



Have you read section A ?

GENDER AND FOOD SECURITY IN EMERGENCIES

In the aftermath of disasters, affected communities will need help to restart agricultural activities as soon as possible, in order to meet **household food security needs** adequately and **restore resilience**. Since emergencies tend to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, the respective roles and responsibilities of women and men and their constraints, needs and capacities need to be analysed and understood in order to ensure that effective assistance is provided. Ultimately, the objective is to assist in a quicker and more sustainable recovery, especially for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

Household food security does not necessarily mean the same as food self-sufficiency, which refers to sufficient domestic production to meet the needs of the population. It refers both to the availability and stability of food, and the purchasing power of the household where food is not produced. Food security also depends on food adequacy and acceptability to consumers, as well as the availability of clean water and firewood. The collection of water and firewood is often the task of women and girls, and may be compromised in emergency settings, affecting ability to transform rations and food into an adequate diet. Food processing, conservation and storage are also important considerations when planning food security interventions.

Food security is an issue for individuals within households, for households as a whole, for nations and for the international community. At the household level, individual members may be malnourished while others have sufficient food. In some societies, women and/or children are the victims of food discrimination. You should assess women's and men's access to food and the difference in calorie intake according to gender within the affected population. At the national level, there may be sufficient

food supplies, but food-insecure households or areas may exist due to production/supply shortages, low income levels and general lack of access to those supplies. Internationally, food production levels are more than sufficient to feed all people, but food is not equally available or accessible. Improving food security means ensuring households have the means to produce sufficient food of acceptable quality for their own consumption — or earn enough regular income to purchase it and access the market, while ensuring all members of the household have sufficient access.

Whether in terms of labour input, decision-making, access to or control of production resources, gender issues should be mainstreamed in food security, looking at the four dimensions mentioned earlier: **availability, access, utilization and stability**. Gender aspects are relevant to most of these issues since women and men are generally affected differently by the emergency and displacement and have different access to and control over finances and resources. Women are active in cash and subsistence agricultural sectors and their work in producing food for household and community consumption is often not valued.

Many failures in food security programmes and policies are due to the assumption that large groups of people are homogeneous, rather than being composed of socio-economic groups with different needs and interests. Goals and objectives cannot be achieved without a clear understanding of the target group. Knowing who does what work and carries out what roles in providing for household food security is essential in policy planning. If women are responsible for a particular aspect of food policy they need to be specifically targeted, rather than assuming that they will automatically be reached — the same is true for men. Women and men should not be treated as all the same and a specific socio-

economic group may be the target of special policies and programmes. You should consider the effects of food aid, subsidies and rehabilitation programmes on women, as the principal providers of food for the household, as opposed to looking at households as units. There may be no man associated with the household and even where there is one, it may still be considered women's responsibility to provide for food by whatever means possible. You need good knowledge of food security-related socio-economic issues and an understanding of how women and men make their choices and interact.

FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

In 2003, FAO and WFP undertook a comprehensive food security and nutrition assessment across all districts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A key objective was to understand the factors and conditions affecting livelihoods and food security and nutritional vulnerability of women, girls, boys and men. In addition to reviewing secondary data, the mission conducted a primary data collection and analysis exercise in urban, camp and remote rural locations. This involved extensive field visits, focus group discussions, pairwise comparison ranking, household observations, and interviews using a gender focus.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT GENDER-RESPONSIVE FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMES IN EMERGENCIES?

What are the demographic factors?

- Number of landless poor (disaggregated by sex).
- Number of herdless pastoralists (by sex).
- Number of poorest in caste groups (by sex).
- Most marginalized communities (composition and size).
- Number of temporary and long-term or permanent migrants.
- Disaggregated data by age, wealth and marriage status.

What are the social factors and how have they changed since the crisis?

- What are the different types of households after the crisis (e.g. female- or child-headed households)?
- What is the composition of households needing special assistance (e.g. unaccompanied children, widows without families, disabled and women, girls, boys and men affected by HIV/AIDS)?
- Has there been recognition of the roles of women and men in caring for their extended families and dependents?

- Are the specific needs of women, children, men and disabled recognized?
- Is the local knowledge of women and men recognized and used in planning food security interventions?
- What is the local level of organization of women, youth, men and disabled in the rural communities? Can informal networks or formal associations be supported and how?
- Is there any community support to women and men for food production, transport and delivery?
- What are the community and household power structures in relation to the use of food, land and other productive resources?
- How acceptable to the population are the proposed commodities, according to gender-disaggregated needs?
- Who controls resources (production tools, food, etc.) at both the community and household level?
- Who in the household is responsible for food safety and the hygiene considerations for ensuring food and nutrition security?
- Who in the household is responsible for processing, conservation and storage of food?

