



INTEGRATING GENDER EQUALITY IN HUMANITARIAN NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

FOOD SECURITY

Why is it important to integrate gender equality in humanitarian needs assessments?

Gender analysis and gender and age data disaggregation in humanitarian needs assessment seeks to identify differentiated needs, risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities of those who require humanitarian assistance in order to better inform strategic and operational humanitarian programming and funding and ensure that a gender-transformative approach is embedded in the Ukrainian response. Gender analysis also aims at promoting gender changes and preventing reinforcement of discriminatory practices while helps humanitarian action ensures quality, effectivity, inclusion and accountability.

UNFPA/Valentyn Kuzan



In terms of food security, the last [Rapid Gender Analysis \(RGA\)](#) indicates that women are reducing their food intake as a negative coping mechanism while facing barriers to access to nutritious food, exacerbating the prior food insecurity faced by female-headed households (23 per cent, compared to the 13 per cent of male-headed households). Among other recommendations, this reports advocates for tailoring food assistance to the specific needs of women and children, and consulting the food delivery modalities.

Minimum Key Gender Actions in Needs Assessments

1. Preparation

- Ensure **gender balance** in the evaluator team
- Involve the **gender adviser** in the process
- **Train** the team on **gender equality**, gender-based violence (**GBV**) and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (**PSEA**).
- Review the **Rapid Gender Analysis in Ukraine** and secondary sectoral information on gender and food security (e.g. differences in food security status between female/male-headed of households).
- Include **key gender measures in the methodology and tools** to collect information (e.g. gender and age of informants, gender and VBG questions, women in translation teams)
- **Contact women's and LGBTIQ+ 's organizations/leaders** if present in the zone.
- **Be aware of** your own **personal values**, attitudes and beliefs.



2. Data collection

- Actively **involve diverse groups** of women, girls, boys, men, and LGBTIQ+ persons in their diversity (age, disabilities, ethnicity, etc. as relevant).
Not only male head of households
- If possible and safe, develop **participatory methods**
- Ensure **informed consent** and the information management with confidentiality, privacy, and safety
- If possible and safe, collect **information on GBV risks**. Do not collect information on GBV cases/incidents. When any incident is identified, **refer to specialized services**.

Photo: UN Women/Roman Mamedov



3. Analysis

- **Disaggregate the data** at least by **gender and age**, and if possible, by disabilities, and ethnicity.
- Integrate **gender analysis and statistics** of findings on differentiated drivers, risks, priorities, vulnerabilities, and capacities, considering intersectionalities (age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, etc.).
- **Validate the analysis** by sharing with, and obtaining feedback from, key and diverse stakeholders. Revise accordingly.



4. Report



- Include **gender recommendations/strategies of intervention** according to the findings (planning, targeting, advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation).
- **Disseminate** the report with different groups of gender in their diversity

5. Follow-up

- **Monitor gender integration of the recommendations** in planning, targeting, advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation.
- **Involve** women's and LGBTIQ+'s organizations/leaders in monitoring



Examples of key questions on gender in food security

1. Food Access

- What livelihood assets/opportunities do men and women have access to and control over? Are there any gap/difference between women and men?
- Is there any gaps/difference in the number of meals consumed in the last days compared between women, men, boys and girls?
- Are there gaps between the average earnings of female-headed compare with male-headed of households?
- How do women and men use their incomes?
- In the past 2 months, did you have income that you could use without asking for permission from anyone? (yes/no)
- If you wanted to, can you make your own decisions about what to do with money you receive from any source?
- Would you have to get permission from anyone in your household before you could go to the market or shops by yourself?
- What specific constraints do women, girls, men and boys face to access to food?



- What are the preferred food distribution methods and locations for women and men?
- Do any group face discrimination or violence trying to access food? Are there access barriers or negative consequences for any group?
- Are women and girls facing any barrier to safely access to food?
- Are women, men, girls, boys and LGBTIQ+ persons involved, consulted and informed in planning and implementation of food distribution?
- Are the distribution methods and sites accessible and safe for all people affected, particularly for those marginalized, women and girls, and persons with disabilities?
- Do women and girls face any particular barrier to access to cash assistance?
- Have any situation related to GBV, in particular forced sex exchange for food, been identified and addressed?

Examples of key questions on gender in food security

2. Food availability

- What are the reproductive roles of women and men (domestic work, child care, and care of the sick and elderly)?
- What are the productive roles of women and men (paid work, self-employment, and subsistence production)?
- What are the different gender roles in food production, selection, collection and preparation of food?
- In your household, are you the person who spends the most time doing housework, such as cleaning, cooking, and/or caring for children or other household members?
- What are the to access to credit/markets for women and men? Are there any gaps, barriers of difference?
- Do you, by yourself or with someone else, own property, such as land, a home or other dwelling?
- Do you have your own account with a bank or other financial institution, such as a savings, current/transaction, or checking account? Please do not think about accounts that you share with others.
- In the past 12 months, did anyone in your household take money you earned, received, or had saved, without your permission?
- In the past 12 months, has housework, such as cleaning, cooking, and/or caring for children or other household members prevented you from doing paid work, if you wanted to?
- In the past 12 months, has housework, such as cleaning, cooking, and/or caring for children or other household members prevented you from participating in education or training, if you wanted to?

3. Food Utilization

- Are there differences in dietary needs, preferences and restrictions for women, girls, boys and men?
- Have been identified the differentiated nutritional deficiencies for women, girls, boys and men?
- Are there differences in the prevalence or incidence of major diseases for women, girls, boys and men?
- Do women, girls and boys face any barriers to access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene that affect food security?

Tools to integrate gender equality in needs assessments

- [IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action](#)
- [How to promote gender equality through impartial and joint needs assessments \(UN Women\)](#)
- [Gender Toolkit \(WFP\)](#)
- [Tip-sheet Food Security \(IASC Gender with Age Marker\)](#)
- [Gender and Food Security Analysis \(WFP\)](#)
- [IASC Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action](#)
- [Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action Sub-Group](#)

The previous documents are information sources of this tool.

