

**EMPOWERMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN** 

# HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND CRISIS RESPONSE



## **FOREWORD**

UN Women was established by the General Assembly to drive forward and contribute to progress in achieving internationally agreed standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The challenges of gender equality and the empowerment of women are nowhere more apparent and urgent than in crisis. With some 135 million people needing humanitarian assistance, and rising, the world has demonstrated that it is not equipped to meet the challenge with business as usual. Our collective responsibility to women and girls in crisis demands our attention, commitment and action.

UN Women's contribution in the area of risk reduction, humanitarian action and crisis response is based on two key realities. First, the humanitarian system is not yet living up to its commitments to ensure that women and girls, who make up the majority of most crisis-affected populations, are provided with the protection, support and opportunities they are entitled to, and we must all hold ourselves and be held accountable if this is to change. Second,

empowering women and girls in crisis contexts is not only right, it is also smart, offering one of the most cost-effective ways to save lives, build resilience, speed up recovery, and ultimately prevent crises from occurring in the first place.

UN Women is a catalyst, using its influence on normative and coordination processes together with its operational work, in a coherent and holistic way to respond to these realities. Our primary lever for change is influence, and this report details the way we have done this in 2017. It describes how we worked with partners from local to global level to achieve results. From leading the development and agreement of the new gender accountability framework of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in New York to co-leading with our colleagues in UNHCR the gender coordination mechanism in Cox's Bazaar, UN Women focused on adding value. In 2017, 170,000 people in crisis situations around the world directly accessed services provided by UN Women to fill that empowerment gap, from awareness raising to vocational training to support to start businesses. Moreover, this was not only women: men participated, for example, in trainings on ending violence against women and girls.

When UN Women began its operations in 2011 it lacked a humanitarian portfolio. It quickly became clear that this was not compatible with its mandate, and from small beginnings UN Women's work



UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, visits Syrian refugees in Za'atari Refugee Camp, Jordan.
Photo: IJN Women



Women work at a fish-processing project supported by UN Women in Joal Fadiouth, Senegal /Photo: UN Women/Bruno Demeocq

in this area has grown to represent a significant proportion of everything UN Women does, and rightly so given the extreme disadvantage, discrimination and abuse that women and girls face in crises and which the humanitarian community still struggles to address. While we in UN Women are immensely proud of what we achieved with our partners in 2017, we recognize that there remains so much more to do. We are still on a journey to make the contribution our mandate requires.

UN Women's resources remain stretched. With only minimal core resources available for this work, the achievements in 2017 depended almost entirely on

the generous support of donors. We would like to particularly thank the Governments of Sweden and Japan as well as the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) in this regard. We have already welcomed new major donors for 2018. We thank them and the partners both inside and outside the UN system with whom we worked to achieve the results reported here. We are a long way from truly gender-responsive humanitarian action, but strongly believe that we can get there. We welcome all those who are ready to work with us in doing so.

# UN WOMEN PROMOTES ACCOUNTABILITY AND EMPOWERMENT

# The Issue: growing immediate needs and the centrality of gender

Crises around the world are multiplying and becoming more complex and protracted. UN Women responds by addressing immediate needs based on a vision of gender equality and women's empowerment.

- More than 135.7 million people around the world need humanitarian assistance today.¹ An unprecedented 65.5 million people are forcibly displaced.²
- Humanitarian crises are becoming increasingly complex and protracted with displacement lasting on average between 17 and 26 years.<sup>3</sup>
- Women and children constitute more than 75 per cent of the refugees and displaced persons at risk of war, famine, persecution and natural disaster.<sup>4</sup>
- Gender-based violence, including rape and early and forced marriage, increases during crises. 1 out of 5 women in displacement have experienced sexual and gender-based violence.
- In conflicts, girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than their male peers are.5

Inter-agency humanitarian appeals now last an average 7 years and the size of appeals has increased nearly 400 per cent in the last decade. These

inter-agency funding requirements have increased from US\$4.8 billion in 2006 to US\$19.7 billion in 2016.6 The appeals are largely unmet.

In 2017, major protracted crises saw new developments resulting in the increased displacement of people. Among these crises are the South Sudan refugee crisis, the Lake Chad Basin crisis in West Africa and the refugees that result from the continuing war in Syria. Libya, Congo, Afghanistan and the Central African Republic continued to be volatile and in turmoil, with refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) resulting from these situations. The humanitarian situation in Yemen reached a new low in 2017 with no solution in sight yet. Climate-related crises increased with the mudslide in Sierra Leone extensively covered in the news, together with the effects of Hurricane Irma. Hurricane Irma was an extremely powerful and catastrophic hurricane causing widespread and catastrophic damage throughout its long lifetime, particularly in the northeastern Caribbean and the Florida Keys, USA. From August 2017, the Rohingya refugee influx in Bangladesh captured the international headlines, due to its size, speed and harrowing stories of the survivors.

Conflict effects women, girls, boys and men differently. Women and girls face heightened risks due to displacement and the breakdown of protection

- OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview 2018.
- UNHCR (2018) Figures at a Glance Statistical Yearbooks.
- 3. UNHCR (2015) Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2015.
- UNFPA Protecting Women in Emergency Situations; available at: http://www.unfpa.org/resources/protecting-women-emergency-situations#st hashyskdqqSa.dpuf
- Georgetown Institute for Women (2016) Peace and Security Adolescent Girls' Access to Education Report
- 6. OCHA (2016) World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2016



Women train to be tailors at a UN Women-supported Action Aid Women Friendly Space in Balukhali Rohingya Refugee camp in Chittagong district, Bangladesh. Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce

structures and support. When crises strike, gender inequalities are often exacerbated. These include increased levels of gender-based violence, exclusion from life-saving services, and decision-making processes due to discriminatory social norms such as food hierarchies and limited mobility. Women and girls also face increased care-related tasks such as providing food and water, and caring for the sick.7 Studies have found that due to women's roles as caregivers, during natural disasters they are more likely to make sacrifices, such as eating less food or leaving the house last, for the well-being of their families.8 Women and girls are also more at risk of economic vulnerability, as their livelihoods are, more often than men's, linked more closely to the global commons (selling products gathered from forests) or to land (subsistence agriculture) and local markets. Men are often the first to migrate because of natural disasters. For women and girls, this vulnerability can lead to divorce, desertion, and polygamy. The increased incidence of child marriages during crises is also intimately related to this economic vulnerability for young girls.9

Despite numerous international commitments for gender equality in humanitarian action, persistent gaps remain. Key among these are:

- Lack of accountability for gender.
- Gaps in data and understanding of the gendered impacts of crises.
- Barriers hindering women's participation and leadership in crisis response.
- Lack of targeted investment in women's empowerment, livelihoods and resilience.

