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Gender Standard for Disaster Risk Management

Badakhshan, Afghanistan

Prepared by

*Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) and Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)
with the technical support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)*

Support funded by German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Approved by the Provincial Governors Office, Badakhshan

“Afghanistan will be a peaceful and progressive country where women and men enjoy security, equal rights and opportunities in all aspects of life.”

National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (2008-2018)

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate



"All people are equal as teeth of a comb. There is no claim of merit of an Arab over a non-Arab or of a white over a black person or of a male over a female."

Hadith (Al- Bukhari), Vol. 1, pp. 181-2.



GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Advancement of women has always been central to our pursuit of provincial peace and reconstruction. From the Bonn Agreement to the Constitution, Afghanistan Compact and Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), we have remained steadfast in our commitment to pursue gender equality and the empowerment of women in all spheres of life. As articulated in the ANDS, it is the goal of Government to eliminate discrimination against women, develop their human capital, and promote their leadership in order to guarantee their full and equal participation in all aspects of life.

It is time to work for the realization of this goal. We are proud to release “Gender Standards in Disaster Risk Management” for Badakhshan as an initial vehicle of policy for implementing gender commitments in the sphere of disaster risk management. I direct all the line departments, ministries and instrumentalities of government as well as non-governmental organizations, the international community, and other sectors of civil society to begin the implementation of these standards and include the standards in their departmental policies, plans and budgets. All government instrumentalities are directed to report their performance on the implementation of this standard to my office every six months through the Department of Women’s Affairs. I also encourage all sectors of society and our international partners to help make the vision of this document a reality.

Let it not be said that the status of women did not improve considerably under the reign of peace and reconstruction in our country. To the women and men of Badakhshan, the implementation of these standards is a sacred pledge that I will unceasingly pursue throughout my term.

SHAH WALI-ULLAH ADEEB

Provincial Governor
Badakhshan, Afghanistan



DOWA'S MESSAGE

The full implementation of the Gender Standards for Disaster Risk Management is a high level benchmark and an important step forward under the framework of National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA) and the ANDS.

All of our society shapes and is shaped by the lives of women. We appeal to all sectors of society to do their share in identifying measures that they could implement over the short and long term to realize the disaster risk management standards outlined in this document.

The Department of Women's Affairs will assist departments and district authorities in implementing the actions agreed upon during the Gender Standards for Disaster Risk Management planning workshops in 2013, which this document is based on.

Every action taken to implement these standards constitutes a step forward to a better life for all, because what is good for women is good for Badakhshan.

ZUFNOON HASSAM NATIQ

Head of the Department of Women Affairs
Badakhshan, Afghanistan

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ACRONYMS

AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
ANDMA	Afghan National Disaster Management Authority
ARBP	Amu River Basin Project
CDC	Community Development Council
CDMT	Community Disaster Management Team
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CHW	Community Health Worker
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DAIL	Department of Agriculture and Livestock
DRRD	Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
DoIC	Department of Information and Culture
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DoED	Department of Education
DoPH	Department of Public Health
DoWA	Department of Women Affairs
FFW	Food For Work
FRU	Family Response Units
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
DOLSAMD	Department of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs & Disabled
MoWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
NAC	Norwegian Afghan Committee
NAPWA	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan
NFIs	Non Food Items
NSP	National Solidarity Programme
PDMC	Provincial Disaster Management Committee
PGO	Provincial Governor's Office
PWD	Persons With Disability
SERT	School Emergency Response Team
SDMC	School Disaster Management Committee
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendants

A humanitarian act is considered as a loan to God which will be repaid with significantly high interest.”

- Sura 57, Verse 18 - Quran

INTRODUCTION

This “Gender Standard for Disaster Risk Management” has been formulated by Department of Women Affairs and line departments in Badakhshan with technical support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to support the Government, humanitarian actors and civil society to firmly integrate gender considerations into disaster risk management activities in Badakhshan.

Badakhshan is one of the most natural disaster prone regions in Afghanistan. Landslides, rock falls, avalanches, earthquakes, droughts and floods are among the principal recurring hazards, causing loss of lives and substantial economic damage every year. Contributing factors to vulnerability include lack of awareness and skills, insufficient preparedness and early warning capacity, remoteness and poor connectivity to villages, absence of mitigation capacity by public authorities and a lack of public services in hazard areas. Lack of education, health facilities for women, insecurity, and the socio-economic structures aggravate the vulnerability of women.

The National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA), developed by Government of Afghanistan, points out that “The situation is particularly poor in the areas of health, deprivation of rights, protection against violence, economic productivity, education and literacy and public participation”. The situation of women during disasters further deteriorates, severely threatening development impacts.