What are the economic factors and how have they changed since the crisis?

- What is the level of poverty of women, girls, boys and men?
- Do women and men have equal access to the local market?
- What is the process for local food procurement for women and men?
- Do both women and men have access to cash and food-for-work opportunities, credit and agricultural inputs?
- Is cash available for women and men to meet non-food needs?
- Do both women and men have access to food aid services and programmes?
- What are their levels of self-sufficiency in particular crops?
- Are there adequate and stable food supplies and access (quantity, quality and nutritional aspects) for women and men?

What are the political factors and how have they changed as a result of the crisis?

- Is any group being discriminated against?
- Are national and/or customary practices and laws limiting women's access to land and other productive assets?
- Do both women and men have access to agricultural services?
- Do national legislation and laws ensure equal rights (e.g. to land) to women and men?
- What are the consultation procedures in policy formulation and implementation processes?
- Do mechanisms exist for involving women and most vulnerable groups in decision- and policy-making?
- Do subsidies on products exist and what are their effects on production of food crops and incomes of poor women and men?

What are the institutional and security factors and how have they changed since the crisis?

- Have institutional arrangements and mechanisms been developed to ensure that the views and concerns of women and vulnerable groups at village, regional and national levels are brought to the attention of policy-makers?
- What are the information dissemination and communication channels, and are special measures taken to ensure the access by women and most vulnerable groups?
- Is the presence of weapons and land mines creating any mobility problems for women and men to reach the local market to purchase food or their agricultural fields?
- Do women, girls, boys or men face problems with physical security in accessing food security assistance?

ACTIONS TO ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAMMING IN FOOD SECURITY**Household food supply and food access**

- Assess the gender-specific food insecurity situation in emergency settings. Is it due to i) loss of own production or stocks; ii) loss of income and/or tradable assets; iii) difficult economic access to food (i.e. price increase); iv) breakdown of traditional support systems or any other cause?
- Ensure that women and men have equal access to food and other productive resources.

Gender-sensitive needs assessment

- Assess the priority needs and constraints of women and men to increase household food security in the short and long term.
- Gather the perceptions of the target population to provide a basis for decision-makers in the design, targeting and implementation of policies, strategies and interventions to protect and promote food security.
- Assess if any problem resulted from the division of labour or from the inequitable access to resources by women and men.

Vulnerability maps

- Identify areas and sectors of population (women, girls, boys and men) most at risk of food insecurity.
- Identify types and levels of hazards based on past, present and projected trends to assess the needs of the areas and groups of people (disaggregated by sex) most at risk.
- Formulate supplementary feeding programmes for at-risk sections of the population, with the active participation of women, girls, boys and men.

Gender-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators

- Disaggregate by sex existing data on different socio-economic groups in food-insecure communities.
- Conduct surveys and rapid appraisals to collect direct information from women and men, with adequate representation of different socio-economic groups.
- Analyse data with a gender perspective, taking into account the division of tasks, access to and control over productive resources and decision-making patterns between women and men at household and community levels.
- Disseminate information disaggregated by sex to raise awareness among policy-makers on relevance of gender issues in food security programmes and policies.
- Formulate a core set of gender-sensitive indicators to monitor and evaluate the impact of food security programmes and policies on women, girls, boys and men.

Emergency livelihood analysis

- Assess constraints, productive capacity and capabilities of household food securers of different socio-economic groups, including female- and child-headed households and families with disabled and HIV/AIDS-affected people.

- Identify livelihood strategies of women and men to overcome (transitory) food insecurity and vulnerability.
- Make recommendations to facilitate women’s access to land and other productive resources (e.g. credit and technology).
- Consider whether rations are to be provided in grain or meal/flour form as this could add to women’s tasks.
- Assess the local cultural practices for women and men when planning food aid programmes to see how acceptable the proposed commodities are to the different segments of the community.
- Promote new income-generation and diversified activities for women, girls, boys and men.
- Carry out field visits, focus group discussions, pairwise comparison ranking, household observations and interviews with mixed or separate groups of women, girls, boys and men.
- Identify with the population the priority problems and development opportunities for each socio-economic group.