More broadly, the humanitarian community is not putting its efforts and resources into gender-equality focused action, as promised. Despite important progress, the review of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Marker Codes in 2015 indicated that only 35 per cent of proposals considered gender issues, while over 60 per cent of the projects were either gender blind (22%), or only partially designed to address the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men (42%).<sup>10</sup>

The world needs new approaches to achieve results: business as usual is failing. UN Women passionately believes that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is one of the most powerful transformative actions the world can take to prevent, respond to and recover from crises.

ActionAid (2016) On the frontline: Catalyzing women's leadership in humanitarian action., p.20.; available at: http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/on\_the\_ frontline\_catalysing\_womens\_leadership\_in\_humanitarian\_action.pdf

Randall Abate (2016). Climate Justice: Case Studies in Global and Regional Governance Challenges, p. 503

Randall Abate (2016). Climate Justice: Case Studies in Global and Regional Governance Challenges, p. 503

<sup>10.</sup> IASC (2015) Report on "Gender equality in the 2015 strategic Response Plans (SRPs) Results and evolution of the IASC Gender Marker"; available at: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/gencap/document/gender-equality-2015-srps-results-and-evolution-iasc-gender-marker



#### **UN Women's approach**

UN Women works with partners to fill an acute and vital gap in humanitarian action and crisis response, and to make sure that it works as well as it can, to deliver results not only for women and girls but also, through their empowerment, their families, communities and societies. Gender-inclusive programming takes the intersectional nature of marginalisation into account and ensures that the most vulnerable people are included in humanitarian and crisis response. UN Women addresses gaps in humanitarian action across its triple mandate in normative, coordination and operational (programmatic) work.

This is reflected in UN Women's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan which says:

"UN-Women focuses on mainstreaming gender perspectives into the work of humanitarian actors through normative advances, supporting coordination mechanisms, and adding value on the ground through gender analysis, technical expertise to the cluster system, support to local actors for gender-responsive preparedness and response, and targeted, catalytic service delivery where gaps exist and in support of partners"

(paragraph 66, page 18)

By leveraging its triple mandate, UN Women accelerates efforts to:

- 1. **Influence norms and standards** guiding humanitarian work to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- 2. Ensure accountability for addressing norms and standards by promoting collective action and ensuring gender-responsive humanitarian action and crisis response at country level in coordination with its partners.
- Address the disproportional impact of crises and disasters on women and girls as well as promote their leadership.

UN Women supports the implementation of global commitments such as those of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and others such as the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (2015) (Sendai Framework). As the international community focuses on reducing future need and risks, UN Women's role lies in the 2030 Agenda pledge to "leave no one behind". UN Women emphasizes accountability as a lever for effective coordination and women's empowerment, as missing pieces of work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.



Young school girls organize themselves before the March to End Gender-Based Violence in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Photo: UN Women Tanzania/Deepika Nath

Inclusion is a central principle for UN Women and specific measures are taken to include the most marginalised. This means not only promoting the inclusion of women and girls overall, but also providing attention to the inclusion of groups subject to intersecting types of marginalisation. Depending on the context, specific groups are actively sought out to be included by UN Women. For example, participation by ethnic minority groups is facilitated, disabled women's participation is supported by making spaces accessible, and Gender Based Violence (GBV) survivors are included so that social stigmas are addressed. UN Women is currently availing itself of the generous technical support of the International Disability Alliance to ensure mainstreaming of disability issues is included in its humanitarian programming.

UN Women is committed to strengthen its own accountability to its constituency and partners. In 2017, in 17 out of 30 countries, UN Women had mechanisms in place to be accountable to the people it serves. These mechanisms usually take the form of facilitating meetings where UN Women (and partners) actively seek the views and input of refugees, IDPs and host communities. This occurs both during the implementation of programs and after programs have been implemented, and feedback is needed for

evaluation and adjustments. In Cameroon, UN Women organized meetings together with its implementing partner ALVF, to make an inventory of the preferences of the target population before implementation. They specifically asked the target group to select suitable income generating activities to make sure that the programming would address and meet the immediate needs as expressed by the target group. Any questions and concerns (for example from men in the case of women only programming) were addressed during these meetings, including the criteria of selection for beneficiaries. After a year of implementation, a meeting is organized for two days, so all partners and representatives of the target groups discuss progress, achievements and challenges in the program. This informs the next phase. All yearly meetings are recorded and a summary is printed for all participants.





### YOUNG MEN **VOLUNTEERING** TO BUILD GENDER **EQUALITY**

#### Yakubu Bitrus and Ibrahim Andrawus believe in gender equality

We are voluntary ALVF (Association to Fight Violence Against Women) community workers since 2015, here in the refugee camp at Minawao, where we live. Women come to our Women Cohesion Spaces when they are in trouble, often because of violent husbands. Solving marital conflicts though, requires quite some skills when it comes to the husbands. Our approach is that we go and visit people at home and speak humbly to the husbands. We visit several times and invite them to discuss further or speak privately to a social worker or to the psychologist here at a Women Cohesion Space. When the violence at home continues and we have tried various tactics, we have to involve the Community Police.

They will send an official notice to the abusive husband to come and explain the situation; they are breaking Cameroonian law after all. The Community Police can also come and escort the husband to the Social Cohesion Space, so they can have that conversation there instead of at the police station. It helps tremendously that we have worked with the Community Police for some years, who are gender sensitive and have systems in place to deal with these cases. Usually, the husband's behavior changes after such an intervention.

As we are refugees ourselves, we know what is happening here in the camp but sometimes we are still surprised. We hear that a very young girl is pregnant. Then it turns out that she has been living with her new husband, never left the house since her marriage and now she is pregnant. Someone officiated the marriage, although the girl was less than 15 years old and that is against the law in Cameroon. We are sensitizing and training traditional and religious leaders and parents on the dangers of child marriage. We see quite some progress in their understanding and attitudes, but sometimes child marriages happen. The camp is simply too big, we hear about these marriages involving young girls too late to take action.

