

# UN WOMEN HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

(2022–2025) IN BRIEF



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This brief provides an overview of UN Women’s Humanitarian Strategy (2022-2025). The strategy outlines UN Women’s commitments to the humanitarian community, leveraging its added value and indivisible triple mandate to provide normative support, UN system coordination and operational results. It highlights areas where UN Women has a unique advantage in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEEWG) across the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, and in contributing to the localization agenda through collaboration with civil society organizations and women’s organizations.



## BACKGROUND

**In 2023, over one hundred million people are displaced, and nearly four times that number require humanitarian assistance. The funds needed for humanitarian response have quadrupled in the past decade, reaching US\$54.5 billion in 2023.<sup>1</sup>**

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by crises and experience higher levels of gender-based violence, with direct impacts on their livelihoods, skills development and access to critical services including formal education. In far too many humanitarian settings, there is a deterioration of rights and personal choices

and tightening of civic spaces, all directly impacting the lives of women and girls.<sup>2</sup> Women and girls also take on increased care-related tasks, such as providing food and water and caring for the sick, which further limits their ability to engage in other activities.<sup>3</sup> In situations where food and other resources are scarce, women and girls are more likely to experience malnutrition due to gender inequalities.<sup>4</sup> Despite these challenges, women and women's groups are on the frontlines of humanitarian response providing life-saving assistance and advocating for their own needs as well as those of their communities.

1 OCHA (2022). Global Humanitarian Overview 2023. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2023-enaresfr>

2 OCHA (2022). Global Humanitarian Overview 2022. p. 18. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2022>

3 UN Women. What We Do – Humanitarian Action: Facts and Figures. Retrieved February 14, 2023, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/humanitarian-action/facts-and-figures>

4 Ibid.

Approximately 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence with more than **70% OF WOMEN HAVE EXPERIENCED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN SOME CONFLICT SETTINGS.**<sup>5</sup>



Currently, there are **150 MILLION MORE FOOD-INSECURE WOMEN** than men globally.<sup>6</sup>

**WOMEN ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY DISADVANTAGED** when disasters occur, affecting their life expectancy, unemployment rates, labour force re-entry, and relative asset losses.<sup>7</sup>



Humanitarian programming for women and girls can deliver an average return of US\$8 for every US\$1 spent. Still, **ONLY 39% OF THE FUNDING REQUESTED FOR GENDER-TARGETED PROGRAMMING IS RECEIVED.**<sup>8</sup>

5 OCHA (2022). Global Humanitarian Overview 2022. p. 18. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2022>

6 FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2022. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022. Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable. Rome, FAO. From <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc0639en/>

7 World Bank. 2021. 'Gender Dynamics of Disaster Risk and Resilience'. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disasterriskmanagement/publication/gender-dynamics-of-disaster-risk-and-resilience>

8 UN Women (2020). Funding for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian programming. pp. 6-9. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/funding-for-gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-women-and-girls-in-humanitarian-programming>

## THE ADDED VALUE OF UN WOMEN

UN Women takes on a crucial role in integrating gender equality considerations into humanitarian action with its triple mandate and strong partnerships, including with women's organizations.

UN Women's **normative mandate** is critical to support the development of global, regional, and national policies and standards to advance gender equality, empowerment, and women's rights within the HDP nexus, as well as in crisis response and recovery efforts.

UN Women's **coordination mandate** of UN Women adds value to the humanitarian system at the global level and in crisis contexts across various clusters/sectors and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT) ensuring systematic and gender-responsive humanitarian action.

UN Women's **operational mandate** is crucial for directly supporting women's rights and women-led organizations. It enables the delivery of services that respond to the specific needs of crisis-affected women and girls, while also creating spaces for their leadership and participation in humanitarian response.

With a network of over 1,300 women's organizations in 40 crisis-affected countries, along with established partnerships and collaboration with humanitarian actors such as OCHA, UNHCR, UNFPA, WFP, IOM, and Care International, UN Women is uniquely positioned to address gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the humanitarian and development nexus, aligned with the localization agenda.



