



GENDER EQUALITY

UPDATE No. 12

Nepal Flood Response 2017

Summary of key facts and figures, case studies, initiatives, progress, challenges, needs and opportunities related to gender equality and social inclusion in the context of the Nepal flood humanitarian response in 2017.

Developed by UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MOWCSW), Government of Nepal, with collective inputs by the UNCT Gender Theme Group Task Team on Inter-Cluster Gender in Humanitarian Action

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Asha Devi Raya holds her 28-day-old baby daughter outside their flood-inundated home in Portaha-2 of Bhardaha village in Saptari District in Nepal on 14 August 2017. Much of Nepal had experienced incessant rainfall for three days since 11 August. This has caused large-scale inundation in the southern parts of the country bordering India (the Terai) and a number of landslides in the Hill areas.

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OVERVIEW

Although the legal frameworks of Nepal largely support gender equality and social inclusion, various social norms and discriminatory practices have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable and marginalized populations when disaster strikes.

Integrating gender equality, social inclusion approach is critical for effectiveness and accountability to affected populations. Women and girls, and the most marginalised and vulnerable groups – single women, female headed households, persons living

The most vulnerable and marginalised population groups based on gender, age, caste, ethnicity, marital status, sex of household head, mental and physical disabilities, sexual orientation and gender identity, in the country have been found to be disproportionately impacted before, during and after disasters due to persistent gender inequalities, gender based discrimination and violence, which are often reinforced, perpetuated and exacerbated by disasters.

with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI), senior citizens, children, caste and ethnicity-based minorities – are particularly impacted and in need of targeted support to ensure equitable access to and benefit from relief, services and information. Notably, opportunities to transform gender relations through the leadership and empowerment of women in their role as decision makers and economic actors are often missed elements of humanitarian response, despite the fact it is key to the response's effectiveness and for the longer-term resilience of communities.

According to analysis undertaken by UN Women based on the 2011 Population Census, out of the total estimated 1.07 million affected people in the ten most affected districts, 541,102 are women and girls (50.4%). An estimated 6,656 are women with disabilities out of a total 10,736 persons with disabilities. Further, 18% of the affected households are female headed, i.e. approx. 34,509 households. UNFPA further estimates that some 268,404 are women of reproductive age, of which around 21,000 are pregnant. The next three months will likely see around 6,700 pregnant women experience complications requiring emergency obstetric care.

Anecdotal reports from the flood affected districts reveal that women and girls, including the most marginalised and vulnerable groups are particularly impacted and in need of targeted support to ensure equitable access to and benefit from relief, services and information. The humanitarian flood response must ensure that the different situations, needs, risks, priorities and capacities of women, men, girls, boys and transgender populations across all diversities, and of those exposed to multiple vulnerabilities, are addressed when designing, planning, costing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating humanitarian response efforts.



Women displaced from floods in Rautahat district.
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KEY NEEDS, RESPONSE AND EMERGING ISSUES:

Needs and Emerging Issues:

- **Lack of electricity and shelter, or unsafe shelter, is reportedly exposing women and children, in particular single women, to additional protection risks. Women, children and the most vulnerable and marginalized, including single women, should be targeted for shelter support and other humanitarian assistance.**
- **There is a significant information gap on gendered impact from the floods including gendered risks, needs and capacities of affected and displaced populations - across sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity/caste and other social diversities.**
- **Women and girls in the affected districts are highly vulnerable to GBV, child marriage, and trafficking.** Groups in this area, particularly Muslim women, have the highest birth rates and the highest unmet need for family planning in Nepal. These are factors which exacerbate their vulnerabilities and must be taken into account in response.
- **Women, especially single women and female headed households, are reportedly facing additional workload due to increased responsibilities for care work of elderly, children, sick and differently abled members of their families and communities.** This is having negative implications on their mental and physical health, as well as reducing their time available for resting, income generation, and accessing relief and recovery support and information.
- **Cluster to use mapping of presence of gender networks representing women and LGBTI persons engaged in response efforts in affected districts to engage them in assessments, planning, implementation and monitoring of**