Another part of our voluntary work involves going door-to-door to explain what we are offering in the Women Cohesion Spaces. We invite people for training, for general information talks and we give information and referrals for any problems they may have. Yes, sometimes there is some gossip that we are "marriage wreckers", but that is minimal and we are dedicated to this work. We believe in gender equality.



#### Action with others: Partnerships

UN Women enjoys a close relationship with the women's movement and women's organizations. In 2017, UN Women supported 197 women's organizations and institutions, in line with its history and focus, and the principle of localisation. UN Women also brings to bear not only formal relationships with governments and with UN system partners, but also with a wide range of other actors including in the private sector and international NGOs.

UN Women continues to build its relationships and complementary programming within the UN system. For example, in Cameroon, UN women developed a strong partnership with UNHCR for the establishment and management of the Women Cohesion Spaces in the site of Minawao, Gado and Ngam. The UNHCR provides services to support women, girls and GBV survivors that are implemented through the Women Cohesion Spaces. The Women Cohesion Spaces are established by UN Women. The two agencies organized a series of workshops with all the implementing partners, to develop an action plan together.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), UN Women has a joint partnership in place with OCHA. OCHA and UN Women have supported the HCT (Humanitarian Country Team) in Palestine to meet the increased need for the adoption and implementation of humanitarian approaches, mechanisms and tools that ensure effective protection and access to humanitarian assistance for women and girls. This is achieved through the implementation of the Joint Action Plan "Strengthened Gender Focus in the Humanitarian Response in Palestine (2016-2017)". The Joint Action Plan has promoted the meaningful participation of women's organizations in humanitarian processes and supported advocacy for increased funding for gender targeted humanitarian action.

Several other countries are exploring partnerships and joint programming in more detail. There are circumstances in some countries where gaps exist which UN Women fills with stand-alone programming. However, in these circumstances, it is UN Women's strategy to move to a partnership model as quickly as possible. UN Women expects to have more results to report on this aspect in the coming years.

# WOMEN ARE REBUILDING ECUADOR, LITERALLY



#### Veronica Lucas Melo and Victoria Zambrano gained new skills

Following the devastation caused by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake in Ecuador, women have been working in reconstruction of housing, showing their families and community that women can rebuild Ecuador, literally.

Mrs. Lucas Melo lives in Las Gilces, a small community of 800 families located in the western part of the country, where nearly 100 homes needed to be demolished and rebuilt.

"They said that I was going to do nothing useful there, just bother everyone," recalls Mrs. Lucas Melo, when she told her family that she was going to join the rebuilding effort. "They asked me, what are you supposed to do in a place that's for men?"

When Mrs. Lucas Melo heard about the joint UN program, "Cash for Work," seeking to reactivate

the local economy, she saw her opportunity to gain new skills and find a new source of income for her family. Mrs. Lucas Melo undertook training in masonry and construction provided by UN Women in Las Gilces and Manta, with the support of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Justice.

On the first day of work, there was a nervous pause until Mrs. Lucas Melo picked up her tool to strike down a broken wall. The other women in the program cheered and joined her to complete the task.

"Men began to take us seriously. They didn't see us as weak anymore and worked with us as a team," she shared.

Photo: UN Women/Romina Garzór

#### **ACTION**

# COORDINATION AND PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY GLOBALLY

# Making progress in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee

In 2015, UN Women, as co-chair of the IASC's Gender Reference Group (GRG), conducted a review of the IASC's delivery on its 2008 Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action Policy Statement. While the review noted some positive developments regarding the use and expansion of gender mechanisms and tools by the IASC (e.g. the GenCap Project, Gender Handbook, GBV Handbook, Gender e-learning course, Gender Marker and Tip Sheets, and Gender Alerts), in general it found that the commitments contained within the Policy Statement had been inconsistently applied and had become increasingly side-lined as the IASC developed its Transformative Agenda from 2012 onwards.

In 2017, to help address this issue, UN Women, with the endorsement of the IASC Working Group and on behalf of the GRG, developed a new IASC Gender and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy to reflect the global humanitarian landscape as it currently stands. Undertaking a broad-reaching series of consultations with representatives from the IASC membership, the Global Clusters, the IASC subsidiary bodies and humanitarian coordinators, the policy creation process focused on the issues that the participants thought

were the most important that required updating and how an accountability framework would best serve the work of the IASC.

While maintaining the IASC's commitment to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action, the new version of the policy now reflects major developments in humanitarian normative priorities, such as those developed at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (2016), the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants (2016), the Sustainable Development Goals (2015) and the Sendai Framework (2015). Key themes in the policy include humanitarian financing, localization, the humanitarian-development nexus, cash based programming and innovation.

In addition, the revised policy is based on the structural changes to the IASC since the development of the Transformative Agenda and the adoption of the Humanitarian Program Cycle and the cluster system. Reflecting these changes, the policy also sets out roles and responsibilities for all levels of the IASC's structure, both globally and in the field, to deliver on the policy's commitments.

Based on the revised policy, the GRG has also developed a Monitoring Accountability Framework (AF), to capture, monitor and measure the performance



UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, visits the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Photo: UN Women/Allison Joyce

of the IASC bodies in performing their roles and responsibilities set out in the policy. The AF will also measure whether the key standards laid out in the policy are implemented at global and field levels, to monitor progress of the implementation of the policy.

The AF includes a self-assessment component for the IASC's bodies (Principals, Working Group, Emer-

gency Directors Group, the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT), subsidiary bodies) which scores their output for the previous year in terms of delivery on the roles and responsibilities of the policy. In addition, a separate analysis will be undertaken by an IASC Gender Desk, analyzing at the outputs and deliverables of the IASC in terms of the commitments contained within the policy.

#### **Engendering the Grand Bargain**

Through its work with the Grand Bargain informal Friends of Gender Group," UN Women has brought together champions of gender in humanitarian action to leverage the potential of the Grand Bargain space and work streams for gender in humanitarian action. In 2017, this also included direct engagement with priority work streams to encourage strengthened attention to gender equality. The work streams UN Women engaged in and supported were:

- 1. More support and funding tools to local and national responders.
- 2. Increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming.
- 3. Improve Joint and Impartial Needs Assessments.
- 4. A Participation Revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions, which affect their lives.

