UN Women in Humanitarian Action, DRR and crisis Response

Addressing Vulnerability, Promoting Accountability, and Enabling Empowerment of women and girls in crisis
Heightened Vulnerability in a World in Crisis: An Imperative for Action

1 in 5 women suffer from SGBV in crises

Overemphasis on victimhood

141.6m in need of humanitarian assistance

68 m displaced by conflict

19.2 m displaced by disasters

1 in 5 girls married before age 18

60% of preventable maternal deaths occur in crises

131 million girls out of school

500 adult illiterate women. And girls 2.5 times more likely to drop out

Women have a higher chance of dying and die earlier than men when disaster strikes

Average displacement is 17-26 years

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A mixed picture: Normative and policy gains and persistent Gaps in Upholding Gender Commitments

- The World Humanitarian Summit – Agenda for Humanity Commitments
  - 54% of HRPs lack gender analysis

- Global compact for Refugees and The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants
  - Less than 60% of the reporting countries held consultations with local women’s organizations

- The IASC Gender Policy and Accountability Framework
  - Merely 20% of countries had an independent gender analysis feeding into the humanitarian planning process
  - Only 1.15% of financed HRP projects is targeted programming and 32% mainstream gender

- Sendai Framework for Action for DRR

The inaugural Accountability Framework Report developed by UN Women on behalf of the IASC Gender Reference Group reveals inconsistency in the adoption and implementation of the Gender Policy.
UN Women’s approach

**Coordination**

Co-chair of the IASC’s Gender Reference Group – UN Women has led on key deliverables in partnership with OCHA, UNHCR, OXFAM:

- Review and Update of the IASC’s Gender Policy and established the Accountability Framework
- Hosts the Gender Desk which carries out the monitoring function of the policy’s Accountability Framework
- Gender Alerts for major humanitarian crises: Ebola, South Sudan, Yemen, CAR, Iraq, Nepal, Haiti, Hurricane Irma.
- IASC Gender Handbook and training of individuals from 42 different agencies.

Engaged in UNHCT and clusters in 20 countries

Leads the Grand Bargain’s Friends of Gender Group and active in 4 workstreams

**Normative:**

Global Compact on Refugees in partnership with UNHCR –

- global and regional consultations with women organizations and member states.
- Mainstreaming GEEWG across all themes. Position papers and aide-memoire developed for member states for consultations for development of GCR. Engagement with the Global Refugee Forum.

WHS/Agenda for Humanity – UN Women convener and catalyst resulting in 446 commitments and continued monitoring.

UN Common guidance on resilience
UN Women’s Response: Catalytic programming

LEAP - Addressing immediate needs (Crisis Response): Restoring dignity, amplifying voices and leveraging leadership

Second Chance Education: A humanitarian-development nexus initiative responding to an urgent gap

Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction:

UN WOMEN’S HUMANITARIAN ACTION/LEAP IN NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Pilot countries</th>
<th>UN Women humanitarian response operations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crisis context</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>235,000 women and girls, and 89,000 men and boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe spaces and/or empowerment centers</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>61,500 women and more than 4,500 men in over 12 UN Women country programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Women country programs</td>
<td>35,226</td>
<td>7,384 women in over 12 UN Women humanitarian response operations</td>
</tr>
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UN WOMEN’S SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION (SCE) IN NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Pilot countries</th>
<th>UN Women country programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66,500 women and young women including 20,000 refugee/ migrant women as direct beneficiaries of UN Women SCE programme</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4 tracks of learning and earning pathways</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Job Skills, Life Skills, Foundational Skills, Leadership Skills</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UN WOMEN’S SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION (SCE) IN NUMBERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>39 countries had UN Women disaster risk reduction and resilience activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>90,907 women and girls and 13,809 men and boys in 21 countries directly benefited from UN Women’s services to enhance their resilience against disasters and facilitate their participation and leadership in the development of disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies and programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>100 women’s organizations were supported to contribute to national disaster risk reduction policy making</td>
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<tr>
<td>97 partners in 31 disaster risk reduction and resilience operational country contexts from the UN, academia, CSOs and NGOs, international organizations, and the private sector</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Management Response

Corporate Thematic Evaluation of UN-Women’s Contribution to Humanitarian Action
Conclusion 1
• UN Women helps to ensure that
gender equality and the
empowerment of women remains
central to humanitarian action.

