



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## GUIDANCE NOTE

# Gender, food security and nutrition in protracted crises

Women and girls as agents of resilience



Cover photo: ©Sebastian Liste/NOOR for FAO

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

FAO encourages the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Except where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, or for use in non-commercial products or services, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of FAO as the source and copyright holder is given and that FAO's endorsement of users' views, products or services is not implied in any way.

All requests for translation and adaptation rights, and for resale and other commercial use rights should be made via [www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request](http://www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request) or addressed to [copyright@fao.org](mailto:copyright@fao.org).

FAO information products are available on the FAO website ([www.fao.org/publications](http://www.fao.org/publications)) and can be purchased through [publications-sales@fao.org](mailto:publications-sales@fao.org).

© FAO, 2016

# Contents

Acknowledgments	iii
Key messages	iv
Gender equality – a priority in protracted crises?	1
Practical gender-responsive food and nutrition security interventions in protracted crises	5
Enabling the environment for gender equality in food and nutrition security	13
Future perspectives	17
References and resources for further information	19



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



This guidance note has been developed thanks to contributions from FAO staff across the Organization, under the leadership of the main author:

**Unna Mustalampi**

Gender Mainstreaming Officer, FAO ([unna.mustalampi@fao.org](mailto:unna.mustalampi@fao.org)).

For information please contact:

**Ilaria Sisto**

Gender and Development Officer, FAO ([ilaria.sisto@fao.org](mailto:ilaria.sisto@fao.org)).

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

This guidance note is part of a series on improving food security and nutrition in protracted crises. Drawing on FAO technical experience, the guidance notes series supports implementation of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA), endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October 2015.



## KEY MESSAGES



- ▶ The pursuit of **gender equality and women's empowerment** is a crucial aspect of FAO work on food security and nutrition in protracted crises.
- ▶ Understanding and addressing **how men and women of different ages are affected by protracted crises** is critical for effective and sustainable food and nutrition security interventions.
- ▶ Practical measures to work towards greater equality include **livelihood support** for women and girls, **reducing women's workloads**, **ensuring protection from gender-based violence** and **equitable access to resources and services**, and, more broadly, **transforming gender relations**.
- ▶ These can be further bolstered by **gender equitable policies and regulatory frameworks** and by the use of **gender-sensitive information systems**.
- ▶ **Food and nutrition interventions** with a specific focus on gender equality are more effective and will more likely **build resilience to conflict**.





# Gender equality – a priority in protracted crises?

▼▼ *Unquestionable evidence proves that women’s meaningful participation increases the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, the credibility and quality of peace-keeping, the pace of economic recovery in post-conflict settings, and the sustainability of peace agreements.* ▼▼

Ban Ki-Moon. Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit.

## Gender and FAO mandate

FAO mandate to achieve food security for all by raising levels of nutrition, increasing agricultural productivity and natural resource management, and improving the lives of rural populations can only be achieved through gender equality. Past experience can provide guidance on how to address gender equality as part of food and nutrition security interventions in situations of protracted crisis. Understanding and addressing how men and women of different ages are specifically affected by protracted crises is critical for effective and sustainable food and nutrition security interventions.

FAO is committed to mainstreaming gender issues across all its Strategic Programmes, including Strategic Programme 5: “Increasing the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises”. This is also in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, and other relevant international legal instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. As stated in Agenda 2030, sustainable development actions must “leave no one behind” and be socially inclusive and just.



## FAO Gender Equality Policy

The goal of FAO Gender Equality Policy is to achieve equality between women and men in sustainable agricultural production and rural development for the elimination of hunger and poverty. The Policy is a reflection of the corporate commitment to the cause of gender equality and women's empowerment, as means to achieve FAO mandate.

## Gender in the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA)

Gender and people-centred approaches are also central to the Committee on World Food Security Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA), and relevant across all of its Principles outlined below.

