

Gender Tip Sheets

Food Security



The sectoral response to the reported food security needs will be co-led and coordinated with the relevant government ministry and will consider the needs of refugees, host communities and families, as well as the broader food-affected population to promote social cohesion during the integration of refugees across a diverse internal context. Refugees and communities to be assisted will be determined based on government validated data and in coordination with local authorities at the provincial and district level, and in consultation with community members, to confirm efficient prioritization of resources and other support.

Assistance will take the form of food parcels; ready-to-eat and hot meals; cash-based assistance to support food needs via vouchers or the Government's food card programme; targeted livelihood assistance in hosting communities; and where relevant, nutrition support as decided in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. The composition of the food boxes, nutritional values and transfer values for the cash assistance will be determined in collaboration with the appropriate Government ministries and local leadership and verified at the community level.

Distributions where relevant, will be carried out through local and international civil society partners under the leadership of local authorities and branches, such as the Unified Social Service, and will be protection and gender-sensitive and include distribution monitoring. All recipients and the wider communities will also have access to Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFMs) to help ensure accountability of the sector response.

The self-reliance of refugee families is dependent on their ability to find decent work to ensure household food as part of their basic needs, and refugees may be dependent on food assistance until opportunities for generating income are available. Considering the loss of income and food generating capacity due to displacement it is of utmost importance that durable solutions to safeguard food security and nutrition are addressed through the lens of sustainability, resilience building and disaster reduction against shocks. Refugees in rural areas may depend on food assistance until food production is established and/or increased for those accommodated in rural host households.

Priority areas will include distribution of food to both urban and rural populations, paired with support for engaging in and increasing food production in rural areas. Support to host communities with potential to provide livelihood opportunities for refugees to bolster food production and reduce food insecurity is essential in a manner attendant to their specific needs, skills, interests, and long-term resilience. Given the often-limited access to own-source revenue streams faced by local administrations, the establishment of more direct alliances and coordination channels with the private sector will be supported.

The projects developed by the sector will aim to improve access to food, to prevent a deterioration of the nutritional status of under-five children and vulnerable populations, revitalizing markets and strengthening purchasing power.

Sector members will reduce dependency and improve sustainability through:

- Refugees who are not labour constrained and who receive cash or food should be engaged in cash for work programmes to the extent possible.
- Transition to conditional assistance gradually leading up to March 2024 to support resilience.
- Cash-plus social protection and nutrition-sensitive interventions that will complement other programmes and contribute to nutrition outcomes at community and household level, including improving food availability and access, restoration of productive assets and essential access routes and productive capacity.



Needs Assessments and Analysis

> Conduct a participatory gender analysis, using sex-, age- and disability disaggregated data (SADDD), to understand different food security needs, capacities, barriers and aspirations and identify populations with special food security support needs

- Gender roles and power dynamics. e.g. role and time spent of women, girls, men and boys in food production, procurement, preparation, and storage; decision-making over food expenditure; food sharing among household members.
- Cultural norms and practices. e.g. mobility and freedom of women and girls to engage in self-reliance activities; what food assistance do women and men prefer
- Knowledge and skills. e.g. food hygiene knowledge of women and men.
- Intersectional issues. e.g. food security support needs of pregnant or lactating mothers, children or older men and women.

> Conduct a participatory gender analysis to identify the gaps in the food security response.

- Distribution modalities. e.g. do targeting criteria considering gender, age, disability and other vulnerability factors; who receives food aid on behalf of the household; are timings and location of distributions gender-, age- and disability friendly; which distribution modalities (i.e. in-kind, transfers, e-vouchers) do women and men prefer.
- Food and assistance distributed. e.g. adequate amount of food and materials; gender-, age-, disability- friendly packages (weight and size).
- Self-reliance assistance modalities. e.g. culturally appropriate for both women and men; provisions for women to participate (breastfeeding corners, childcare); skill development support; equal pay for work of equal value.
- Food security staff. e.g. specific training needs; knowledge of gender issues; existence of code of conduct for food security staff/volunteers on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA); training and support for female staff.
- Food security policy/plan. e.g. specific gender considerations in the food security policy/plan.

