

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

Introduction

This document aims in supporting the Shelter 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).

Shelter: Why Does Gender and Inclusion Matter?

Shelter was consistently mentioned as the top need by households in the multi sector needs assessment (MSNA). It is estimated that the Port explosions directly impacted 291,180 individuals living in 72,265 apartments located across 9,700 buildings within three kilometers of the epicenter. This has led to the displacement of households to areas mainly located outside of the immediately impacted area. However, a majority of affected households continue to reside within their damaged buildings.

After the explosion, the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, increased due to lack of shelters and potential overcrowding. Collective temporary shelters or insecure shelters without doors, locks, and windows decrease privacy and safety, especially for women and girls. Vulnerable families have had to resort to a range of negative coping mechanisms to keep a roof over their heads including downgrading shelter type and conditions, living in overcrowded spaces or going into debt.

Older women living alone made up a significant percentage of those who remain in the radius of the blast site. A gender assessment of the MSNA found that 13% of women reported living alone, of which three quarters were over the age of 60 ([UN Women, OCHA, ACTED 20/08/2020](#)).

To promote a gender responsive shelter 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 baselines captures sex-age-disability disaggregated data (SADDD) analyzing the composition of the affected population and identifying the most vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Identify the needs, capacities, aspirations, and priorities of vulnerable and marginalized groups with special needs (LGBTIQ¹, elderly, persons with disabilities, etc.) as well as the socio-cultural norms and practices around privacy, safety and communal life.
- ✓ Reflect gender analysis in planning documents and situation reports
- ✓ Ensure a gender balance in assessment teams.

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

- ✓ Through SADDD collection and community consultations, regularly monitor the needs, safety (including GBV risks) and satisfaction of women, girls, men, boys and at-risk groups with shelter design. *Example: Women, girls and boys may feel unsafe if they have to share accommodation with men who do not belong to their core family.*
- ✓ Inform the affected communities about existing protection against PSEA codes of conducts and set-up gender-responsive, inclusive and confidential feedback and complaint mechanisms including PSEA reporting measures. Ensure oversight of distributions by aid workers (female and male) who are trained on [PSEA](#) and that codes of

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

conduct are signed by staff, volunteers and contractors. Make sure that communities/beneficiaries have information on how and where to report misconduct.

- ✓ Provide access to childcare to increase women's and girls' participation in shelter and NFI assessments and programming.
- ✓ Prioritize allocation of shelters to families with vulnerable members as well as elderly, disabled or injured people for relocation to more suitable locations
- ✓ Provide additional targeted support to vulnerable and marginalized groups during programme implementation. *Example: Adapt facilities to reflect the needs of older and disabled persons (handrails, wheelchair access) and ensure safe spaces for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.*
- ✓ Integrate women, girls, men and boys equitably in the implementation process of shelter and interventions and promote women's leadership in decision making.
- ✓ Provide shelter construction skills trainings equally to women, girls, men and boys and provide adequate support in shelter construction to people with special needs. *Example: Set up community initiatives where other community members help persons with disabilities, female headed households and older people to build their shelters as needed.*
- ✓ Conduct awareness raising campaigns among the community on the significance of women's and girls' engagement in construction tasks.

Further information:

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