During the last decade, Afghanistan has taken positive strides to improve the situation of women. With **Bonn Agreement (2001)**, the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan saw an unprecedented rise in women’s involvement in the National Assembly and Civil Services. The **Afghanistan Compact (2006)** commits to “recognize in all policies and programmes that men and women have equal rights and responsibilities” and to “build lasting Afghan capacity and effective state and civil society institutions, with particular emphasis on building up human capacities of men and women alike.” *Afghan Government* also ratified the **Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** and adopted gender mainstreaming as the strategy for advancing women’s status under the **Berlin Plan of Action (2004)**, which positioned gender as a cross-cutting perspective in the national development framework. *The Afghan National Constitution*, Article 22, outlaws discrimination and declares that women and men are equal in rights and duties. It guarantees that the entire Constitution and all its provisions apply to both women and men on equal terms.

Furthermore, the **Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS)** articulates that it is the “collective responsibility of all sectors, institutions and individuals to include women or gender concerns in all aspects of government work – from policies, to budgets, programs, projects, services and activities, including recruitment, training, promotion and allocation of benefits and opportunities”. This Gender Standard for DRM is the result of intensive rounds of consultations with women and men from different line departments, Shuras, NGOs and UN agencies working in Badakhshan on vital sectors such as food security, public health, water and sanitation, shelter, livelihoods, education, protection and emergency response.



The standards outline practical, easy-to-follow steps that need to be taken in responding to gender concerns in the phases of a simplified disaster management cycle. The standards are categorized into Preparedness, Response and Recovery phases. It should be noted that an overlap of recommendations for the three phases can occur. This needs to be taken into consideration during actual implementation.

ESSENTIALS FOR GENDER IN DRM FIELD WORK

SPACE & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

“Access to most spaces is controlled by men. This means women cannot meet at any time they want and certainly when meetings are held in the houses of wealthier people, not everyone feels welcome. The body language of poorer women attending focus groups was telling. They would squat on their heels away from the group, in the background, refusing refreshments saying they had just had tea or food. They would listen but not participate... if projects are located outside the houses of wealthy people, the women feel it is below them to participate in the project... excludes poorer and more vulnerable groups as the wealthy will monopolise the project. In some cases when the house belonged to a widow who was well known in the community and her house was open to everyone, all sorts of women came and went with ease.”

Source: A study of Gender Equity through the NSP's CDCs

MINIMUM STANDARDS

1. Ensure that meetings takes place in a place where women feel safe and comfortable to discuss the DRM issues, preferably in the home of the most vulnerable women or a mediator.
2. Ensure that the poor and vulnerable women actively participate in raising their concerns and needs.
3. Ensure that meetings are done at a time convenient for all the poor and vulnerable women to participate.
4. Ensure that there is no domestic violence in homes because of participation in meetings.

MINIMUM STANDARDS

1. Ensure that CDC, elders and teachers in the community are consulted so that men in the community allow women to participate in DRM meetings.
2. If required, provide nominal incentives for economically poor women to be enable them to participate in meetings. However, these incentives should be linked to clear tasks and responsibilities (Cash for Work / Food for Work).

TIME & COMPENSATION

“Women do not have extra time because from morning to night they are busy baking bread, working in the orchard, looking after livestock, cleaning the house and helping with farming. But still if they can do more work they will go but they do not have permission to go for activities which do not involve payment. During disasters, their workload and burden increase manifold”.

Source: A study of Gender Equity through the NSP's CDC

VULNERABLE GROUPS

“We hear that assistance comes but it doesn't reach everyone equally... even if the community is poor compared to other communities there will be a hierarchy of interests and the lowest will not be served.”

Source: A study of Gender Equity through the NSP's CDCs

MINIMUM STANDARDS

Ensure that vulnerable and poor women are included in planning, decision making and implementation of DRM projects and aid distribution, especially:

- Widows/Divorced/Single women
- Pregnant women/Lactating mothers
- Persons with Disabilities and elderly women
- Economically poor women

MINIMUM STANDARDS

1. Encourage women leadership and participation
2. Women in affected communities should control project funds related to women and child projects.
3. Where women are not used to assuming positions of authority, impart basic training to women on project and financial management to develop the self-confidence and assertiveness skills they need to deal with village authorities.

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

“We heard that they give money for the project but we don't know how much. My sister-in-law was introduced as treasurer and she gave them her thumb print at home. My brother-in-law took the paper and withdrew the money from the bank and spent it... Women didn't trust each other for doing the project shopping and also they cannot count.”

(Women in Nangahar) - Source: A study of Gender Equity through the NSP's CDC

I. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Local government officials and community leaders shall fully involve women and girls, boys and men specially the most vulnerable such as widows, women-headed households, pregnant and lactating mothers, persons with disability, poor and marginalized women in planning and implementation of disaster preparedness and mitigation activities.

