



Minimum Standards on Gender

Why gender matters in protection interventions

According to assessments conducted by protection actors in 2016, internally displaced women and children are disproportionately vulnerable to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). Unaccompanied girls and adolescent boys, single heads of households, child mothers, child spouses, and women and girls living with disability are most at risk. This reality relates to myriad of factors including separation from families, limited access to support and economic opportunities, and overcrowded in IDP settlement which offer minimal privacy and security. Most girls and boys formerly abducted by Boko Haram face stigma and family rejection. The lack of adequate reintegration services and worsening economic situations of most internally displaced persons, particularly women, girls and boys expose them to vulnerable environments making them susceptible to abuse, violence and exploitation. In order to address and mitigate protection challenges women, girls, boys and men, all humanitarian must ensure that their services are tailored to suit the specific needs of the different groups based on age, gender and diversity perspective.

Gender, age and diversity demographics and dynamics relative to protection programming

The ongoing crisis in North East (NE), Nigeria has resulted in profound negative impact on women, girls, men and boys. Most IDPs are experiencing a range of protection risks and challenges. Their vulnerability is multidimensional including severe damage of social fabrics and safety nets, destruction of property and infrastructure in areas of origin.

- Women and children make up 79 per cent of the IDP population in NE, Nigeria with 35 per cent of the IDP population being children under 18 years (30%F and 25%M)¹
- 25 per cent of Households (HH) have children with protection needs including unaccompanied minors and separated children.²
- 7 per cent of the IDPs are older persons with protection needs³ (UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round III, 2016)
- In Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe States, an average of one in ten households has a family member with disability (mental or physical)
- 38 per cent of the HHs in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States are headed by females without male adult support.
- Overcrowding in IDP settlements and lack of privacy in shared accommodation and limited WASH facilities place women and girls at heightened risk of SGBV.
- Due to culture, some families practice “*tenet of kulle*” which prevents women from leaving their homes thus, impeding their freedom of movement including access to humanitarian assistance and livelihood opportunities.
- Food insecurity and protection risks such as denial of free movement in and out of formal settlements are mutually reinforcing factors that contribute to negative coping practices such as survival sex and early/forced marriage among others.
- Lack of adequate space and shelter in some IDP settlements has contributed to separation of families whereby men and women have been separated and accommodated in single sex communal shelters as opposed to maintaining families as a unit.

The sources of all data and information are included in the OCHA Gender and SGBV Analysis (available on request from OCHA Maiduguri).

¹ DTM Round X111, Dec 2016

² UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round III, Dec 2016

³ UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round III, Dec 2016



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Share information on entitlements to distributions, services and facilities and free access to all humanitarian services.
- Monitor vulnerable women, children, older people and people with disabilities continuously to ensure receipt of entitlement without exploitation and abuse.
- Mainstream messages on GBV prevention and response and child protection during distributions.
- Prioritise women and child mothers in protection and community activities to ensure active engagement and participation.
- Ensure that the community programmes address the specific reproductive needs of women and adolescent girls
- Establish complaints and feedback mechanisms in each IDP location to enable beneficiaries provide their inputs in programme design, implementation and evaluation.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

- When conducting assessments, collect, analyze, use and report sex and age-disaggregated data including vulnerabilities to inform programme design and enhancement. Pay special attention to older persons and persons with disabilities.
- Ensure that security screenings and other procedures are conducted in a dignified manner and are gender- and age-sensitive. Security staff should include female officers.
- Ensure that all humanitarian personnel are aware of the 'Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Prevention of and Response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV and Child Protection), including a referral mechanisms for adults and children. Ensure that all humanitarian staff and volunteers sign the Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy and receive training on child protection and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- Adapt the SOPs on GBV and Child Protection into a format that is easily accessible by the IDP and host community populations, including translation in appropriate languages and ensure that this information is widely shared through information education and communication materials, community and national radio and TV stations.
- Liaise with national child protection and GBV actors to establish clear referral mechanisms for tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children.
- Work with CCCM Sector Working Group to establish safe spaces for women and girls as well as child-friendly/learning spaces.
- Ensure individual registration for female-headed households and unaccompanied children to facilitate their access to humanitarian assistance.
- Provide dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age, including protective items such as torches and whistles where appropriate.
- Monitor the distribution of humanitarian assistance to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals and households have equal access to assistance and services.

Monitor and ensure the safety, security and civilian character of camps through reinforcement of camp management structures for protection from violence, abuse and exploitation including forced recruitment of children.