



GENDER EQUALITY

BULLETIN No. 2

By Inter-Cluster Gender Task Force
**RESPONSE TO THE NEPAL
EARTHQUAKE**
(as of 29/05/2015)

Key facts and figures, initiatives, progress, challenges, needs and opportunities related to gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the Nepal earthquake emergency response.

Facts and Figures

- Approx. **55% of casualties identified as female** - 8,669 people (4,771 female; 3,887 male; 1 body remains unidentified)¹.
- **1.5 million women and adolescent girls in need of dedicated support**, including 93,000 pregnant women².
- Key information from the [Gender Equality Bulletin No 1](#) was highlighted in the [UN Secretary-General's daily noon briefing](#) on Friday 22 May.

Response Updates

Coordination

- **Gender Focal Point orientation** session on gender equality, including social inclusion, in emergencies held on 25th May 2015.
- Mapping of Gender Focal Points **deployed in the sub hubs** in Sindhupalchowk and Gorkha to ensure better linkages to the field.
- **Key advocacy messages** on gender equality, women's empowerment and social inclusion consolidated and disseminated.
- Gender is being mainstreamed throughout the **Post-Disaster Needs Assessment**.
- The National Women's Commission's Sub Committee – the Women's Right Monitoring National Network - developed a **Gender Monitoring Checklist** to track the gender responsiveness of the emergency response and data collection has been initiated.
- Gender included in the **needs assessments for food and WASH clusters**, as well as into the **WASH response plan, monitoring and tracking sheets**.
- Gender inputs provided in a number of tools, including the **Cash for Work guideline** around equal pay for equal work and the **mental health cluster's psycho-social referral tool** and reporting format.



Nutrition

- More than 1,200 mothers in seven districts received **counselling in exclusive breastfeeding** and dangers of artificial feeding.³ **Radio messaging** on the same topics reached an estimated 380,000 families in 21 affected districts⁴.

Logistics

- Recommendation made to include **women's organisations and female trekker associations** in relief distribution.

Shelter/CCCM

- **Gender, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and trafficking indicators** integrated into the Displacement Tracking Matrix.

Education⁵

- Focus on the **inclusion of girls and female teachers in "back to school campaign"**, including the provision of female toilets, to prevent their exclusion due to the burden of domestic chores.

WASH⁶

- **Sex-disaggregated data** included in WASH cluster's 5Ws reporting format.
- The cluster is targeting around 304,000 people with **gender friendly sanitation facilities**⁷.
- **Gender-sensitive latrine design** guidelines disseminated.

¹ UN Situation Report No. 18 (as of 25 May 2015)

² Nepal Earthquake 2015: Press release (as of 25 May 2015) and Reproductive Health Sub-Cluster

³ UN Situation Report No 17 (as of 21 May 2015)

⁴ UN Situation Report No 17 (as of 21 May 2015)

⁵ Education Cluster Gender Focal Point

⁶ Wash Cluster Gender Focal Point

⁷ UN Situation Report No. 18 (as of 25 May 2015)

Food⁸

- **Women's organisation** Pourakhi engaged in food distribution.
- **Women, older people and people with disabilities prioritised** in the first cash distribution for food assistance in Namtar VDC and Daman VDC.
- Monitoring is ongoing with beneficiaries to measure if food security interventions **ensure equity in access and promote women's meaningful participation** in decision making in the response and recovery operations⁹.

Early Recovery¹⁰

- Joint proposal submitted **for women to be engaged in debris management as cash for work** to enhance their livelihoods and employment opportunities.
- UNDP's **Micro-Enterprise Development Programme including Gender Equality and Social Inclusion strategies** in the project Rapid Enterprise Recovery Project to provide rapid support to the affected Micro Enterprises in order to restart their business and initiate new ones. This contributes to stabilisation of livelihoods, social cohesion and reviving local economies. Micro Enterprises are also provided with psycho-social counselling.
- **Gender orientation** conducted with debris management engineers in Sindupalchowk.