## PERSISTENT GENDER GAPS IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

While the humanitarian community has adopted a series of fundamental commitments that prioritize gender equality and the empowerment of women in humanitarian action,<sup>9</sup> the needs of crisis-affected women and girls remain systematically underfunded, and significant gaps remain in addressing gender-specific needs.



- Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD):** Around 85% of Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) demonstrate some utilization of gender analysis and sex- and age-disaggregated data, and 95% of Humanitarian Response Plans include gender priorities. However, further progress is needed to ensure consistent collection and usage of SADD across all levels.
- Funding:** Funding for programmes targeting women and girls in humanitarian crises remains alarmingly low. There is often also an assumption that gender considerations can be integrated without adequate, additional resources being allocated. Only 39% of gender-specific funding requests are met, compared to 69% for overall appeal requests. A mere 0.2% of total bilateral aid is directed towards women's rights organizations. These numbers expose a significant funding gap and a lack of financial support specifically dedicated to addressing the needs and rights of women and girls in humanitarian contexts.
- Localization:** Even though women's rights organizations (WROs) and women-led organizations (WLOs) shoulder much crisis response in local communities, they are often not consulted or engaged by humanitarian decision-making processes and have limited access to humanitarian and other sources of funding.<sup>10</sup>
- Inclusion of women's organizations:** Gaps remain in the number of Humanitarian Country Teams that consult with women's organizations, dropping from 68% to 65% in 2021. Data shows that Gender in Humanitarian Action Groups are particularly important to strengthen the engagement of women's organizations. Where gender working groups are active, 85% of crisis contexts reported having consulted with women's organizations.

9 UN Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions E/RES/2012/3, E/RES/2013/6 and E/RES/2014/2, the World Humanitarian Summit (2016), New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016), the IASC Gender Policy (2017), the Global Compact on Refugees (2018), Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies Roadmap (2021–2025), the Grand Bargain 2.0 framework (2021) and the Global Compact on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action (2021).

10 UNFPA and UN Women. 2020. 'Funding for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Programming', <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2020/Funding-for-GEEWG-in-humanitarian-programming-en.pdf>

- **Overlooked needs and demands:** Only 22 % of HCTs have implemented a plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.<sup>11</sup> The humanitarian system often overlooks the broader needs and demands of crisis-affected women and girls beyond gender-based violence (GBV) and protection. It is crucial to embrace

a holistic approach to gender in humanitarian action, addressing areas such as shelter, food security, livelihoods, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene. This will ensure a more inclusive and effective response that meets the diverse needs of women and girls in crisis situations.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR UN WOMEN IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

**As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), UN Women plays a pivotal role in promoting and implementing a principled humanitarian action, ensuring that humanitarian actions prioritize gender equality and the women’s empowerment, leading to more effective and inclusive humanitarian responses.**

- **Humanitarian principles:** Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is an indispensable requisite for upholding humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality, humanity, and independence. The active participation of women affected by crises and women personnel and contributors is essential for fully adhering to these principles.
- **Leave no one behind:** UN Women works to protect and uphold the dignity, equality and rights of women and girls, while combating discrimination and addressing intersectional inequalities.
- **Do no harm and conflict sensitivity:** By preventing consequences that put women and girls at risk, and addressing common gender biases in conflict analysis, UN Women provides a more accurate, comprehensive understanding of the root causes, triggers, and drivers of conflict.
- **The HDP nexus approach:** UN Women’s approach encompasses meeting immediate needs during crises while also addressing the systemic causes of conflict and vulnerability. UN Women invests in longer-term solutions with a strong focus on gender equality, women’s empowerment, and social inclusion.
- **Localization and participation:** UN Women’s work enables the participation, leadership, collaboration and empowerment of women’s organizations at



11 [Gender Accountability Framework Report 2021, UN Women](#)





local and national levels, facilitating their engagement in humanitarian decision-making processes.

