

Gender Tip Sheets

Shelter, Non-Food Items (NFI), and Water and Sanitation (WASH)



The Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Working Group operates in close coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MOTAI). Most requests for NFI assistance come from municipalities and community-based organizations (CBOs) while there are ongoing efforts to enhance coordination and information sharing among actors, through the MLSA.

Partner's Planned shelter activities are structured around three main objectives:

1. Renovation and refurbishment of shelters (collective shelters and individual houses), incorporating green energy solutions and winter assistance, to ensure refugees have dignified living conditions. This includes the provision of emergency shelter assistance by supplying prefabricated containers for temporary short and medium-term accommodation.
2. Providing support for infrastructure recovery to ensure that refugees in shelters have access to basic services such as hot running water, clean energy, and sanitation.
3. Initiating mechanisms to facilitate refugees' access to affordable and dignified housing. This includes repurposing vacant buildings, social housing initiatives, community-led housing projects, rent subsidies and guarantees, housing vouchers, the acquisition of underutilized houses from homeowners, brokering housing gift schemes, and complementing them with repair grants. The distribution of NFI such as hygiene kits, bedding (including pillows, blankets, mattresses, bed linens, and beds), winterization support (including electric heaters, and solid fuel, procured locally where possible), kitchen sets and clothing, is tailored to the expressed needs of refugees. Municipalities, with the support of volunteers and CBOs, UN agencies and NGOs are responsible for organizing the distribution of NFIs. In addition, dignity kits for women and girls will be provided. Cash-based interventions will be resorted to, wherever possible.

Partners will continue to address the immediate gender-specific needs of refugee and host community women, girls, boys, and men around safe access to and availability of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Partners will also target WASH needs in schools and other social infrastructure facilities as required.



Needs Assessments and Analysis

> Collect and analyze sex-, age- and disability- disaggregated data (SADDD) and conduct a participatory gender analysis to understand different shelter needs, capacities, barriers and aspirations and identify populations with special shelter support needs.

- Population demographics. e.g. average number of household members; what constitutes a household/family; changes in family structures since the crisis (i.e. increase in female-headed households).
- Gender roles and power dynamics. Different gender roles in WASH (water collection, cleaning clothes, etc. and time required, women and men's decision-making power in WASH decisions like managing WASH facilities, gender roles in children's hygiene) and in Shelter/NFI who is responsible for different household chores and what are their needs for shelter design/location and NFI; who makes shelter/NFI expenditure decisions.
- Gender and cultural norms and practices. e.g. privacy/segregation requirements between ages and sexes for shelter and WASH; culturally appropriate clothes and other NFIs including culturally appropriate hygiene materials, changes in practices since the crisis (handwashing, menstrual hygiene, etc).
- Gender-specific needs. Women's and girls' menstruation needs, impact of menstruation needs in accessing other services (i.e. girls skipping school if no separate toilet with proper water supply and sanitary disposal systems).
- Protection. e.g. which groups may not be able to improve shelter (female-headed household, child-headed household, older persons); particular safety needs of female or child headed households. Potential Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk when accessing WASH facilities in shared shelters (i.e. locks and lighting)
- WASH knowledge and skills. Handwashing, safe cleaning and disposal of sanitary materials, any other effective knowledge that is widely practiced and by whom (men and women).
- Intersectional issues. e.g. additional barriers for pregnant women, persons with disabilities or older persons in the household have in accessing NFIs or WASH facilities.

> Conduct a participatory gender analysis to identify the gaps in the shelter/NFI/WASH response.

- Shelter safety and location. e.g. Locks on door and windows, toilets; disability- friendly design and location; distance from services; privacy needs for adolescent girls and women. types of facilities are culturally appropriate.
- Gender-specific needs. Existence of child- and women- friendly spaces; support for vulnerable groups to maintain shelters.
- Access. Distance and safety of travelling to shared WASH facilities by women, men, girls and boys, accessible for persons with disabilities, queues and time required.
- WASH materials. Culturally appropriate hygiene materials, adequate amount of materials, appropriate water collection container.
- NFI distribution and type. Timing and location of distribution is appropriate; culturally appropriate materials/NFIs; women/children/older persons can carry NFI distributed.
- Shelter/NFI/WASH staff. e.g. specific training needs, knowledge of gender issues; existence of code of conduct for staff/volunteers on PSEA; training and support for female staff; strong reference check upon hiring staff
- Shelter/NFI/WASH policy/plan. e.g. specific gender considerations in the policy/plan.

> Ensure gender analysis is done by analyzing the SADDD, and by consulting with women, girls, men and boys in an inclusive and participatory way. e.g. Sex- disaggregated focus groups; time/location/facilities that allows participation from all (i.e. child-care facilities for women with young children).