Gender in the CFS-FFA	
Gender equality as a core objective of CFS-FFA principle	<b>Principle 5:</b> Empower women and girls, promote gender equality and encourage gender sensitivity
Gender equality contributes to CFS-FFA principles	<b>Principle 1:</b> Meet immediate humanitarian needs and build resilient livelihoods <b>Principle 2:</b> Focus on nutritional needs <b>Principle 4:</b> Protect those affected by or at risk from protracted crises <b>Principle 6:</b> Ensure and support comprehensive evidence-based analyses <b>Principle 7:</b> Strengthen country ownership, participation, coordination and stakeholder buy-in, and accountability <b>Principle 9:</b> Contribute to peacebuilding through food security and nutrition <b>Principle 10:</b> Manage natural resources sustainably and reduce disaster risks

## Women and girls in protracted crises

The pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment is essential in crisis situations. Men, women, boys and girls are exposed to different types of risks and challenges, and have specific coping strategies related to food and nutrition security. A better understanding of these gender-related differences and constraints is critical to help communities become more resilient in the face of risk and uncertainty.

### Focus on women and girls

Vulnerability to shocks and crises is closely linked with gender inequality: disasters reinforce, perpetuate and increase gender inequality. Moreover, women's contributions to resilience building and peace processes are often overlooked and their potential for leadership is not yet fully recognized.



West Bank and Gaza Strip - Yatta. A Palestinian farmer tending her backyard garden. ©FAO/Marco Longari.

Protracted, prolonged or recurrent crises affect the food security and nutritional status of large numbers of people. The natural and man-made hazards restrict access to economic opportunities, cause the destruction of household assets, and change the social fabric of societies, impacting the roles of men and women, both within the family and as economic actors. This can often lead to an increase in the work burden for women and children. The number of female-headed households tends to increase due to military conscription, death and out-migration of the men, and women take on new economic roles within the household and the community.

However, this often results in increased vulnerability, as women have less access to assets and resources, and receive lower salaries, while their domestic work burden stays the same or increases. In the worst scenarios, limited opportunities leave many women and girls with untenable options for their own and their families' survival, including exchanging their bodies for food and basic commodities, and early or forced marriages for daughters.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is the most extreme manifestation of gender inequality and a fundamental human rights violation. Protracted crises can create and/or exacerbate many forms of GBV. The psychological stress and collapse of social structures that may have previously provided protection can have serious implications for violence and aggression, particularly towards women and children. GBV has a devastating impact on the agriculture sector and food security by reducing the capacity and productivity of survivors as a result of illness, injury, stigma and discrimination.

These specific vulnerabilities of men, women, boys and girls call for targeted measures. A strong body of evidence exists to prove that hunger and rural poverty can be reduced when gender equality is factored into programming. According to a recent study by the UN Women and Institute of Development Studies (IDS) humanitarian interventions which ensured women's participation in economic activities were the most successful in delivering food security outcomes. Policy responses aimed at women's empowerment and increasing their role and bargaining power within the household successfully reduced food insecurity for the whole household. Resources and income controlled by women are more likely to be used to improve family food consumption and welfare, reduce child malnutrition, and increase the overall wellbeing of the family, with positive impacts on health, and food and nutrition security.

#### KEY FACTS

A 2010 study in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo found that nearly 40 percent of women were survivors of sexual violence.





# Practical gender-responsive food and nutrition security interventions in protracted crises

FAO has developed a number of proven approaches to working with rural men and women in protracted crises. Alongside the need to focus on the practical needs of women and girls, there is also a need to positively transform gender roles and relations, thus meeting their strategic needs.

To this end, four broad recommendations have been outlined:

## Recommendation 1: Target women and girls for livelihood support

### FAO Commitment at the World Humanitarian Summit

FAO is committed to increasing the deployment of female facilitators and field staff to improve outreach to women, e.g. through training women as community vaccinators, animal health workers, extension officers, facilitators, and through strategic local partnerships with women's organizations.

Specific measures are often required to increase the limited opportunities women and girls may have in upscaling their livelihoods. Gender and generational analysis – the study of the different roles, needs, and priorities of women and men of different ages and socio-economic groups – is therefore needed in each specific context. In the case of conflicts, analysis is required of how gender relations shape the ways in which women and girls engage in, are affected by, and seek to resolve conflict.

In situations where rigid gender roles and highly unequal relations exist between men and women in terms of decision-making and their access to resources, knowledge and information, targeting women for productive activities requires specific strategies. Establishing women-only groups and deploying women

as facilitators and field staff can improve outreach and increase the relevance of the extension messages. Mobile technologies have the potential to reach women whose physical movement is restricted by socio-cultural norms.

