



FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME



WOMEN' LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, ACCESS AND PROTECTION IN CRISIS RESPONSE

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The issue

The rights and needs of women and girls affected by humanitarian crises must be at the heart of humanitarian action. Gender-responsive humanitarian action prioritizing equality, safety participation, leadership and economic wellbeing of women result in effective humanitarian outcomes.

Women and girls are the worst affected by emergencies and crises while they are also the main caregivers and among the first responders, holding their families and communities together. Providing targeted livelihood and protection support to women in humanitarian settings has a direct effect on the wellbeing and recovery prospects of their families and communities.

Women's active participation in economic life makes peacebuilding and recovery efforts more sustainable. Despite crises becoming more protracted, reaching to a staggering 17 to 25 years, humanitarian aid must aim at addressing the long-term problems. The under-investment in gender equality persist globally and humanitarian action must offer opportunities for women to rebuild their lives in dignity. By underpinning humanitarian and recovery strategic planning and programming with gender analysis based on sex and age disaggregated data, the needs and vulnerabilities of all the women, men, girls and boys of crisis affected populations can be adequately addressed.

Our strategy for change

Women's leadership, empowerment, access and protection in crises response is one of UN Women's Flagship Programming Initiatives. The following outcome areas have been identified as essential to have the desired impact:

1. Humanitarian response planning, frameworks and programming are gender inclusive and responsive.

Women's needs must inform humanitarian planning and programming, and national, UN, and civil society organizations must have the capacity and opportunity to integrate gender equality into planning and programming. Evidence and experience shows that through the

UN WOMEN'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME INITIATIVES

Women's leadership, empowerment, access and protection in crises response is one of UN Women's Flagship Programming Initiatives designed to ensure that UN Women can deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Flagship Programme will support national governments to address multiple SDG targets across multiple goals.



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explicit involvement of women in its design and implementation, humanitarian assistance will be more gender inclusive and responsive, whilst promoting women's empowerment.

2. Protection and economic opportunities for women affected by sudden onset emergencies, including those displaced and living in temporary shelters and host communities. Women affected by sudden onset emergencies – especially those who have been displaced – must be meaningfully engaged in humanitarian relief through increased access to productive and financial assets, protection mechanisms, and effective support services resulting in social and economic wellbeing.

3. Positive coping mechanisms are promoted for marginalized women and girls affected by protracted and slow onset crises. Marginalized women and girls affected by protracted and slow onset crises must have access to the required assets, skills, social services and partnerships that are fundamental to promote positive coping mechanisms and afford them increased opportunities to develop their resilience and achieve long-term recovery.

How the Programme works

The programme will be rolled out along three parallel tracks:

- Regional/multi country projects that address the contexts of displacement and vulnerability as a result of sudden onset, slow onset and/or protracted crisis with impact spanning across a number of countries;
- A portfolio of country projects that meet the specific country/crisis context; and
- A window through the Global Acceleration Instrument focused on crisis response to support regional and country level initiatives through UN Women's field offices.

The Global Policy Project will support country and regional projects by developing a programme toolkit including implementation guide, data collection, gender assessment and analysis tools, procedures on delivering through cash assistance schemes etc. Lessons learnt from existing programmes will be developed including through convening communities of practice.

COVER PHOTO: *On March 13, 2015 Cyclone Pam destroyed 96% of Vanuatu's crops, leaving many women without food and source of income. UN Women worked with local partners to re-open Marobe Market House near Port Vila two weeks after the cyclone. Vendors sell whatever produce they have left while the new arts and crafts section provides an alternative source of income for some of the vendors while they re-grow their crops.*

FACTS AND FIGURES - WOMEN AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- A total of 59.5 million people were displaced in 2014 due to violence or persecution, while an estimated 107.3 million people were affected by disasters caused by natural hazards. (UNHCR, "Global Trends Forced Displacement", 2014)
- Of the 80 million who were in need of humanitarian assistance, more than 75% were women and children. (Women Refugee Commission, 2015.)
- Research shows that women's active participation in economic life makes peacebuilding and recovery efforts more sustainable. (UN Women and IDS, *The Effect of Gender Equality Programming on Humanitarian Outcomes*, 2015)
- Data show a persistent gender-bias and under-investment in gender equality. According to the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report (2015), the proportion of humanitarian projects making a 'principal' or 'significant' contribution to gender equality fell from 24% in 2012 to just under 20% in 2014.

Partnerships for change

To create the enabling environment for the outcomes to occur, it will require the mobilization, coordination, and capacity-building of a broad range of stakeholders.

UN Women will build on the strategic partnerships it enjoys at the corporate, regional and country levels with the UN family, Member States, women's machineries and civil society organizations. Along with its coordination mandate, UN Women's corporate partnership with OCHA will be leveraged to mobilize humanitarian and crisis response actors for gender-responsive planning, assessments and crisis response. Greater partnership with UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF will also be sought to facilitate joint programmatic engagement in refugee and IDP settings, referencing existing models of collaboration for additional replication in countries where LEAP is applicable.

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