Conclusion 2
• Stronger links are needed between
UN Women’s global normative work
and humanitarian coordination
mechanisms where needs and
priorities are determined.

Conclusion 3
• UN Women should continue to build
on its “development” work while
increasing a focus on the
“humanitarian” side of the nexus.

Conclusion 4
• Working in partnership can ensure
that UN Women makes
contributions at sufficient scale
while increasing opportunities for
funding.

Conclusion 5
• There is significant evidence that UN
Women has been highly effective in
its global normative work.

Conclusion 6
• Lessons from UN Women’s country
level work should serve to improve
programming approaches globally
and serve as a catalyst for longer-
term transformative change.

Conclusion 7
• UN Women’s reliance on non-core
resources tends to make it more
reactive and less strategic, and thus
less efficient overall.

Conclusion 8
• UN Women’s capacity and expertise
in humanitarian action vary across
offices, risking UN Women’s ability
to deliver consistently.

Conclusion 9
• UN Women’s work exemplifies
gender equality and human rights
approaches.
Going Forward

**Sustain** global engagement of UN Women in humanitarian and crisis related normative, policy and coordination mechanisms to promote accountability to GEEWG in humanitarian and recovery efforts.

**Link** global policy and coordination strengths with country level efforts to bridge gaps between commitments and implementation in coordination and response planning.

**Consolidate** and leverage UN Women catalytic and transformative approach (hum-dev nexus) to maximize gender outcomes of the system at large.

**Focus** in fewer number of countries to reach scale and higher impact, continue to be the global advocate and supporter of localization and women’s leadership in humanitarian action and DRR.

**Strengthen** partnership to maximize impact through system wide response and joint action at global, regional and country level.

**Align** strategy, structure, capacities and action with further support from donor base.
Management Response and Action

Recommendation 1: Develop a response-level strategy to complement UN Women’s global humanitarian strategy (RM strategy, annual reviews of GiHA)

- Finalize the UN-Women Humanitarian Strategy, RM strategy [Initiated; Jan 2020].
- Conduct internal annual reviews of Gender in Humanitarian Action – Gender Desk for the IASC [Ongoing; Q2, annually]

Recommendation 2: Identify the necessary leadership, minimum levels of staffing and office structures for a response-level strategy in humanitarian settings to ensure UN Women can maximize its influence at the country level

- UN Women currently reviewing country presence- Rightsizing offices.
- Capacity development trainings and thematic webinars. [Ongoing: Q2 2020] GiHA training already conducted in WCARO, APRO.
- UN-Women Crisis Management Protocols and Fast Track processes [Initiated; Q4 2019]
- Technical guidance on gender responsive localization, cash transfers, participation revolution and harmonized needs assessment, and rollout PSEA guidance [Initiated; Q4 2019]
- Strengthen humanitarian content under UN Women’s global Knowledge Management Platform [SharePoint] [Ongoing; Q1 2020]
- Strengthen UN Women internal expert deployment systems at global and regional level [Ongoing; Q4 2019]

Recommendation 3: Develop global partnership frameworks with OCHA, UNHCR and UNFPA building on experience in partnerships in different contexts

- Capitalize on joint initiatives at global, regional and country level for scale up.
- SMT engagement with UN OCHA, UNFPA and UNHCR to formalize framework agreements within the spirit of UN reforms [Not initiated; June 2020];
- HACRO will engage with the AAP and PSEA lead agencies (OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF) to ensure guidance provides specifics on W&Gs accessing AAP/PSEA in country level strategies. [Ongoing; June 2020]

Recommendation 4: Increase effectiveness and impact in humanitarian action by better linking UN Women’s work to system-wide responses while minimizing programming that is not done in partnership or that does not have broader strategic importance.

- HACRO will develop field level coordination SOPs [Not Initiated; Q1 2020];
- HACRO will finalize the UNW humanitarian strategy and programme guidance with a clear criteria and checklist for prioritization of programmatic engagement [Initiated; Jan 2020]

Limited core resources

Limited non-core for coordination capacities

Shift is contingent on backing and funding of an accountability and coordination mechanism for UN Women in Humanitarian Action.

Upscale of SIDA supported strategic partnership framework which enables UNW’s implementation of SP outcome 5
Thank You

Hiba Qasas

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