



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Regional Consultation South and Central Asia



# FACT SHEET: Placing Women and Girls at the Centre

**Humanitarian crises - whether caused by armed conflict or natural disaster - always affect women and girls the most.**

In times of upheaval, pregnancy-related deaths and sexual violence increase. Reproductive health services - including prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth and emergency obstetric care - are often impacted and sometimes unavailable. Young people become more vulnerable to unsafe sex leading to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and sexual exploitation. And many women lose access to family planning services, exposing them to unwanted pregnancy in perilous conditions.

## PRIORITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Increasing humanitarian effectiveness calls for establishing active partnerships with women's and youth networks and engaging them in decision-making

**Humanitarian effectiveness**



Tapping into the potential of women and girls, and youth by ensuring their active engagement in humanitarian interventions, including preparedness, conflict prevention, relief and recovery.

Ensuring accountability for results for humanitarian interventions rests with affected communities, specifically women and girls and youth.

Reducing vulnerability and managing risks cannot be achieved without empowering women and girls, and youth and addressing their specific needs and vulnerabilities during emergencies

**Reducing vulnerability and managing risk**



Preparing for provision of sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence related services in emergencies as a part of disaster risk reduction.

Prioritizing women's and girls' protection and prevention of gender-based violence as central to all aspects of humanitarian assistance.

Serving the specific needs of women and girls and youth in conflict by addressing inequalities and providing access to basic services



**Serving the needs of people in conflict**

Ensuring sustainable solutions for delivering sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services during conflict.

Mainstreaming women's and girls' protection into all aspects of humanitarian assistance.

“Strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and **access to basic health care services, including maternal, newborn and child health, sexual and reproductive health**, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters”. (para. 30(j)), *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*

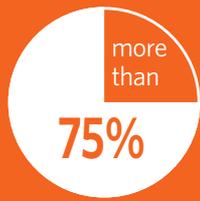
Member States have already recognized the importance of addressing the specific needs of women and girls. The World Humanitarian Summit process is an opportunity to reaffirm these commitments.



“Urges all Member States to **address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies** in a strengthened manner and to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute gender-based violence, and calls upon States, the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, harmonize response and strengthen capacity, with a view to preventing and reducing such violence and ensuring that humanitarian relief is provided in a way that mitigates the risk of gender-based violence, and to **ensure that support services to victims and survivors of such violence are given due priority**, beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response;” (para.47, *GA Resolution A/69/L.40*)

## FACTS AND FIGURES



<p>Asia Pacific is home to</p> <p><b>more than 80%</b></p> <p>of the world's disasters</p>	<p>Women of reproductive age are likely to comprise a quarter of the at-risk population</p>  <p>One in five is likely to be pregnant</p>	<p>At any time, approximately</p> <p><b>4%</b> of any displaced or disaster affected population will be pregnant</p>  <p><b>15%</b> of those will experience pregnancy-related complications</p>	<p>Of the more than <b>80 million people</b> in need of humanitarian assistance in 2014</p>  <p>over <b>75%</b> were women and children, the majority of whom were deeply impoverished</p>
<p>Vulnerability to natural disasters is increasing, exacerbated by poverty and environmental destruction</p> <p>At least <b>90</b> per cent</p>  <p>of the victims of natural disasters live in developing countries</p>	<p><b>Two-thirds</b> of people infected with HIV</p>  <p>live in countries affected by recurrent natural hazards and conflict</p>	<p>Worldwide, women and children are up to 14 times more likely than men to die in a disaster</p> <p>In the Indian Ocean tsunami</p>  <p><b>2 out of 3</b> deaths were among women</p>	<p>Women and children account for</p>  <p><b>more than 75%</b> of the refugees and displaced persons at risk from war, famine, persecution and natural disaster</p>
<p><b>60</b> per cent of maternal deaths</p>  <p><b>45</b> per cent of newborn deaths</p>  <p>take place in fragile contexts</p>	<p><b>more than 80</b> per cent of the high-mortality countries unlikely to achieve the MDGs for mothers' and children's survival have suffered a recent conflict or recurring natural disasters or both</p>	<p>Of the <b>1.4 billion</b> people living in fragile states, almost <b>60%</b> are under the age of <b>25</b></p>	

**Delivering reproductive health and gender-based violence services in humanitarian and fragile contexts saves lives.**

## International resolutions and commitments

- 58th Commission on the Status of Women Resolution on Gender equality and empowerment of women in natural disasters (E/CN.6/2014/L.4)
- 56th Commission on the Status of Women Resolution 56/2 on Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters
- General Assembly Resolution A/69/L.40 on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the UN
- General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/103 on International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development
- General Assembly Resolution A/69/L.67 - the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- Security Council Resolutions S/RES/1325, S/RES/1820, S/RES/1888, S/RES/1888, S/RES/1889, S/RES/1960, S/RES/ 2106 and S/RES/2122 on Women, peace and security

## For more information on Women and Girls and Youth in humanitarian contexts

- State of the World Population 2010: From Conflicts and Crisis to Renewal - Generations of Change, UNFPA
- Women are the Fabric: Reproductive Health for Communities in Crisis, UNFPA
- Integrating sexual reproductive health into emergency and disaster risk management, WHO
- State of the World Mother's 2014: Saving Mothers and Children in Humanitarian Contexts, Save the Children
- The Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations: A distance learning module, Women's Refugee Commission
- A call to action on gender and humanitarian reform, CARE International
- Gender Responsive Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations



Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.