



GENDER EQUALITY BULLETIN

INTER-CLUSTER GENDER TASK FORCE IN RESPONSE TO THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKES
SPECIAL ISSUE – ONE MONTH ON | 25 MAY 2015

While disasters do not discriminate, women, men, girls and boys experience their impacts differently. In Nepal, women, in particular single women, female-headed households, women with disabilities and older women, are reporting discrimination in access to relief and information. Men are experiencing higher levels of stress due to their inability to fulfill their traditional gender role as family providers, leading to a reported increase in substance abuse and other risky behaviours.

Women have been disproportionately impacted by the earthquakes, however, simply viewing them as victims only exacerbates their vulnerability. Women have knowledge, relationships and practical skills that are critical to every level of relief and recovery efforts. It is crucial that there is no discrimination based on sex, age, sexual orientation, gender, class, ethnicity or ability at all stages of the humanitarian response. This includes the discussions and decision-making processes that determine the shape of ongoing relief and recovery activities, as well as in the mechanisms for monitoring how effective these activities are.

LOOKING BACK: THE AFTERMATH



MOVING FORWARD: RELIEF, RECOVERY AND REBUILDING



- The unique needs of women, men, girls and boys – including security, health and access to services – must be incorporated in analyses of disaster risk and post disaster risk assessments, while also recognising their right to dignity. Not all women and girls are equally vulnerable, and not all men and boys are equally less vulnerable

- When consulting communities both women and men need to be engaged, as well as the different ethnic groups, castes and/or social classes represented in those communities.

- Identify vulnerable groups, who may face challenges in making their voices heard; avoid combining women and children as one 'vulnerable' group.

- As community structures crumble and violence escalates, steps must be taken to prevent the increased vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation. At the same time, the vulnerabilities of boys and men to become victims of such violence must not be neglected.

- Safe spaces must be provided for taking rest, receiving psycho-social counselling and children's play.

- Put in place special measures to make sure that persons with disabilities and older people, especially women, are included in assessment, identification and registration processes in order to have accurate information about their specific needs.

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-based-violence>

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/gencap>

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>

KEY CONTACTS

GENDER TASK FORCE: pillaya@un.org | marie.petterson@unwomen.org

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SUB-CLUSTER: kateabean@yahoo.com | solberg@unfpa.org

PROTECTION CLUSTER: keulin@unicef.org

INCLUSION WORKING GROUP: rheahelpage@gmail.com