



GENDER EQUALITY

UPDATE No. 6

By **Gender Working Group**
RESPONSE TO THE NEPAL
EARTHQUAKE (as of 26/10/2015)

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

Gender Equality in the Humanitarian Response - Gender Monitoring Indicators



"Yesterday – Tomorrow". Build Back Better. Photo Credit: UN Women/Marie Sophie Pettersson

In the 5 months of the humanitarian response, there have been both achievements and gaps in terms of its gender-responsiveness as monitored through the cross-cutting response monitoring gender equality indicators. While initially there was a gradual increase in the number of clusters who were represented in the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group reaching full representation of all 9 clusters and 2 sub-clusters¹, there was a decline in representation in the last two months of the flash appeal period. Thus efforts have been made by the GWG Co-Chairs and the Humanitarian Coordinator to re-emphasise the importance of clusters' investment in dedicated Cluster Gender Focal Points. There has been a gradual increase in clusters that have gender equality feature in their regular meetings peaking at 8 out of 11 clusters and sub clusters.

While there has been a gradual increase in Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD) reporting by clusters, the need to significantly strengthen SADD collection and analysis continues to be a key priority

with only 3 out of 9 clusters having reported SADD against their response monitoring framework indicators at the end of the Flash Appeal period.

Early Recovery (as per 30th September)
• 92,741 households, including 16,190 female headed households benefitted from rubble debris removal.
• Rehabilitated community infrastructures has benefited 81,054 households, of which 20,943 are female headed households. The number of women beneficiaries is 214,816 compared to 190,525 men.
• 3,921 men and 2,724 women have been employed on a temporary basis to support debris management. 41 % of these Cash for Work have been women.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (as per 5th September)
• 20,832 women, 10,260 girls; 9,107 boys and 18,490 men of displaced population living in 120 displacement sites hosting 20 households or more were captured by the Displacement

Tracking Matrix

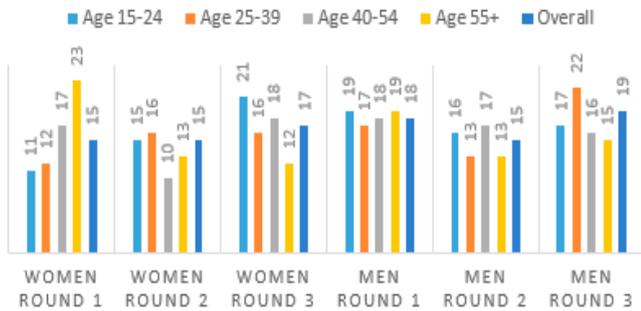
Protection (as per 15th September)
• 17,881 women, 3,544 girls, 83 boys and 119 men accessed female-friendly spaces
• 21,977 women and 15,755 girls received dignity kits

Based on findings from the Community Feedback Project Survey Round 2² (August 2015) and Round 3³ (September 2015), in comparison with the Survey Round 1 (July 2015) findings, majority of women and men of all ages continue to report not receiving information about relief and services, unequal access to relief services and that their problems were not being addressed. In terms of access to information and services, in August more women (77%) than men (69%) of all ages replied negatively— older women above age 55 gave the highest ratio of negative responses (87%), which is closely followed by older men above 55 of age (82%). However, in September the overall information access gap and the gender gap have diminished with a lower 62% of women and 59% of men reporting not having access to information.

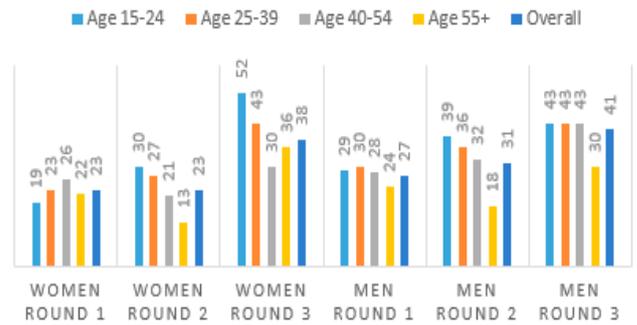
The same trend applies to access to relief/services, with 65% of women reporting unequal access versus 58% of men in August, whereas in September 58% of women and 57% of men overall reported not having access. This is a significant improvement to survey round 1 responses with 13 % increase in access to relief for men and 11% increase for women. There was a decline of around 5% between July and August in the number of women of age groups 15-55 years and men of all age groups who reported that their main problems were being addressed. Yet in September, there was a slight increase in positive responses to this question for both women and men across all age groups – amounting to a total of 83% of both women and 81% of men who report their problems as unaddressed – including 88% of both older women and 85% of older men of above 55 years of age.