Interventions that combine safety nets, such as cash transfers, with support to livelihood activities, can help reach the most vulnerable, such as ultra-poor landless women, by freeing up time and resources to engage in productive activities and resilient livelihoods. This can provide a way out of the vicious circle of poverty.

### Proposed actions

1. **Conduct gender and generational analysis** to understand the specific priorities, needs and constraints of women and men of different ages in relation to their livelihoods, identify their roles and responsibilities within these livelihoods, and determine who has control over the required assets and income.
2. **Design your intervention to address the specific gender issues:** for example, ensure that a farmer field school curriculum includes topics that are relevant for both male and female participants.
3. **Keep track of how benefits accrue to men and women during the implementation process** by collecting sex- and age-disaggregated data, and taking corrective measures if benefits are not equitable between men and women of different age and socio-economic groups.
4. **Consider adding an unconditional cash transfer component** targeted at the most vulnerable households, including the ultra-poor, the elderly, and households with sick or disabled persons, and assign women as the main beneficiaries in these households. Cash transfers may relieve women's time and provide opportunities to learn new skills and engage in market-based activities.
5. **Engage men and traditional authorities in the process, and keep the communities fully informed of the rationale for targeting** – when targeting women and girls or other specific groups within the communities, feelings of unjust treatment can trigger resentment and even violence.



DR Congo - Tshopo Province (Lilanda Village). This woman is a producer and a Dimitra Club member. The Clubs, working with the local Union of producers' organizations, have identified adapted crop varieties and successfully tested new techniques. ©FAO/Eva Gilliam.



### FAO in action - BOX 1. Empowering women in fisheries in Somalia

The FAO-Somalia Fisheries Programme made special efforts to include women in fisheries activities. After a request from women's representatives, women were included in the training to build safe fishing vessels. Traditionally glass-reinforced plastic hull repair was a task performed by women, but these skills were lost when Somali institutions collapsed in the 1990s and were successfully re-introduced by the project.

Local women's organizations were engaged to select candidates, and their response was overwhelmingly positive. Ms Samsam Ismail Aar, one of the Somali participants said, "I want to be an engineer, and I am hoping the boat-building training I'm receiving will help".

As part of the programme, women were also trained in sewing life jackets, maintaining electronic tracking devices for fishing boats, post-harvest processing of fish, and business skills, to increase fish consumption, prevent food losses, and generate income.

## Recommendation 2: Reduce the workload of women and girls

Research indicates that women bear a disproportionate work burden compared to men globally, and even more so during protracted crises. In crisis settings, women's work burden related to economic activities, care and household chores tends to increase. Broadly speaking, men are more likely to die during conflict,<sup>i</sup> are more often recruited by armed forces or migrate in search of work, leading to an increase in the number of female-headed households. Moreover, men tend to be less flexible than women in adapting to new settings and accepting the loss of main household assets (such as land and animals) to armed groups. They are also less flexible as a result of forced displacement, or when sent to refugee camps, and less willing to take on lower status jobs. In these contexts, women and children bear the brunt of conditions which have changed due to crisis and protracted crisis. In most countries they are primarily responsible for the collection of water, fuelwood and fodder – a workload magnified by the scarcity of natural resources characteristic of protracted crisis situations. This is time not spent in productive activities, attaining education or attending their children.

Labour-saving technologies and related services and infrastructure can free up women's time and improve their quality of life, enabling them to engage in activities of their own choosing. However, there are no "quick fixes". Technology adoption can be context-specific and complex, and requires understanding of the specific local cultural conditions.

Nevertheless, successful examples abound of the successful introduction of labour-saving and productivity-enhancing technologies in a participatory way: from post-harvest equipment such as grinding mills and threshing machines managed by women's groups for collective use, to facilitating domestic water needs and market-oriented gardening through rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation. Improved energy access by introducing fuel-efficient stoves to reduce the demand for fuelwood, and planting fast-growing trees and shrubs to increase household fuel supply, have been successful strategies for reducing the work burden of women and girls in Sudan and other countries.