UN Women also promoted gender equality more broadly through its membership of the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group. In one example of its impact, the Friends of Gender Group pushed for strengthened guidelines on gender in Grand Bargain reporting and in the Terms of Reference of the Independent Report for Grand Bargain Implementation (Independent Report). This resulted in vastly improved attention to gender equality in the Independent Report, opening the door for further progress in the 2018 Grand Bargain annual meeting.

#### The Global Compact on Refugees

UN Women has taken a leading role in ensuring that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is adequately reflected in the Global Compact on Refugees, which is currently under development. To that end, UN Women published and launched a Position Paper and Aide Memoire at a high-level side-event at the Member State Thematic Discussions in Geneva, in October 2017. The Position Paper and Aide-Memoire set out the key issues that need to be reflected in the Global Compact to ensure that the commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls set out in the 2016 New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants are delivered on. In Geneva, the Position Paper and Aide Memoire was shared with Member States and Permanent Missions. On the margins of the consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees, UN Women facilitated a series of dialogues. The Aide Memoire was also shared with staff at the International Labor Organization (ILO), working on the issue.

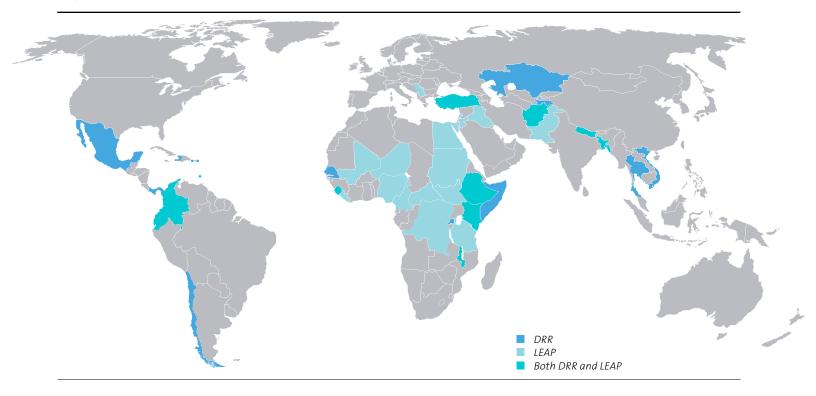
# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

UN Women was instrumental in the development of the CEDAW General Recommendation No. 37 on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, which contributes to strengthened accountability mechanisms on gender-responsive disaster risk reduction.

<sup>11.</sup> The Friends of Gender Group include Sweden, Canada, United States, Finland, Australia, ECHO, Italy, United Kingdom, Denmark, UN OCHA, UNFPA, FAO, World Bank, IFRC, CARE, OXFAM, Action Aid

# ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE NEEDS, SUPPORTING SERVICES, LEADERSHIP, PROTECTION AND LIVELIHOODS

#### Map with LEAP and DRR countries 2017



#### People served

In 2017, 121,000 women and girls and 44,000 men and boys (in relation to awareness and prevention of GBV) were directly served under the Leadership, Empowerment, Access & Protection in Crisis Response (LEAP), the UN Women worldwide program addressing immediate needs of refugees, IDPs and

host communities. This totals 165,000 persons. In addition, more than 5,000 women and men were directly served by UN Women's disaster risk reduction and resilience building initiatives. Programming includes training government representatives, UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and especially women's organizations, so they can expand gender inclusive humanitarian action.

These activities have a multiplier effect, reaching thousands of indirect beneficiaries throughout the communities, villages and households.

UN Women provides life-saving humanitarian assistance in 30 different countries in humanitarian crises. Adding countries with Disaster Risk and Resilience (DRR) programming (some of which overlap), the total number of countries in which UN Women contributed to humanitarian response or disaster risk reduction was 47 in 2017.

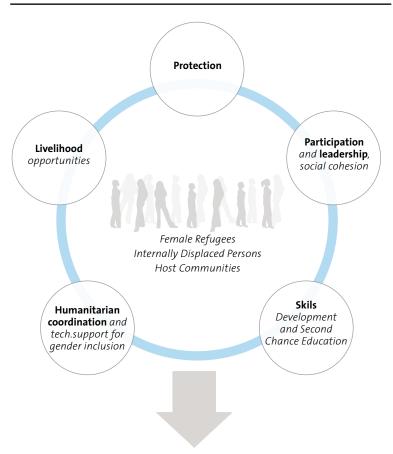
#### Flagship Initiative: LEAP

LEAP is the worldwide flagship initiative of UN Women for humanitarian action and crisis response, the LEAP program enhances gender equality and women's empowerment, promotes resilience, and provides sustainable solutions to refugees and displaced women and girls, their families and (host) communities. LEAP improves the gender-responsiveness of humanitarian action as it seeks to ensure that women and girls affected by crisis, lead, participate in, are empowered by and benefit from response and recovery efforts. This flagship program ensures that gender analysis and needs assessments inform humanitarian/crisis response planning, frameworks and programming; it increases access to protection and economic opportunities; it bridges the humanitarian/ development divide in protracted and slow onset crises by promoting empowerment and sustainable livelihoods for marginalized women and girls.

In LEAP, UN Women combines the following actions focusing on gender equality, women's empowerment and resilience:

- Coordinating and promoting accountability: providing technical support for gender- inclusive humanitarian response.
- Compiling data on interventions and outcomes, so that programming is increasingly and solidly evidence-based.
- Enhancing girls' and women's participation and leadership, and building social cohesion.

#### LEAP: Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection



Women, girls and their communities are more resilient to conflict, displacement and other crises

- Linking up with women's organizations movements and national machineries to leverage capacity, leadership and sustainability, with the aim to support localized action and accountability.
- Organizing skills training and Second Chance Education for livelihoods.
- Providing livelihood assistance addressing immediate needs (employment placement -including Cash for Work-, access to agricultural production and entrepreneurship opportunities).
- Providing protection services (legal aid, GBV referral services, psycho-social assistance and GBV awareness-raising and prevention).

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



# ESTHER SETS UP BUSINESS AND TRAINS OTHERS

Esther Mukeshimana, 20 years old, fled her village of Masisi in 2014, following the recurrent war between the militias, to take refuge in the Mugunga camp. She lives with her mother and her 3 younger brothers, having lost her father. She has a physical disability, wears a prosthesis and uses crutches. Having basic knowledge in cutting and sewing, she obtained a \$90 microloan from a microfinance institution within the UN Women project in Goma and rented a sewing machine to provide some sewing services in the camp.

