

Gender Equality Measures in Shelter

This Tip Sheet offers interventions, guiding questions and an example of how 4 Key Gender Equality Measures (GEMs) support gender equality in Shelter projects and programs. The IASC GAM identifies the extent to which these elements are consistently present in proposals or implemented projects.

Purpose: Women, girls, boys and men in different age groups have equitable access to safe shelter.

Shelter can provide security, personal safety and protection that promotes resistance to ill health, disease and support existing coping strategies, self-sufficiency and self-management by those affected by the disaster. Everyone should be able to access its protection equally. Society's norms affect how people use and access resources and protection based on their gender.

The roles of women and men, girls and boys in different age groups vary and need to shape the shelter design. So while shelter interventions are often implemented at household level, it is worthwhile planning, incorporating and reporting on these distinct needs. Access to shelter is often easier in many societies for men than women and depending on their age group. Different roles and expectations affect the use of the shelter – for example, there are often more taboos for adolescent girls and women to undress in an open plan shelter than for men and boys; women and adolescent girls often cook in or near the shelter. Understanding the distinct needs requires assessment beyond the household level. The response should be tailored to this information.

Shelter projects/managers can make assistance responsive and fair by:

- ✓ Accounting for differences - describe and count the distinct needs, capacities, response and satisfaction rates by sex and age;
- ✓ Providing shelter solutions, construction materials, cash, technical assistance, information or a combination of these to meet the distinct needs of the affected groups;
- ✓ Involving groups in identifying shelter and settlement solutions that meet their basic needs, along with the relevant authorities and all responding agencies; and
- ✓ Measuring whether women and men benefited from the temporary shelter and settlement solutions are safe and adequate for all.

Questions to Inspire Action

Needs Analysis Set	<p>Needs Analysis Set</p> <p>Gender Analysis (Key) How does the crisis affect the housing needs women, men, girls and boys in different age groups? What are the different domestic roles and how do they influence design? Is space required for generating income or growing food? Does the design allow for privacy with dignity?</p> <p>Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD) What are the relative rates of male- and female-led families accessing shelter? Transitional accommodation? Tents? How do rates of access to project benefits vary for different groups?</p> <p>Good Targeting How do gender & age affect ability to access and maintain shelter? What barriers exist for specific groups? Are some members of polygamous families disadvantaged? What efforts are made to ensure people with mobility issues can access shelter? Do some groups resort to harmful strategies to access shelter?</p>
Adapted Assistance Set	<p>Adapted Assistance Set</p> <p>Tailored Activities (Key) Do shelter solutions respond to the different needs and priorities identified in the analysis? Do solutions reduce or add financial stress for different groups?</p> <p>Protect from GBV Risks What steps are taken to reduce the risk of sexual violence and exploitation in public and private settings? Are men and women, girls and boys asked how safe they feel in and around the shelters? Are staff familiar with the referral path for GBV incidents?</p> <p>Coordination Does the project fit with the cluster response plan & complement other clusters' actions? Is gender analysis and access data shared?</p>
Adequate Participation Set	<p>Adequate Participation Set</p> <p>Influence on Project (Key) Are men, women, boys, girls consulted equally and appropriately about the design (layout, location, safety, materials) implementation and review of the project? How are people with disabilities or alternative genders involved? Are there equal opportunities to earn income or get training? Are diverse women and men meaningfully involved in decision-making bodies? Feedback Is there feedback process for affected people? Do they take gender, age, mobility, language into account? Is there a safe, accessible and responsive complaints mechanism?</p> <p>Transparency Is information about shelter interventions accessible, appropriate and easy to understand for different gender and age groups?</p>
Review Set	<p>Review Set</p> <p>Benefits (Key) Are targets and indicators disaggregated by sex and age? Is assistance provided/distributed based on priority or preference information from the gender analysis?</p> <p>Satisfaction Are men and women in different age groups asked about their level of satisfaction? Are they equally satisfied? Project Problems Do people in need identify access barriers or unintended negative consequences? Are they different depending on gender or age? Are discrimination and exclusion issues dealt with promptly? Are there plans to improve?</p>

IASC Gender with Age Marker (GAM):