## Proposed actions

1. Identify the main underlying causes of time poverty (for example time dedicated to fuelwood and water collection and post-harvest processing of crops) for men, women, boys and girls in specific contexts.
2. Design mitigation strategies together with communities to address these constraints. Possible solutions could involve the redistribution of labour within the community and household, labour-saving technologies such as rainwater harvesting and irrigation technologies, post-harvest processing equipment, fuel-efficient stoves, agroforestry to provide fuel and fodder supply, and draught animals.
3. Assess the impact of new practices on the time use of women, men, boys and girls to avoid adding to their workload. This is crucial when targeting women for livelihood support activities. Labour-saving practices may need to be adopted to make time for new productive activities.

## Recommendation 3: Ensure protection from gender-based violence (GBV)

### FAO Commitments related to GBV at the World Humanitarian Summit

- FAO commits to developing and implementing approaches and strategies for the engagement of men and boys as part of the solution to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis settings by 2018.
- FAO commits to increasing staff training on the inclusion of gender sensitive and protection measures in the design and delivery of programmes to contribute to preventing and mitigating gender-based violence.

Protection from gender-based violence (GBV) requires specific attention during protracted crises. Worldwide GBV is under-reported, due to fears of stigma or retaliation, limited availability or access to trusted service providers, impunity for perpetrators, and lack of awareness of the benefits of seeking care.

Reducing the risk of exposure of women and girls to GBV requires identifying GBV “hot-spots” (e.g. while en route or at project/distribution sites) and assessing the possible impact of assistance on existing gender dynamics, and the immediate introduction of risk-reduction strategies. For example, FAO Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) projects reduce exposure of women and children to GBV during firewood collection.

FAO works proactively with communities to address the specific challenges that put women at risk of GBV. Participatory and inclusive approaches encourage community acceptance of project activities and prevent backlash against women, which can manifest in increased domestic violence where they are the primary beneficiaries. In Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS), for example, boys and girls are brought together to learn about effective approaches to livelihood sustainability, including greater gender equality.

## Proposed actions

1. Seek partnerships with protection and gender agencies, particularly local women's organisations.
2. Analyse GBV risks that women, girls, men and boys face in a given context, together with strategic partners.
3. Identify targeted measures to mitigate the risks, such as transparent systems on targeting, secure locations and times for distribution of assistance, engaging both men and women in planning interventions, and recruiting women as field staff.

## Recommendation 4: Transform gender relations

### FAO Commitments for the World Humanitarian Summit on transformative approaches

- FAO commits to **identifying and supporting transformative approaches in humanitarian situations** that encourage meaningful participation by women and girls in local action and decision-making, e.g. through farmer field schools and other community-based participatory approaches.
- FAO commits to **build on and strengthen women's knowledge and capacities** to meaningfully involve them in the design, monitoring and delivery of targeted projects, programmes and policy support to better meet the needs of women and girls in humanitarian action.
- FAO commits to provide increased numbers of women's groups **with capacity development support** to facilitate rural women's access to services, knowledge and economic opportunities by 2018.

In the long run, merely targeting practical needs and immediate vulnerabilities in pursuit of gender equality is insufficient. People's strategic needs must also be addressed, and this often implies a change in traditional gender roles and relations. Facilitating transformative action can support more equitable gender relations within households and the communities, by improving women's access to markets, income, productive assets, knowledge and decision-making.

FAO has a long tradition of building resilience and addressing gender inequalities through collective action. Groups such as Farmer Field Schools are platforms for the transfer of technical skills and knowledge for fostering social cohesion, and also promote equal participation of men and women.

Investing in women's leadership and promoting gender equality in rural institutions, such as agricultural cooperatives and water user groups, and fostering trust and positive aspirations among women and men, the young and the old, can be a way to build more resilient and equitable institutions that will contribute to socially sustainable recovery processes.

In many cultural settings, women-only groups are a recommended way to ensure they have access to technical knowledge and skills. They can also provide safe spaces to share information on sensitive topics, such as HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence. Women's groups can also be a means to increase their access to markets and improve their bargaining power over prices in order to help households move from subsistence to more market oriented agriculture.