1 Early Recovery, Food Security, Protection (including GBV and Child Protection Sub Clusters), Nutrition, Education, WASH, Health, CCCM, Shelter
2 <http://www.quakehelpdesk.org/report/CFP-Report-August.pdf>
3 <http://pub.lucidpress.com/CFPSeptember/>

% OF GIRLS, BOYS, WOMEN AND MEN SURVEYED WHO CONSIDER THAT THEIR PROBLEMS ARE BEING ADDRESSED



% OF GIRLS, BOYS, WOMEN AND MEN SURVEYED WHO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT RELIEF & SUPPORT



% OF GIRLS, BOYS, WOMEN AND MEN WHO HAVE FAIR ACCESS TO RELIEF SERVICES

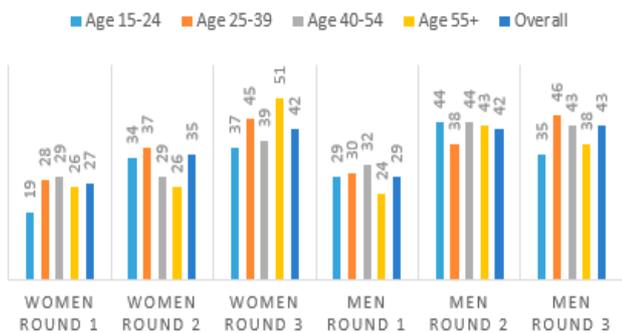


Photo Credit: UN Women/ Paiyavit Thongsra-Ard

WOMEN'S VOICES - FINDINGS FROM FEEDBACK SURVEY WITH UN WOMEN SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES⁴

In August and September 2015, the Common Feedback Project partnered with UNFPA and UN Women to carry out targeted perception surveys² with a total of **32 women** in the UNFPA supported Reproductive Health Camp in **Dolakha** district and **300 women** in three UN Women supported Multi-Purpose Women's Centres in **Kavre, Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot** during the distribution of radio sets to elderly women, female heads of households, Dalit women and women with disabilities.

UN WOMEN PERCEPTION SURVEY FINDINGS:

52% of respondents felt there was an increase in **tensions and risk of violence or harassment since the earthquake**. Respondents believe the increased tension is mainly from community and family members, closely followed by strangers.

53% of respondents believed **access or engagement with local or government or humanitarian agencies has diminished since the earthquake**. Respondents believe that engagement has decreased because of lack of physical access, stakeholders not listening, or women feeling too traumatized or a lack of energy to engage.

74% of respondents feel they have been **listened to more by male members in the household in making important decisions**, such as use of humanitarian relief and income earned, since the earthquake.

69% of women reported an increase in time spent on child and elderly care.

51% of women reported an increase in time spent on fetching water.

63% of women reported an increase in time spent on cooking and cleaning.

68% of women reported a decrease in time spent on paid work.

72% of women reported a decrease in time spent sleeping and resting.

UNFPA PERCEPTION SURVEY FINDINGS

48% of women responded they have not received any support in staying safe following the earthquake.

23% of women responded that they have not been satisfied with health services.

48% of women responded that either have not been able to access services or information specific to their needs.

Women reported that the main services needed were:
 how to stay safe during pregnancy and keep children safe,
 • proper sanitation practice and disposal of menstrual pads,
 • news on government and NGOs services and decisions,
 • shelter support.

⁴ <http://pub.lucidpress.com/CFPSSeptember/> and <http://my.visme.co/projects/unfpa-perception-survey-5daf1f> . Other ongoing and upcoming assessments may support or contradict these targeted perception survey findings.

REFLECTION ON RESPONSE AND GOOD PRACTICES

Coordination

With the endorsement of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Nepal, the Humanitarian Response Inter Cluster Gender Working Group (GWG) was established on 30 April 2015, five days after the earthquake, to ensure effective mainstreaming of gender equality in the earthquake response. The GWG is co-chaired by UN Women and UN OCHA and is comprised of 11 gender focal points representing 9 cluster and sub-clusters with technical guidance and support provided by the GenCap Adviser. The GWG has been providing an inter-cluster coordination mechanism to raise gender equality issues and support the realisation of gender responsive programming in the work of each of the clusters/sectors throughout the humanitarian action phase (assessment, design, implementation and monitoring). It has also provided opportunities for cross-learning of good practices across clusters

The GWG also has a separate multi-stakeholder forum (consisting of over 60 members) which gathers a diverse set of humanitarian actors to share information, coordinate efforts towards shared priorities, and raise attention on key gender equality issues.