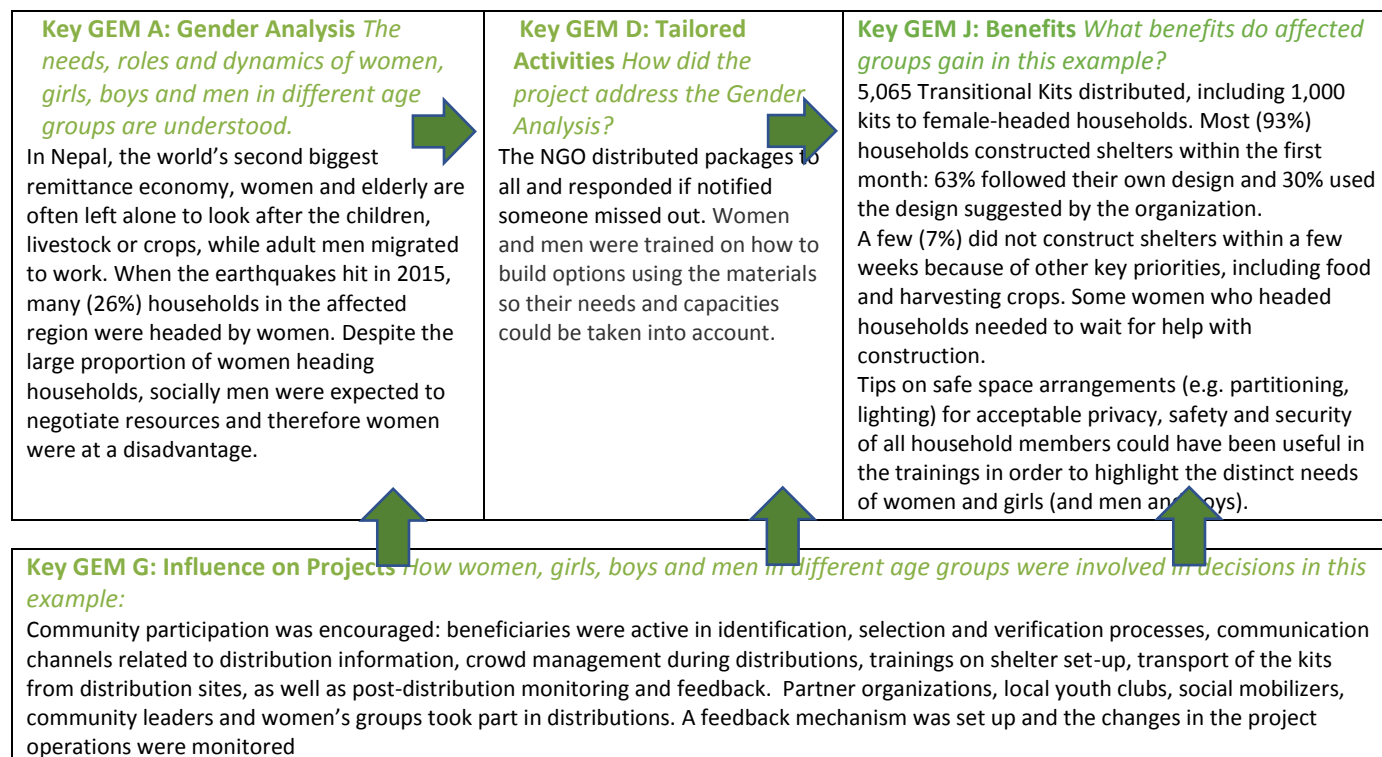
The GAM tracks whether the key gender equality measures above (Needs Analysis, Tailored Activities, Influence on the Project and Benefits) demonstrate attention to gender equality across age groups throughout the project. These building blocks are the foundation of quality programming. The GAM codes projects on a 0-4 scale. The code will be higher when a project demonstrates that gendered needs, roles and dynamics are considered for different age groups; that activities have been designed and tailored according to this analysis; that affected groups benefit fairly; and that they influence all stages of the project. The GAM is applied in both project design and in monitoring. Four key GEMs are considered in design, while all twelve GEMs are reviewed in project monitoring.

Some shelter interventions may target actions to address specific discriminations or gaps resulting from gender norms or expectations (Targeted Actions/T). For example, a project may focus solely on supporting single women with family responsibilities (“female-headed households”) by providing rental assistance and advocating to stop discrimination against female lease-holders. However the majority of humanitarian interventions will aim to assist everyone in need while considering and adapting activities to meet the different priorities and dynamics among women and men (girls and boys) in different age groups (Gender Mainstreaming/M). An example would be a project providing shelter to an entire affected population, offering different options depending on family configurations and reflecting preferences of women and men.

The GAM information sheets explain coding in more detail.

Example of Good Gender Equality Programming in Shelter & NFIs

(GAM Code 3M – can you work out why? See the GAM Overview)



Using Gender Equality Measures in projects or cluster programs leads to better quality programming, responsive to gender and age issues.

GOOD TO GO? Apply the **IASC Gender with Age Marker** to your proposal or project.

WANT MORE INFORMATION? Check out the resources below.



2018: Shelter Cluster: IASC Gender with Age Marker

For more resources on the **IASC Gender with Age Marker** and integrating gender & age into humanitarian programming visit www.humanitarianresponse.info/

For resources on gender in Shelter: <http://foodsecuritycluster.net/search?text=gender>

For the E-learning course on “*Increasing Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action for Women, Girls, Boys and Men*”, visit: www.iasc-clearing.org