KEY MESSAGES:

- **Ensure equitable access to relief, services and information for affected populations of all ages and diversities, and targeted support to the most marginalized and vulnerable among affected populations including women, girls, single women, female headed households, pregnant and lactating women, as well as Dalit persons, LGBTI persons, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.**
- **Collect, analyse and use gender, age and disability disaggregated data in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of all programmes, and ensure that programmes respond to identified gender and social gaps.**
- **Ensure gender equality and social inclusion aspects are integrated into all needs assessments and inform response and recovery planning.**
- **Ensure equitable communication and consultations with all affected populations including the most vulnerable and marginalized of all genders, ages and diversities.**
- **Ensure gender balance in teams for distribution, mobilisers, trainers, enumerators, and provide adequate training and capacity strengthening including gender-sensitization.**
- **Apply the IASC gender marker and the principles of gender responsive budgeting in the planning, programming and monitoring of humanitarian response related expenditures.**
- **Ensure leadership and meaningful equal representation of women, as well as GESI groups representing women and LGBTI groups, in the response efforts including in assessments, planning, management, implementation, relief distribution and monitoring of humanitarian response activities.**
- **Assess whether specific response interventions or delivery mechanisms might create an increased risk of Gender Based Violence for women and girls.** Identify potential options to avoid or reduce GBV risks, plan and design interventions accordingly.
- **Establish effective and transparent complaint mechanisms for sexual exploitation & abuse and ensure all affected population of all genders, ages and diversities are aware of the mechanism.** Ensure equitable and safe access to relief, services and information for populations of all genders, ages and diversities.



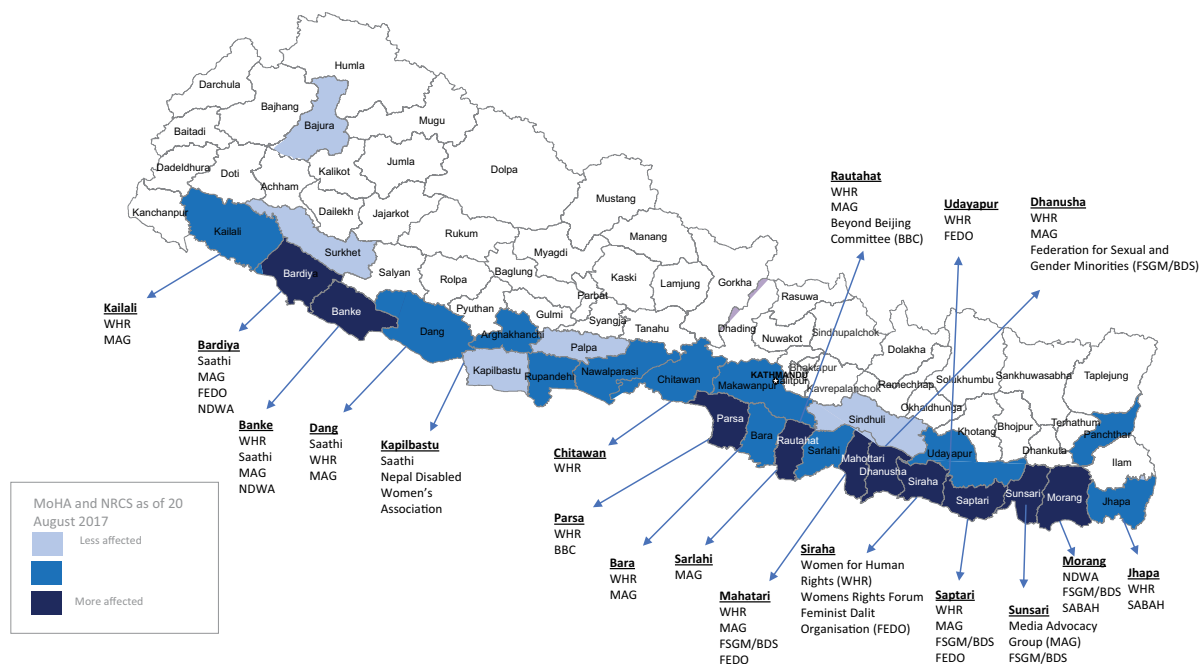
Pregnant women in Rautahat receive dignity kits from UNFPA.
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response activities to better reach most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

- Ensure clear communication and consultations with all affected populations including the most vulnerable and marginalized of all

genders, ages and diversities regarding 1) relief and services, including locations for distributions and 2) plans for temporary shelter options and shelter rehabilitation options before, during and after closures of flood shelters in schools.