Taking forward the HCT's commitments to Gender Equality, the inter-Cluster Gender Working Group (GWG) has supported the incorporation of gender equality in the Flash Appeal.

The GWG has provided orientation and capacity development on gender equality in humanitarian action for clusters and humanitarian partners (including at district level).

Advocacy

Within 2 weeks of the earthquake, **7 key messages on gender equality in humanitarian action were endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team.**

Promoting voices of national women's groups, UN Women supported the development of a **Common Charter of Demands by Women's Groups**⁵, which calls for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the humanitarian response. In particular, the Charters calls for ensuring women's leadership and participation in all aspects of the humanitarian response, gender sensitiveness in food security, shelter



and sustainable livelihoods, prevention of violence against women and girls, and special programmes for women. The Common Charter was submitted to Hon' Mahendra Bahadur Pande, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 22 June 2015, and to Hon' Ranju Jha, Chairperson, CA Committee on Women, Children, Senior Citizens and Social Welfare, on 21 June 2015.

Throughout the flash appeal period the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group provided **recommendations, analysis and messaging** for advocacy by the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICC) and HCT including in the UN situation reports, the humanitarian bulletins and the OCHA key sectoral messages.

Information Management, Assessment and Analysis

The first ever **Flash Appeal gender response monitoring system** was developed by the GWG in Nepal through the developing of 9 cross-cutting gender equality indicators, and ensuring gender-sensitive cluster-specific indicators, to track the gender-responsiveness of the humanitarian response. The GWG also ensured the incorporation of the **gender marker in the Flash Appeal.**

The GWG prepared a **Nepal Gender Profile**⁶ on 5th May to serve as a baseline for humanitarian actors at the onset of the response.

A total of five monthly and one special edition **Gender Equality Updates**⁷ have been produced by the GWG displaying 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. Key information from the Gender Equality

Photo Credit: UN OCHA/Jennifer Grover. Chautara.

Update No 1 was highlighted in the UN Secretary-General's daily noon briefing on 22 May⁸. This is the first time a gender equality update has been produced in a humanitarian context in a collaborative partnership.

A **Guidance Note on Gender Mainstreaming in the Transition Process**⁹ (27 August 2015) was prepared by the GWG.

The GWG has provided technical advice to ensure the integration of gender considerations and sex and age disaggregated data in different clusters' assessment, joint assessments, monitoring and reporting tools.

The GWG played a key role in **engendering the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)**¹⁰ process through its support to UN Women which acted as the lead development partner for the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Chapter of the PDNA Vol. A and B. It has also actively supported the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in the PDNA exercise, led by the NPC, with technical support on gender equality. UN Women and the GWG advocated for the inclusion of the commitment to apply the Government's GRB principles and practices to all recovery and reconstruction programmes. This commitment has been included in the PDNA reports.

The GWG established partnership with the **Inter-Agency Common Feedback Project (CFP)** in order to ensure the feedback on the response collected from communities is gender-responsive and captures women's voices. The

5 <http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/Details.aspx?id=2864&boxid=42261388&dat=5/14/2015>

6 <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/document/nepal-gender-profile>

7 All Gender Equality Updates are available on the GWG page: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/gender-task-force>

GWG ensured that a specific gender-related question was added to the survey questionnaire. UN Women and UNFPA contributed to a five-day train-the-trainer programme training to Scout Volunteers on Building the Skills of the Nepal Scouts as Community Mobilizers conducted from 15 to 19 June 2015 in Kakani, Nuwakot district, by leading interactive sessions on 'Substantive Equality' and 'Gender-based Violence' respectively. In the first survey round in June 2015 this highlighted that 85% of women felt their particular issues were not addressed in the response. In response, UN Women and UNFPA in collaboration with the Interagency Community feedback survey, reached a total of 398 women from Female Friendly Spaces and Multipurpose Women Centres (60 women from Bhaktapur, 103 in Nuwakot, 103 in Sindhupalchowk, 100 in Kavre; and 32 women from Dolakha) through focused surveys to identify their specific gender equality and protection issues (August/September 2015).

