

# Gender aspects of displacement



## Objectives

- **Reflect on the notion of gender**
- **Identify specific needs experienced by displaced women and men**
- **Identify steps national authorities and other actors can take to ensure a gender sensitive approach**
- **Become familiar with the gender specific provisions of the Guiding Principles**
- **Become familiar with additional resources available on displaced women and children, including legal instruments**

## Gender or sex?

- 1. Women give birth to babies, men do not.**
- 2. Girls are gentle, boys are rough.**
- 3. In Europe most long distance lorry drivers are men.**
- 4. In ancient Egypt men stayed at home and did weaving, women handled the family business, and women inherited property and men did not.**

## Gender or sex?

- 5. Amongst Indian agricultural workers women are paid 40-60 per cent of the male wage.**
- 6. Men's voice's break at puberty, women's do not.**
- 7. According top UN statistics women do 67 per cent of the worlds work, yet their earnings for it amount to only 10 per cent of the worlds income.**

## Gender or sex?

8. **Statistics show that women live older than men.**
9. **There are more women than men in the caring profession such as nursing.**
8. **Women can breast feed babies, men can bottle feed babies.**

## What is gender?

**Gender** refers to the female and male roles within a given culture. It refers to socially constructed roles of women and men ascribed to them on the basis of their sex.

*Note: The term “sex” refers to biological and physical characteristics*

## Facts about gender

- **Gender changes over time and is different depending on culture**
- **Gender is about how power is used and shared**
- **Gender roles change rapidly in times of conflict**
- **Gender identities influence needs and roles in times of crisis**

## Displaced women: some facts

- **High proportion of households headed by displaced women in 18 countries (11 African countries)**
- **Widespread sexual violence against displaced women in 12 countries in 2004**
- **Discrimination or special difficulties for children, especially girls, to access education in 21 countries**



**What might the specific protection needs of**

**1. women** **2. men**

**be as a result of displacement?**



## Impact of displacement: The case of women

- **Increased vulnerability (female-headed households)**
- **Sexual exploitation, abduction**
- **Change in family structure**
- **New responsibility as breadwinner**
- **Lack of language skills**
- **Lack of documentation**
- **No access to land and property**
- **Gender-based violence**

## Impact of displacement: The case of men

- **Arbitrary detention**
- **Forced recruitment**
- **Lack of job and income-generating activities**
- **loss of traditional role as breadwinner and figure of authority**
- **Domestic violence**

## Gender-based violence (GBV)

**Any harm that is perpetrated against a person's will; that has a negative impact on the physical or psychological health, development, and identity of persons; and that is the result of gendered power inequities that exploit distinctions between males and females, among males and among females. Although not exclusive to women and girls, GBV principally affects them across all cultures.**

*Note: GBV may be physical, sexual, psychological, economic, or socio-cultural*

## Guiding Principle 4

- (1) Emphasises that the Guiding Principles should be applied **without discrimination** of any kind, including sex, age, social status, and other criteria
- (2) Recognises that **certain** internally displaced persons such as children, unaccompanied minors, pregnant mothers, female heads of households, **are entitled to protection and assistance, required by their condition** and to treatment which takes into account their special needs.

## Human rights law

- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW), 1979**
- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966**
- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966**

## Humanitarian law

- **Geneva Conventions, 1949**
- **Protocol I and Protocol II of Geneva Conventions, 1977**
- **Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, 1998**
  - **Explicitly recognizes rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and sexual violence as war crimes and crimes against humanity**
  - **Trafficking is encompassed within the crime against humanity of enslavement**
  - **For the first time, gender-based persecution is included as a crime against humanity**

# What can we do?



## Women and girls

### Physical protection

- Protection against **gender-specific violence** 11(2)(a)
- Special attention to the **health needs** of women 19(2)

### Participation

- **Consultation in the planning and management** of their relocation 7(3)(d)
- **Full participation in the distribution** of basic **supplies** 18(3)
- **Full and equal participation** of women and girls in education programmes and **access to education and training** facilities 23(3) and 23(4)

### Documentation

- **Equal rights for women and men to obtain documents** 20(3)

## A gender inclusive response

- **Ensure the collection of data on the numbers and conditions of the displaced is disaggregated by gender and age**
- **Organise the timing and location of programmes to accommodate women's role as care givers**
- **Use female personnel when working with women**
- **Make sure that women can register independently**
- **Ensure that during implementation women have equal access to all forms of assistance**
- **Facilitate formation of women's groups**

## Women's organisations from every continent contribute to IDP protection

- Support their families through trade and other activities
- Provide health and support services to victims of violence
- Organise meetings on peace and security issues
- Publish newspapers for displaced women
- Perform plays and dances about their life in IDP camps to sensitize the population, etc.



*NGO leader defending displaced women victims of sexual violence in DRC*

## Further suggestions

- **Collaborate with other national bodies and organisations working to strengthen women's participation and advocacy**
- **Ensure the needs of displaced women are included in national policy/programmes**
- **Provide gender training to all officials working with the displaced**

## Assessment questions

1. Who controls, has access to and uses any assets?
2. Who are the decision-makers in the family, in the community?
3. What are the priorities of women, men, girls and boys?
4. What are the security concerns of women, men, girls and boys?
5. What are the differences among women and among men?
6. Where are the opportunities to narrow the gender gap?