Disaster Management Planning

- a. Women, girls, boys and men must be involved in preparation of Disaster Management Plans for villages, districts and province. It is very important to get inputs of women and girls in the disaster management planning process as they are around 50 % of the total population.
- b. Women participation needs to be encouraged in Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) and District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meetings. Provincial Disaster Management Plan (PDMP) and District Disaster Management Plans (DDMP) should be prepared by both women and men.
- c. Village Disaster Management Plans (VDMP) must be prepared by women, girls, boys and men in a village. It should reflect the needs, concerns and issues affecting of all these groups.
- d. **Evacuation** Plan and Evacuation Route must be understood by each inhabitant in village especially the most vulnerable. It should be clearly specified by the Shuras in the village that in the wake of any disaster and in absence of male family members, women can evacuate the dangerous area unaccompanied by any males and without a veil or *Chadari*.

Responsible: PGO, ANDMA, DoWA, DDMCs, CDCs, All line departments and Implementing NGOs

Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)

- a. A sex-disaggregated survey should be done at the project start in the village to identify number of men, women, boys and girls in the village. The data should include widows, single women headed households, Persons with Disability (PWD), orphan girls and boys, elderly persons and economically poor women and men.
- b. Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity and Risk Assessments (HVCRA) and mapping should be done by both women and men specially from poor, ethnic minorities, elderly and PWD sections to get their views and needs in the assessment. These are often the most neglected groups in disaster risk management.
- c. Community Disaster Management Teams at village, district and provincial levels should consist of equal numbers of women and men.
- d. Trainings on Disaster Risk Management, First Aid and Search and Rescue should be given to both women and men. This is very important for both the sexes because the person of opposite sex might not be able to rescue the victim of different sex due to Afghan culture of physical segregation.

- e. Women and especially young girls should be taught life saving skills such as swimming and climbing trees. Women and girls can learn to swim using 'burqinis' as practised in several other Islamic countries.
- f. Both women and men from diverse socio-economic groups should be involved in preparation of plan, design, construction, and maintenance of disaster mitigation works. Women can be involved in less labour intensive works such as plantations and gabion making. Women and men should be paid equal compensation for work.
- g. Ensure that women, girls, boys and men participate in development and operation of Early Warning System in the community. There are very high chances that women in Badakhshan might not receive early warning signals as they mostly stay inside their homes. Community-based early warning systems and procedures should thus be sensitive to both female and male needs.

Responsible: PGO, ANDMA, DoWA, DDMCs, CDCs and NGOs

School Safety

- a. School Disaster Management Committees should consist of both female and male administrative, teaching and non teaching staff such as cleaners and guard's etc.
- b. School Emergency Response Teams should comprise of both girls and boys in school.
- c. First Aid, search and rescue and DRM trainings should be given to both female and male school staff, girl and boy students. During a disaster the culture of physical segregation in Afghanistan can refrain the rescue or first aid of opposite sex.
- d. Both female and male school staff and girl and boy students should be involved in preparation of School Disaster Management Plans, evacuation exercises and mock drills.

Responsible: PGO, DoEd, DoWA, ANDMA, DDMCs, CDCs and NGOs

Preparedness for Gender Based Violence (GBV) During Disasters

- a. 'Vigilance Teams' within community should be formed and trained on prevention and action against GBV during and after disasters.
- b. Sensitisation trainings must be given to the security sector before disaster season to eliminate deeply rooted discriminatory practices and improve protection of women and girls.
- c. Security guards (male and female) must be trained to be sensitive to women's apprehensions and problems in order to facilitate assistance sought by women.
- d. Please also refer to Annex 3 for further details.

Responsible: PGO, DoWA, DRRD - NSP, AIHRC, Police, ANDMA, DDMCs, CDCs and NGOs

Self-Help Groups (SGHs) for Disaster Resilience

- a. SHGs comprising of vulnerable women should be formed and promoted in the high risk villages to develop resilience and preparedness.
- b. Small saving groups should be made and operated by women. These groups can provide women group members with microcredit in times of disasters.
- c. Potatoes, wheat, seed and fodder banks managed by women should be initiated at the community level to ensure availability of food during lean periods. Women should ensure equal access to all, especially the most vulnerable.
- d. Capacity building trainings on food basket and nutrition should be given to women as they usually plan and prepare meals for all members of a family.

Responsible: PGO, DAIL, DRRD, DoWA, ANDMA, DDMCs, CDCs and NGOs

Stockpiling Non Food Items (NFIs) and Food Items (FIs)

- a. Gender specific NFIs and Food items should be stocked for disasters.
- b. A female representative should have physical access and a key to both NFI and FI stockpiles, First Aid boxes, search and rescue equipments stocked at village, district and provincial levels.

