



## Gender and Resilience

This tool provides practical tips on how to ensure gender concerns are embedded in resilience-based actions.

A resilience-based approach means providing assistance in a way that builds the capacity of

households and communities to manage future shocks. It is people focused and therefore must reflect the distinct capacities and coping mechanisms of women, girls, boys and men.

### Why building resilience needs to be gender sensitive

Programme activities that build the resilience of households and communities include disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, livelihood support and social protection. As UNISDR states: "Disasters don't discriminate, but people do." Research reveals that disasters reinforce, perpetuate and increase gender inequality, making bad situations worse for women. Meanwhile, the potential contributions that women can offer...are often overlooked and female leadership in building community resilience to disasters is frequently disregarded."<sup>2</sup>

Studies also demonstrate significant differences in how households headed by women and those headed by men cope with shocks;<sup>3</sup> what coping mechanisms come into play within those households, and how they affect women, girls, boys and men in terms of their access to resources and food security.

Therefore, to be effective and sustainable, activities that build resilience must be gender sensitive. Household-level and, consequently, community resilience are based on six main components:<sup>4</sup>

### How to ensure building resilience is gender sensitive

Describe different dimensions of the crisis faced by An approach that focuses on strengthening the resilience of communities and households can increase the impact and cost effectiveness of humanitarian and development assistance. In the same way, an approach that identifies and addresses all segments of a community's distinct capacities and coping strategies can also increase the impact and cost effectiveness of assistance. A resilience- and gender-focused approach to programming is about enhancing quality for better programming. Whether providing assistance as a stand-alone emergency measure or aiming to contribute to longer-term resilience-building, the IASC's ADAPT & ACT-Collectively Framework provides solid general guidance for ensuring gender-sensitive programming at national and local levels.

<sup>2</sup> UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN, 2009, Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive: Policy and Practical Guidelines.

<sup>3</sup> FAO, Deriving Food Security Information from National Household Budget Surveys: Experiences, Achievements, Challenges (2008), Sibrian R. (ed), and FAO, Food Security Information for Decision-Making: Measuring Resilience, concept note on the Resilience Tool (2010)

<sup>4</sup> ibid



### Recommended steps for building gender-sensitive resilience include:

<b>A</b>	<b>ANALYSE</b> gender differences: Interventions are designed based on a gender analysis.
<b>D</b>	<b>DESIGN:</b> Humanitarian interventions are designed to ensure women, girls, boys and men can benefit, e.g. the location of agriculture extension training takes into account how far women and men can travel; opening hours and design of health clinics allow for women and men to use the services; food-for-work activities are designed to make sure women and men can benefit. Asset-building efforts are designed in such a way as to not interfere or compete with women's other productive and reproductive activities.
<b>A</b>	<b>ACCESS</b> for women, girls, boys and men: Information, training and technologies used in developing capacity are accessible and relevant to all stakeholders. Monitor participants' access to the resources and opportunities created by the project to ensure that all identified groups have equal opportunities to access services needed.
<b>P</b>	<b>PARTICIPATION:</b> Women and men participants are equally involved in vulnerability assessments and in the prioritization and design of resilience-based pilot projects, which are built on their indigenous knowledge. Women and men participants are involved in choosing the assistance modality (food, cash and/or vouchers) that best reflects their reality and their distinct needs.
<b>T</b>	<b>TRAIN</b> women and men equally: Train all staff, including those from private-sector partners, to mainstream gender considerations in project implementation.
and	
<b>A</b>	<b>ADDRESS GBV:</b> We know that in the context of displacement resulting from a disaster, GBV, including sexual violence, exploitation and abuse, is a high-risk problem. All activities must identify any possible negative, unintended effects or attempt to mitigate against them as much as possible.
<b>C</b>	<b>COLLECT,</b> analyse and report sex- and age-disaggregated data: When indicators are disaggregated for sex, age and other contextually relevant variables, they provide clear indications of where interventions are needed.
<b>T</b>	<b>TARGET</b> actions based on gender analysis: Set specific targets for the proportion of women participants in decision-making structures and in the project as a whole. Ensure that their capacities are built to meaningfully contribute to decision-making if there are gaps or cultural barriers.
<b>C</b>	<b>COORDINATE</b> actions with partners: Work with local counterparts to ensure that gender issues are meaningfully included in national policies addressing risk reduction, climate change and related issues.



To find out more about gender equality work in OCHA and additional gender tools, go to:

<http://ochanet.unocha.org/TI/Gender/>  
<http://gender.humanitarianresponse.info>