

GOOD PRACTICE IN PROTECTION DURING DISPLACEMENT

- ❑ Assure that a gender-sensitive interpretation is given to each of the Convention grounds when determining whether a particular claimant has fulfilled the criteria of the refugee definition.
- ❑ Interview women asylum seekers separately, without the presence of male family members.
- ❑ Provide same-sex interviewers and interpreters to female asylum seekers.
- ❑ Ensure participation of refugee and displaced women and children in the planning and implementation of all assistance and services, including all aspects of program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Refugee and internally displaced women play a key role in camp planning and decision making so that gender issues are taken into account in all aspects, including food and non-food distributions, security and protection.
- ❑ Train all peacekeeping and security enforcement personnel in international human rights laws, gender awareness, prevention of gender-based violence, and children's rights, as well as their responsibilities for the protection of displaced women and girls.
- ❑ Strive for gender balance amongst UN and NGO field-based staff, including female protection officers.
- ❑ Establish programs that address and seek to reduce domestic and sexual violence, including confidential reporting mechanisms.
- ❑ Ensure access to legal assistance and judicial mechanisms, especially for cases of gender-based violence, and robust prosecution of those who commit acts of sexual and gender-based violence.
- ❑ Guarantee the availability of quality reproductive health care services, including condoms and treatment for STIs.
- ❑ Ensure that the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP), which includes protocols for prevention and treatment of gender-based violence, safe birthing kits, HIV/AIDS prevention and emergency obstetrics to reduce maternal mortality, is in place from the onset of an emergency.
- ❑ Ensure that camp residents have access to sufficient water and supplies through secure distribution networks that are predictable and not easily disrupted.
- ❑ Provide adequate camp lighting and placement of key services in well-lit, monitored areas.
- ❑ Mobilize camp women, men and youth to identify, map and monitor risk areas and engage in services that reduce sexual exploitation.
- ❑ Establish protection monitoring mechanisms and support services for female heads of household, single females and the unaccompanied elderly as soon as possible.
- ❑ Ensure that women are individually registered and provided with proper documentation. Registration data should be collected and disaggregated by gender and age, with early recording of vulnerable individuals.
- ❑ Establish tracing and reunification mechanisms for unaccompanied and separated children, as well as a trained and monitored foster family system.

- ❑ Involve displaced women in all decisions affecting their security.
- ❑ Provide equal access to education for displaced girls and address factors that inhibit equal access through targeted gender equity programs.
- ❑ Confirm that schools provide safe environments for girls.
- ❑ Include displaced women on an equal basis as men for vocational and skills training programs, micro-credit loans and self-reliance activities and ensure that these activities meet real market needs in areas of displacement or communities of return. Diversify income generation projects targeted at refugee women to promote the learning of new skills and the marketability of goods.⁶⁵
- ❑ Ensure that single heads of household, widows, single females and unaccompanied children are housed in safe areas of refugee and IDP camps.
- ❑ Conduct participatory assessments and needs assessments with displaced populations and specifically target women and girls at risk for inclusion in focus groups and individual interviews, conversations and discussions.
- ❑ Develop comprehensive strategies involving men to address the widespread problem of sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and HIV/AIDS.⁶⁶