



PHILIPPINES SUPER TYPHOON RESPONSE

GENDER ALERT 1: November 18

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENT NEEDS OF WOMEN, GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN MAKES HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE MORE EFFECTIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE TO ALL AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Humanitarian assistance is crucial to the survival, security and health of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other affected people. Consequently, it is imperative to understand the specific vulnerabilities, needs and capacities of women, girls, boys and men. Systematic efforts to collect sex-and age-disaggregated data and to consult with women, girls, boys and men of all ages must be put in place in order to ensure that the diverse needs of different groups are understood and targeted effectively in any response.

PRIORITIES TO ENSURE A GENDER-SENSITIVE RESPONSE

- 1. HEALTH CARE:** There are approximately 221,849 pregnant and 147,899 lactating women in the typhoon-affected areas, and 4,660 pregnant and 8,990 lactating women are currently in evacuation centers. Women and girls must have access to priority reproductive health services. Specific guidance on implementing the MISP in this crisis can be accessed [here](#)². Priority activities include ensuring safe deliveries at health facilities with skilled birth attendants; referral to emergency obstetric and newborn care for complications of pregnancy and child birth; distribution of clean delivery kits to pregnant women; and access to clinical care for survivors of sexual violence. It is crucial to ensure anti retrovirals are available to users; contraceptives are available to meet demand; and syndromic treatment is available for people presenting with symptoms of sexually transmitted infections; and women and girls can access menstrual hygiene supplies.”³
- 2. FOOD AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs):** Priorities for food and NFIs should be determined through consulting with women, girls, boys and men (separately, by age and sex) about their individual and family needs. Special measures for delivery should be taken to ensure the inclusion of those who are hard or less easy to reach, including women and girls restricted from leaving their homes, female-headed households, unaccompanied boys and girls, older men and women, and persons with injuries and/or disabilities. Target women in the distribution of NFIs, including house-repair kits and other resources often distributed to heads of household.
- 3. SHELTER:** Shelter programmes must take into account the different needs of women, girls, boys, and men. Host families must be supported in housing IDPs. Where families must share accommodation space, measures must be taken to ensure that these facilities are safe for women, girls, boys and men. Identification of and support to

Facts: As of November 15th, approximately 11.8 million people (>12% of the population) affected; 921,212 people internally displaced (38% in 1,200 evacuation centres, 62% are outside of evacuations sites); 254,049 houses damaged, > 50% completely destroyed; over 4,460 deaths; tens of thousands are injured. Some areas had barely recovered from the Typhoon Bopha/Pablo in December 2012 and the Bohol earthquake in October 2013. The UN response highlights the need for immediate food aid for at least 2.5 million people, water, sanitation and hygiene support for 500,000 people, basic health services for 9.8 million people, as well as shelter and urgent household items for 562,000 people.

¹ OCHA 2013, The After Action Review/Lessons Learned Workshops Typhoon Bopha Response, <http://goo.gl/ZPNr1m>

² <http://iawg.net/philippines-typhoon-haiyan-response-and-recovery/>

³ WRC, <http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/press-room/1762-women-s-refugee-commission-calls-on-philippines-typhoon-response-to-take-into-account-the-particular-needs-of-vulnerable-groups-including-women-children-and-persons-with-disabilities>

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unaccompanied youth, children, older women and men without family members, or those caring for young children, should be prioritized.

- 4. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):** Sanitation and water facilities must be designed and provided according to the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men, which can only be identified through consultation with each gender/age group. Information on WASH practices and the different roles and patterns of different members of households in terms of access and mobility, consumption, collection and engagement in operations and maintenance is critical to the safety, health and wellbeing of women, girls, boys and men of all ages.
- 5. CASH ASSISTANCE:** Women and men must benefit equally from cash assistance programmes. Any cash assistance programme must be built on a gender analysis and be relevant to the local context to determine who will benefit, to ensure that gender inequalities are not exacerbated, and to avoid harmful consequences such as increased domestic violence. A tip-sheet on gender dimensions of cash assistance can be found [here](#).⁴
- 6. LIVELIHOODS:** Providing economic opportunities and preserving existing economic assets as early as possible during response is critical. While Filipina women were in paid employment prior to the typhoon, they were, on average, paid less than men, are more likely to work in small companies or the informal sector and are concentrated in lower-paid work.⁵⁶ A considerable number of Filipinos undertake unpaid work in family businesses.⁷ Prior to Typhoon Bopha, 10% of children were engaged in child labor, particularly agricultural work. Afterward, adolescent boys migrated to the city to find jobs and began vulnerable to violence, abuse, and trafficking.⁸ Women and girls are particularly vulnerable after disasters, and can be protected from sexual exploitation by engaging in safe, viable economic opportunities.⁹ Effective livelihood programming is also an essential component of early recovery. Engaging women in livelihood activities is critical and cash-for-work programmes and temporary employment schemes should strive for gender balance in participation. However, it is equally important to ensure that women are not overburdened with additional responsibilities. Systematic consultation with both women and men and an analysis of potential obstacles is therefore essential for successful livelihood activities, and ways to lessen other responsibilities should be sought, e.g. through provision of child care arrangements.
- 7. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV):** “An estimated 49,000 women of reproductive age 15 to 49 years old are at risk of sexual violence in areas impacted by Typhoon Haiyan.” Prior to the disaster, it was estimated that one in