The UN Women project provided training to her

on how to create, manage and grow a business and she received an additional loan of \$200 after repaying the first loan. She bought a second-hand machine and paid for some additional training in sewing.

She then started training people in the camp for a small fee. Esther is one of the 55 women from the Mugunga Internally Displaced Persons Camp who have bought a house under the UN Women project. She is also the Secretary - Treasurer of a group of 15 displaced women organized in a cooperative

#### Services and protection

UN Women provides a number of services to refugees, IDPs and host communities. These services depend on a range of factors: partnerships with other actors, the local context and the immediate needs

17.000

**Referred to GBV Specialized Services** 

58.000

**Received Psycho-Social Support** 

of those affected. Therefore, every country has a different mix of services targeted to the local situation and needs. Services and protection are diverse and context-specific, in line with the overall key components of the LEAP program. Part of the services can be legal services or social services, provided by a trained social worker. The bulk of the services however, are in the field of GBV. UN Wo-

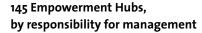
men's focus is on addressing immediate needs and finding sustainable solutions that address the root causes of GBV.

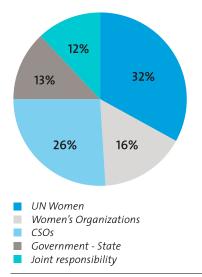
The GBV and discrimination that women and girls already face are exacerbated in a crisis context, and without targeted support, these effects seriously hamper their ability to survive and recover. Providing women and girls with the means to develop their own self-reliance, livelihoods and form their own path to recovery is the best way to phase out, and over the long run, to address, their exposure to GBV, exploitation and other gender-specific risks. Furthermore, removing barriers to women and girl's agency and ability further increases their capacity to contribute to the process of response and recovery at the community level. Together with removing barriers to justice, ending impunity and addressing overall gender inequalities, these interventions can be instrumental in addressing women and girls' exposure to GBV risks.

vices where there is demand due to discernable and detrimental gaps in service provision, and when doing so, in close coordination with and in support of UNFPA.

UN Women's role is not to provide survivor services as these services are normally provided by other entities, in particular UNFPA. UN Women only provides such ser-







Together with partners and implementing agencies, and in coordination with women's organizations and national machineries, UN Women contributes to responses to GBV and the prevention of GBV. UN Women's focus is on the following:

- Providing Psycho-Social Care (PSS) by bringing women together in groups to partake in activities, thus opening a pathway for articulation and mutual sharing of issues among women, in a safe environment.
- Referring GBV survivors to specialized care.13
- Addressing and preventing GBV by various forms of training, addressing men's and boys' roles, and promoting positive and progressive gender norms.

In 2017, 58,000 women and girls received psycho-social care and 17,000 were referred to specialized services. 194,000 women and 44,000 men were trained in GBV awareness and prevention, or attended meetings on the subject.

UN Women's targeted services are mainly delivered through Empowerment Hubs. These spaces, sometimes operated jointly with partners, are places for women and girls to come together, break social isolation, participate and show leadership, as well as gain access to opportunities and information. In 2017, there were 145 Empowerment Hubs worldwide. These Empowerment Hubs are tailored to local needs, and are referred to by different names in different places. Many men and boys are welcome to participate in activities relating to gender equality. With the objective of sustainability and localization, UN Women aims to share and hand-over the management of the Empowerment Hubs to local actors as soon as possible.



- GBV community awareness and prevention
- Vocational skills for livelihood (carpentry, sewing, etc)
- Participation/ Leadership training
- Life skills/Women's rights /
  Empowerment training

#### Livelihood and training

Refugees, IDPs and host communities receive training in different subjects. These may include life skills, leadership training and training in women's rights and empowerment. Although most people receive training and are subject to awareness-raising on GBV, a substantial part of training programs relate to livelihood. These include vocational training (ranging from masonry to hairdressing), training in agricultural techniques in line with a climate resilience approach, and training in entrepreneurship. Some training programs include elements such as 'How to prevent and address sexual harassment on the job' as part of a job placement scheme, for example in Lebanon. In 2017, UN Women paid more attention to livelihood training, addressing immediate needs and preferences among people served.

Livelihood is a means of securing the necessities of life. It is the way to make a living and provide/pay for the basic things needed in life, and can include the income from a job or business, or produce from forests or agriculture. All livelihood strategies or access to resources involve information, cultural knowledge and social networks: gender and age are

among the key determinants of how individuals can access livelihoods and resources. The physical resources like land or natural resources are also part of livelihoods, however, ultimately all livelihoods depend on the capacity of the earth.

Securing the necessities of life includes the production of goods for self-consumption, such as collecting water or firewood; and the provision of services for self-consumption, like cooking and cleaning; and person-to-person care for children, the sick, the disabled or the elderly. This type of work is mainly done by women and girls and often overlooked as the foundation for all economic activities.<sup>15</sup> Crises provide an opportunity to address gender norms and the gender division of labor, simply because the previous methods of acquiring a livelihood may no longer be feasible. Refugees face an immediate need to provide alternative ways of sustaining themselves and their families/communities. In a crisis situation, livelihoods are changing, limited or disappearing; there is an immediate need to find alternative livelihoods.

Livelihood can be divided into three major categories:16

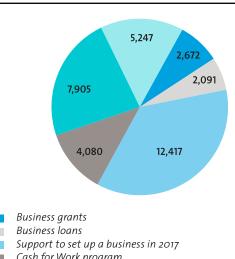
<sup>4.</sup> https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/livelihood

<sup>15.</sup> UN Women's Progress of the World's women 2015-2016, 2015, page 83

Following the division made by the UN High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment (2017). http://hlp-wee.unwomen.org/en



#### People Served with Livelihood Support 2017



- Cash for Work program
- Support to get employed in a job
  - Support to access land/agricultural production

- Livelihood through a job. This can be in the formal or informal sector depending on the country and circumstances. UN Women follows the standards for Decent Work.<sup>17</sup> A job can also be a Cash for Work job.
- Livelihood through a business (self-employment). Businesses can be either small or large.
- Livelihood through agricultural production,<sup>18</sup> which can be for personal consumption enhancing food sovereignty and production for sale on local and/or international markets.

UN Women utilizes various elements in its humanitarian and crisis response, one of which is Livelihood Interventions. UN Women plays a key role highlighting the need to include women and girls in all livelihood programming and Cash for Work programs of others, which is part of its activities in coordination and promoting accountability. In total, UN Women served 34,400 persons directly with livelihood services in 2017, together with implementing partners.

