Gender Analysis in Emergency Response: Core Questions

All WFP employees, partners and service providers involved in an emergency response should be aware of and integrate gender in their functions so that what they do is equitable and, where possible, empowering.

To do this gender (and age) analyses are a must. A gender analysis is the process of looking at data and information about people to see and understand the similarities and differences between women and men, girls and boys, across a range of issues; like access to food, livelihoods, domestic tasks and the impacts of a drought, an earthquake or civil conflict.

A gender (and age) analysis provides information and logic to design, implement, monitor and learn from interventions; interventions that meet basic needs (like having adequate food) and longer-term interests, such as remaining resilient to climate change. In emergencies, like in development contexts, it is possible for WFP’s work to be equitable (i.e. fair) and empowering for the different women, men, girls and boys with whom we work. At a minimum we do no harm. We can also contribute to gender equality.

The reason for doing a gender analysis is to understand and then inform decisions and actions that support WFP in delivering on its mandate: a world of zero hunger, where we are “saving lives, changing lives” such that all women, men, girls and boys enjoy food and nutrition security.

Where human, time, financial and other resources are limited – which is often the case in the first phase of an emergency response – there might not be time to do an in-depth gender (and age) analysis. There is, however, time to ask a few core questions (as listed on the next page).

Sometimes it is a matter of adapting existing needs assessment questions so that gender and age are clear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of interviewee</td>
<td>Name, age and sex of interviewee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many meals did people in this household eat yesterday?</td>
<td>How many meals did each person in this household eat yesterday? What food did each person in this household eat yesterday?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there latrines at the site?</td>
<td>Are there separate, lockable and well-lit latrines at the site, which are assigned to females and males?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For detailed guidance, including more sample questions, see the Gender Analysis section of the WFP Gender Toolkit.
## Core questions

### 1. Roles & Responsibilities
- How do women and men spend their time?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of women and men – in public and in the domestic sphere?

### 2. Household Food & Nutrition
- In what ways, and to what extent, do women and men contribute to their households’ food and nutrition requirements?
- Who in the household is hungry? Food insecure? Malnourished? Why?

### 3. Resources
- What resources do women have access to? What resources do they control? And for men?
- What are the household’s assets? Who makes decisions about them?

### 4. Participation & Power
- In households, who makes the decisions? About what? Who benefits? Who doesn’t benefit?
- Who decides how common resources will be used?
- In the community, what is the nature and extent of women’s and men’s participation in the organisations, committees and activities?
- To what extent are women’s voices heard? In relation to what? And for men?
- Are the interests and ideas of women addressed? How? In relation to what? And for men?

### 5. Capacities & Vulnerabilities
- What knowledge, skills, experiences and ideas do women have which can support an effective, efficient and equitable emergency response? And men?
- What are the particular vulnerabilities of the different women, men, girls and boys in the community?

### 6. Priorities
- What are women’s priorities in the humanitarian response and recovery? And men’s?
- How can the priorities of the women, men, girls and boys be fairly addressed so that the emergency response meets their particular needs fairly and in support of shared recovery?

## Additional resources


Learning videos - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObacrwWXqpg&feature=youtu.be