### **FAO in action - BOX 2. Empowering women in value chains in Afghanistan<sup>ii</sup>**

Dairy products are a crucial part of food security and income generation for Afghan families. Since 2005, FAO has been supporting Integrated Dairy Schemes (IDS) by setting up milk processing plants, which now operate independently, generating income for over 5 700 smallholder families. The IDS model consists of a dairy value chain – managed by the union as an enterprise – which encompasses milk production, collection, processing and marketing.

Currently, women who play a significant role in animal husbandry are able to retain, manage and spend almost 90 percent of proceeds from milk sales. An additional benefit for women milk producers is that better fed cattle produce more dung, which is used as replacement for fuelwood, reducing the workload and risks associated with fuelwood collection, such as physical or sexual assault. Women have increased their bargaining power in the household and the community, and can spend the money on what they consider priority needs, such as more education for their daughters.

FAO plays an important role in supporting equitable access to land: an important productive resource, but often also a prerequisite for credit or participation in rural institutions. It is recognized that land tenure security and resource rights build individual and community resilience to disasters, that women across all developing regions are consistently less likely to own or rent land, and their land is often of poorer quality and in smaller plots.

FAO has brought together various user groups, including landowners and traditional authorities, through community-based negotiated approaches to empower women to participate in decision-making over the use and management of available natural resources, such as farm land, water points, and other community resources. This is particularly important in areas characterized by conflict over scarce natural resources.

### FAO in action - BOX 3. Empowering rural women through the “Caisses de Résilience” approach

Since 2007, FAO has pioneered this approach, which aims at strengthening local capacities and reducing the risks and vulnerability of livelihoods at household and community levels. This approach puts vulnerable women and men at the centre of risk management by strengthening their technical, financial and social capacities. It has proven to be an excellent approach to improving gender relations and promoting the economic and social empowerment of vulnerable women, by increasing their access to productive assets, knowledge and income.

FAO has strengthened the resilience of agropastoral communities in Karamoja, Uganda, an area prone to extreme weather events and chronic poverty, through agropastoral field schools: 1) by promoting climate-resilient technologies and practices; 2) supporting socio-economic enhancement through a combination of income generating activities, Village Saving and Loans schemes, Cash for Work and market access; and 3) reinforcing dialogue, social cohesion and governance. Women and men have worked side by side to improve their capacities and technical skills and to discuss issues and challenges. As a result, women have increased their financial autonomy and decision-making power in household expenditures, and enhanced their leadership and voice at community level. Men also reported having taken over some household responsibilities traditionally performed by women; and there was a significant reduction of domestic violence. So far, this successful approach has been scaled up in about 10 countries in West and Central Africa, the Sahel and Central America.



DR Congo - Tshopo Province. Fishing is a key economic activity in the Tshopo province of DRC, traditionally controlled by men. Thanks to the dynamic nature of the Dimitra Clubs, behaviours have changed. It is now accepted that women can carry out tasks that were previously attributed to men. ©FAO/Yannick De Mol.

### FAO in action - BOX 4. FAO-Dimitra Clubs build resilience and contribute to rural people's empowerment

FAO has been supporting isolated rural communities in several African countries in protracted crises (Niger, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo) to build community resilience through Dimitra Clubs, an information and participatory communication approach. The Dimitra Clubs are spaces for dialogue and action at community level that enable their members – women, men and boys and girls – to discuss problems and needs, share concerns and take collective action to improve their living conditions, thus becoming agents of change and development both in agriculture and in important social aspects, such as HIV/AIDS, early marriage, social cohesion, gender equality and women's rights to access resources. Local community radio stations broadcast programmes based on the discussions within the clubs, disseminating information on topics such as food and nutrition security, gender roles, and good practices in agriculture and health.

In DRC, a woman, member of a Dimitra Club declared: "Before the Clubs, the Lokelé women did not fish; now, we have our own nets and we also have become fishers. We have been waiting for this for a long time!"

Using digital solar radio, mobile phones and other means of communication, the Dimitra Clubs today represent a good FAO practice in areas such as socio-economic empowerment, gender equality, community mobilization and dialogue. There are currently 1 500 Dimitra Clubs directly involving more than 350 000 people (two-thirds are women) in sub-Saharan Africa.

#### Proposed actions

1. Promote participatory community-level approaches with an explicit gender equality goal for capacity development and improved access to knowledge, services and decision-making.
2. Find local women's groups and networks and engage with them as strategic partners, by developing their capacities to deliver services to their memberships as an outreach strategy.