Strategic Planning

> **Reflect gender analysis in the planning documents and situation reports, using SADDD.**

> **Consult with women, men, girls, boys, and other at-risk groups (Older men and women, persons with disabilities, other marginalized groups) to design these activities to ensure they meet their needs.**

> **Ensure equal and inclusive access to shelter, NFI, WASH that addresses the specific needs of women, girls, men, boys and other at-risk populations (Older persons, persons with disabilities, etc) as well as the socio-cultural context (Do No Harm).**

- Shelter design and construction. e.g. construction and maintenance support to vulnerable groups (female, child, Older men and women persons with disabilities- headed households); design of shelter that meet the needs of women, men, boys and girls and the specific roles they take on (cooking, cleaning, etc)
- NFI allocation and distribution. e.g. content of NFI meets gender-specific needs and other vulnerability criteria; timing, location and safety of distribution points is appropriate for women and girls and accessible for persons with disabilities; distribution queues are gender segregated and monitored by same gender
- Access to WASH facilities. Acceptable distance of facilities from shared shelters, safe and well-lit roads, accessible to persons with disabilities, convenient and safe timing of water being pumped.
- Gender and disability friendly WASH facilities. Gender-segregated latrines and bathing facilities clearly distinguishable (i.e. color coded), functional for persons with disabilities, availability of menstrual hygiene materials disposal/cleaning systems, any water hand-pumps are women and girl-friendly.
- Safety of WASH facilities in shared shelters. Locks, location (shared shelters), creation of “women-only” wash services zones.
- Materials. Culturally appropriate, enough amounts, appropriate (i.e. water containers can be carried by main water collector), provisions to ensure access to assistance/materials by vulnerable groups, retrofitting of existing facilities.

> **Work with other sectors to holistically plan interventions that address the barriers to shelter, NFI, and WASH for women, girls, men and boys.** e.g. protection, GBV, Education, Health.

- Community awareness and social norm changes. e.g. community awareness raising on sharing shelter related household chores; gender sensitization of family members, community and other actors.
- Address barriers to women’s, girls’, men’s and boys’ participation in shelter. e.g. provisions to ensure women’s participation (i.e. childcare); awareness raising initiatives on the importance of women’s participation in shelter/nfi/WASH decisions; equal provision of shelter maintenance skill training to women and men.

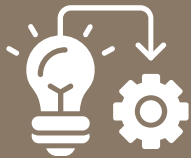
> **Develop indicators to measure change for women, girls, men and boys.**

- Use sex and age disaggregated indicators so gaps between groups can be identified and assessed.
- Use the Gender with Age Marker (GAM) to assess program planning.



Resource Mobilization

- > **Provide SADDD, information and key messages on the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys to the shelter/NFI/WASH sector so that priority areas are funded.**
- > **Engage in advocacy with donors and regularly report on the gender resource gaps in shelter/NFI/WASH.**



Implementation and Monitoring

- > **Involve women, girls, men and boys equally and meaningfully in decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the shelter /NFI/WASH programs/projects.**
 - Ensure greater gender-balance in the implementation and monitoring of the project. e.g. involve community groups such as women's rights, youth, and Older persons organizations in program implementation and monitoring; ensure equal participation of women by providing childcare services; support the recruitment, training and retention of female staff and volunteers.
 - Ensure the safety of staff and volunteers, especially female staff/volunteers. e.g. put measures in place to respond to potential threat, intimidation and harassment of female staff.
 - Ensure women, girls, men and boys are aware of the available services, how to access those, the agency providing them and ways to influence their design and delivery. e.g. provide information on shelter/NFI/WASH response through community outreach
 - Develop and maintain feedback and complaint mechanisms that are child- and adolescent- friendly, gender-responsive, inclusive and confidential (including for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) reporting). E.g provide feedback and complaint boxes, provide hotline services including UNHCR, do gender and age segregated Focus Group Discussion (FGD)s.
- > **Regularly monitor for any changes, including in risks, access or social norms and roles, that may limit the participation of women, girls, men and boys in the program.** e.g. through monitoring own indicators, through FGDs, through other gender assessments (from partners, GiHA WG, etc).
- > **Monitor access to shelter/NFI/WASH by women, girls, men and boys (through own indicators) and their levels of satisfaction.** e.g. lead satisfaction surveys by age and gender to assess whether women, men, girls and boys are satisfied with the services provided, their quality and the way they are distributed.
- > **Contribute to the Refugee Response Plan's gender-specific outcomes.**
 - Apply the GAM to assess and improve gender equality programming.



Operational Peer Review and Evaluations

- > **Share information, SADD and key messages to others on the specific needs, capacities and aspirations of women, girls, men and boys in shelter/NFI/WASH.** Information should also be disseminated back to beneficiaries.
- > **Share good practices and lessons learned on using gender-responsive approaches in shelter/NFI distribution/ and WASH.**
- > **Review project and assess if all women and girls, men and boys from affected populations were reached and identify possible gaps.**
 - Use the GAM to assess the program's contribution to Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

Key Resources	Protection Working Group Key Actors
<p>Education Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <u>The Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action</u>, Section on Shelter P. 324○ <u>The Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action</u>, Section on WASH P. 350○ <u>Gender and Shelter: Good programming guidelines</u>, CARE, <p>> <u>Gender Toolbox Brief: Gender Equality and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</u></p>	<p>Sector Lead and Gender focal points :</p> <p>Joao Sobral , SOBRAL@unhcr.org</p>