Gender-sensitive targeting

- Establish mechanisms to reach the specific target groups of women, girls, boys and men.
- Assess women’s participation in defining target groups.
- Ensure enough flexibility for programmes to be adjusted if particular target groups of women, girls, boys and men are being adversely affected, using a participatory approach.

Capacity building

- Raise awareness of decision-makers and extension workers on the importance of gender issues in emergency programmes.
- Assess what support women and men need to increase their capacities and skills and if both will benefit from new skills introduced by the food security programme.
- Promote equal access to training, extension and information to women and most vulnerable groups.
- Organize business skills development courses (joint or separate training according to the socio-cultural context) for women, girls, boys and men.

Stakeholders analysis

- Identify the main stakeholders of the food security programme in emergency and rehabilitation contexts.
- Ensure that women and men actively participate in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of food security programmes and policies.
- Actively involve women in policy-making bodies, key advocacy and interest groups.
- Consult with women, girls, boys and men to select appropriate targeting mechanisms.
- Identify potential risks and consequences for creating lasting direct benefits for recipients and to local governance.

CHECKLIST TO ASSESS GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAMMING IN THE FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

The checklist below is derived from the action section in this chapter, and provides a useful tool to remind sector actors of key issues to ensure gender equality programming. In addition, the checklist, together with the sample indicators in the Basics Chapter, serves as a basis for project staff to develop context-specific indicators to measure progress in the incorporation of gender issues into humanitarian action.

FOOD SECURITY – GENDER CHECKLIST
Analysis of gender differences
<p>1. A participatory needs assessment is undertaken, consulting an equal number of women and men, to gather information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short- and long-term losses of livelihood assets of women and men (e.g. single season’s harvest or permanent loss of land); • changes in women’s and men’s access to and control over land or other critical productive resources; • literacy level and employment rates of female- and male-headed households; • the coping strategies of women and men in the crisis situation; • malnutrition rates for girls and boys in terms of stunting, wasting and underweight; and • micronutrient deficiencies. <p>2. The data is analysed and used for programming to ensure activities will benefit women, girls, boys and men directly and indirectly.</p>

Design
1. The operation is designed to address the different effects of the disaster on women and men and to build on existing/available capacities of women, girls, boys and men in the community.
Access and control
1. Women's, girls', boys' and men's access to services, as well as control over productive resources, is routinely monitored through spot checks, discussions with communities, etc. 2. Obstacles to equal access are promptly addressed.
Participation
1. Women and men are systematically consulted and included in food security interventions. 2. Women and men participate equally and meaningfully in decision-making and management of livelihood assets. 3. Women and men participate equally and meaningfully on registration and distribution committees.
Training/Capacity building
1. Training and skills development is made available to balanced numbers of women, men and adolescent girls and boys based on a needs assessment. 2. Training and skills development activities are organized at a time and venue convenient for both women and men. 3. Training and information materials are developed based on the education level and knowledge of different socio-economic groups.
Actions to address GBV
1. Training on GBV-related issues and potential risk factors is conducted for an equal number of female and male humanitarian workers to enable them to provide support to affected persons and direct them to adequate information and counselling centres. 2. Programmes are in place to ensure income-generation activities and economic options for women and girls so they do not have to engage in unsafe sex in exchange for money, housing, food or education — or are exposed in other ways to GBV because of being economically dependent on others. 3. Women and men in the community, including village leaders and men's groups, are sensitized on violence against women and girls, including domestic violence
Targeted actions based on gender analysis
1. Public awareness campaigns on women's and children's rights (e.g. right to food) are organized. 2. Vulnerable groups are taught about their property rights (e.g. land) to increase their negotiating power and diminish abusive relationships. 3. Social mobilization is supported to raise awareness on the main (practical and strategic) needs of the most vulnerable groups as part of their empowerment process. 4. Gender disparities are addressed in basic and productive infrastructures to ensure food security for the most vulnerable communities.
Monitoring and evaluation based on sex- and age-disaggregated data
1. The perceptions of women and men regarding changes in their lives (positive and negative) as a result of food security interventions are recorded and the implications are addressed in programming. 2. Assessments are conducted of the specific changes occurring in the livelihood systems of beneficiary female-, male- and child-headed households. 3. An analysis of how women's and men's different needs could have been met more efficiently is prepared and informs future programming.
Coordinate actions with all partners
1. Actors in your sector liaise with actors in other sectors to coordinate on gender issues. 2. The sector/cluster has a gender action plan, has developed and routinely measures project-specific indicators based on the checklist provided in the IASC Gender Handbook.

RESOURCES

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