Checklist for gender specific emergency relief supplies – Non Food Items (NFIs)

Area	No.	Item	Notes
Shelter	1.	A warm tent for pregnant and lactating mothers	This tent would be used by pregnant and lactating women who are rendered homeless
	2.	Bedding for the tent	Tarpaulin sheets, Toshak (mattress), additional warm sheets and blankets
	3.	Mosquito netting/repellent	Depending on region
	4.	Bukhari	The tent should have a Bukhari.
	5.	Fuel/Firewood for Bukhari and sufficient matches	
Hygiene	6.	Clean white cloth/ sanitary pads	Ensure that the kit contains clean cloth for menstrual hygiene. Most women in rural areas are not used to commercially manufactured disposable pads.
	7.	Undergarments	For women, girls, boys and men

	8.	Hygiene kits (personal and family)	Hygiene kits should include items such as Dettol soap, laundry soap, chlorine for water purification, bucket, towel and plastic mug
	9.	Culturally appropriate clothing	For women, girls, boys and men
Maternal and Child Health	10.	Nutritional supplements for mother and children	Vitamines, iron tablets, etc.
	11.	Child-delivery kits	These are locally available at e.g. Kabul
	12.	Children's clothing	According to age group and depending on season (winter, summer)
	13.	Soft and washable cloth/ local substitute for diapers for infants	
	14.	Baby food and infant milk formula	If available
First Aid	15.	First Aid box	First Aid boxes should be provided to a women member in the community whom all the females can approach.
Aged/sick and PWDs	16.	Assistive aids	Spectacles, hearing aids, walking sticks and crutches. Collaboration with ICRC or ARCS in Feyzabad to realize this.

Responsible: PGO, PDMC, DDMC, CDCs, ANDMA , DOWA, ARCS and implementing NGOs

II. DISASTER RESPONSE

This phase is crucial for saving human lives. It is essential to integrate gender needs and concerns to reduce the casualties among women and girls.

Following should be ensured:

- a. Emergency response and needs assessment teams at provincial, district and village level are gender balanced i.e. composing of an equal number of men and women representing different socio-economic groups.
- b. Emergency response teams at provincial, district and village level must collect data on the gender, age and diversity of the affected population during all disaster needs - assessments.
- c. Interviews with women and individuals from marginalized groups should be done, for example women-headed households, pregnant women and Persons with Disability (PWD).
- d. Within this, girls and women identify the special needs and care required by the following groups:
 - Widows, Divorced and Single women
 - Pregnant women and lactating mothers
 - Children below 12 years
 - PWD, sick persons and elderly
- e. Women's participation in management of temporary shelters is important to ensure that women's needs are met. When women's voices are not heard, it may result in wrong choices and inappropriate aid delivery.

Aid Distribution

Women groups need to be at the centre of planning, implementation and management of aid. Aid distribution for women should be predominantly managed by women.

- a. Special efforts must be made to reach out to women who might feel too intimidated to collect aid supplies.
- b. Women must participate in the identification of safe and accessible distribution sites. Women should be encouraged to access aid directly. Distribution points must be monitored to ensure they are safe and accessible.
- c. Aid distribution points should have accessible toilets nearby, including separate toilets for women, access to drinking water and sitting arrangements conducive with the weather. At aid distribution points, separate queues for women should be made.
- d. Relief must reach also to women not accompanied by an adult male relative to facilitate their registration. They might be at risk of being overlooked in the distribution of goods.

Responsible: PGO, PDMC, ANDMA, DoWA, DDMC, CDCs and Community Disaster Management Teams.

Access to Information

Due to the segregation of women from public sphere and civic life in Badakhshan, there are high chances that the information about aid relief does not reach single women, women-headed households, PWDs and others who are confined to homes.

Therefore it essential to ensure the following:

- a. Information should be understandable to all including the illiterate, using simple local language.
- b. Women officials are involved in the dissemination of information which provides information on aid distribution and on facilities/ loans/ grants available for women to restart livelihoods such as food processing, embroidery work, jewelry making, gabion making and other local products.
- c. Information on relief assistance, including clear procedures on applying for such assistance, is disseminated to all disaster affected people in homes, temporary shelters, hospitals, remote villages and mountainous areas.
- d. Special efforts are made to reach out to marginalized women as they might not be able to/ allowed to participate in public meetings where information is normally announced.

