



Gender Equality Measures in Shelter Interventions

This Tip Sheet describes interventions, poses action-oriented questions and offers an example of the 4 Key GEMs. These critical programming steps connect to generate gender equality in Shelter Interventions. The IASC GAM (described below) flags whether these steps are in proposals or implemented projects.

Gender Equality in Shelter Interventions: Women, girls, boys and men in different age groups have equitable access to safe shelter.

Shelter can provide security, personal safety and protection that promotes resistance to ill health, disease and support existing coping strategies, self-sufficiency and self-management by those affected by the disaster. Everyone should be able to access its protection equally. Society's norms affect how people use and access resources and protection based on their gender.

The roles of women and men, girls and boys in different age groups vary and need to shape the shelter design. So while shelter interventions are often implemented at household level, it is worthwhile planning, incorporating and reporting on these distinct needs. Access to shelter is often easier in many societies for men than women and depending on their age group. Different roles and expectations affect the use of the shelter – for example, there are often more taboos for adolescent girls and women to undress in an open plan shelter than for men and boys; women and adolescent girls often cook in or near the shelter. Understanding the distinct needs requires assessment beyond the household level. The response should be tailored to this information.

Shelter projects/managers can make assistance responsive and fair by:

- Accounting for differences - describe and count the distinct needs, capacities, response and satisfaction rates by sex and age;
- Providing shelter solutions, construction materials, cash, technical assistance, information or a combination of these to meet the distinct needs of the affected groups;
- Involving groups in identifying shelter and settlement solutions that meet their basic needs, along with the relevant authorities and all responding agencies; and
- Measuring whether women and men benefited from the temporary shelter and settlement solutions are safe and adequate for all.

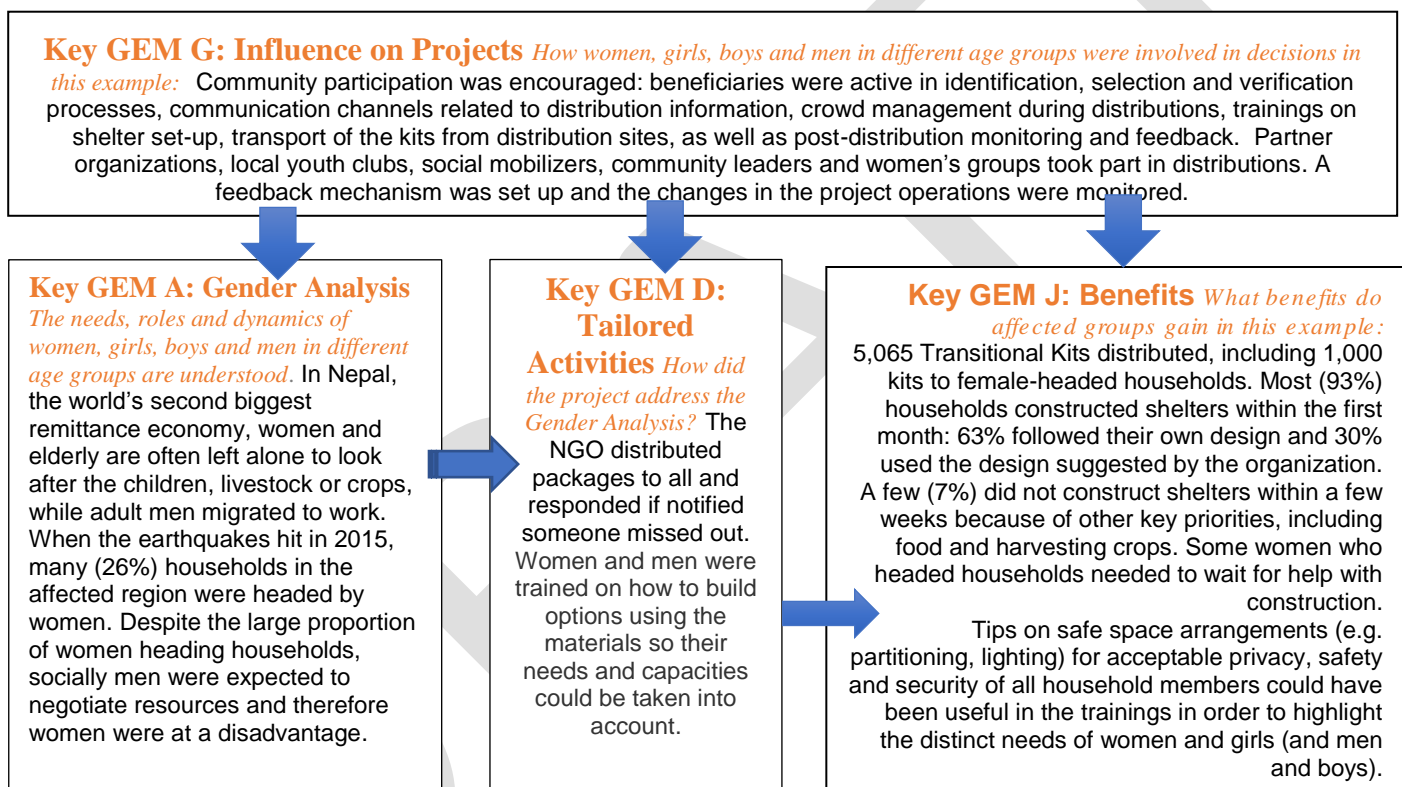
IASC Gender with Age Marker (GAM): The GAM measures whether the Gender Analysis, Tailored Activities, Influence on the Project and Benefits (Key Gender Equality Measures/GEMs, highlighted in the text boxes) demonstrate gendered issues and involvement across age groups. These are the building blocks that lay

