



IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING *EVERYONE* IN PREPARING FOR AN EMERGENCY

It is clear from past natural disasters that when disaster plans and arrangements are not developed collaboratively, agreed to and understood by everyone, there are unnecessary casualties and suffering. **Taking into account the different needs and opinions of women, girls, boys and men makes our humanitarian response more effective.** In preparing for Pacific emergencies, we must keep in mind that disasters make existing inequalities even worse. More vulnerable groups, those with less resources and less political power, will be left out unless we work to ensure that **EVERYONE** gets their needs met and are involved in planning the response.

Gender is a cross-cutting issue in the cluster system and the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) assists clusters to adopt 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.

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

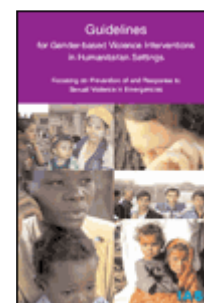
A **SSASS NEEDS:** Women, girls, boys and men have different needs during and after an emergency, so special care must be made to address the needs of each of these groups. Include balanced and representative numbers of women and in any planning or preparedness exercise, to take account of their opinions. Post-disaster needs assessment teams must be diverse & representative, including men and women, so the needs of all portions of the affected population are assessed.

B **E ALERT** to gender-based violence and the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. In times of crisis sexual violence can be exacerbated. Pacific countries document a high prevalence of violence against women in normal times, so increases should be expected. Look for measures to prevent violence and put in systems to respond to survivors. Take responsibility for what you hear and say – it is everyone’s responsibility to take seriously and report exploitation and abuse by anyone responding to this crisis.

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. In natural disasters, mortality for women has been 3 – 15 times higher for women than for men.

For more details, refer to the ADAPT and ACT framework in the IASC Gender Handbook and use the GBV guidelines at <http://gender.oneresponse.info>

A short video introduction to the handbook can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/7296455> and <http://vimeo.com/7310380> (lower resolution). A free on-line gender training course to practice using gender analysis is available at <http://oneresponse.info/crosscutting/gender/Pages/Training.aspx>





The Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) has deployed a Gender Adviser to the Pacific Region to assist coordination of gender and GBV programming in disaster preparedness. All IASC members are encouraged to use this resource and include GenCap in coordination and planning efforts. Contact email: gencap@ochapacific.org or deborah.clifton@undpaffiliates.org

Immediate Concerns: how to address gender in your cluster

CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

Try and identify specific risk factors faced by women, girls, boys and men in camp and camp-like settings and incorporate this analysis in security provisions (e.g. appropriate lighting in areas frequently used by women and girls, safe and confidential reporting mechanisms, deployment of female security personnel, etc.) Take specific actions to ensure vulnerable groups such as single or child-headed households get special support. Ensure equal representation of women and men in community-based decision-making structures and provide capacity-building sessions in knowledge and skills to undertake community leadership roles. Work in partnership with displaced women, girls, boys and men to identify and strengthen their capacities and mobilise their participation in all aspects of camp life. Share information and hold meetings in the local language so all the population can understand.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

In overcrowded evacuation centres rape and other forms of sexual violence and exploitation will happen. Ensure that special measures have been taken to provide separate accommodation for unaccompanied girls, boys and young women away from adult males. Ensure that adequate privacy is offered to all. Involve women's organization in the set-up and management of evacuation centres.

PROTECTION

Recent Pacific *Family Health and Safety Studies* have documented domestic violence rates among the highest in the world, and noted that sexual violence is also widespread. Many Pacific countries do not have legislation against domestic violence; in most, rape within marriage is not recognized as an offence. In many places, violence against women is normative behaviour, with high proportions of women as well as men believing that in some circumstances such violence is justified. Reporting is low; prosecution and conviction even more so. Crises bring additional stress on families and limited resources, and an accompanying increase in violence against women and children.

HEALTH

The health of women and children is most at risk in disaster, particularly the very young, nursing mothers and pregnant women. Even in the absence of disasters, women in the Pacific continue to die from pregnancy and childbirth. Many of these deaths are avoidable if women are better educated, empowered to make informed choices, have control over their fertility and have access to health services. Interventions to improve the lives of women and girls must address the social determinants of health embedded in socio-cultural practices, gender and human rights dimensions.

Gender-responsive interventions and health care responses in disasters require that the following data are available and a gender analysis applied:

- age- and sex-disaggregated cause-specific mortality and morbidity rates
- age- and sex-disaggregated case fatality rates
- female-, male- and child-headed households
- social structures, including positions of authority/influence, and the roles of women and men
- groups with specific needs (including physically and mentally disability) by age and sex

Disaster responses must meet the needs of women and children and address other reproductive health needs such as contraception, emergency delivery services, and care for survivors of sexual abuse.

WASH

Women and girls are traditionally responsible for water collection. Accordingly, it is essential that WASH actors consult with women and girls on the location of water points and the practicalities of transporting water (size/volume of jerry cans, etc.)

In addition, given the heightened risk of violence, including sexual violence, against women and girls, 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. In short, communal latrine and washing cubicles for women, girls, boys and men must be sited in safe locations, be culturally-appropriate, provide privacy, be adequately illuminated and accessible by those with disabilities.

NFIs DISTRIBUTION:

Political interference can divert aid from those who need it most. Involve respected community and women's organizations in managing distribution. Be aware that the strongest get the NFIs first, leaving many without support and often putting them in desperate situations. Take account of changing family units, and tailor NFI distribution to reach those who are providing care for the family.