Responsible: ANDMA, DoWA, DRRD, DOLSAMD, DoIC, DDMC, Community Disaster Management

Food and Nutrition

Female household members get a lower quality and quantity of food than male members

- Alingar, Laghman: *a case study of rural livelihood*, 2003, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU)

- a. It must be ensured that during disasters, vulnerable women and girls especially young females, single women, widows, pregnant women, lactating mothers, infants, orphaned children, PWD and elderly do not suffer from hunger, thirst and malnutrition.
- b. Women are the most reliable and regular agents for food and aid distribution. It is important that food and aid are given to women as they take care of dietary needs and water for children, elderly and the entire family.
- c. Ideally, women teams should assess the needs of the women in affected communities and provide them with relief items.
- d. Consult women about the makeup of the 'food basket' or essential food items for distribution. To meet nutritional needs, ensure access to a range of food: cereals, pulses and fat sources.
- e. Breast milk substitutes should be included in the food aid package for families with infants as in disaster lactating mothers under stress and trauma might develop problems to produce milk.
- f. During disasters the roles and responsibilities of women increase manifold as compared to the normal times. Government must encourage Food for Work (FFW) and Cash for Work (CFW) for women.
- g. Shura leaders should mobilize the community to set up a community kitchen whereby community members can cook and eat together. This might bring comfort and social cohesion during disasters as well as it is a cost effective way to reduce fuel consumption and scarce resources.

Responsible: ANDMA, DoWA, DoPH, DAIL, DDMCs, ARCS, Community Disaster Management Teams, CDCs.

Shelter

In disaster situations, women tend to spend more time in shelters than men looking after children. Social order gets disrupted during disasters increasing the instances of physical, sexual and mental violence against women. A shelter should protect women from all these kinds of violence.

Shelters should have easy access to the basic public services such as schools, health services, police station and livelihood options.

- a. In tent distribution, priority should be given to women-headed households, single women, widows and economically vulnerable male-headed households who have physical or mental disabilities because they are often at the risk of being neglected and invisible.
- b. There should be a special warm tent with a Bukhari, warm rug and tarpaulins for pregnant and lactating mothers ensuring privacy and safe child deliveries.

- c. Temporary shelters should provide adequate space and privacy. Each family should have a separate space depending on size of the family. Married couples with children should have separate rooms. For exact specifications, the SPHERE standards can be consulted.
- d. There should be separate changing rooms for women.
- e. There should be separate toilettes/bathrooms for women and men. These should be located close to tents to avoid women travelling long distances during the night time.
- f. Tents need to be designed with secure fastenings and adequate lighting to provide a sense of security to women and children.

Responsible: ANDMA, DoWA, DRRD, CDCs , Mosques, Community Disaster Management Teams and women's Group.

WASH

Inadequate or lack of hygiene and sanitation facilities adversely affects female health including reproductive health. Therefore it is essential to ensure that women have access to sufficient and regular supplies of clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

- a. The maximum distance from any household to the nearest water point should be 500 meters. The path and location of water points should be safe for women to be able to traverse the distance.
- b. Water sources and systems should be maintained to ensure availability of appropriate quantities of water consistently and on a regular basis.
- c. Women must have separate toilet facilities. A maximum of 20 people per toilet.
- d. Toilets are no more than 50 metres from dwellings. Inappropriate location of toilets may make women and girls more vulnerable to attack, especially during the night. Ensure that women and girls feel and are safe when using the toilets provided. Where possible, communal toilets should be provided with lighting, or households provided with torches.

Women's menstrual concerns need immediate attention. Current disaster relief practices in Badakhshan are reported to be culturally and gender insensitive to the needs of women. Humiliation and embarrassment of women must be avoided when distribution of sanitary napkins and underwear is undertaken. Following points must be ensured:

- e. Males are NOT involved in the distribution of sanitary napkins and underwear.
- f. Women ARE involved in the distribution of sanitary napkins and underwear.
- g. Adequate cloth and washing facilities are provided for menstruation cycle.

- h. Private laundering areas should be available for women to allow for the disposal of women's menstrual hygiene materials and provide women with the necessary privacy for washing and drying menstrual hygiene materials
- i. Toilets should be closed structures which enable women to use them with a degree of privacy. Toilets and bathrooms should be built of durable material to prevent men from making peep holes.
- j. Camp management and residents must develop a system to maintain the toilets in a clean and hygienic condition to minimise the spread of fly and mosquito borne diseases. Arrangements should be made for sanitary disposal of solid waste.

Above recommendations have been transferred from the SPHERE Handbook (2012) after discussion with gender focal points from all Government departments in Badakhshan.

Responsible: DoPH, DRRD, DoWA, DoIC , ANDMA, CDCs , Women's Groups, and CHWs and Religious authorities.

