



# Sex, age (and more) *still* matter: Data collection, analysis, and use in humanitarian practice

The humanitarian community has come a long way since the [first Sex and Age Matter report](#) was published in 2011. In the new report, [Sex, age \(and more\) still matter](#), we show how that progress has been uneven. **The collection and analysis of sex-, age, and disability-disaggregated data do not consistently inform programming and require further commitment and investment.**

## **Selected Key Findings** **WOMEN REMAIN MARGINALIZED IN DECISION MAKING**

Despite constant advocacy by women's and girls' rights advocates, and profiling of the situation of women and girls in humanitarian crises, they are not present in humanitarian decision making, their rights and priorities in humanitarian response remain underfunded, and advocates still struggle for humanitarian funding to be allocated for them.

Yes, we do collect more sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD), but we don't necessarily use it and even when we do outcomes are rarely documented. Yes, we do consult women and girls and different groups, but their input too often does not meaningfully inform decisions, programs, or policies.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY SHOULD TAKE CENTER STAGE**

To make the progress needed in collecting and using SADD, disability, and SOGIESC<sup>1</sup> data at all levels of humanitarian response, robust accountability mechanisms must be prioritized and put in place. Existing gender accountability frameworks, such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) 2017 Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy, should be enforced.

## **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON**

<sup>1</sup> sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics

## DATA DISAGGREGATION NEED TO BE COMPLEMENTED WITH APPROPRIATE FUNDING SUPPORT

Increasingly donors are asking for more disaggregated data collection and analysis due to the requirements for reporting progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and shifts towards greater inclusivity. These developments need to be supplemented with appropriate funding for staff, trainings, data management systems and leads, analysis, documentation of data use and impact, and experts with the appropriate knowhow. Supporting data dissemination, data sharing, data dashboards, greater coordination, and key lessons learned is a valuable way for donors and humanitarian organizations to share information across agencies and sectors to develop additional best practices for disaggregated data use and improved collective learning.



## MORE INCLUSIVE DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMING IS NEEDED TO MEET THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO THE LOCALIZATION AGENDA.

Humanitarian agencies need to work with national expertise, specialists, and the affected communities, in the initial stages of designing the data collection instruments all the way through reporting back and validating findings, to make sure the appropriate data are being collected in safe and ethical way. This approach is particularly critical for

engagement with women and girls, older women and people experiencing disabilities, and/or diverse SOGIESC populations in humanitarian crisis. Working with civil society or local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that know how to best work with these groups in a given context is critical for their meaningful inclusion in benefiting from humanitarian assistance.

## Selected Recommendations FOR HUMANITARIAN DONORS AND ACTORS

Using the Gender Accountability Framework and the IASC Gender Policy, create and enforce clear mechanisms to hold humanitarian actors accountable for the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis to directly inform humanitarian needs overviews, response plans, program implementation and MEL.

Continue to require that humanitarian agencies gather and make use of the input of women and girls affected by humanitarian crisis, and collect, analyze, and make use of sex disaggregated data to inform their humanitarian programming. Informed by this analysis, document the changes and adjustments made to programming and their impacts for lessons learned.

Ensure adequate funding corresponds with the additional data collection, consultation, capacity building of field staff, data management, analysis, evaluation, and documentation needs that correspond to more inclusive programming.

Provide support to ensure that 1) data findings are brought back to affected people and local partners, and 2) that data collected is analyzed and used for accountability purposes.

**More key findings and recommendations are available in the [full report](#).**