#### KEY FACTS

An Oxfam study conducted in Mali and Ethiopia in 2013 found that the income of women's group members increased by up to 80 percent, when compared with non-members.





# Enabling the environment for gender equality in food and nutrition security

To create an enabling environment for actions, not only policies and regulatory frameworks but also accurate data and information systems are required, which include sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators to monitor gender-related impacts.

## **Recommendation 1: Develop policies and regulatory frameworks**

FAO supports countries in developing or strengthening legislation, policies and institutional frameworks to manage the risk of disaster in agriculture and related sectors, and enhancing the institutional capacity to implement them. Equal access to decision-making to men and women is a critical factor when establishing inclusive policies for resilient agricultural development.

Grassroots participatory and gender-responsive planning processes help identify and address the specific needs of the most marginalized women and men, boys and girls in the policies, strategies, programmes and plans affecting their lives. Rural institutions, such as agricultural cooperatives and producers' organizations, can play an important role in protracted crisis situations, when political institutions are fragile. However, local stakeholders may need targeted capacity development to be able to participate and better represent the interests of their members.





Afghanistan - Safid Rawan village, Herat province. Afghan children and men carrying jugs full of milk on their way to the milk collection center. ©FAO/Shah Marai.

### **FAO in action - BOX 5. Creating an enabling environment in Guatemala: the Policy on Gender Equality of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food**

Under the umbrella of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala in developing the first Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and related Strategic Implementation Framework 2014-2023. The policy represents the Ministry's commitment to systematically mainstream gender and the specific needs of rural and indigenous women in all areas of its work.

FAO also worked to enhance the gender capacities within the MAGA and other relevant stakeholders. A multi-stakeholder workshop with representatives from the gender units of a range of national entities helped ensure that the challenges faced by rural women in many spheres of life were taken into account, and resulted in the establishment of the "Technical Group on women in rural development in the framework of Article 14 of CEDAW." FAO has also facilitated a meeting with civil society organizations representing rural indigenous Guatemalan women.

FAO thus played a key role to ensure that new perspectives on the living conditions of rural and indigenous women and their challenges in Guatemala were adequately integrated during the policy formulation process. FAO will continue to support this government through the implementation phase of the policy.

While Guatemala is not a protracted crisis country, the policy process can be adapted to countries with situations of protracted crises.

## Proposed actions

1. Facilitate gender-responsive and participatory planning processes, as part of the formulation of policies and regulatory frameworks.
2. Develop the capacities of local-level stakeholders, to enable them to participate in these processes.
3. Bring in social scientists and gender experts to ensure that gender issues are recognized and adequately addressed in final policy and planning documents.

## Recommendation 2: Encourage gender-sensitive information systems

### FAO commitment to the World Humanitarian Summit

FAO commits to identify and analyse, through the use of sex- and age-disaggregated data, the different vulnerabilities and challenges women and men of all ages face, and scale up evidence-based gender-responsive programming in order to generate a long-term impact on livelihoods and resilience.

### What is gender analysis?

Gender analysis is the study of the different roles of women and men in order to understand what they do, what resources they have, and what their needs and priorities are in specific contexts. It draws on sex-disaggregated information and the study of the different roles of women and men, the relationships between and among them and their specific access to and control over productive resources and services. It is thus a tool to assist in project and policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

FAO seeks to strengthen food and nutrition security information and early warning systems to better monitor threats and inform decision-making. These systems often report numbers of acres farmed, inputs distributed, marketing facilities built, crops harvested – without knowing who did what. Although sex- and age-disaggregated data is essential, there has been insufficient investment in the collection, use and dissemination of these data. The situation is particularly dire in countries with protracted crisis situations, where national data collections systems are weak or non-existent.

### Heads of households or individuals?

Households are often the unit of analysis, implying that gender analysis compares male and female headed households instead of men and women. However, differences between diverse household types cannot necessarily be attributed to the sex of the head of the household. For example, male- and female-headed households receiving remittances from abroad are in a very different position from those headed by a widowed woman, with no alternative income and subject to land-grabbing by her deceased husband's family, or a male-headed household where the aging grandparents are taking care of grandchildren without the support of able bodied adults. It is thus necessary to collect and analyse intra-household data, or complement existing household data surveys with qualitative gender assessments.