The ILO defines 'decent work' as that which 'involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all

women and men.' Accessed 18 January 2017, definition available at: http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/decent-work/lang--en/index.htm

In this category, livelihoods based on the Commons also fit like fishery, collecting firewood for sale, collecting forest products, etc.

#### Participation and Leadership

UN Women leverages the leadership of women at the various levels. Depending on the local context, UN Women facilitates leadership building, and enhances organisation building and collective action, in collaboration with local government and women's organizations. Women and girls are influencers and decision makers. Therefore, interventions include the removal of barriers and the building of structures and links. In many countries, UN Women enables refugee and IDP women to voice their concerns with traditional and religious leaders. In other countries, for example in Jordan, women's committees are facilitated so that women can directly speak and influence decision making at the HCT meetings and in the various clusters. In addition, UN Women opens doors for local women's organizations, which are already operating in the region, so that they can join the UN cluster system. This happened for example in 2017 in Bangladesh.

The following approaches are important for UN Women:

Social cohesion and conflict prevention. Most areas that are confronted with an influx of refugees or IDPs are not very well resourced. The combined situation of scarcity of resources, limited economic possibilities and a sudden increase of people, generates tensions despite the admirable hospitality that local populations usually display. Scarce

resources need to be shared and the pressure on common goods like water, grazing land and firewood increases, even if humanitarian assistance is available. UN Women therefore invests in building social cohesion between various groups, starting from a gendered perspective. In collaboration with women's organizations and women from host communities, the concerns of all women are voiced and UN Women promotes active engagement of women leaders and committees in decision making, as well as actively identifying potential conflicts and addressing them

- Inclusion. A central principle for UN Women, where specific measures are taken to include the most marginalised. This means not only the inclusion of women and girls overall, but also the inclusion of groups subject to intersecting types of marginalization. Depending on the local context, specific groups are actively sought out to be included in the various programs of UN Women in the framework of Leave No One Behind.
- Localisation. This includes collaboration with women's organizations and government structures so that UN Women's interventions are sustainable and embedded in local structures

In 2017, 197 women's organizations and institutions were supported by UN Women to play a role in humanitarian response and recovery. More than 5,000 women and girls were trained and supported to influence decision making on humanitarian response and recovery in 2017.

21

Country offices provided Vocational skills for livelihood 19

Country offices provided **Leadership training**  23

Country offices provided **Livelihood support**  **22** 

Country offices conducted
Life skills, empowerment
and rights

**25** 

Country offices provided GBV awareness and prevention trainings



# DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING

Through its focus on prevention and resilience building, UN Women ensures that new and existing disaster risks are mitigated by putting women at the center of disaster risk reduction, by giving them a voice, empowering them as disaster risk reduction leaders and actors, and by building their resilience. Evidence proves that the majority of victims and those affected by disasters are women<sup>19</sup>. Due to the

gendered dimensions of disaster risk, women and girls face greater vulnerability and exposure to disasters, yet women remain largely ignored and their capacities, unleveraged in conventional disaster risk reduction processes.

UN Women promotes gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and resilience building through technical

19. Neumayer, E and Plümper, T. 2007. "The gendered nature of natural disasters: the impact of catastrophic events on the gender gap in life expectancy, 1981–2002" Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 97 (3) 551-566.

Countries recieved

support for **Gender-responsive DRR** policy frameworks

(Output 15.2)

Countries offices collected Sex and age disaggregated data on disaster loss and damage

Countries were

supported with **Gender-responsive** disaster risk assessment for participation and

(Output 15.1)

Countries offices strengthened the **Capacity of women** leadership in DRR

Countries appointed or maintained **Gender focal points** in the national disaster platform (Outcome 15.2)

and policy support, provision of gender expertise to disaster risk reduction mechanisms and processes, and by implementing programs and projects for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction, including its flagship initiative entitled Gender Inequality of Risk (GIR).

The GIR is a joint programme with UNISDR and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), which supports countries in the gender-responsive implementation of the Sendai Framework. The GIR aims to reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods in disasters and to enhance the ability of women and communities to prepare, withstand and recover from disasters by addressing the gender inequality which causes women's and girls' greater loss and exposure to risks. The programme focuses on (1) understanding and assessing the gender dimensions of risk; (2) ensuring that disaster risk reduction policy and risk governance are gender responsive and well resourced; (3) strengthening women's capacity to prevent, prepare for and recover from disasters; and (4) strengthening women's participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction and resilience building.

In 2017, UN Women contributed to gender-responsive policy making in disaster risk reduction worldwide. For instance, in Mexico, Kenya and Malawi, UN Women provided technical expertise and training on gender-responsive disaster prevention, preparedness, and response plans and policies that were adopted. These plans and policies reduce the gender inequality of disaster risk and increase the number of lives and livelihoods saved when disaster hits. UN Women also contributed to strengthening the

evidence base of the gender dimensions of disaster risk by delivering gender-responsive risk and impact assessments in countries as diverse as Somalia, Sierra Leone and Chile. Livelihood skills training provided by UN Women increased the income of disaster affected women, among them 220 Bangladeshi women affected by landslides and 240 women affected by the earthquake in Ecuador.

In total, 5,242 women and men were directly served by UN Women's disaster risk reduction and resilience building initiatives. These men and women include women in grassroots initiatives who were given leadership and voice in disaster risk reduction processes for the first time; disaster-affected women who received livelihood support to build their resilience; trainers of trainers whose skills in gender-responsive disaster risk reduction were strengthened; and policy-makers who received capacity building and policy support to render plans, policies, strategies and budgets gender-responsive.

#### COORDINATION AND PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY:

# IMPACT IN COUNTRIES



BANGLADESH

## Initiating gender coordination in humanitarian action

Marie Sophie Pettersson (centre) UN Women, cochairing the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group with UNHCR in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In the weekly meetings, UN agencies and NGOs coordinate and share expertise and information regarding the Rohingya crisis. In 2017, the group published a well-received overview of gender concerns by theme, with recommended actions.

