



CARE GENDER IN EMERGENCIES

CARE International is committed to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through humanitarian action. Humanitarian response has the potential to increase and reinforce, or reduce, existing gender inequalities.

Why does gender matter during an emergency response?

Research shows that women, men, boys and girls are affected differently by humanitarian crises.

- More women than men die in post-conflict situations from the indirect causes of conflict, while more men than women die in direct armed conflicts.
- The World Health Organisation estimates that 60% of preventable maternal mortality happens in countries affected by humanitarian crises.
- Humanitarian crises offer a ‘window of opportunity’ to transform unequal gender relations and shift harmful gender norms but current models of humanitarian response are not designed to take advantage of this.
- Existing forms of gender-based violence (GBV), like domestic and sexual violence and early marriage, increase during a crisis, and new forms of GBV, such as sexual exploitation and abuse, and sex trafficking, may emerge. Women and girls are at most risk of GBV.

Who can do Gender in Emergencies?

All CARE staff and partners should use the four steps to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through humanitarian action.

What is CARE’s approach to Gender in Emergencies?

Meeting the needs of people of all genders, ages and abilities requires a gender equality approach to humanitarian action.

1. Rapid Gender Analysis



Analyse the different needs, experiences, and capacities of all people during a humanitarian response.

2. Minimum Commitments



Use to mainstream gender and diversity in WASH, Food Security, Shelter and Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights.

3. Women Lead in Emergencies



Make women’s voices count in humanitarian planning and decision-making.

4. Life Free From Violence



Prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV during and after a humanitarian crisis.

Measure gender equality in humanitarian programming

The Gender in Emergencies indicators were developed to capture, measure, and track the changes occurring as a result of the dedicated gender approach across humanitarian programming.

Mark gender integration in humanitarian programming

Use the [CARE Gender Marker](#) to monitor and learn how gender equality is integrated into humanitarian projects from design through to implementation.



How to deliver a humanitarian response that advances gender equality

Delivering CARE's four-part approach to Gender in Emergencies requires the following things:

- **Link** humanitarian programming to CARE's existing gender equality development programming before, during and after a humanitarian crisis.
- **Prepare:** use Emergency Preparedness Planning to include gender equality and women's empowerment in all parts of a response. For example, prepare a Gender in Brief that will inform preparations, contingency planning and response.
- **Train:** provide Gender Equity and Diversity training in order to make sure staff understand gender equality. Organise gender in emergencies training.
- **Balance** teams of first responders. Assessment teams need to be gender balanced to be able to work with people of all gender and ages affected by crises
- **Prevent** sexual exploitation and abuse for example by carrying-out rigorous reference checks, including specific information in staff-orientation processes, and ensuring complaints mechanisms are in place.
- **Budget:** include Gender in Emergencies technical support and approach activities into humanitarian proposals.
- **Deploy** Gender in Emergencies technical specialists to work with gender and humanitarian teams.
- **Support** women's rights organisations and partner with local organisations committed to gender equality during a humanitarian response.
- **Learn:** gender in Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning systems to show what is working and not working for women, men, boys and girls in affected communities.

Find out more?

CARE's work on Gender in Emergencies is available on [Gender in Practice](#) and on the CARE [gender.wiki](#).



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