bisnath, in consultation with the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER). CWGER wishes to thank all the people who have collaborated on the development of this guide. They have given generously of their time and their experience.

For further information on the **CWGER**, please see the Humanitarian Reform web site:  
**[www.humanitarianreform.org](http://www.humanitarianreform.org)**

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