#### CAMEROON

#### Strengthening gender mainstreaming

Theanalytical report by the GenCap (Gender Capacity) expert in support of the gender mainstreaming effort of UN Women Cameroon was effective. It informed the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT) and all the sector heads on the status of gender mainstreaming in humanitarian

programming. In particular, it examined the gender marker in all humanitarian projects submitted to the Online Project System (OPS) managed by UNOCHA Cameroon. The report revealed the weaknesses and challenges in practicing gender mainstreaming in programming, particularly during needs assessments and comparative analyses. The percentage of gender sensitive projects in OPS has increased since the report.

#### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

# Training humanitarian actors to further gender expertise

In 2017, UN Women and the GenCap organized four training sessions for humanitarian actors on gender mainstreaming in their activities in Bangui (two training sessions), Bouar (one session) and Bambari (one session). A total of 175 actors were reached by these sessions (67 women and 108 men). These actors came from UN agencies, national and international NGOs, local associations, etc. These actors continue to use this new knowledge in their approaches and programmatic interventions, as evidenced in the new Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan, and the way in which gender is now regularly addressed in the humanitarian clusters.

#### IRAG

# Consistent presence for better gender advocacy

In 2017, UN Women had a dedicated staff member attend all relevant cluster meetings and participate in relevant coordination meetings. This engagement

has demonstrated that consistent and normalized engagement with all levels, from cluster meetings to higher level strategy meetings, has created opportunities to better advocate for the prioritization of gender and women and girl's needs in response plans. Humanitarian response bodies, including the clusters (Protection/GBV/Livelihoods), as well as the HCT and individual agencies, have prioritized humanitarian response for vulnerable women,

including female-headed households and GBV services. UN Women supported gender responsive humanitarian services across six governorates, including those deemed of the highest priority by the humanitarian cluster system.

UGANDA



# CHANDIA GETS NEW SKILLS AND BECOMES A LEADER

28 year-old Chandia lives in Adjumani, northern Uganda. She fled from South Sudan in 2014 on foot, accompanied by her 4 year-old son. Upon arrival in Adjumani both Chandia and her son were malnourished, sick and exhausted from their treacherous and dangerous journey. Chandia is one of over 250,000 South Sudanese refugees currently living in Adjumani. Uganda has seen an unprecedented growth in its refugee population, 86 per cent of whom are women and children. Having already experienced extensive trauma and hardship fleeing her home country, Chandia's husband abandoned her for another woman but continued to inflict both physical and sexual abuse on Chandia in Adjumani.

In July 2016 she was enrolled in group Cognitive Behavioral Trauma Therapy (CBTT) delivered by UN Women and partners.

In addition to psycho-social support, she benefited

from entrepreneurial and leadership training. Chandia has now built up a small business selling food and vegetables, which she operates within her settlement and she serves as an elected secretary to the local women's group. With her newly acquired leadership skills and confidence, Chandia also plans to stand as a candidate for the upcoming elections in the Refugee Welfare Council. Through psycho-social support and training, Chandia and her two sons live a better and more hopeful life in Adjumani. Her focus now is to get enrolled in adult literacy and numeracy classes, meaning that she will be able to communicate and interact with the Ugandan host community and expand her business to the surrounding local markets. She dreams of one day returning to South Sudan, where she aspires to be a female champion and leader, teaching and empowering other women.

ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE NEEDS, SUPPORTING SERVICES, LEADERSHIP, PROTECTION AND LIVELIHOODS:

# IMPACT IN COUNTRIES

#### **BANGLADESH**

#### Facilitating women's leadership

UN Women, together with Action Aid, initiated the creation of women groups in the Women Safe Spaces in a refugee camp. Since the end of 2017, one newly formed women's group is attending each camp management meeting on a weekly basis, voicing and representing the concerns of women in the camp. In February 2018, a women's group addressed traditional leaders in the camp for the first time.

#### **IRAQ**

#### Legal aid and Protection services

Legal aid clinics in Dohuk, run by UN Women and partners, have been critical in providing access to justice and other services to IDPs across six camps. This was done primarily through providing

appropriate documentation, and then through becoming a key partner of the Genocide Committee that was set up to document victims' cases and evidence of crimes committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). With UN Women's support, women who have been survivors of GBV have received additional assistance, including protection and access to services from the Ministry of Social and Labor Affairs and Ministry of the Interior which runs the four women's spaces in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Across UN Women programming in six governorates, 4,737 women received access to economic interventions and referrals to supportive services (including PSS/ Health/Legal assistance); 2,048 of which were also able to access services by clinics that provide legal assistance to women, including survivors of GBV.





Women refugees rebuild lives, through growing crops collectively at the Lusenda camp in Democratic Republic of Congo Photo: UN Women/Catianne Tijerina

#### LEBANON

#### Partnerships with private sector

The job placement program extended to vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian women in conjunction with the private sector was a success. UN Women was able to raise awareness among the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises' (SME) management and staff on the situation of both Lebanese and Syrian vulnerable communities. Local SMEs embraced the program enthusiastically, promoting it to their networks through social media. The fact that the women involved were Syrian refugees did not pose an obstacle. The program introduced the beneficiaries to the world of entrepreneurship by placing them in entry-level positions in direct contact with the CEOs

and managers of the small businesses, enabling learning opportunities and career inspiration. This type of working agreement led to a considerable impact on the socio-economic status of the women. The private sector is committed to continue its support of UN Women and help Lebanese and Syrian women reach their aspirations. Most of the women are now in an employment database of SMEs and are collaborating during high season or at times when there is big purchase order. Overall, this program and partnership with the private sector supported the SMEs, and provided jobs and business for Syrian refugees and Lebanese women.

#### MALI

#### Access to land

The UN Women country program was actively engaged in advancing behavior and mindset changes in favor of women gaining access to land and their own property rights. In several localities around Mali, 4875 community members(including 1200 men) participated in informational and sensitization activities regarding the need for such change. This led to the successful creation of 10 women's groups, located in areas such as Bamako-Coura, Rizame and Dougoukouna, who then received 7 hectares of cultivable land in a concerted decision by village chiefs, community decision-makers and leaders in the respective localities.

#### NIGERIA

# PSS for survivors and strengthening service delivery

Survivors of rape were provided with culturally sensitive psychological support counseling in camps and host communities. The institutional framework of service delivery to survivors of GBV was strengthened through the establishment of 7 "onestop empowerment centers", the establishment of three referral pathways and the revitalization of the GBV working group. A total of 16 communities in the Adamawa, Plateau, Gombe, Borno and Yobe States, were engaged and sensitized on social norms and behaviors with the goal of reducing incidences of Violence Against Children (VAC) and GBV. This

A refugee from CAR learns the French alphabet as part of an adult education class held at the UN Women Social Cohesion space. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



was facilitated by UN Women, UNICEF and State Ministries of Women's Affairs, in collaboration with traditional and community leaders, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), CSOs, women groups/associations, and the media.

