



## Minimum Standards on Gender

### Why gender and age matters in emergency food security interventions

According to assessments conducted by the 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 demographics and dynamics relative to emergency food security interventions

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% M<sup>1</sup>.)
- An estimated 25 per cent of Households (HH) have children with protection needs including unaccompanied minors and separated children<sup>2</sup>.
- 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 support<sup>3</sup>.
- 25 per cent of Households (HH) have children with protection needs including unaccompanied minors and separated children
- In Adamwa, 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 any 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 limitation on 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.
- There are reports of women being attacked, raped, killed and abducted while collecting firewood particularly as they travel further from settlements in search of firewood.
- The protection risks that women face are linked directly to the level of assistance they can reach on a regular basis, their prior vocational skills and capacity to carry them out.
- Although farming is the IDPs’ main occupation, however, because of the displacement, most IDPs do not have access to land for cultivation.
- The Cash Working Group developed a common definition of household that reflects the distinct demographic profile and gender dynamics of the affected population, including polygamous households.

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

<sup>1</sup> DTM Round XIII Dec 2016

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round III, Dec 2016

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round II, June 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 entitlements without exploitation and abuse.
- Mainstream messages on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response and child protection during food security, livelihoods and cash programming.
- Ensure that all humanitarian staff and volunteers sign a Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy and receive training on child protection and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).
- Ensure that women and men participate in decision-making related to the humanitarian response.
- Establish/support complaints and feedback mechanism in each IDP location that includes feedback on the appropriateness of programmes

## MINIMUM STANDARDS

- Collect, analyze, use and report sex and age-disaggregated data, including vulnerabilities, to inform all food security, livelihoods and cash transfer programme design, implementation and evaluation. Pay special attention to older persons and persons with disabilities.
- Be explicit about the type of livelihoods activities (e.g. kitchen gardens, market gardens, cash crops, women's savings club, etc.) and the target audience for such activities (e.g. women, widows and/or youth, child mothers).
- Strive for equal representation and active participation of women and child mothers on all food security, livelihoods and cash programming committees and other decision making platforms.
- Strengthen post-distribution monitoring and feedback mechanisms that capture the opinions of women, girls, boys and men and all groups with special needs, such as pregnant and lactating women, older women and men, people with disabilities, etc.
- Target female and male child-headed households and pregnant and lactating women directly for food security actions.
- Ensure that special nutritional food requirements are available for pregnant and lactating women, older people, persons with chronic illness and children >5 years.
- Organize all distributions in a way that allows people to access, queue, wait, receive and carry goods away from the distribution points in a safe and dignified manner and allow for multiple distributions and different times and dates to address women's reproductive labor needs
- In consultation with women, anticipate and address any negative impacts that the distribution of food or cash to women and the issuance of food/cash entitlements in women's names may have on the community and intra-household relationships.
- Assess to which extent women and groups with specific needs have access to technology required to participate in CBT (access to phone, ID, bank account, usage of phone, network and electricity) as the most vulnerable communities often lack the means and technology to participate.
- Liaise with child protection and GBV actors to establish clear referral mechanisms for assisting beneficiaries needing protection assistance including GBV survivors and unaccompanied and separated children.
- Monitor the distribution of humanitarian assistance to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals and households have equal access to assistance.
- Monitor and ensure the safety and security from violence, abuse and exploitation related to food security, livelihoods and cash programming.