Health Care

"There is one maternal death every 30 minutes in Afghanistan and in Badakhshan one in three women can die of pregnancy or child birth." NAPWA 2008

"Cultural beliefs and traditions are preventing women from accessing health services, as well as making their treatment by male doctors very difficult. This is perhaps one of the most difficult barriers to confront because it is a cultural issue that is deep-rooted and widespread." NAPWA 2008

- a. ANDMA and DoWA in partnership with Ministry of Health shall make sure that there is at least one female Community Health Worker (CHW) in each village of Badakhshan.
- b. CHWs should be included in gender and disaster related trainings to deal with women related issues during disasters. They should be made integral members of Community Disaster Management Teams.
- c. Following points must be considered for access to gynecological and maternal-child health services:
 - Midwives /Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) should be given training in safe delivery and care during emergencies.
 - Conducive environment should be created for women staff and doctors to freely work in Basic Health Centers.
 - Pregnant women and women with infants must be identified and provided with free medical, pre- natal, post-natal and maternity care together with general vaccinations, clean delivery kits, infant clothes and additional nutrition for the women and children.

- A conducive, sanitary and safe environment must be set up for childbirth purposes.
- Women who delivered child after a disaster must be provided with extra reproductive and child health care and psycho-social counseling as they are more vulnerable due to the stress experienced during disaster.
- Due to mental and physical stress during disasters lactating mothers might stop producing milk. Therefore it very important to provide milk supplements for children and micro-nutrients for mothers.
- Hospitalized women need to be provided with shelter after they leave hospital. Female patients should not be asked to leave hospital if they have no place to go. Some of them may be PWD as result of a disaster.

Responsible: DoPH, DoWA, ANDMA, CDCs , Women’s Groups and CHWs.

Protection

“[We should] build and sustain a secure environment that enables women to live a life free from intimidation, fear and violence and which supports their participation and leadership in promoting and maintaining peace and security.” – NAPWA 2008

Ensure the following for protection of women:

- a. DoWA referral centre will get activated to refer women victims of violence to legal aid services, emergency shelters, police, hospitals, counsellors, or other support agencies. The Department of Information and Culture shall conduct a public awareness campaign and public outreach to enable communities, families and those working in law enforcement to become aware of the existence of Family Response Units (FRU’s) and referral centres and to encourage their use.
- b. Women must be trained to raise immediate alarms against violations in the camp sites.
- c. Vigilance Committees / Self-help groups consisting of women are established within the camps to give emotional and other forms of support to women affected by violence.
- d. Police, government officials and non-governmental workers must take women’s complaints of violence and harassment seriously and take measures to assist women.
- e. Night security should be maintained at camp sites.
- f. Improve lighting and transport facilities to and from the camp to other community locations such as schools, markets and shops.

- g. Women police officers / army should be stationed within the camps to record and address safety complaints made by women in the camps and monitor women’s rights violations.
- h. Additional security measures need to be taken in camps and communities to prevent abductions of women and girls for forced prostitution, sex trafficking, selling women and children in *Shandan/Phiken* (markets) and trade in human internal organs.
- i. Free legal aid, counseling services and medical aid must be accessible to victims of violence and other abuses. Women must be made aware of their right to be free from physical, emotional and sexual violence.

Responsible: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Department of Police, National Army, DoWA, ANDMA, Department of Education, DoIC, CDCs

Psycho-Social Support

Exposure to violence, conflict, loss of family members, public executions, and other oppressive and violent private and public treatment has left many Afghan women psychologically traumatized who most often attempt or commit suicide. NAPWA 2008

- a. Self-help groups among the affected women should be formed to give emotional support to each other.
- b. Men who lost the their wives during disasters and are left on their own to take care of children should be given psycho-social support and necessary life skills to manage the family as single parent.
- c. It might be advisable that women interact and get-together to work in a community kitchen and for possible collective livelihood options.
- d. Psychological support and assistance in finding/ identifying dead or missing family members should be provided.
- e. Include counselling on domestic violence and opiate abuse prevention when providing psychosocial support. Ensure this support is sensitive to the needs of some men for help coping with changes in their gender roles, i.e. caring for young children after loss of a spouse.

Responsible: DoWA, ANDMA, AIHRC, DoPH, Women’s Groups, Religious Healers, CDCs

Child-Friendly Spaces

Child-friendly spaces are safe places within a disaster-affected community where girls and boys unique needs can be met. This should be made functional when schools are temporarily closed due to disasters. Child friendly space gives a platform to children to express their feelings of fear and loss through creative play, dramas, games, stories, singing and group interactions. The provision of such place also offers a chance for parents to go about their daily activities without worrying about their children's safety, as after emergencies children can be injured from playing in e.g. collapsed buildings.

- a. Child-Friendly Spaces should be created inside the community with the help of young women and mothers who volunteer their time to teach girls and boys in the community.
- b. Child friendly spaces should offer girls and boys a safe place to play and the support they need to deal with grief and loss. This should be done by bringing girls and boys into a normal routine by offering structured activities, games and informal education such as reading, basic hygiene and life lessons.
- c. The centres must be available to all girls and boys in a community, regardless of how they have been affected by the disaster or displacement. There should be basic facilities such as drinking water and toilettes.
- d. These centres should help to reunite separated girls and boys with their families. These should give protection and referrals for orphans, abused children or children with disability (children are referred to specialized services whenever possible).

