

CARE Turkey: Making Emergencies Work for Women, Men, Boys and Girls

CARE's *Humanitarian and Emergency Strategy 2013-2020* outlines high-level gender equality objectives for emergency work, enhanced capacity on gender in emergencies, and mainstreamed gender across all its emergency work.

"CARE's goal for 2020 is to be a leading humanitarian agency having lasting impacts on the needs of poor women, men, boys and girls affected by humanitarian crisis and known for our ability to reach and empower women and girls in emergencies."

CARE's work to implement gender equality in emergencies programming is driven by the specific socio-cultural contexts in which the crisis occurs and a commitment to community-based programming.

CARE Turkey's approach to operationalising the above commitment and integrating a gender equality approach in its emergency response, includes the following key steps:

Gender Sensitive Assessments: Ensuring that all assessments are gender sensitive, that assessment teams consult men, women, boys and girls about their needs, vulnerabilities, and coping strategies. This is a key space for collecting sex and age disaggregated data on the affected population and understanding specific needs of different sex and age groups. One example of how such information has influenced our programming is that it helped us design specific dignity kits with items that were previously missing from regular distributions and that were sex and age specific, responding to the specific needs of different groups.

Gender Analysis: Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) provides information about the different needs, capacities and coping strategies of women, men, boys and girls in a crisis by examining the relationships between women, men, boys and girls. It's a key step in ensuring that our programming is gender sensitive. CARE's RGA methodology has been designed as an incremental process which generates up-to-date information and programming recommendations in relation to gender on a continuous basis, rather than as a one-off event. As more information about gender relations inside and outside becomes available, it will be analysed and included into the Rapid Gender Analysis. Initial Rapid gender analyses have already begun for Idlib, Al Kasra (Deir ez Zor) and Aleppo within Syria and for Nizip, a location with a significant Syrian refugee population in southern Turkey. The findings from these analyses add to the contextual analysis and are used to better design our programming. These analyses are also shared with donors and peer agencies to inform their programming and policy priorities. CARE Turkey also constantly update the RGA as and when additional information and data becomes available.

Gender Specific activities: based on the RGA and gendered needs assessments, gender sensitive activities are designed and implemented. In all our new proposals developed over the last six months, this has been taken into account. The themes for these proposed activities are: Sexual and Reproductive Health, Women's Participation and leadership in Community Mobilisation, Safe Spaces, SGBV prevention and response and protection. This is an area that CARE Turkey is determined to further strengthen in all of its programming.

Gender Action Plan: CARE Turkey and its local partners have an overall Gender Action Plan outlining the planned actions they will take to ensure a gender sensitive approach as part of their emergency preparedness and response work. The Gender Action Plan has been developed as a tool for teams to help with preparedness activities and for planning a gender sensitive emergency response. The GAP tool draws on the *Adapt and ACT collectively to ensure the gender equality framework* developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), as well as lessons learnt by CARE and peer agencies, on how to develop a gender sensitive response. This includes work on mainstreaming prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and protection as well as the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, capacity building for staff and partners along with clear responsibilities and timelines for different staff on their respective roles in gender mainstreaming

Gender Marker: CARE has adopted and adapted the IASC Gender Marker as a tool for monitoring the gender sensitivity of the whole emergency programme cycle from preparedness, strategies, and proposals to implementation. This is currently being piloted in CARE Turkey along with a few other countries.

Gender in Emergencies dedicated capacity: CARE is one of a handful of humanitarian actors to have a dedicated Gender in Emergencies capacity in Turkey. This position has been largely filled by our deployable CI gender in emergencies team with a plan to recruit a full time gender advisor for the country office. This role provides technical input on how to implement a gender in emergencies approach and build capacity of staff and partners on the same.

Gender in Emergencies capacity building: ensuring that all CARE and partner staff have a basic understanding of Gender in Emergencies (GIE) and have the required knowledge and skills for a gender sensitive response. Two rounds of training have already been conducted on GIE. A training module has been developed and tested in these two training rounds and is now being

translated into Arabic to further train all field staff of partner organisations. This module will also be a resource for other CARE country offices involved with the Syria response.

GiE Advocacy & Coordination: We advocate with our peers and UN agencies to establish and maintain on-the-ground, dedicated gender capacity for all humanitarian actors to draw on. We also actively engage with coordination mechanisms to ensure that their work also takes into account a gendered analysis of the context and is responsive to the findings thereof.

Gender lens for Monitoring and Accountability: We have a strong Monitoring and Accountability plan to obtain beneficiary feedback and views to improve our programming approaches and distribution items to suit the needs of men, women, boys and girls respectively. CARE's selection criteria for beneficiaries prioritize different vulnerable groups including women headed households, households with a large number of children, the elderly and the disabled.

Protection and Prevention and Response to SGBV: CARE is planning to work at several levels to address Protection and SGBV prevention and response with Syrian refugees in Turkey. Protection and GBV programming in Syria will also be explored in the coming months.

Through the Community Center and case management approach, CARE will help ensure that survivors of SGBV have access to basic first response care, support and accompaniment as they access these services, and benefit from referrals that are ethical and accurate.

A pilot on mobile safe spaces is going to be launched in the coming months in Syria to strengthen the model for scale up

Want more information?

- Email Country Director/ACD
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