Health

- More than **30 reproductive health mobile camps** reached 6,500 people in Kavre, Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Rasuwa, Sindhuli and Makwanpur.¹¹
- **11 transition homes** have been established in Dolakha (1), Sindhupalchok (2), Kavre (1), Nuwakot (2), Rasuwa (2), Dhading (1), Gorkha (1) & Ramechhap (1) to house pregnant women, lactating mothers and their newborns until they are ready to return to their communities. Services have resumed at most of the health facilities in the 14 most affected districts.¹²

Protection¹³

- **Key GBV messages** consolidated and disseminated.
- More than 40,000 flyers with information on **family separation and human trafficking** were distributed in the 14 districts. Inter-agency **anti-trafficking task force** has strengthened presence at the border.
- Psycho-social counselling: 26 **psycho-social counsellors** were deployed to the 14 districts; radio programme including content on psycho-social support estimated to have reached around 2.95 million affected people.
- At least 500 **women's groups have been mobilised to raise awareness** and advocate on GBV issues in 14 districts.
- **Protection officers** were deployed to 13 affected districts to provide technical support to the District Women and Children offices.
- Distribution of the **GBV service directory** to provide a practical guide for referring GBV survivors to access relevant services.
- **Radio messages regarding stress management and family reunification** reached around 70 per cent of the affected people.
- **17,200 dignity kits** distributed in 14 districts; **Menstrual Hygiene Management guides** also being distributed.
- **55 female-friendly spaces** have been set up.



⁸ Food Cluster Gender Focal Point and WFP

⁹ WFP Situation Report No.8

¹⁰ Early Recovery Gender Focal Point and UN Women

¹¹ Reproductive Health Sub-Cluster

¹² Reproductive Health Sub-Cluster

¹³ Protection Cluster and UN Situation Report No 18 (as of 25 May 2015)

Coordination

- Reports of **disparities in relief distributions** due to gender, caste and religion and loss of official documentation¹⁴.
- Ensure that the **risk of exclusion from relief and reconstruction due to lack of formal documentation**, especially for single women, is addressed
- All clusters and coordinating bodies should gather and utilise **sex and age disaggregated data**.
- All assessments should include **gender balanced teams** for the gathering of relevant gender information¹⁵, including in monitoring committees.
- **Gender mainstreaming** is needed in the district-level clusters¹⁶
- Women Development Offices in Nuwakot need **transportation support** with relief distribution¹⁷

Protection

- Sindhupalchowk: CDOs and WDOs reporting need for **special task force or watch group** to monitor GBV cases. **Safe spaces needed for adolescent girls**¹⁸.
- Nuwakot: **young girls reporting feeling** insecure in camps due to risk of violence and lack of privacy¹⁹. Lack of **GBV shelter** in the district makes it difficult to refer GBV cases²⁰.
- Kavre: GBV services and special care needed to mitigate **men's increased alcohol consumption** and a rise in **GBV cases** in temporary shelters²¹.
- Sindhupalchowk: approx. **25,000 more dignity kits** are needed and tensions are rising among those not receiving. **More women's safe spaces needed**, currently only one.
- Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Kavre²²: reported **high demand for psycho-social counselling**, including for staff members.

Shelter

- Some **women are staying in inadequate shelter** in Tundikhel camp in Kathmandu, as they are unable to find people they feel safe enough to share a tent with to meet the 20 people requirement.

Logistics

- Engage **female trekkers' associations and women's groups in the relief distribution** to ensure gender parity and the protection of female relief beneficiaries.

Food

- According to food security cluster post-earthquake assessment, **53% of female headed households have either poor or borderline food consumption**, approx. 10% lower than male headed households²³.
- Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha and Lamjung: Community mobilisers can be used to address **intra-household food distribution gender discrimination**²⁴.
- Ensure that the **weight and size of food packages** are manageable for women and girls or organise porter services²⁵.
- Ensure that **making women the food entitlement holders** does not put them at risk of abuse or violence.