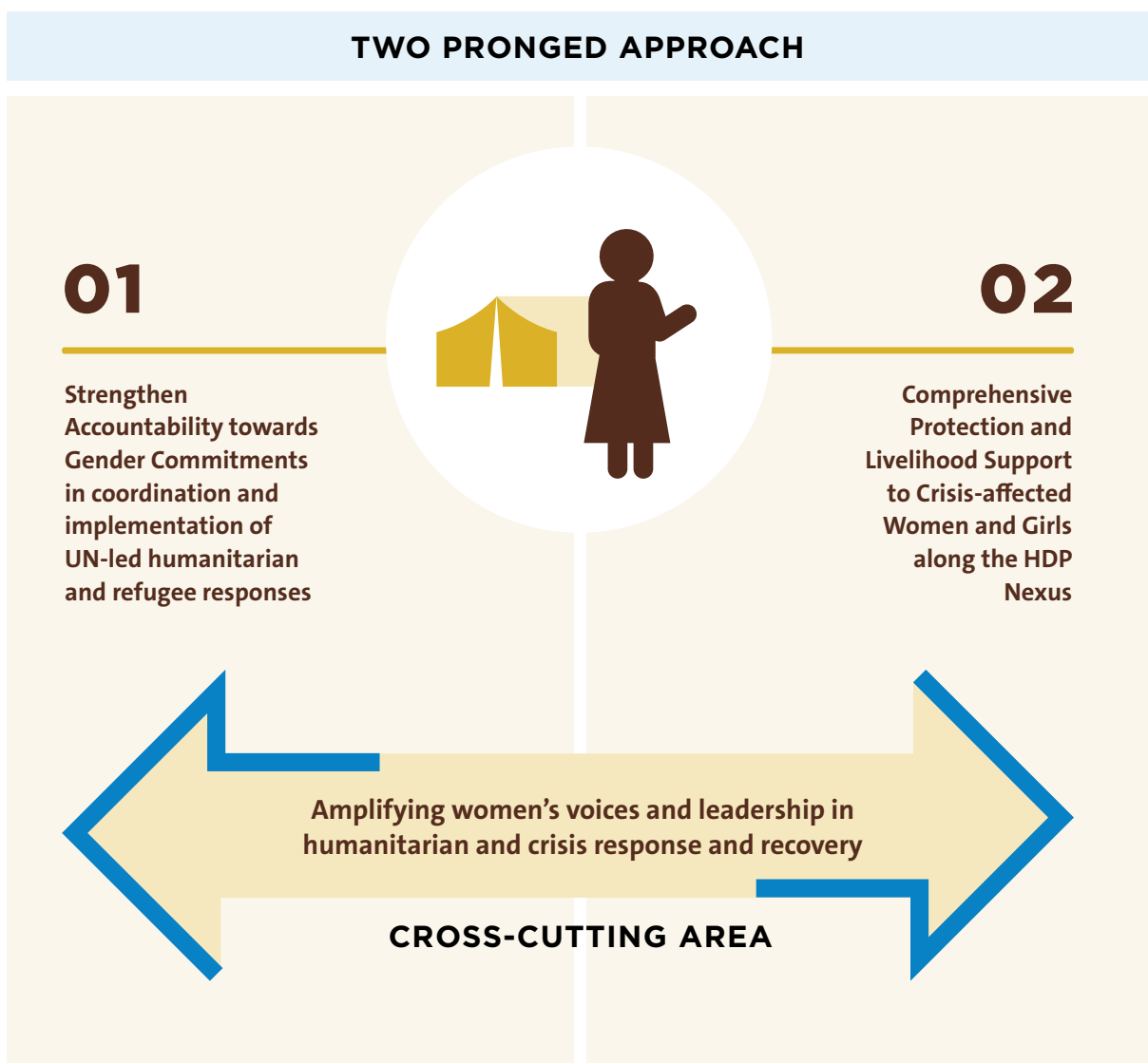
- **Partnerships and complementarity:** UN Women recognize the critical importance of advancing partnerships, collaboration, and complementarity with other humanitarian actors, including UN sister agencies (i.e., UNHCR, OCHA including GenCap, UNFPA, WFP, and IOM), INGOs (e.g., Care International), governments, and local women’s organizations.
- **Intersectionality:** UN Women emphasizes the importance of incorporating a gender analysis that considers intersecting identities throughout all phases of humanitarian programming. This approach aims to address those affected by crisis, such as women and girls who may have diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), disabilities and/or migratory status.
- **Accountability to affected populations (AAP):** UN Women collaborates with communities to identify and address their specific challenges, placing a strong emphasis on meaningful involvement of crisis-affected women and girls in decision-making processes across the humanitarian programme cycle. It aligns with the IASC Revised Commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people UN Women supports.
- **Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA):** UN Women prioritizes protecting individuals from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) through robust governance frameworks and operations. With a survivor-centred approach aligned with the IASC’s core principles on SEA, it promotes compliance with humanitarian standards and advances for gender equality, women’s empowerment, and the protection of women’s rights in humanitarian action.<sup>12</sup>

