Annex 4:   Situation and gender analysis for a disaster context

The following is the type of information that should be gathered in the early stages of an operation in order planner and decision makers about how they should tailor the operation to the given context.

Introduction

This tool is intended for use immediately after we arrive in a new disaster context. The purpose is to help direct the initial information gathering that will help us understand the given context. It is not intended as a needs assessment tool. A separate needs assessment has to take place. It can however, together with the needs assessment help us to decide on the appropriate disaster response.

The overall situation or context we will be working in

1. **Map of the area**

2. **Brief description of region or territory, and neighboring territory, including inhabitants (access to area; access to food and water); urban/rural divide; pre-existing capacities and vulnerabilities in the various settings; coping mechanisms and attitude(s) towards volunteering; how these capacities and vulnerabilities have been affected by the disaster; socio-cultural and religious characteristics and beliefs**
3. **Overall social-economic situation of the given context**

4. **Security and humanitarian situation of the given context**

5. **History and patterns of the conflict (if any); change; applicable legal base of current conflict; agreements in place (ceasefires etc.). Core Conflict Parties and Issues** (Profile of the core conflict parties, including the subgroups constituencies on which they depend; Profile of leaders; objectives, policies, interests, strengths and weaknesses and scope of influence and representative span)**; Secondary Parties** (such as mediators, negotiators and supporters, relations with core parties and how they are perceived by the various core parties)

6. **Capacity of HNS, IFRC ICRC, the strategic priorities, the capacity to coordinate relief and recovery efforts; relationship with key authorities (and conflicting parties if a conflict)**

7. **Capacity of various line authorities (such as Ministry responsible for Disaster Management, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry for women and family, Ministry of Justice, Law enforcement,) at both National and municipal level**
8. **Who else can deal with specific needs if the HNS, or local authorities cannot deal with these needs?**

Gender analysis[1]

Broader context:

1. What are the gender norms and legal status for women, men, girls and boys in the country? What international human rights commitments are in place? Where does the country sit in UNDP's gender inequality index and human development index?

Specific to targeted population

1. What are the capacities and vulnerabilities of different groups within the community? What are the physical, organizational, attitudinal capacities of women, men of different age groups? In what way are men, women, boys and girls vulnerable?
2. How do people make a living? What is the role of women, men, girls and boys in the community? What is the division of work among women, men, boys and girls, elderly women, elderly men (livelihood, household, community work –i.e. productive, reproductive and community)? Has the livelihood and division of work/roles been affected by the disaster? What are the gender roles in the division of labour now? How have households been affected by the disaster? How many household have lost their main provider? How many households are single headed? How many children have been separated or orphaned? How do we need to adapt our approach to take this into account?
3. Who gets access to existing and/or new resources? Who has control over (including decision making) over different resources including the new resources and benefits for emergency and/or development projects, interventions and/or relief efforts? Which factors influence access to and control over resources (i.e. age, sex, wealth, location of dwelling, level of education, networks, ethnic group, relationship or friendship with local leaders)? Has the access to and control over resources been affected by the disaster? How many households have lost their resources/dwelling?
4. How are various decisions made at the community level? Who is involved in the decision making processes at the community level? How can we involve the community in our program planning ensuring that the most vulnerable are also represented? How are decisions made at the household level by whom? What are the best information channels to ensure our messages reach the most people and ensuring also that we reach men, women, boys and girls?
5. What are the priority needs of men, women, boys and girls? How can we link the information about these priority needs to any future or immediate planning processes? Who can deal with the needs if we or the HNS cannot deal with them?

