

Gender and Protection Briefing | Single and Multi-sector Rapid Assessments

KEY MESSAGE: Gender and Protection is everyone’s business and responsibility regardless of which sector you are working in. It is the responsibility of ALL assessment team members to collect and analyse gender and protection data and to consider gender and protection when conducting distributions.

The different needs of men, women, girls and boys affect how they experience and are affected by a crisis. Women, children and people living with a disability are more vulnerable at times of disaster due to an increase in gender based violence, disruption in the usual community protection mechanisms and a disruption in services including health, policing and water.

Cluster	Risk/Damage	Impact
All	Family separation	Women and/ or children are vulnerable in such situations when they are separated from their families because of a disaster. They may face sexual exploitation or violence as there is no family to help them. If people living with disability are separated from their carers then they are also very vulnerable as they may have to rely on people they don’t know for assistance.
Education	Schools are damaged and close	When schools are closed for long periods, children are less likely to return to school, and this generally affects girls more because girls are often expected to help around the house and the gardens.
Food security	Crops are destroyed	A mama whom grows and sells food at the market would suddenly without any income. This directly increases her vulnerability, but her children are also negatively affected as they don’t have access to food. Child malnutrition, which has life-long consequences, is a big issue in Vanuatu and is exacerbated in emergencies. Additionally PLWD have specific dietary needs e.g. diabetes, need for soft foods, which should be considered during needs assessments and distributions.
WASH	Toilets and water sources are damaged	Less toilets in a community mean that more people have to share them. The more people that use a toilet, the greater the hygiene risks. Children are more likely to be impacted by poor hygiene as their immune systems are not as strong, often resulting in fatalities. Limited access to menstrual hygiene products (sanitary pads) also restricts woman and girls’ movement and ability to recover in an emergency. Access to a different toilet may be hard (and sometimes impossible) for people with a disability. There needs to be adequate lighting and a safe place for everyone.
Shelter	Homes are damaged	Families may separate and sleep in different temporary places, which increases member’s vulnerability to violence, child separation and sexual exploitation. Tarpaulins need to be distributed to both men <i>and women</i> to ensure that female-headed households don’t miss out.
Health	Aid Post damaged and closed	Women will not have access to contraception or reproductive health care, leading to more unwanted or unhealthy pregnancies.

GENDER AND PROTECTION KEY ISSUES

- **Safety and security**
Does the lighting and set up of facilities keep everyone safe and secure?
- **Gender Based Violence**
Are there any signs of family violence occurring?
- **Equal access**
Can everyone get to the resources and facilities they need?
- **The vulnerable are heard**
Are we talking to the most vulnerable people?

DEFINITIONS

Gender: defines what it means to be a man or a woman, boy or girl in any given society. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a specific context. In most societies, including Vanuatu, there are differences and inequalities between women and men in assigned responsibilities, access to and control over resources, and decision making.

Child: any person under the age of 18 – teenage children are often equally as vulnerable as younger children to abuse, particularly sexual abuse. A **separated child** is a child who has been separated from their parents or guardians but is in the care of other adults, while an **unaccompanied child** is a child who is without any adult care.

Child Labour: refers to children being forced to miss school in order to help their family earn an income, and commonly occurs after disasters and other times of economic stress.

Disability: includes those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others

Protection: Protection is the activities we undertake to keep vulnerable people such as woman, girls, boys, people living with disability (PLWD), the elderly and the sick safe. In the context of conducting Rapid Assessments, protection means ensuring that vulnerable people are safe and have their voices heard, and that the response plan reflects their unique needs and views.

Gender and Protection Checklist

- ✓ **Assessment teams must include women and People Living With Disabilities (PLWD)**
Assessment teams must be gender balanced and there must be gender balance in the leadership of assessment teams. A minimum of two women should be on each team and a PLWD. Women leaders including CDCCC members and CAVAW members, disability and child protection committee members should accompany all assessments to enable the voices and priorities of women, people with disabilities, children and people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity.
- ✓ **Assessment teams must be safe and secure and able to communicate with the base**
There should be strong safety and security planning for all assessment teams and adequate safety equipment provided. This includes life jackets, satellite phones, first aid kits and mobile phone credit. Female team members should be housed in segregated, secure accommodation with other female staff.
- ✓ **Assessment teams know that discrimination, abuse and sexual exploitation are not acceptable**
It should be made clear to all members of assessment teams that everyone has equal rights to access humanitarian assistance and that no form of discrimination (ie. Giving preferential treatment to recipients based on family connections or anything else), abuse (ie. Maltreatment of people) or sexual exploitation (ie. Giving aid in return for sexual favours) will NOT be tolerated.
- ✓ **Assessment teams should actively seek out vulnerable or silent groups**
Assessments should include individual assessment stories with women, men, PLWD, single parents, elderly and people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. Not all these groups will come to a community meeting, so house-to-house assessment stories will be required, especially to reach the elderly and PLWD.
- ✓ **Assessment teams should consult with communities**
Before reaching communities or first thing on arrival, assessment teams should find out which gender and protection related community groups exist in communities (e.g. women's groups, youth groups, disability groups, child protection committees) and involve them in assessments, as they will be best placed to facilitate access to vulnerable people in their communities. Any disclosures regarding gender based violence should be referred using standard referral pathway. See separate guidance.
- ✓ **All sector assessments should include a gender and protection assessment**
A gender and protection assessment must be part of all assessment work. At least one woman should be responsible for conducting the gender and protection assessment (men conducting gender and protection assessments may not be able to speak about sensitive issues with women).
- ✓ **Assessment forms should capture gender and protection information and disaggregate data**
All sector assessment forms should receive input from the Gender and Protection Cluster to ensure adequate capturing of gender and protection information. All sector assessments must disaggregate their assessment data and information by sex, age and disability (using Washington Group Questions), single women headed households, pregnant and lactating women, people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity.
- ✓ **All sector assessments should include a gender and protection analysis**
This includes:
 - an assessment of how the cyclone has impacted on the roles and work of women, men, boys and girls, people with disability and people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity within that sector
 - any different barriers that different groups of people face in that sector
 - coping strategies being used by women, men, boys and girls, including those with disabilities and people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. Identify any harmful coping strategies that need to be addressed.