12 IASC. 2019. ‘Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse’. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-2019>

# THE HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

## APPROACHES

The Humanitarian Strategy adopts a two-pronged approach while prioritizing amplifying women's voices, leadership and agency as a critical and enabling cross-cutting area.





## VISION

UN Women addresses the persistent challenges of gender equality and women's empowerment through visible, transformative change along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus.

The UN Women Humanitarian Strategy has been developed in response to the recognition that effective humanitarian action requires putting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the centre of preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

## APPROACH 1

### Strengthen accountability towards gender commitments in coordination and implementation of UN-led humanitarian and refugee responses

**Focus:** Integrate gender throughout humanitarian programme cycles and enhance support for humanitarian actors to effectively address and respond to the intersectional needs of women and girls.

**Strategic results:** UN Women will contribute to increased UN System accountability towards the implementation of gender commitments in coordinating and implementing UN-led humanitarian and refugee responses, spanning both sudden onset and protracted crises.

Provision of dedicated Gender in Humanitarian Action capacity will equip the UN System to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout all stages of the design and implementation of

UN-led humanitarian and refugee responses. Systematic monitoring of compliance with and accountability to gender in humanitarian action policy commitments will contribute to improved identification of needs and rights of crisis-affected women and girls and their integration in response for improved humanitarian outcomes for the crisis affected population.

For the period 2022-2025, UN Women will continue the ongoing engagement in over 40 UN-led humanitarian and refugee responses. Support will be deepened through the application of UN Women's coordination model in 10 countries, while also strengthening internal capacities and preparedness to stand ready to respond to sudden onset and new emerging crises.



## Interventions: UN Women Coordination Model

### Coordination and leadership in Gender in Humanitarian Action

- Provide technical expertise and leadership to ensure the humanitarian system adheres to its commitments to integrate gender equality and empower women and girls in humanitarian action, promoting compliance and accountability.
- Create and sustain coordination mechanisms for GiHA, specifically inter-cluster/sector working groups, to identify and meet priority needs, minimize redundancies, bridge gaps and foster collaboration for the effective integration of GEEWG in humanitarian action.
- Convene and ensure the active participation and leadership of women's organizations and national gender machineries in humanitarian decision-making, coordination, planning and programming.

### Capacity development and expertise:

- Provide long- and short-term strategic gender advisory expertise to Resident Coordinators (RCs), Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs), ensuring the integration of gender-responsive approaches throughout all levels of humanitarian decision-making.
- Deliver continuous capacity development and expertise to HCTs, humanitarian clusters/sectors and relevant actors, to equip them with the necessary skills to effectively utilize globally established standards, tools and resources in advancing gender equality commitments in humanitarian settings. By enhancing

their gender-responsive planning, prioritization and increased funding allocations, this technical and advisory assistance contributes to meaningful progress in promoting gender equality.

### Gender analysis and needs assessments:

- Coordinate and lead gender assessments to generate sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) and evidence to inform humanitarian strategic decision making, planning, prioritization, responses and programming.
- Analyse gender data and information to guide the design, implementation and monitoring of gender-responsive programmes.

### Reporting, communications, and accountability:

- Hold the humanitarian system accountable to its gender commitments by producing annual global, regional, and national IASC Gender Accountability Framework (GAF) reports.
- Strengthen humanitarian communication by creating and distributing periodic Gender Alerts, which highlight key issues to be addressed on a cluster-by-cluster basis.
- Provide technical and financial support for UN inter-agency coordination and reporting, with a specific focus on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

### The ‘Gender Hub’ In Bangladesh

The Gender Hub is a pilot initiative created by UN Women as part of the refugee response of the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh. Its primary purpose is to assist humanitarian actors to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment across the humanitarian response. Recognised as a global ‘best practice’ for gender integration in humanitarian action, the Gender Hub has received consistent acclaim, including from the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls.