Violence prevention   analysis of the protection risks and protection systems and how these have been affected by the natural disaster

Contextual analysis of the protection risks and protection systems in place is essential to **design solutions for effective risk management strategies that are adapted and acceptable to the populations**

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[1] IFRC gender tool kit Tool for gender analysis in programming page 281

concerned. The risk of violence in disasters increases due to a combination of shocks, including: the collapse of protection systems; increased individual and community stress; individual relying on harmful coping mechanisms; crowded and insecure environments etc. The risk factors that are common in disaster situations are linked to environmental/situational conditions; collapse or strain upon community support and protection systems, the lack of violence prevention education and protection systems, compromised access to good and services and pre-existing risks of violence. Part of it is to understand the power relations as explored in the gender analysis, see above. Full understanding of the local context promotes effective responses. Here is a list of questions that might help to get an overview of protection risks and protection systems in a given context:

1. What is the national legislative framework for the protection of women and children against abuse and exploitation? Is the national legislation in compliance with international standards? How is the legislation implemented or enforced?
2. What protective systems exist? How have they been affected by the disaster? To what extent is such protection systems focused on violence prevention? What protective systems need to be developed to fit the context after the disaster? How has the educations system been affected by the disaster? Are there other informal activities for children and youth? What efforts are taking place to reunited separated children with their families? What measures/systems are in place to protect and support survivors of violence? Who are other humanitarian actors on violence prevention?
3. What are specific risk factors for women and children (identified throughout the situation analysis, such as separated/orphaned children, loss of shelter, loss of livelihood, single-headed households, survivor of violence)? Where are children and youth at particular risk?
4. What have we as an organization done to minimize the risk for women and children? What are the access points where children/youth/women can be harmed? Are we screening all our staff and volunteers? Have all staff signed and received training in the Code of Conduct and our Child Protection policy? What are our partners doing in terms of Code of Conduct and violence prevention education? What support is required to keep children/youth/women safe? How have we managed to integrate violence prevention into all our program areas?

Health: mapping of the health status and risks, as well as the health care system and services and how these have been affected by the natural disaster

Contextual analysis of the health status and risks, the access of men, women, boys and girls to health services as well as of the capacity and functioning of the of the health system and services and how these have been affected by the disaster is essential to design solutions that are adapted and acceptable to the populations concerned and to ensure the effective capacity building of the health system and services. In a major disaster there will often be a health cluster that will help in terms of identifying who else is active on health in the given context, as well as being the place where a lot of secondary date will be found, such as HeRAMS (assessment of the health system and services) as well as IRA (Initial Rapid

Assessment) if such have been undertaken. Full understanding of the local context promotes effective responses. Here is a list of questions that might help to get an overview of health in a given context:

1. How is the health response being coordinated? Are the local health authorities involved in the coordination of the response? Who are the other humanitarian actors involved in the response? Has a HeRAMS and/or IRA been carried out? Is there good health pre-crisis secondary data incl. on sub-national level (e.g. district level)? Is the data disaggregated by geographic area, age, sex?

2. What is the health status of the affected population groups (mortality, morbidity and their major causes) and what are the key health risks? What is the pre and post crisis nutritional levels in the affected areas? How is there access to safe water and how has the access been affected by the disaster? How is the situation with regard to availability of latrines/excreta disposal areas and how have they been affected by the disaster? How is the hygiene practices and how have they been affected by the disaster?

3. What is the capacity and functioning of the health system and services? What is the access of different populations groups (men, women, boys, girls, disabled, minority groups, in different geographic locations) to such health services? How has the health care system been affected by disaster? Is there an appropriate early warning and response system for epidemic diseases and other critical conditions in place? Is there an appropriate health monitoring/surveillance system that provides regular data on mortality, morbidity, injury treatment and rehabilitation, potential health risks, health service performance (especially of the most critical services in the prevailing situation) and changes in the overall context that could affect health or health services? Is there a health information management system in place? Is the health information disseminated effectively to the relevant actors?

Shelter: identification of legislative framework for housing/land/property rights and verification of such rights

Contextual analysis of practices and formal or informal mechanisms regulating housing, land and property rights and broader land issues including the verification of such rights is essential to **design solutions that are adapted and acceptable to the populations concerned**. Comprehensive and innovative legislation may, for example, fail to protect these rights in the absence of administrative arrangements and functioning government agencies to enforce. **Customary dispute resolution practices** may have significantly more credibility in areas geographically removed from administrative centers. Full understanding of the local context promotes effective responses. Here is a list of questions that might help to get an overview of housing, land and property rights in a given context:

1. What are the coordination mechanisms for the shelter response? Are the local authorities involved in the coordination? Who are the other humanitarian actors in shelter? What are the estimated needs for emergency/transitional shelter and in which locations?

2. What are the land administration systems? Are there land/property records? Have they been affected by the disaster? What kind of alternative evidence can be used to establish land rights (oral testimonials, tax records, voter registration cards)?

3. How reliable are land/property records? Are they up to date? Is there possibility of fraud in the system? How can we avoid fraud in the given context?
4. Is there a lot of customary land ownership not registered in statutory systems? How does the customary land tenure system function? What arrangements have been made to enable and facilitate recognition of claims to land title and ownership based on prolonged possession in the absence of formal land titles?
5. How enforceable are land/property records/claims? Are the administrative and justice systems functioning? How long will it take to resolve issues through the justice system? What are traditional land dispute resolutions systems?
6. Is women's land/property rights registered/protected? What is the inheritance laws regarding women's right to land/property in case her spouse dies? Has there been any specific arrangements made to enable women, particularly widows, as well as orphaned children to reclaim housing, land property and to acquire housing or land title deeds in their own name?
7. What measures have been taken to protect persons or communities affected by natural disasters, in particular the poor, women, members of minority groups or indigenous peoples, or displaced people, against undue or illegal attempts by landlords, speculators, local authorities and other actors to deprive them of their property and possessions? How are tenants rights protected traditionally?
8. What would be the least invasive way of providing emergency/transitional shelter? Have a community shelter committee been established? If not has the community been involved in discussing shelter solutions? Are there local resources available for such solutions? What are the traditional building materials and styles? How appropriate is the land available for shelter solutions? Will the land use be sustainable? Is individual land ownership appropriate in the given context?
9. Has the community shelter committee/community been involved in the planning of the physical layout of the site, incorporating prevention and response to sexual violence? How to design and allocate shelter/plots to maximize safety and prevent sexual violence also looking a water and sanitation? Has there been space designated for community centres, safe spaces for women and girls, child-friendly spaces, and other necessary services and facilities to prevention and response to sexual violence that allow for physical access, privacy, and confidentiality/anonymity?

Disaster risk reduction questions

1. Are there any reoccurring risks that might impact the emergency and early recovery response (such as hurricanes, annual flooding in rainy season, severe weather patterns etc.)?
2. What are the preparedness preparations for such risks, by whom, where?
3. How has the preparedness preparations been affected by the disaster?
4. What are the gaps in preparedness, and how will the risks affect the disaster hit areas?

Do no harm questions

1. What does the affected population gain by our (potential) activities?

2. What might be the unintended negative consequences of our activities for people's security, and how can we avoid or minimise these consequences?

3. Do the activities take into consideration possible protection threats facing the affected population? Might they undermine people's own efforts to protect themselves?

4. Do the activities discriminate against any group or might they be perceived as doing so? Do the activities protect the rights of people who have historically been marginalised or discriminated against?

5. In protecting and promoting the rights of such groups, what will be the impact on the relationships within and beyond the community?

6. Could the activities exacerbate existing divisions in the community or between neighbouring communities?

7. Could the activities inadvertently empower or strengthen the position of armed groups or other actors?

8. Could the activities be subject to criminal exploitation?

Stakeholder analysis

A stakeholder analysis is a way of analyzing, understanding and managing the different stakeholders of our organization. It helps an organization or project manager to understand the needs and concerns of different stakeholders as the "interest groups" associated with the project/emergency response. It can help understand where there may be conflicts in the accountability, and how these conflicts can be resolved.

For an example of how to do a stakeholder analysis see DFID Tools for Development, Chapter 2 Stakeholder Analysis, in the additional readings section.