Relevant Lessons from Typhoon Bopha Response

Shortcomings:

- Baseline data was not disaggregated by age and gender leading to insufficient information on vulnerable groups (pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities, single-headed households, and elderly).
- Lack of representation of beneficiaries in coordination meetings decreased impact and accountability of the response.

Recommendations:

- Institutionalise the collection of disaggregated data.
- Organise community representation, with equal gender balance, in the decision making process.
- Address the loss of income felt by families whose children were engaged in child labor to decrease adolescents' risk of exploitation.

[OCHA 2013 the After Action Review](#) 1

⁴http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/Gender%20Tip%20Sheet%20for%20Cash%20Transfers%20Application%20in%20Crisis_%20December%202012.pdf

⁵ [Philippine Commission on Women, 2013, Filipino Women and Men Fact Sheet](#)

⁶ <http://goo.gl/H0wOcf>

⁷ [Philippine Commission on Women, 2013, Filipino Women and Men Fact Sheet](#)

⁸ [Protection Cluster Fact Sheet Typhoon Bopha Response As Of 14 January 2013,](#)

⁹ WRC, <http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/press-room/1762-women-s-refugee-commission-calls-on-philippines-typhoon-response-to-take-into-account-the-particular-needs-of-vulnerable-groups-including-women-children-and-persons-with-disabilities>

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five women between 15 and 49 years of age experienced at least one form of gender based violence.¹⁰ “Protection risks may be exacerbated following a large-scale natural disaster, particularly in situations where security is compromised and the risk of sexual and gender-based violence is heightened”.¹¹ Agencies should take immediate measures to protect women, girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable people, such as single women and unaccompanied children, from sexual violence, abuse and exploitation in evacuation centers and shelters, and when accessing other basic necessities. Rapid response to sexual violence is critical; treatment within three days of an assault can prevent HIV infection and within five days can reduce the risk of pregnancy.”¹²

8. **ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING:** Needs assessments, such as the upcoming MIRA, project developments and revision of the Humanitarian Action Plan by UN and partners must prioritize sex-and age-disaggregated data and gender-responsive consultations with women and men. There can be no implementation of AAP without it. For more details, please refer to the ADAPT an ACT-C Framework for gender programming found in the [IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action.13](#). Avoid use of generic words like households, IDPs, vulnerable groups, farmers etc., which mask important differences between groups and between women and men of different ages within that group. Being gender-sensitive does NOT mean simply substituting, “women, girls, boys, and men” every time we see the word “people” but rather, thoughtfully considering whether there are significant distinctions within a group that need to be addressed.

THREE IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:

- A. **ASSESS NEEDS.** The needs of women, girls, boys and men differ during and after an emergency. Ensure quantitative data collected in assessments is disaggregated by sex and age. Assessment teams must at least include females, and ideally be gender-balanced. Take any necessary special measures, such as same-sex interviewers, private, segregated space, and times convenient to both women and men’s workloads. Consultation with women and men of all ages is critical to determining their needs, priorities and capacities and then reflecting them in program design.
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- B. **BE ALERT & ACT TO MITIGATE.** Identify the challenges faced by separated women, adolescent boys and girls, older women and men, and men excluded from work. Put in place measures to ensure their safety and security and to reduce the risk of violence. In shelters and emergency centers: ensure that women and girls without male companions are provided with safe spaces separate from unrelated men; that access to latrines is well-lit and close to the camp; that the distribution of aid is safe for all who are eligible to obtain it; and that the risk of exploitation for internally displaced persons, in particular, women and children, to have their needs met is minimized.
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- C. **COORDINATE.** Coordinate across humanitarian sectors to find meaningful ways to engage women, men, girls, and boys in the assessment of the needs and the design and management of the programmes for their benefit. Act on their advice to shape and improve response.

FOR MORE INFORMATION and technical support, please contact the co-chairs of IASC Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action:

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¹⁰ [Philippine Commission on Women, 2013, Filipino Women and Men Fact Sheet](#)

¹¹ [Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Action Plan Nov 2013](#)

¹² WRC, <http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/press-room/1762-women-s-refugee-commission-calls-on-philippines-typhoon-response-to-take-into-account-the-particular-needs-of-vulnerable-groups-including-women-children-and-persons-with-disabilities>

¹³ <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/themes/gender/resources> (accessed 20/06 2012)