The Gender Hub has played a pivotal role in enabling UN Women to offer technical advisory support to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) and its various humanitarian sectors. This support includes gender analysis and development of policy and operational strategies to better address the needs of women and girls. Additionally, the Gender Hub serves as a training centre, developing and delivering GiHA training courses for humanitarian workers/clusters/sectors. It also functions as a repository hub for gender-related communication and knowledge management. By strengthening expertise and the evidence base, the Gender Hub ensures lifesaving humanitarian services reach populations in need, especially the most vulnerable.

### Amplifying the Voices of Afghan Women in Humanitarian Decision-Making Spaces

In Afghanistan, UN Women co-leads the GiHA working group, supporting the country’s humanitarian coordination structures. UN Women provides evidence-based expertise that enhances the gender responsiveness of humanitarian activities, including concrete gender equality outcomes in the Humanitarian Response Plan. Through this working group, UN Women facilitated the establishment of the Afghan Women’s Advisory Group, which advises the HCT. This achievement ensures that the voices of Afghan women and girls are represented at the highest levels of humanitarian decision-making. Despite the escalating risks and challenges, the Afghan Women’s Advisory Group continues to provide support, expertise and hope to women in the country: *“After the Taliban takeover, I was really scared. I then slowly started meeting with the de facto authorities to raise their awareness about our programmes. I explained our activities to them. (...) Every day is a new day and a new start. I will never stop advocating”*, one member of the Advisory Group said.

## APPROACH 2

### Strengthen comprehensive protection and livelihoods support to crisis-affected women and girls

**Focus:** Support women and girls in all their diversity to meet their needs in times of crisis, recover from crisis and build resilience, and strengthen countries' abilities to rebuild better and equally.

**Strategic results:** UN Women's programming will contribute to strengthened comprehensive protection, learning and livelihood support to crisis affected and displaced women and girls through the implementation of UN Women Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) Gender Accelerator for humanitarian coordination and response.

Crisis affected women, including refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), have enhanced resilience, self-reliance and leadership in humanitarian action. Drawing on its experience and from LEAP in over 35 countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Ukraine, Northwest Syria, Türkiye, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Uganda, Cameroon, Moldova, Lebanon, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, during 2022-2025, UN Women will deepen and scale up existing programmes in 15 countries and expand in 5 new contexts, continuing to develop new approaches and innovations.

#### The Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) gender accelerator

LEAP is UN Women's gender equality accelerator, directed at advancing women's protection, access to livelihoods and learning in humanitarian settings with focus on IDPs, refugees and women in host communities. It operates based on three main pillars:

- **Scaling up services:** LEAP aims to expand the provision of protection, livelihoods, learning and recovery services to women affected by crisis and displacement.
- **Supporting women's organizations:** The model provides institutional and programmatic support to women led and women's rights organizations in humanitarian contexts, facilitating access to funding and promoting their participation in both the planning and decision-making processes of humanitarian action.
- **Promoting positive social norms:** LEAP engages men and boys to address gender-based discrimination and combat gender stereotypes that prevent women from accessing humanitarian services, leadership positions, livelihoods and learning opportunities in displacement settings.



## Interventions

### Holistic and intersectional service delivery for at-risk and crisis-affected women and girls:

- Establish women's empowerment centres, utilizing the service delivery function of the LEAP Gender Equality Accelerator and UN Women's multi-sectoral approach, to provide comprehensive and holistic services for crisis-affected women and girls. This includes promoting and fostering leadership, access to livelihood and vocational training opportunities, second chance education, including through digital technologies and e-learning, psychosocial support, cash transfers and cash for work and other prioritized services as identified by the affected and displaced women.

### Community mobilization and advocacy:

- Mobilize and engage diverse stakeholders in crisis-affected populations, including men, and traditional and community leaders, including youth and women leaders, to promote non-violent, non-discriminatory,

gender-equitable norms and prevent GBV. These initiatives target gender-based marginalisation and discrimination in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and help service delivery and mitigate associated risks.

