



GENDER CONCERNS – LIBYA CRISIS

March 2011

Experience from past conflicts reveals that important differences between men and women often go unrecognised by the humanitarian community. In the midst of the urgent humanitarian response, the particular protection and assistance needs of women and men differ. The ability to access food, shelter, health, clean drinking water and sanitation facilities are different for men and women. Failing to address the differentiated needs of men, women, boys and girls can increase disparities between women and men, and further marginalize vulnerable groups. **Taking into account the different needs of women, girls, boys and men makes our humanitarian response more effective and equitable.**

Take these 3 immediate actions to ensure that women, girls, boys and men get access to and benefit from humanitarian response:

A

ASSESS NEEDS: The needs of women, girls, boys and men are different after an emergency so special effort must be made to assess the needs of each of these groups. Ensure that women and men are part of any needs assessment teams and that the needs of all portions of the affected population are assessed.

B

BE ALERT: to risks experienced by unaccompanied women, boys and girls, especially the risk of violence they may face. Put in place measures to ensure their safety and security. At border crossings ensure that women traveling alone or in small groups are provided with safe spaces separate from non-relative men.

C

COLLECT DATA BY SEX AND AGE: All efforts should be made to collect data on who has been affected, including deaths, injuries, displacement, and who is receiving services. In natural disasters such as the tsunami: mortality for women was three times higher than for men. In conflict affected displacement, often more men die than women.

Some key gender specific concerns in the Libyan context are:

- **Female domestic workers** (both from within Libya and as migrants): Considered as "invisible", domestic servants both from within Libya and as migrant workers could be at grave risk as they are unable to move easily or flee violence. As the movement of people out of Libya are predominately men – special caution and attention to women fleeing as they may be at high-risk.
- **Freedom of Movement and Access to services:** Societal norms in Libya can limit women's right to move freely, especially in the evenings or in rural areas where traditional values are more likely to persist. In general, women do not travel alone or without the permission of their husbands or families. As humanitarians start to provide services -- women may not be able to move freely to access services. Where services are provided by male practitioners, women may not be able to access them.
- **Female Headed-Households:** There is likely to be growing numbers of female headed households as the conflict continues, with men temporarily or permanently absent. Relief services should be tailored to ensure that these households can access services, and as needed utilise mechanisms such as mobile service centres.

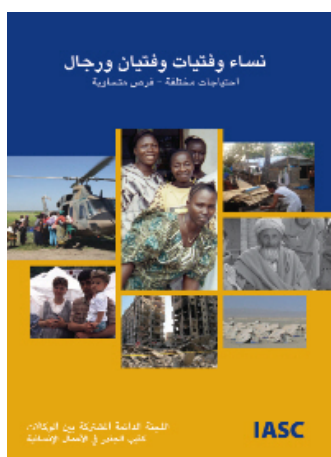
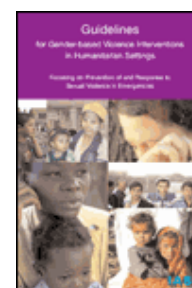
- **Sexual violence:** As with all displacement -- we should be on the lookout for sexual violence. The manner in which violence against women is handled in the Libyan legal and judicial system raises serious human rights concerns. Widespread denial that violence against women exists in Libya, and the lack of adequate laws and services, leaves victims of violence without an effective remedy and deters reporting of rape
- **Trafficking:** Libya (and the other North African countries) is known as a transit route for trafficking to Europe and other states. Be alert at border crossings and in displacement at the borders for unaccompanied persons especially children and youth.

Indicator	Value
Life expectancy in years (male/female)	71/79
Literacy Rate (% male/female)	92/72
Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per100,000 live births)	97
Population with at least secondary education, female/male ratio	1.264
Adolescent fertility rate (women aged 15-19 years)	3.2
Labour force - % male	78
OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (Rank out of 102)	91
Women in Parliament (% female)	7.7

For more details, please refer to aspects of the ADAPT and ACT framework for gender programming found in the IASC Gender Handbook and use the GBV guidelines.

The Gender Handbook is also available in Arabic

<http://gender.oneresponse.info> and
<http://gencap.oneresponse.info>



<http://oneresponse.info/crosscutting/gender/Documents/Gender%20Handbook%20-%20Arabic%20FINAL.pdf>

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