



Gender in Coordinated Needs Assessments

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Gender in coordinated needs assessments

This tool describes practical steps to integrate gender concerns into OCHA-managed coordinated needs assessments.

Ensure a Preliminary Scenario Definition (PSD) is informed by a secondary data review that reflects gender-and age-specific vulnerabilities and needs and the situation of vulnerable groups.

- Use secondary sources to look for gender disparities in humanitarian indices, such as the “Global Gender Index” published by the World Economic Forum. Reports can be accessed from www.weforum.org/issues/global-gender-gap/
- Encourage the use of multiple information sources and identify good sources of information on gender-related and/or women’s issues.
- Use information from national NGOs for a better appreciation of the local context.

Advocate the collection of views from women, men, girls and boys to ensure gender perspectives are captured in needs assessments.

This could include separate focus group discussions for women, men, girls and boys. Ensure community-level

data collection effectively captures the different needs, views and capacities of women, girls, boys and men.

Ensure the following:

- 1 Ensure assessment teams have a fair balance of men and women in order to better capture gender dimensions.
- 2 Prioritize “do no harm” ethics in needs analysis, i.e. what information is collected and for what specific purpose.
- 3 Promote awareness of possible biases in information collected. For example, if women were not consulted, do these priorities really reflect the community’s needs and priorities?
- 4 Promote the greater use of local women’s organizations and women leaders as information sources on women and girls.
- 5 Collect and use data disaggregated by sex and age to inform good programming.

Data collection, analysis and report writing use disaggregated data by sex and age.

Capture the following:

- How many people are affected?
- What is the ratio of males to females?
- How many women, girls, boys and men?
- How many need humanitarian assistance?
- How are they distributed geographically?



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Analysis/reporting should provide an appreciation of coverage and gaps.

The following considerations should be taken into account:

- Do the male and female populations have equal access to assistance?
- What are the barriers to accessing assistance for women, girls, boys and men?
- Are there factors that increase the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse?
- Gender issues arising from needs assessments inform humanitarian priorities for response.
- Humanitarian priorities deriving from the needs analysis should provide an understanding of the following:
 - The key issues to be considered in terms of gender, age and protection.
 - The distinct needs for assistance and protection of women, girls, boys and men.
 - The priority areas and groups to be targeted for intervention.



To find out more about gender equality work in OCHA and additional gender tools, go to:

<http://ochanet.unocha.org/TI/Gender/>
<http://gender.humanitarianresponse.info>