### Women's leadership and participation:

- Provide direct funding and support to local women led organizations and foster quality partnerships within local actors. This ensures the integration of the perspectives of crisis affected and displaced women and at-risk population groups in the design, delivery, and monitoring of humanitarian services, including around protection.
- Expand the scope of crisis-affected women's leadership by promoting their involvement in humanitarian decision-making and accountability processes. This includes their participation in activities such as community safety audits and feedback/reporting mechanisms on AAP and PSEA.





## Leadership, Access, Empowerment and Protection (LEAP) Gender Equality Accelerator in Uganda’s Refugee Response

UN Women’s 2021-2025 LEAP programme-Phase II aims to empower South Sudanese refugees and host community women in Yumbe and Adjumani districts. The programme focuses on enabling these women to take on leadership roles, actively participate in refugee response efforts, and access multisectoral protection services, in partnership with UNHCR.

During Phase I of the LEAP Programme (2017-2020), UN Women supported interventions increased the use of gender assessment and analyses in humanitarian response planning and programming frameworks in Uganda, at both the national and local levels. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of UN humanitarian projects that were gender sensitive and responsive increased from 8 to 17, demonstrating the positive impact of the programme on the broader humanitarian response.

The programme also had a significant impact on how refugee women believed their concerns and needs were being addressed. 93% of those reached by the programme answered that the refugee response effectively addresses concerns of women’s rights and needs, compared to 41% at the baseline, demonstrating a substantial enhancement of refugee response from a gender lens.

## The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Global Block Grant allocation on GBV prevention and response in Palestine (2021-2023)<sup>13</sup>

UN Women’s programming, supported by the CERF global block-grant allocation, provided GBV services to crisis affected women and girls, including women in Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank. This included access to psychological assistance, legal aid, health referrals, employment opportunities, training, and cash transfers.<sup>14</sup>

As a result of these efforts, there was a noticeable increase in decision making and empowerment among the beneficiaries. In Gaza there was an overall 35% increase reported while in the West Bank a 17% increase. This was particularly evident among those women who accessed livelihood opportunities through the project and overall, there was improvement in the ability to make financial decisions.<sup>15</sup>

## Second Chance Education in Cameroon

In Cameroon, the Second Chance Education (SCE) programme, in partnership with Ministry of Women and Family and UNHCR, enhanced access to learning and skills development, together with creating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for refugee, IDP, and host community women. As a result, women affected by crisis successfully generated income and became self-sufficient. About 70% of SCE graduates managed to earn an income after project completion.

13 UNFPA and UN Women received CERF funding in the amount of US\$25 million in 2021 to support the strengthening of prevention, mitigation, and response to gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE). These funds were intended to ensure multi-sectoral GBV response including medical care and family planning, psychosocial support, safe spaces, legal support and counselling as well as access livelihoods related training and cash for work opportunities across diverse country settings. In close collaboration with UNFPA, UN Women implemented the project in six countries; Bangladesh (Cox’s Bazar), Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Myanmar and Palestine.

14 Based on the gender and resilience Index that was used across several countries in the Arab States region.

15 [UN WOMEN GENDER SENSITIVE RESILIENCE CAPACITY INDEX \(GS-RCI\) REPORT- PALESTINE | Publications | UN Women – Palestine Country Office](#)

## CROSS-CUTTING AREA:

### Amplifying women’s voices and leadership in humanitarian and crisis response and recovery

**Focus:** Civil society, local and community WLOs and WROs, and feminist and LGBTIQ+ organizations and networks play a vital role in achieving appropriate, effective, and sustainable crisis responses, prioritizing women and girls’ needs and rights at the centre of humanitarian strategies and responses.

Humanitarian responses frequently overlook the potential to create transformative change in sociocultural gender norms and relations. This can be achieved through the effective participation of the affected populations and the leadership of women and girls,<sup>16</sup> as well as through leveraging the engagement of men and boys as advocates of gender equality and human rights to lessen the burden on, and promote the rights of, crisis-affected women and girls.