- Prevent risk of violence and growing tensions as basic needs are unmet and community protection measures are broken down, and be alert of negative coping mechanisms (e.g. increased alcohol consumption) due to gendered aspects of post-traumatic stress.



Mapping of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion groups and networks in flood affected districts as of 30 August 2017
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Response:

- **The Inter-Cluster Gender in Humanitarian Action Task Team** under the UNCT Gender Theme Group has been reactivated to provide support on gender mainstreaming in the humanitarian response cycle. It is led by UN Women and UNDP and included cluster gender focal points and key gender experts and stakeholders from the UN, NGOs/INGOs and CSOs.
- **The Nepal Gender Equality Resource Guide for ERP¹** and its key actions and tools, as well as other IASC Gender Guidance and tools, including the gender marker and checklist for assessments, have been disseminated to all clusters for use for assessments, response planning and resource mobilization. UN Women has offered its technical support to clusters.
- **The IASC Gender Marker was applied to all cluster CERF proposals** and all scored 2a or 2b as required. Gender and Social Inclusion considerations were further reflected in the overall CERF submission and the HCT Joint Response Plan.
- **The shelter cluster gender and diversity guidance and prioritisation tool** (tailored to Nepal) have been shared with the Shelter cluster for use in response planning and implementation.
- **IASC guidelines on gender equality in cash transfer programmes in crisis²** was shared with the Cash Coordination Group for use in response planning and implementation.
- **Mapping of presence of gender networks representing women and LGBTI populations** engaged in response efforts in affected districts is continuously being updated and disseminated with clusters for engagement and collaboration in assessment, implantation and monitoring activities.
- **The Information Management Working Group is integrating sex and age**

disaggregated data in the inter-cluster 4W template.

- **Protection and Camp Management clusters** are working together to ensure that establishment of camps and settlements takes into account gender and GBV related concerns, and that camp management incorporates health and protection services. Health services and female friendly spaces in selected camps should be set up as per need, working closely with District Health offices and Women and Children's offices as needed. Female Friendly Spaces are providing GBV related information, safe shelter, referral including clinical management of rape, case management and psychosocial counselling.
- **Pocket cards with protection messages and hotline numbers**, including warnings about trafficking, are being distributed widely through Reproductive health camps (conducting within health cluster) and in relief supplies of various actors in the protection cluster. GBV prevention messages are being broadcasted through protection cluster at districts.

- The Inter-Cluster Gender in Humanitarian Action Task Team under the UNCT Gender Theme Group stand **ready to provide technical support on integration of gender considerations in cluster specific detailed assessments**. The **protection cluster has a GBV experts that are ready to participate in cluster specific detail assessments** (please contact cluster lead and co-lead).
- UNICEF provided training to community radio stations on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency response programming. Eleven radio stations across the affected districts are producing and airing contents on floods and landslides. Out of them, **eight radio stations are producing content exclusively focusing on issues related to women and children**. Nine radio stations are also collecting feedback from affected communities. Some of the emerging priority needs among affected communities were related to relief and shelter, water, food, health and education.



Two girls use plastic sheets as makeshift rain cover in Saptari District in Nepal on 12 August 2017. Much of Nepal had experienced incessant rainfall for three days since 11 August. This has caused large-scale inundation in the southern parts of the country bordering India (the Terai) and a number of landslides in the Hill areas.

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¹ <http://un.org.np/thematicareas/disasterpreparedness/erp>

² https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/guidance_on_ge_and_ctps_june_2015.pdf