



Why gender matters in CCCM, shelter and NFI 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 those 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 overcrowding in IDP settlements which offer minimal privacy and security. Most women, 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 expose them to vulnerable environments making them susceptible to abuse, violence and exploitation. In order to address and mitigate protection challenges faced by the women, girls, boys and men, all humanitarian actors must ensure that their services are tailored to suit the specific needs of the different groups based on age, gender and diversity perspectives.

Gender, age and diversity dynamics relative to CCCM, Shelter and NFI 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 55 percent of the IDP population being children under 18 years (30% F and 25% M¹.)
- An estimated 25 per cent of Households (HH) have children with protection needs including unaccompanied minors and separated children².
- 7% per cent of the IDPs are older persons with protections needs.
- 38 per cent of the HHs in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States are headed by females without any male adult support³.
- 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 limitation of 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.
- 44 per cent of IDP settlements have separate WASH facilities including latrines for males and females. Existing anecdotal reports reveal that disaggregation of latrines and bathrooms is not always respected, hence increasing protection risk for women and young girls.

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 XIII Dec 2016

² UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round III, Dec 2016

³ UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round II, June 2016



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- IDP participation and engagement in the governance and day-to-day management of the IDP site is critical. Ensure that both women, including child mothers and men are engaged in all IDP decision making committees.
- 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 entitlements without exploitation and abuse.
- Pass messages on GBV prevention and response and child protection during distributions.
- Support/establish a complaints and feedback mechanism in each IDP settlement to enable beneficiaries provide their inputs in programme design, implement 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 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 all humanitarian staff and volunteers sign the Code of Conduct on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and Child Protection Policy and are trained on both.
- 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.
- Provide solar lights and fuel-efficient stoves wherever possible and appropriate.
- Work with the WASH partners in the same location to ensure that lighting/solar panels are installed around the latrines to ensure women and girls' safety. In camp settings, in the absence of lighting, provide flash torches to allow users to access latrines at night.
- Liaise with national child protection and GBV actors to support clear referral mechanisms for tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children.
- Ensure individual registration for female-headed households and unaccompanied children to facilitate their access to humanitarian assistance.
- 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.
- Respect minimum standard in shelter to minimize risks of exploitation and abuse.