Cluster guidance & tools

Gender equality guidance was incorporated into the Cash for Work Guidelines, the Mental Health Cluster psychosocial referral tool, reporting format and the GBV referral guidelines through GWG technical support.

Ongoing GWG support is provided to the **Joint assessment on Food Security, Livelihoods and Early Recovery; and Shelter** to ensure gender analysis informs reconstruction planning /response.

In collaboration with the Protection Cluster and the GBV Sub-Cluster, the GWG has been influencing the CCCM to include gender equality & GBV questions in the **Displacement Tracking Matrix**, to develop a CCCM gender checklist and for the capacity strengthening of CCCM /DTM field actors on gender-responsiveness.

Based on the GWG guidance note on gender mainstreaming in the transition process, **follow-up support has been provided to the hubs** in order to identify coordination mechanisms and capacity needs on gender equality in consultation with the district actors.

GenGap Adviser and the gender focal points of Early Recovery and Food Security Clusters took part in Inter-cluster Cash for Work Workshop and added inputs to the Annex Recommendations of Cash for Work Guidelines by Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.

Participation & Access

Engaging local women's networks in relief distribution such as female trekkers in food distribution by WFP and FAO.

Establishment of **Girls Education and Gender Equity Networks** in schools in 14 most affected districts by the Education Cluster.

Women's information desks established in Nuwakot, Gorkha and Sindhupalchowk by UN Women.

Engaging women in debris management, safe demolition, road building and other activities as cash for work by UNDP, IOM and Oxfam under the Early Recovery Cluster. Over 40% of the total number of workers in debris removal (in UNDP ER programme) have been women.

Legal documentation awareness training for women provided by Oxfam.

Community infrastructure and livelihoods recovery has benefited women through **cash grants for market support and rehabilitation of damaged micro-hydro systems, irrigation canals and water supply maintenance**. Repairing of



Tulasi Kumari Thakuri is a 52-year-old single woman from the village of Irkhu, Sindhupalchowk. She has a physical disability which affects her ability to walk. In spite of this, she still wanted to contribute to rehabilitating the assets in her community and join the team working on the community road. Tulasi does the light work of cutting the grass bordering the road. Tulasi has a number of ideas for what she will do with the money she receives in exchange: "I would love to make a small poultry farm and keep chickens. I also need to buy rice and some new clothes to wear". Photo Credit: WFP/Yassmin Moor

Community Facility Center's has benefited both women and men micro-entrepreneurs to re-establish their business.

Through rehabilitation of local services women have received training in monitoring of human rights in the aftermath of earthquake.

Construction of **sex segregated toilet facilities and Menstrual Hygiene Management friendly latrines** to have a small incinerator on the side of the latrine to ensure privacy for women and girls by Oxfam and WASH Cluster.



Fifty-one-year-old Dil Maya Sunar (second from right) hands a stone from a collapsed school block to her colleague at Golma Devi School in Timbu of Sindhupalchowk district. Photo: Rakesh Tuladhar/Oxfam

8 Please see <http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp>

9 <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal/document/guidance-note-gender-mainstreaming-transition-nepal-earthquake-response>

10 <http://un.org.np/reports/nepal-earthquake-2015-post-disaster-needs-assessment-vol-b-sector-reports>



Gender Based Violence

Gender-based violence is especially problematic in the context of complex emergencies and natural disasters, where civilian women and children, especially girls, are most vulnerable. GBV increases in emergencies due to the displacement of communities, absence of law and order, lack of adequate basic support services and breakdown of social support networks. As health-care provider is often the first professional contact for survivors of GBV and sexual assault it is essential that health care providers have the required competencies to respond to GBV survivors and that health care systems are equipped to provide the best possible care for survivors. Clinical care for rape survivors should be available from the earliest onset of an emergency. **UNFPA supported the provision of post rape treatment kits along with clinical management of rape training to health workers in 8 of the most affected districts.** This training programme is aimed at capacitating health-care providers on how to provide integrated care to rape survivors in humanitarian settings, and also highlight the strong linkage between GBV and SRH programming in the humanitarian response. In addition the following good GBV practices were implemented to prevent and respond to GBV:

- Close coordination with local, district and national level government authorities and facilitate them to mainstream gender as a cross cutting issue in all cluster/cross cluster.
- Joint monitoring on the displacement side and provide inputs and feedback within and between cluster meeting so that the issue of women and girls will be address by inter-cluster and other agencies working in the district.
- **Documentation of the cases of GBV, trafficking and human rights violence in Women and Children offices.**
- Sharing the nature of cases, challenges and lesson learned while dealing the cases within cluster members or during cluster meetings.
- Established **GBV and VAW cases documentation system within Women and Children Office.**
- Established **case referral mechanism** from local, district and to national level if and where needed.
- Using **Female friendly spaces as a safe home for the survivor of GBV/VAW.** The services of FFS were appreciated by all agencies working in emergency settlement.
- Raising awareness through the use of different types of IEC material address the issue of girls and women just after the enormous earthquake somehow save women and girls from the risk of violence.
- Joint development **Gender Based Violence Response Plan** with Joint Cluster Coordination and Inter -Cluster Coordination
- Facilitation with government to establish OCMC in district hospital.
- Training to the FCHVs and other health personnel on GBV and role of health personal to address Gender issues.
- Joint monitoring of the temporary relocation area and assessment

After the loss of their mother during the earthquake these 4 kids were supposed to be trafficked away. This was prevented due to the successful intervention of the WCO and District child Welfare Committee in Sindupalchowk. Photo Credit: UNFPA

of highly vulnerable groups in Sindhupalchok district which support all the cluster and government agencies to focus their work towards the risk area.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

As the UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/1 3) also highlights, all members of the UN and its contractors have a particular duty to protect the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children. Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) of those we seek to assist erodes the confidence and trust of communities the UN and partners are meant to serve and is a serious breach of accountability. The Humanitarian Coordinator in Nepal circulated the **Code of Conduct on SG's Bulletin on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** produced by the GWG. In light of this, the GWG supported the **establishment of a network in Nepal with membership of the UN and AIN.** Its key aims are to prevent and maintain an environment that prevents SEA, to uphold standards of conduct and to ensure that appropriate action is taken in cases of suspected SEA. This is also expanding on the Nepal Earthquake Humanitarian Response Code of Conduct signed by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in May 2015.



Orientation on response to and prevention of Gender Based Violence. Photo Credit: UNFPA



20 women and 14 men engaged in debris clearing as Cash for Work at Trishuli Hospital Complex, Nuwakot. Photo by Ayush Karki/UNV.

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS ON GENDER EQUALITY IN POST-CONFLICT-HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT CONTINUUM

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹² were adopted on 25th September 2015 including a separate SDG 5 dedicated to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and gender mainstreamed across all 17 goals.

The Synthesis Report of the Consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit¹³ clearly identifies the need to prioritise 1) empowerment of women and girls, 2) elimination of gender-based violence, and 3) involvement of women and girls as leaders in crises response and recovery. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-and-world-humanitarian-summit/news/whs-release-synthesis-report>

“Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325”¹⁴ was published on 12th October 2015. To mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council adopted resolution 2122 (2013), the Secretary-General requested to conduct a review on their implementation to identify the gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action. Radhika Coomaraswamy was the lead author of the study on the recommendation of the United Nations Standing Committee on Women, Peace and Security and UN Women was the secretariat of the study. The study includes key findings from Nepal and has an overall focus on Women, Peace and Security both in the context of conflict and humanitarian settings. <http://wps.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf>



MEDIA MONITORING¹¹

- “Rise in Rape and Suicide after Earthquake” (26th August 2015) : <http://www.nagariknews.com/society/nation/story/44153.html>
- “Fears grow for Nepal’s pregnant women after quake” (28th August 2015): <http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/Details.aspx?id=4810&boxid=1612370&dat=8/29/2015>
- “Women count on own efforts save cash” (1st September 2015): <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-01/women-count-on-own-efforts-save-cash.html>
- “Single women ‘left without access to relief’” (2nd September 2015): <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-02/single-women-left-without-access-to-relief.html>
- “Increase in risk of human trafficking” (8th September 2015): <http://kantipur.ekantipur.com/news/2015-09-07/20150907082719.html>

Contact: gwgnepal@gmail.com

Link: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nepal>

This update was prepared based on inputs from members of the multi-stakeholder forum of the Inter-Cluster Gender Working Group (GWG). The forum enables information exchange, coordinating efforts towards shared priorities, and raising attention to key issues in the field of gender equality during the Nepal earthquake humanitarian response. The Gender Working Group is co-chaired by UN OCHA and UN Women Nepal.

11 Compiled by UNDP Nepal for the period from 26th September to 4th October 2015

12 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1565>

13 <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-and-world-humanitarian-summit/news/whs-release-synthesis-report>

14 <http://wps.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf>