



THE EFFECT OF GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAMMING ON HUMANITARIAN OUTCOMES



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ACADEMIC PAPER

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**HUMANITARIAN UNIT
UN WOMEN**

New York, April 2015

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FOREWORD



Integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into humanitarian action is a human rights imperative. Women's positive role in identifying and addressing their specific needs, challenges and strengths is still

insufficiently incorporated into humanitarian intervention. Despite a global framework and individual agency policies that support gender equality in humanitarian action, the systematic application of this on the ground remains inconsistent.

One key to changing this is better data. But so far, robust empirical evidence demonstrating the intrinsic value of gender equality programming in positive humanitarian outcomes has been conspicuously absent. Without reliable data, it is difficult to establish the impact of gender equality programming in generating effective and inclusive humanitarian outcomes, and so more difficult to promote it.

To bridge this gap, UN Women - on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action (IASC GRG) and with the support of the Government of Canada - commissioned this critical research study. It specifically examines how gender equality programming can improve humanitarian outcomes through a unique new methodology. This prototype Gender Intensity Measure assesses the degree to which gender

equality and women's empowerment has been integrated into humanitarian programmes – by using inputs from the beneficiaries themselves. This is an exciting new development that UN Women hopes will be further refined into a practical monitoring tool for field application.

UN Women and its partners in the IASC GRG will continue to advocate for the further integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into humanitarian action. I am convinced that this study will prove a powerful and practical addition to the advocacy tools at our disposal towards that end. It will show us where and how gender equality programming is working and give women a greater voice, both as providers and as beneficiaries of humanitarian action.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a trailing line.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Executive Director, UN Women

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Despite a number of developments in policy and practice towards the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into humanitarian action, what remains missing is a strong evidence base that demonstrates gender equality programming (GEP) is essential to ensuring an effective, inclusive, rights based humanitarian system. To address this gap, UN Women—on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action and with co-funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada—in 2013 commissioned the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex to undertake a research study, “The Effect of Gender Equality Programming on Humanitarian Outcomes.” It aimed to assess whether or not GEP has made a positive contribution to improving humanitarian outcomes, and if so, why.

The report contains four case studies that summarize findings from Kenya (the Dadaab camps and the county of Turkana), Nepal and the Philippines. This synthesis report summarizes overall findings, draws comparative conclusions across the four case studies, and discusses practical recommendations for integrating GEP in future humanitarian interventions in ways that strengthen effectiveness and inclusiveness.

The research project was directed by Professor Patricia Justino of IDS. The research team included Jean-Pierre Tranchant (IDS), Paola Salardi (University of Toronto) and Caroline Poeschl (a PhD student at the London School of Economics). The research team was assisted by Rebecca Mitchell (IDS) and Catherine Müller (IDS) during the final writing stages of the reports.

The consolidation of the research finding and development of the report was managed by Blerta Aliko and David Coffey of UN Women's Humanitarian Unit. In addition, they were supported with substantive feedback, inputs and editing by a Steering Group consisting of Vicky Singmin of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development of Canada; Kariane Peek Cabrera and Sibi Marriott Lawson of the United

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Most importantly, we are extremely grateful to all the women and men who took time from their daily activities to speak to us about their experiences. This project would never have been completed without them.

— **UN Women**

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