**Strategic results:** UN Women will further expand its robust partnership network of over 1,300 women’s organizations to ensure their meaningful engagement in the decision making and implementation of humanitarian response and recovery planning. UN Women will also provide the tools, resources and capacity building to advance women’s leadership in the development and implementation of national crisis and recovery response plans and policies. UN Women will also advocate for their access to quality funding to enable their sustained and meaningful engagement, including humanitarian funding. This commitment is crucial for promoting gender-specific needs, accelerating localization, and strengthening accountability to affected populations. By prioritizing

women’s participation and leadership capacities, UN Women is helping to build local resilience, self-reliance, and gender-responsive solutions, empowering women and girls to drive their own recovery.



16 The national and sub-national humanitarian coordination system in Myanmar. 2019. Gender Profile for Humanitarian Action, and across the Humanitarian-Peace-Development Nexus | Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan, from <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2019/02/gender-profile-for-humanitarian-action>

## **Interventions:**

### **Capacity building and technical support for women's organizations**

- Provide local WROs/WLOs with funding, tools, and resources to support the advancement of women's leadership, including those representing intersecting identities, in the development, implementation and monitoring of humanitarian refugee response and early recovery plans.
- Enhance abilities and skills of refugee women and women in host communities to take leadership roles in managing refugee camps/internally displaced person settlements, fostering social cohesion initiatives and their participation in humanitarian planning processes.

### **Contributing to the localization agenda**

- Provide financial resources and technical assistance to enable local women and women's organizations to engage and advocate for gender considerations – prioritizing at risk and vulnerable groups – to be taken into national preparedness, humanitarian response, and early recovery efforts.

### **Gender responsive and participatory safety audits and accountability systems**

- Engage with WROs/WLOs on gender-responsive and participatory safety audits on GBV and PSEA.
- Support the establishment of community-based mechanisms, by women's organizations, to enhance protection, information, referrals and prevention and response to GBV and SEA.

### **Advocating for the human rights of crisis-affected women and girls**

- Partner with WROs/WLOs to advocate for the human rights of crisis-affected women and girls. This includes advocating for their right to work, education, land/shelter and to legal aid. Additionally, campaign for reparations on GBV and the prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, through the implementation and monitoring of national legislation, strategies, and plans.

### **Supporting women-led organizations in Türkiye Earthquake Response**

UN Women’s response to the February 2023 earthquake in Türkiye exemplifies its approach in response to an acute emergency. UN Women immediately deployed advisory support to the Humanitarian Country Team and the RC/HC and supported the establishment of an inter-sectoral Women’s Empowerment in Humanitarian Action Working Group (WEHA WG) in collaboration with OCHA.

The working group facilitated collaboration between over 60 local women-led organizations and 30 UN agencies for the organizations to learn about the humanitarian coordination mechanism and opportunities to engage, and to promote localization of the response. In response to the findings from the gender analysis, UN Women provided immediate, holistic protection and livelihoods support including psychosocial support, emergency cash assistance, non-food items and GBV case management. These efforts targeted crisis-affected women and vulnerable populations at risk, working in partnership with local women-led organizations involved in the Syria refugee response.

UN Women supported women’s businesses and cooperatives with the necessary re-skilling to facilitate the restoration of women’s livelihoods following an analysis of the earthquake impact on women-owned enterprises in the regions affected by the earthquake.

## ANNEX I – ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to affected people
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
GAF	Gender Accountability Framework
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GEEWG	Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
HCs	Humanitarian Coordinators
HDP	Humanitarian–Development–Peace
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ISCG	Inter-Sector Coordination Group
LEAP	Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection
PSEA	Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
RCs	Resident Coordinators
SADD	Sex and Age -Disaggregated Data
SADDD	Sex, Age and Disability-Disaggregated Data
SCE	Second Chance Education
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions, and Sex Characteristics
WLOs	Women-Led Organizations
WROs	Women’s Rights Organizations



**UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION  
DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY  
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN.  
A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN  
AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS  
ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE  
PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR  
NEEDS WORLDWIDE.**

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



220 East 42nd Street  
New York NY 10017 USA

UN Women Geneva Office,  
20, Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva Switzerland

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