Responsible: Department of Education. ANDMA, DoWA, Community Disaster Management Teams, CDCs, teachers, mothers and other volunteers.

III. DISASTER RECOVERY

This phase is an opportunity to “build back better” in terms of gender concerns. It is an important phase to empower women socially, economically, and politically.

Shelter

It is important to include gender-specific dimensions in reconstruction of houses. As women spend most of their time in homes, it very essential that their perception and needs are implemented in designing the house.

- a. Houses must ensure security, privacy and dignity of women.
- b. Housing must allow the access to employment options, healthcare, schools and other social services. There must not be excessive financial demands on the household with respect to transportation.

- c. Women’s special requests should be taken into consideration in the allocation of land and housing such as cluster housing for extended families.

Responsible: DRRD, DoWA, ANDMA, DDMC and CDCs.

Compensation Payments

“The State guarantees the rights and privileges of pensioners and disabled and handicapped individuals and as well renders necessary assistance to needy elders, women without caretakers, and needy orphans in accordance with the law.”

Article 53, section 2 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

This policy underscores that women-headed households are entitled to assistance from the State. More importantly, it acknowledges that with some assistance, women have the capacity to take care of themselves and their dependents and to live independently as individuals in their own right. Following must be ensured after disasters:

- a. Compensation payments should be made on individual basis, not to head of household. Often men might waste compensation money on things which are not related to family needs.
- b. Cash compensation payments should be made to both spouses. It should be paid to joint bank accounts, in case of married couples, if applicable.
- c. In disaster situations, death certificates should not be the main eligibility criteria for compensation for loss of a family member. If married sons are given the right to claim access to benefits (the right to claim house damages), married daughters living with their parents should also be given the same rights.
- d. Equally for men and women, Government agencies should not set a short period limit to apply for relief assistance and compensations as disaster victims may have failed to apply within the given period because they were in hospital, observing mourning rituals or in remote areas without access to information on relief assistance.

Responsible: PDMC, ANDMA, DOWA, Depart of Refugees and Returnees, CDCs

Livelihood

*“To men are allotted what they earn, and to women what they earn”
(Quran - Sura 4, Verse 32)*

“When we go for monitoring in the districts we ask the women why you only choose sewing projects. They verify that the men buy the machines and bring them and say this is the only thing you can do.” DoWA Staff - Nangarhar

Women are generally poorer and their capacity to cope with poverty is more limited than men. In disaster situations, women who lose their husbands/breadwinners face difficulties accessing income-generating assistance because the existing opportunities normally target men. It is therefore important to ensure the following:

- a. Right to choose livelihood: Women should have right to choose the livelihoods they prefer based on their interest, needs and talent.
- b. Equal wages: women must be paid equal wages as men for the same work.
- c. Small grants to help restore income-generating activities they were involved before the disaster for e.g. food processing, cooking food for sale, sewing, embroidery and gabion making etc.
- d. Easy access to working capital, materials and resources for income-generating activities, technical and marketing assistance.
- e. Training in new skills for facilitating their access to new areas of income earning activity.
- f. Access to bank loans for small business development. Bank, financial, trading and other business institutions should be encouraged to create special structures for providing financial aid and investment advice to small and medium women entrepreneurs in disaster-affected areas.
- g. Women should have complete control of their livestock in camps and temporary shelters.

Responsible: Department of Economy, DOLSAMD, DRRD, DAIL, DoWA, ANDMA ,CDCs and Women Groups.

Education

“The State commits to devise and implement effective programs for balancing and promoting education for women, improving of education of nomads, and elimination of illiteracy in the country.” Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Article 44

- a. Halls or community centers are provided so that educational activities can resume as soon as possible for both girls and boys.
- b. Food, school uniforms, books and other stationery items are provided for girls and boys free of charge.
- c. Make sure that parents send their female children to schools and create an enabling environment to attend schools.
- d. Temporary housing should be located close to schools. Free transport facilities are provided to female and male children to travel to school.

- e. Separate toilet facilities for girls and boys are provided.
- f. Strengthen and reequip School Disaster Management Committees (SDMCs) and School Emergency Response Teams (SERTs). The teams must be gender-balanced.