Health

- Lamjung and Dhading: Important that **family planning supplies**, including emergency contraception, are freely available to avoid unwanted pregnancies²⁶.
- Dhading, Gorkha and Lamjung: **Skilled birth attendants** needed²⁷.
- Gorkha and Dhading: **increased risk of maternal/child mortality** due to the damage and destruction of health facilities²⁸.
- Kathmandu: Reported increase in **women's psychological problems and alcohol consumption**. Young girls are also reporting increase in **vaginal bleeding cases** in both Manamaiju and Tundikhel²⁹.

Nutrition

- Extensive **damage to health facilities and the households/lives of female community health volunteers** is hampering the roll-out OTPs and scale-up of nutrition counselling services³⁰.

Early Recovery

- Ensure that **women are provided with livelihoods and income generating opportunities**, including access to land and credit, that they are tailored to women's needs, circumstances and capacities, and that they do not cause harm.³¹ For example, by **child-minding services**³².

¹⁴ UN Situation Report No. 18 (as of 25 May 2015)

¹⁵ IASC Nepal Gender Alert (18 May 2015)

¹⁶ UN Women Nepal

¹⁷ UN Women Nepal

¹⁸ Care Rapid Gender Analysis – Sindhupalchowk

¹⁹ WOREC

²⁰ UN Women Nepal

²¹ WOREC

²² UN Women Nepal

²³ Nepal Food Security Cluster Report (May 2015)

²⁴ Care Rapid Gender Analysis – Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha and Lamjung

²⁵ Care Rapid Gender Analysis – Sindhupalchowk

²⁶ IASC Nepal Gender Alert (18 May 2015)

²⁷ Care Rapid Gender Analysis – Dhading, Gorkha and Lamjung

²⁸ Care Rapid Gender Analysis – Dhading and Gorkha

²⁹ WOREC

³⁰ UN Situation Report No. 17 (as of 21 May 2015)

³¹ Care Rapid Gender Analysis – Nepal

³² IASC Nepal Gender Alert (18 May 2015)

Wash

- 91% of displaced camps are reported to not have **segregated and safe toilet/washing facilities**³³, this also affects female staff deployed in the field. In Lalitpur this is causing women to avoid consuming food and water³⁴.
- Sindhupalchowk: Focus group established need to create more **private spaces for women and girls**.³⁵
- **Suitable waste management solutions** needed for the safe and **dignified disposal of sanitary items**³⁶.
- **Women and girls must be involved in reconstruction efforts**, especially related to water-source and supply management, building of latrines, bathing and washing sites.³⁷

CCCM

- Camps are lacking **female-friendly accommodation facilities**. This is also a key **safety and security issue for female staff deployed in the field**³⁸.
- Camp Management agencies to follow guidelines in laying out camps and their infrastructure to **mitigate heightened risk of GBV**³⁹.
- Camp management agencies to ensure that women are given **adequate representation in Camp Management Committees**⁴⁰.

Useful links and contacts

- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-based-violence>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/genccap>
- http://un.org.np/coordinationmechanism/gender_equality
- <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-task-force>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/protection>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-based-violence>
- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/child-protection>
- <http://www.helpage.org/resources/practical-guidelines/emergency-guidelines/>
- <http://www.cbm.org/Search-262088.php?q=publication>

Creation Date : 29 May 2015

Data source: IASC Gender Alert, UN Situation Reports, Care Rapid Gender Assessments, WOREC, WHR, Cluster Gender Focal Points (Protection, GBV, Child Protection, Shelter/NFI, Food Security, Early Recovery, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Camp Coordination/Management), Gender Task Force

Photo Source: Saathi and UN Women Nepal

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³³ IASC Nepal Gender Alert (18 May 2015)

³⁴ UN Situation Report No. 17 (as of 21 May 2015)

³⁵ Care Rapid Gender Analysis – Sindhupalchowk

³⁶ IASC Nepal Gender Alert (18 May 2015)

³⁷ IASC Nepal Gender Alert (18 May 2015)

³⁸ USAID and Save the Children

³⁹ IASC Nepal Gender Alert (18 May 2015)

⁴⁰ IASC Nepal Gender Alert (18 May 2015)