Questions to Inspire Action by GEMs	
Gender Analysis (Key)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the crisis affect the housing needs of women, men, girls and boys in different age groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the different domestic roles and how do they influence design? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the home space required for growing food/generating income? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the shelter design allow for privacy with dignity? 	
Sex & Age Disaggregated Data	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the relative rates of male/female heads of households accessing shelter? transitional accommodation? tented settlements? • How do rates of access to the project benefits vary across different affected groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What are the rates of WGBM affected by the issues related to different roles and dynamics? 	
Targeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does gender and age affect the ability of heads of households to access and maintain shelter? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the barriers to specific groups to accessing shelter? • Are wives and their children disadvantaged when in polygamous marriages? • Do the arrangements for people with same-sex orientation prevent homophobic violence? • What efforts are made to ensure that people with mobility issues can access shelter? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do groups need to resort to harmful coping strategies to access shelter? 	
Adapted Assistance Set Tailored Activities (Key)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the shelter solutions respond to the distinct needs identified in the needs analysis? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the solutions reduce or add to financial stress for different groups? 	
Protect from GBV Risks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What steps are taken to reduce the likelihood of sexual violence happening in private and in public spaces? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are women, girls, boys and men asked how safe they feel living in and around the shelters? Do the plans respond to safety audit(s)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a referral pathway for survivors of GBV that shelter staff? 	
Coordination	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project fit in with the cluster response plan and complement actions by other clusters? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the agency share gender analysis and access trends? 	
Adequate Participation Set Influence on Project (Key)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are women & men, girls & boys in appropriate age groups consulted equally about the design (layout, location, safety, materials), implementation and review of the project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are people with disabilities, different ethnicities, sexual orientation and gender identities meaningfully involved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there equal opportunities to earn income and get on-the-job training while implementing the project? • Are women and men meaningfully involved in decision-making groups such as shelter committees? 	
Feedback Processes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there feedback processes for affected people? Do they take into account gender, age, mobility and language? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can complaints be lodged safely and are they responded to? 	
Transparency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is information provided on Shelter products in different ways for women and men to make sure they receive the information directly in ways they understand? 	
Review Set Benefits (Key):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are targets and indicators disaggregated by sex and age? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is assistance distributed according to gender analysis? For example equitable access by female- and male-headed households or requested modifications based on role or prevention of violence. 	
Satisfaction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are women & men in different age groups asked about their levels of satisfaction? Are they equally satisfied? 	
Project Problems:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do people in need identify barriers to access or negative consequences? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are they different depending on gender and age? Do women talk with women about their issues? And men with men? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project have plans to improve? 	

the foundations for quality programming. The tool codes (0-4): higher when the project can demonstrate gendered needs, roles and dynamics are considered, based on different age groups; activities are tailored accordingly; affected groups get benefits fairly; and they influence the project fairly. The GAM is used in Design and Monitoring Phases. Only Key GEMs are considered in Design while all GEMs are considered in the Monitoring Phase.

Shelter activities may target action to address specific vulnerabilities or discriminations resulting from gender norms or expectations (Targeted Actions/T). Or interventions may consider the distinct needs roles and dynamics for women and men, girls and boys in different age groups and adapt activities accordingly (Gender Mainstreaming/M). For example, a project may focus solely on supporting women who are responsible for securing shelter for their households (female-headed households) with rental assistance and lobbying with rental agencies to address discrimination against women holding leases. Alternatively, a mainstreaming project may aim to provide shelter support to all affected population with different options for households reflecting the distinct needs of women and men, girls and boys in different age groups. The GAM Overview explains the coding for GEMs and GAM.

Example of Shelter & NFIs Programming
(Code 3M – can you work out why? See the GAM Overview)



Using the above GEMs in your project or cluster program will lead to better quality programming that is responsive to gender and age issues.

GOOD TO GO? Apply the **IASC Gender with Age Marker** to your proposal or project.

WANT MORE INFORMATION? Check out more resources below.



2018: Shelter: IASC Gender with Age Marker

For more resources on the **IASC Gender with Age Marker** and integrating gender & age into humanitarian programming visit www.humanitarianresponse.info/

Global Shelter Cluster resources: [http://www.sheltercluster.org/search-documents?sort=date&sort_direction=DESC&f\[\]=title%3Agender](http://www.sheltercluster.org/search-documents?sort=date&sort_direction=DESC&f[]=title%3Agender)

For the E-learning course on *“Increasing Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action for Women, Girls, Boys and Men”*, visit: www.iasc-elearning.org