The data collected must be analysed to ensure that the information on different socio-economic groups is accurately compared and contrasted. This can also assist in the design of inclusive early warning systems. Women play important roles in rural livelihoods, and are often the first to witness alarming signs, such as animal sickness, receding forests, and declining water levels. However, men and women do not always have equal access to information. For example, in Ghana 50 percent of men and 20 percent of women own mobile phones. Bridging this gap and tapping into mobile technologies and web-based platforms provides unprecedented opportunities for inclusive information and early warning systems with information flows between communities and national systems.

FAO has supported the uptake of mobile technologies to improve access to timely market information, and for animal disease surveillance. The lessons learned provide ample opportunities for using technologies to gather data from both women and men, and support their equal access to knowledge and information in order to increase their productivity, and access to critical and timely life and livelihood-saving messages.

#### KEY FACTS

Between 10 and 20 percent of all land holders are women in developing countries, based on available data.



## Future perspectives

Food and nutrition security interventions with specific measures in place for gender equality programming are not only more effective in delivering sustainable and equitable results, but can also contribute towards more equal societies. Furthermore, their role in building resilience to conflict is an area that deserves further exploration.

There is widespread recognition that violent conflicts affect men and women differently and that both have roles to play in economic recovery and the transition to peace. This recognition has led to significant policy efforts to further involve women in peace and economic processes in post-conflict contexts through, for instance, Security Council Resolution 1325. There is a growing understanding throughout the UN system that peacebuilding, conflict prevention and equality for all are complementary goals – a notion enshrined within the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development. This integrated approach includes the role of nutrition and food security interventions and programming and the commitment to “leave no one behind”.

There are several ways in which gender-responsive food and nutrition security interventions can potentially contribute to sustainable peace. Strengthening collective action, such as agricultural cooperatives, community organizations, and women’s networks, which provide local public goods and equally engage men and women, can help attain local peace outcomes. This is due to the fact that collective action is typically associated with higher levels of social cooperation – central to how people trust and relate to each other, to how society is organized and to how countries and populations affected by violence recover in the aftermath of conflict. There is also evidence that nutrition and food outcomes among households and communities improve when women are better able to organize themselves and hold leadership positions at both local and national levels.

Another recommended pathway is promoting women’s agency. Harnessing women’s roles and knowledge about resource management and improving their access to land could provide an important entry point, as women are traditionally the primary providers of water, food and energy at household and community levels. Their role in the management of natural resources can therefore be used to enhance women’s engagement and empowerment in peace-building processes.



The restructuring of markets and economic structures to move away from low-paid and poor-skilled employment opportunities for women that emerge during civil wars towards more stable, skilled and better paid jobs along the value chains can also offer both women and men better economic perspectives and thus contribute to stable societies. This will require reducing the gender gaps in access to productive resources, assets and services, and investing in targeted support for women in agriculture.

## End notes

<sup>i</sup>In the same study, it was found out that women die from indirect causes in the post-conflict setting. It is still not clear what it is about these post conflict situations that leads to all these female deaths. See: Ormhaug, C.M., Meier, P. & Hernes, H. 2009. *Armed conflict deaths disaggregated by gender*. PRIO Paper. Oslo, PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo).

<sup>ii</sup>The project was implemented with financial support from the Afghan, German and Italian Governments and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

## References and resources for further information

**Bradshaw, S. & Fordham, M.** 2013. *Women, girls and disasters. A review for DFID.*

**Brown, O., Crawford, A. & Hammill, A.** 2006. *Natural disasters and resources rights: Building resilience, rebuilding lives.* IISD (International Institute for Sustainable Development).

**Buscher, D.** 2014. Preventing gender-based violence: Getting it right. In Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI (Overseas Development Institute). 2014. *Special feature: Gender-based violence in emergencies*, No. 60, February 2014, pp. 13–15. London, Humanitarian Practice Network at ODI.

**Doss, C., Deere, C.D., Oduro, A.D. & Swaminathan, H.** 2013. *Calculating the gender asset and wealth gaps.* The gender asset gap project, Policy brief series 5. Bangalore, India, Indian Institute of Management.

