

## Gender in Emergencies

Gender inequalities exist before, during and after a humanitarian emergency and can be further exacerbated in times of crisis. Therefore, if specific gender groups such as women and girls were already discriminated against in a specific context at the onset of a crisis, they will be disproportionately affected, disadvantaged or invisible during the humanitarian response unless we are aware and proactively ensure that the response is inclusive, effective, efficient, and empowering.

ACT Alliance commits to the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action as one of its core priority areas. By identifying and addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in all their diversities, by promoting and protecting their human rights, and by redressing persisting and even deepening gender inequalities – including through the promotion of women’s leadership and contribution across the humanitarian response - ACT will promote more equitable and effective humanitarian outcomes for all crisis affected populations.

ACT recognizes that gender mainstreaming is central to the success of all protection work. The ACT Gender Justice Policy (Section 7.1.11) is the document which outlines ACT’s overall approach to mainstreaming gender considerations into its decision-making and operations

ACT Alliance recognises that to effectively account for the complexity of impacts of crises on women, girls, men, and boys in all their diversity, humanitarian action needs to

- be rights-based,
- bring an intersectional understanding of diversity as a prerequisite for leaving no one behind (LNOB),
- be alert to societal power dynamics and the impact of gender inequality and all other forms of intersectional discrimination
- recognize differing gender-based needs, as well as the potential for inequitable access to the resources and services needed to address them
- facilitate the leadership role and contribution of crisis affected women and girls in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of any response strategies that directly impact their lives and those of their dependents and wider communities

## Gender Based Violence in Emergencies

In the context of emergencies, gender based violence (GBV) is of particular concern and must be treated as an essential aspect of protection. ACT Alliance holds a zero tolerance approach to GBV, not only in armed conflicts, but also during peacetime. Specific GBV considerations are outlined in the ACT Alliance Humanitarian Protection Policy, Section 7.1.3.