#### **SOUTH SUDAN**

#### Skills training for Livelihood

A total of 1403 conflict-affected persons (983 women and 420 men) benefited from UN Women supported skills training and start-up kits. The vocational income-generation and entrepreneurial skills learned included tailoring, knitting, embroidering, hairdressing, handicrafts, soap making, mechanics and construction. Each person received a start-up kit to further his or her vocation of choice. An additional 400 young women and 100 young men received training in computer literacy, which contributed to several of them gaining access to jobs within NGOs operating in the Persons of Concern (PoC) office and in local government

offices. UN Women engaged in negotiation and mediation for country commissioners from three counties (local governments) and from semi-urban areas of Juba. This resulted in an agreement where 330 acres of agricultural land was made available for 500 displaced women farmers. These women then received agricultural inputs, such as training, seeds, cash for assets and greenhouse kits, essential to engage in group-based agricultural farming. This support enabled the women to move away from dependence on food drops and become selfsufficient. They started saving and interacting in the local market through selling and buying, promoting recovery and resilience. Two women entrepreneurs from South Sudan were subsequently selected for further training organized by the Regional Office in Nairobi. They learnt how to process mangoes to yogurt, juice, and pulp, which facilitates an improved and diverse stream of income generation. However, they are confronted by a lack of a steady supply of mangos due it its seasonality in South Sudan.

UN Women Humanitarian Work with Refugees in Cameroon: Ardo Djibo Fadimatou (front, in blue and yellow), 64, lost eight of her 15 children during the conflict in CAR. She does not know where her husband is. She speaks for the over 12,000 women in the Gado refugee camp as their elected President and leads meetings in UN Women's Social Cohesion Space / Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown





Children play in UN Women's daycare in Oasis 1, Za'aatari camp. UN Women provides daycare services for over 150 children per day across its three Oases. This service allows women and other programme beneficiaries greater freedom to work and visit UN Women's centres to access programmes, as they know that there is a safe place available for their children.

#### SUDAN

#### Leadership development

UN Women supported the Community Development Organization to facilitate and organize workshops in Khartoum, in Genina in West Darfur and Zalangi in Central Darfur for female leaders, civil society organizations and male community leaders. The workshops aimed at enhancing female leadership, mediation, negotiation and advocacy skills to maximize and increase women's participation in the peace process and the implementation of the SDGs. Male community leaders received sensitization training on the role that women can play in enhancing peace in Sudan. 300 people, of which 80 were women, participated in the workshops. To further enhance women's participation in peace and security processes, in all the states of Darfur and at federal level, UN Women trained 364 women leaders, COSs and NGOs in advocacy and negotiation skills.

#### TURKEY

#### Inventory of needs

In 2017, UN Women carried out a comprehensive "Needs Assessment of Women and Girls under Temporary Protection Status in Turkey" under the implementation of the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM- SGDD), focusing on the basic needs of Syrian refugee women and girls in Turkey. This needs assessment is the basis for UN Women's programming.

#### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING:

## IMPACT IN COUNTRIES

#### **BANGLADESH**

## Livelihood skills training for disaster affected women

220 landslide-affected women were supported with livelihood skills training, which contributed to increasing their income.

#### CHILE

#### Preliminary assessments

During the aftermath of the 2017 wildfire, UN Women promoted the inclusion of protection and gender perspectives in the preliminary assessment. UN Women participated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) team mission in the affected areas, mapping different social actors and promoting the use of standardized gender-responsive tools and methodologies for the compilation of information for the government and the inter-agency Multi cluster/sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) report of the United Nations system.

#### ECUADOR

# Economic recovery of women affected by the earthquake

UN Women implemented an early recovery program in the affected areas. More than 240 women received training on income generation and



livelihood, allowing them to earn income through building reconstruction and debris-removal activities, while entrepreneurial undertakings were promoted and production processes were strengthened.

#### **KENYA**

### Gender-responsive DRR policy framework

UN Women in Kenya trained more than 150 Kenyan officials to review its disaster risk reduction (DRR) county plans and policies. As a result, the government integrated gender components into its DRR plans and policies, including drought and early warning systems and the drought contingency plan.

#### MALAWI

#### National Action Plan for genderresponsive humanitarian action

In partnership with Oxfam, UN Women supported the Malawi government to develop a National Action Plan for mainstreaming gender in humanitarian action. The Action Plan promotes the integration of gender analysis into vulnerability assessments, and encourages capacity building and gender mainstreaming of relevant stakeholders.

#### **MEXICO**

#### Gender-sensitive earthquake response

UN Women promoted a gender-responsive disaster response in Mexico. By inviting women's organizations to be part of the response plan development in Ciudad de Mexico (CDMX), UN Women advocated to include a gender perspective into the emergency response plans and polices. UN Women also successfully contributed to the establishment of the Protection Group and engendered the draft Bill for the reconstruction of CDMX.

Women working on the reconstruction of Las Gilces, Ecuador. Photo: UN Women/Romina Garzón



#### NEPAI

# Women's participation in the flood response

220 women's groups, 35 female development officers as well as 14 national planning commission members were engaged in the flood response, integrating gender dimensions into the response.

#### SIERRA LEONE

#### Gender impact assessment

UN Women provided a gender impact assessment on the 2017 mudslide. In the immediate aftermath of the mudslide, a gender alert was issued by the key humanitarian stakeholders under the IASC framework.

#### **SOMALIA**

#### Drought impact needs assessment

Responding to the drought in 2017 in Somalia, UN Women contributed to the development of the gender chapter for the Drought Impact Needs Assessment (DINA).

#### TURKEY

#### Gender-responsive training manual

In cooperation with UNDP, UN Women prepared a training manual on gender responsive DRR, including Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

#### VIETNAM

## Increasing participation of women in DRR initiatives

UN Women has successfully supported the Viet Nam Women's Union in increasing women's participation in DRR decision-making. This resulted in a nationwide increase in female members of the Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control. UN Women also supported the development of 700 household disaster preparedness plans in eight of the most vulnerable municipalities.

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Produced by UN Women Humanitarian Action and Crisis Response Office

June 2018

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