**FAO.** 2010. *Land tenure and natural disasters. Addressing land tenure in countries prone to natural disasters.* Rome.

**FAO.** 2011. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11. Women in agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development.* Rome.

**FAO.** 2012. *Improving gender equality in territorial issues IGETI. Integrated guidelines.* Working Paper. Rome.

**FAO.** 2013. *FAO policy on gender equality. Attaining food security goals in agriculture and rural development.* Rome.

**FAO.** 2013. *Striving for gender equality in emergencies.* FAO in emergencies guidance note. Rome.

**FAO.** 2013. *Understanding and integrating gender issues into livestock projects and programmes. A checklist for practitioners.* Rome.

**FAO.** 2014. Gender in food and nutrition security. E-learning centre. [Website] (available at [www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/FG](http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/FG)).

**FAO.** 2015. Conditional cash assistance to build resilience against water scarcity in the West Bank. Creating employment opportunities and enhancing adaptive capacities to recurrent drought within protracted crises. *Resilience good practice.* Rome.

**FAO.** 2015. *Empowering rural women through social protection.* Rural Transformations – Technical Papers Series 2. Rome.

**FAO.** 2015. *Empowering women in Afghanistan. Reducing gender gaps through integrated dairy schemes.* Rome.

**FAO.** 2016. *FAO position paper for the World Humanitarian Summit.* May 2016. Rome.

**FAO.** 2016 (forthcoming). *Protection from gender-based violence in food security and agriculture interventions: a guide for FAO and partner staff.* Rome.

**FAO & WFP (World Food Programme).** 2005. *Socio-economic and gender analysis SEAGA for emergency and rehabilitation programmes.* Rome.

**FAO & WFP.** 2010. Gender issues in protracted crises. In FAO & WFP. 2010. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2010. Addressing food insecurity in protracted crises.* Rome.

**Friis-Hansen, E., Duveskog, D. & Taylor, E.** 2012. Less noise in the household: The impact of farmer field schools on gender relations, *Journal of Research in Peace, Gender and Development*, 2(2): 44–55.

**Justino, P., Cardona, I., Mitchell, R. & Müller, C.** 2012. *Quantifying the impact of women's participation in post-conflict economic recovery.* HiCN Working Paper 131, Households in Conflict Network.

**Justino, P.** 2016 (forthcoming). *Food security, peacebuilding and gender equality: Conceptual framework and future directions.*

**ODI (Overseas Development Institute).** 2010. *How to design and implement gender-sensitive social protection programmes. A toolkit.* London.

**Ormhaug, C.M., Meier, P. & Hernes, H.** 2009. *Armed conflict deaths disaggregated by gender.* PRIO Paper. Oslo, PRIO (Peace Research Institute Oslo).

**Plan International.** 2013. *Because I am a girl: The State of the World's Girls – In double jeopardy: Adolescent girls and disasters.* Woking, UK.

**Promundo and CARE International in Rwanda.** 2012. *Journeys of transformation: A training manual for engaging men as allies in women's economic empowerment.* Washington, DC and Kigali, Rwanda, Promundo and CARE.

**UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women).** 2012. *Gender and conflict analysis.* Policy briefing paper. New York, USA.

**UN Women.** 2016. *In Niger, new technologies reduce daily labor burden for rural women.* New York, USA.

**UN Women & IDS (Institute of Development Studies).** 2015. *The effect of gender equality programming on humanitarian outcomes.* New York, USA, UN Women, Humanitarian Unit.

**UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).** 2015. *Mobile phones & literacy. Empowerment in women's hands. A cross-case analysis of nine experiences.* Paris.

**UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) & WFP.** 2014. *Food Security and nutrition assessment (FSNA) in Karamoja.* Report. December 2014. New York and Rome, UNICEF and WFP.



**United Nations.** 2016. *One humanity: Shared responsibility. Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit.* UN Document A/70/709. United Nations General Assembly.

**WFP.** 2008. *Food consumption analysis. Calculation and use of the food consumption score in food security analysis.* Technical guidance sheet. Rome.







This publication has received funding from the European Union through the  
“Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme”



For more information, visit FAO portal on resilience  
**[www.fao.org/resilience](http://www.fao.org/resilience)**