> Ensure gender analysis is done by analyzing SADDD, and by consulting with women, girls, men, and boys in an inclusive and participatory way. e.g. Sex-disaggregated focus groups, ensure time/location/facilities ensures 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 SADD.

> Consult with women, men, girls, boys, including other marginalized groups (Older men and women, persons with disabilities, female-headed households, etc) to design these activities to ensure they meet their needs.

> Ensure equal and inclusive access to food and livelihoods assistance that address 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).

- Distribution is gender- and disability- responsive, conducive and safe. e.g. acceptable distance of distribution points from housing; safe and well-lit roads;
- accessible to persons with disabilities; convenient and safe timing of distributions;
- women registered as primary household recipient of food assistance; provisions to ensure access to assistance by vulnerable groups; gender-segregated distribution lines monitored by same gender staff.
- Food baskets, materials and other assistance distributed is appropriate. e.g. culturally appropriate; sufficient amounts; appropriate (i.e. water containers can be carried by main water collector); considers the needs of at-risk groups (pregnant or lactating women, children, Older men and women, etc).
- Self-reliance assistance is gender responsive. e.g. flexible timing; provision of gender-specific and age-specific support (breastfeeding corners, childcare); skill development training for women and men.
- Gender-balanced food security staff/volunteers/ committees. e.g. recruit, train and retain female staff; set up women-led food security committees; proper reference check for hiring new staff.

> Work with other sector to holistically plan interventions that address the barriers to quality food security for women, girls, men and boys. e.g. education, nutrition, health, PSEA, GBV SS, Gender Taskforce.

- Community awareness and social norm changes. e.g. community awareness raising on sharing food related household chores; gender sensitization of family members, community and other economic actors; awareness raising initiatives on the importance of women's economic empowerment; community awareness on the importance of women's participation in food security initiatives and its impact on family and society.
- Address barriers to women's, girls', men's and boys' participation in food security. e.g. Equal participation of women and men in community food security committee or separate committees; provision to ensure women's participation (i.e. childcare).

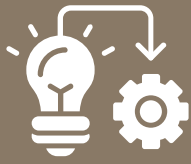
> Develop indicators to measure change for women, girls, men and boys.

- Use SADD indicators so gaps between groups can be identified and assessed
- Use the IASC 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 in food security to the sector so that priority areas are funded.**
- > **Engage in advocacy with donors and government, and regularly report on the gender resource gaps in food security.**
- > **Apply the GAM to food security program design to assess and highlight its contribution to gender equality and empowerment of women.**



Implementation and Monitoring

- > **Involve women and men equally and meaningfully in decision-making, implementation and monitoring of the food security programs/projects.**
 - Ensure greater gender-balance in the implementation and monitoring of the project e.g. involve community groups such as women's rights and youth organizations in program implementation and monitoring; ensure equal participation of women and girl-mothers by providing childcare services.
 - Ensure gender balance in the implementing and monitoring staff of the project.
 - 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.**
 - Develop and maintain feedback and complaint mechanisms that are child- and adolescent- friendly, gender-responsive, inclusive and confidential (including for SEA reporting). E.g provide feedback and complaint boxes, provide UNHCR hotline services, do gender and age-segregated Focus Group Discussion(FGDs).
- > **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.**
- > **Monitor access to food security services by women, girls, men and boys 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 Joint 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 food security.**

- The Gender Task Force can support in reviewing and disseminating information, reports, case studies, studies, and other resources.
- Information should also be disseminated back to beneficiaries.

> **Share good practices and lessons learned on using gender-responsive approaches in food security.**

> **Review project in the food security sector 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 GEEWG.**

Key Resources	Protection Working Group Key Actors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action, Section on Food Security P. 198○ IASC GBV Guidelines, Risk Mitigation for GBV for each sector○ World Food Programme, Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment in Armenia, July 2023	<p>Sector Lead: Oscar Ekdahl oscar.ekdahl@wfp.org</p> <p>Gender Focal Point: Karine Chilingaryan karine.chilingaryan@wfp.org</p>