

# UN WOMEN'S CORE COMMITMENTS IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## DELIVERING ON UN WOMEN'S MANDATE IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES: A FORWARD-LOOKING AGENDA

### IN BRIEF

### INTRODUCTION

As of August 2025, 300 million people across 73 countries need humanitarian assistance a sharp increase highlighting the scale of crises and their disproportionate impact on women, girls, and marginalized groups. Across humanitarian contexts, the gender impacts of crises are starkly evident, and too often ignored. As global humanitarian funding is declining, it is imperative to prioritize investments in gender equality to ensure an effective, efficient, and accountable humanitarian response and prevent backsliding on gender equality gains over the past years.

UN Women's corporate **Core Commitments in Humanitarian Action (2025)** ensure that the entity plays its part as a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to advance humanitarian action which is gender-responsive and inclusive, addressing gender disparities across all phases of crisis response and early recovery.

### PURPOSE

The Core Commitments define a set of common and standardized interventions that represent the first line of UN Women response is any humanitarian crisis setting where it has presence.

Informed by humanitarian and human rights principles and humanitarian law, the Core Commitments support the implementation of UN Women's corporate [Humanitarian Strategy \(2022–2025\)](#) and are aligned with UN Women's [Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection \(LEAP\) Gender Equality Accelerator](#) programme framework and its implementation across all stages of humanitarian crises. They are designed to promote coherence across UN Women Country Offices' approach to delivering humanitarian results through partnerships with the rest of the UN system and local actors, including government institutions and local women's organizations.

### STRUCTURE OF THE CORE COMMITMENTS

#### PILLAR 1

Inter-agency  
Coordination on  
Gender in  
Humanitarian Action

#### PILLAR 2

Protection and  
Livelihood Support to  
Crisis-Affected  
Women and Girls

#### CROSS-CUTTING APPROACH:

Amplifying Voices, Agency, and Leadership of  
Crisis-Affected Women and Girls Accelerating  
Localization through Local Women-Led  
Organizations.



Photo: UN Women/Christopher Herwig

## PILLAR I: INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION ON GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

UN Women provides gender expertise, leadership, and support to inter-agency processes and coordination mechanisms to ensure that humanitarian actors adhere to their commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the 2024 IASC Gender Policy.<sup>3</sup> This includes generating and contributing to timely gender-sensitive humanitarian data, interagency assessments and analysis to inform humanitarian planning and prioritization; as well as providing technical gender expertise for the advancement of gender equality commitments across clusters and sectors.

## PILLAR II: PROTECTION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT TO CRISIS-AFFECTED WOMEN AND GIRLS

UN Women supports the specific needs of crisis affected women and girls increasing their access to essential services, and building their resilience, as well as strengthening national institutions' capacity to deliver gender-responsive crisis response and recovery. UN Women provides gender-responsive service delivery to crisis-affected women and girls through multi-sectoral programmatic approaches, bringing together protection, livelihoods and leadership interventions in crisis settings.

## CROSS-CUTTING APPROACH: LOCALIZATION THROUGH WOMEN-LED PARTNERSHIPS

Across all its humanitarian work, UN Women amplifies women's voices and leadership in humanitarian and crisis response and recovery. Drawing on its long-standing partnerships with local women-led organizations and networks, UN Women recognizes their irreplaceable role as first responders and advocates to ensure the rights of women and girls are safeguarded and regarded as central to the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian assistance. This includes strengthening the engagement of local women-led organizations, networks, and leaders within humanitarian coordination and decision-making structures to effectively advocate that the needs of crisis-affected women and girls are at the center of humanitarian response. It also includes supporting women's organizations to access humanitarian funding, building their capacity, and providing direct funding for them to deliver front-line context-specific humanitarian response.

## PARTNERSHIPS

To ensure maximum impact, UN Women works through strategic collaboration with other humanitarian actors - including UN agencies, INGOs, national and local authorities, and civil society organizations, particularly WLOs- to expand its reach to the most marginalized women and girls and deliver gender-responsive impact at scale.



Photo: UN Women/Catianne Tijerina

## NEXT STEPS, MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Core Commitments will be rolled out across UN Women's humanitarian portfolio through integration in country and regional strategies, capacity-building for staff and partners, and resource mobilization. After-action reviews will inform learning and adaptation in sudden onset emergencies and protracted crises. Accountability will be ensured to crisis-affected populations and partners through community feedback mechanisms, reinforcing UN Women's leadership in advancing gender-responsive, inclusive and rights-based humanitarian action.



Photo: UN Women Americas and the Caribbean