Responsible: DoED, DoWA, ANDMA, SDMCs, SERTs, Parents Teachers Association (PTAs), CDCs

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Annex 1: Declaration of the Essential Rights of Afghan Women (2002) - SECTION II and III

SECTION II

The Declaration which follows is derived from the following documents:

United Nations Charter

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The Human Rights of Women

The Beijing Declaration

The Afghan Constitution of 1964

The Afghan Constitution of 1977

SECTION III

The fundamental right of Afghan women, as for all human beings, is life with dignity, which includes the following rights:

1. The right to equality between men and women and the right to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and segregation, based on gender, race or religion.
2. The right to personal safety and to freedom from torture or inhumane or degrading treatment.
3. The right to physical and mental health for women and their children.
4. The right to equal protection under the law.
5. The right to institutional education in all the intellectual and physical disciplines.
6. The right to just and favorable conditions of work.
7. The right to move about freely and independently.
8. The right to freedom of thought, speech, assembly and political participation.
9. The right to wear or not to wear the chadari (burqa) or the scarf.
10. The right to participate in cultural activities including theatre, music and sports.

Annex 2: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

CEDAW calls for specific measures, among others:

1. Modifying social and cultural patterns of conduct of women and men.
2. Ensuring shared responsibility of women and men in the upbringing of children.
3. Suppression of trafficking in and exploitation of women.
4. Elimination of discrimination against women in political and public life.
5. Equal representation of women in international affairs.
6. Retention of nationality.
7. Equality in education.
8. Elimination of discrimination against women in employment.
9. Free choice of profession.
10. Elimination of discrimination against women in health care.
11. Right to family benefits, bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit.
12. Attention to the problems and contributions of rural women.
13. Equal rights in family relations and marriage.

NAPWA adopts CEDAW provisions in totality, with proper consideration of the processes needed to harmonize it with Shari'a law and Constitutional provisions of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. (NAPWA 2008)

Annex 3: Elimination of Violence against Women Law –Article 5

Violence against women is a punishable crime under the laws of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission has classified Violence against women under following categories:

1. **Physical violence** is the first most common form of violence against women in Afghanistan. This includes various violent acts including beating, injuring, burning, poisoning, amputating, pulling off hair and the like that have widely been perpetrated against women.
2. **Sexual violence** is the second most common form of violence against women, particularly against young women. Sexual violence includes forced sexual intercourse, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, husbands' illegitimate relationships with other individuals and other sexually demeaning and humiliating actions against women.
3. **Verbal-Psychological violence** is the third most common type of violence against women and occurs daily in many places. Verbal-mental violence includes bad language, cursing, demeaning speech, derision, threats to kill, threats to harm relatives, threats to expel from home, threats to re-marry, accusation, threats to leave women abandoned et al. Although this is the broadest form of violence against women in the community, this has not been socially accepted as violent behaviour. The findings of the report indicate that it is more pervasive in cities than in villages.
4. **Economic violence** inflicts serious socio-economic damages on women and deprives women of their free will and makes them dependent on men, their husbands in particular. This includes lack of provision of alimony, prevention of employment, selling women's precious property without their consent, extortion of their salary by husbands and other men in the family, deprivation of inheritance, lack of participation in family decision-making and the like.
5. **Other kinds of violence:** *Bad* and *badal* marriages, forced marriages, forced divorces, expulsions from home, child marriages, abuse of young girls, prevention of education and prohibition of going outside of home.

Article 5 - Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW), Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Enacted in August 2009 in accordance with the Constitution of Afghanistan, is a significant step towards ending violence against women. While maintaining Sharia law, it aims at protecting women from customs, traditions and practices causing violence against women, such as *bad*, *badal*, high dowry. It calls for raising public awareness and prosecuting perpetrators of violence against women.

Article 5 lists 22 acts, the commission of which is considered as violence against women, including, 1) rape, 2) forcing into compulsory prostitution, 3) recording the identity of the victim and publicizing the identity of the victim, 4) setting into flames, spraying chemicals or other dangerous substances, 5) forcing into self-immolation or suicide or using poison or other dangerous substances, 6) causing injury or disability, 7) battery and laceration, 8) selling of women for the purpose of marriage, 9) *bad* (retribution of a woman for a murder, to restore peace etc...), 10) forcing into compulsory marriage, 11) prohibiting from the right of marriage, 12) marriage before the legal age, 13) abusing, humiliating, intimidating, 14) harassment and persecution, 15) forced isolation, 16) not feeding, 17) dispossessing from inheritance, 18) refusing to pay the dowry, 19) prohibiting to access personal property, 20) deterring from education and work, 21) forced labour, 22) marrying more than one wife without the observance of Article 86 of Civil Code and 23) denial of relationship.

Source:

- *Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission - Violence against women In Afghanistan Factors, root causes and situation, A Research Report, Year 1390/2011*
- *Violence Against Women In Afghanistan Biannual report , Year 1391/ 2012*



Ameen - Praise be to Allah, the Sustainer of the Worlds

May this be useful for people who read and implement the Gender in DRM Standards