

Protection: Gender and Inclusion Tip Sheet Lebanon's Flash Appeal 2020/ Emergency Response to the Beirut Port Explosion

Introduction

This document aims in supporting the Protection Sector partners in promoting a gender sensitive response while ensuring that the needs of vulnerable people are meaningfully represented. Should any gender-analytical support be needed, please consult UN Women: Claire Wilson (Claire.wilson@unwomen.org) and Olivia Schmitz (Olivia.schmitz@unwomen.org). For support on PSEA, please contact Eva Modvig (modvig@un.org).

Protection: Why Does Gender and Inclusion Matter?

The Beirut Port explosions had significant consequences on the most vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese communities, already struggling to cope with existing challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-economic crisis. Many individuals have little-to-no capacity to respond to the destruction of their homes, new medical needs, increased food insecurity or lost livelihoods. Based on the flash appeal 152,200 people in Beirut are in need for protection services.

Significant increase in mental health issues and poverty, together with deteriorating living standards and disintegrating law enforcement and justice systems are likely to exacerbate violence against women, children, and LGBTIQ+¹ people, particularly vulnerable refugees and migrants. Privacy and dignity may be undermined, and SGBV risks are expected to increase due to inadequate and unsecure living conditions and due to increased economic insecurity. Nationwide lockdowns due to COVID-19 have already resulted in a spike in intimate partner violence and other forms of SGBV ([UN Women, UNFPA, NCLW, WHO, June 2020](#)). The current crisis will likely exacerbate pre-existing risks and result in emergency needs for specialized support for vulnerable people.

Initial reports indicate that mental health and psychosocial support needs are acute among vulnerable groups impacted by the blast. Children are particularly at risk. Displacement, loss of family members and high levels of stress at home can have significant consequences on children. Psychological First Aid, psychosocial support and continued case management are urgently needed. In the coming months, hundreds of children may be involved in risky child labour, including the cleaning debris.

Migrant domestic workers were reportedly abandoned by the families they worked for and are now homeless, often with no documentation. Lack of documentation and low social status might hamper migrants' access to assistance. Migrant workers are highly concentrated in Geitawi, Gemayzeh, and Bourj Hammoud, where high levels of humanitarian needs are reported. There is a rising concern around vulnerable migrants being at increased risk of human and sex trafficking.

To promote a gender responsive protection response and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable people are meaningfully represented throughout the response the following issues should be considered:

Needs Assessment and Analysis

- ✓ Ensure a gender balance in the protection needs assessment team.
- ✓ Ensure capturing of sex- age and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) analyzing the composition of the affected population through participatory assessments to capture the different protection needs, risks and capacities of the most vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Analyze gender-related cultural practices, behaviors and social norms as well as the overall environment that may increase the risk of GBV and other forms of violence. [Example: Important information can be gathered through Focus Group Discussions with different age and gender groups as well as safety audits.](#)
- ✓ In case sensitive protection questions are being asked, enumerators need to be trained on such issues and aware of referral pathways and practices and need in all cases to be ready to refer those in need immediately.

¹ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and gender diverse, Intersex, Queer and questioning

Strategic Planning and Resource Mobilization

- ✓ Include budgeted resources for protection, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and gender.
- ✓ While planning staffing, plan for enough staff to take on important protection work: including protection managers, GBV specialist, social workers, and PSEA focal points.

Implementation and Monitoring

- ✓ Involve women, men, boys and girls of all ages, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations equally and meaningfully in the design, decision-making, implementation and monitoring of protection activities/ projects/ programmes.
- ✓ Regularly monitor equal access to protection services through collecting SADDD, and address barriers to equal and inclusive access promptly. [Examples of gender-related barriers to equal access: Women's and girls' restricted mobility, lack of legal documents and their limited information about the availability of protection services.](#)
- ✓ Inform the affected communities about existing PSEA codes of conducts and set-up gender-responsive, inclusive and confidential feedback and complaint mechanisms including SEA reporting measures. [Example: mechanisms should be safe and accessible for different groups including for people with disabilities.](#) Ensure oversight of distributions by aid workers (female and male) who are trained on [PSEA](#) and ensure that Codes of Conduct are signed by staff, volunteers and contractors. Make sure that communities/beneficiaries have information on how and where to report misconduct.
- ✓ Provide age-appropriate safe spaces and confidential psychosocial services for GBV services.
- ✓ Raise awareness and provide trainings for front line workers, security and police personnel on child protection and on the risks of gender-based violence as well as referral pathways.²
- ✓ Engage men, especially community leaders, and boys in community mobilization activities regarding gender-related protection issues and promote positive masculinities.
- ✓ Provide access to childcare to increase women's and girls' participation in shelter and non-food items assessments and programming.
- ✓ Ensure gender balance in the protection staff and ensure the safety of staff and volunteers, especially female staff/volunteers.

Further Information:

https://www.gihahandbook.org/media/pdf/en_topics/protection.pdf

² Pocket Guide for non GBV specialist <https://gbvguidelines.org/en/pocketguide/>