



## Gender and Humanitarian Assistance: What to look for in a situation report?

In the discussions during the development of the gender policy and action plan, staff requested a short list of issues/items to look for when reviewing a situation report. Here are questions to ask:

- Does the report disaggregate data on the basis of sex? (Is there a men/women and/or boy/girl breakdown? Does the report overly rely on collective terms such as families; IDPs etc? (These aggregate terms can mask important differences in protection and assistance needs between women and men.)
- Is there recognition of the differing priorities, needs, protection issues for women/girls and men/boys?
- Is there any evidence of women being seen and promoted as actors in the political, humanitarian, economic developments or are women primarily seen as vulnerable or victims?
- Are women's organisations, equality advocates, and experts on gender equality issues used as sources of information?
- Are there any 'good practices' from humanitarian partners related to gender issues (good analysis, programs that have incorporated a gender perspective, specific programs successfully targeting women or girls, specific programs targeting men and boys on gender equality issues, etc.)?
- For sector-specific questions, see the CIDA publication *Gender Equality and Humanitarian Assistance: A Guide to the Issues* (November 2003), pp. 14-16.  
[http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Africa/\\$file/Guide-Gender.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Africa/$file/Guide-Gender.pdf)
- Is it appropriate for the report to consider any of these 'hot issues' (have there been any important changes or trends that should be noted)?
  - Gender/HIV linkages;
  - Recognition of gender dimensions of DDR;
  - Gender issues in food security and distribution (including intra-household dynamics);
  - Sexual and gender-based violence;
  - Sexual abuse and exploitation in humanitarian crises (abuses committed by humanitarian workers);
  - Reproductive health needs and issues;
  - Specific priorities and interests of internally displaced women and girls;
  - Vulnerability of teenage boys (for forced conscription, etc.);
  - Education of girls;
  - Reduced/increased mobility of women and girls.
  - Changes in social norms and expectations for women/girls or men/boys.
  - Political participation of women – in peace negotiations and other political initiatives.

Note: Ideally the Situation Report will incorporate attention to gender inequalities and differences throughout the report, rather than dedicate a specific section to 'gender issues'. However, there may be times when a specific section is warranted to highlight gaps or issues that are not part of other sections.



## Example of an OCHA Situation Report:

The answers to the questions posed would improve the situation report and make it more gender-responsive.

### Update on the deployment of the Multi National Interim Force (MIF)

- By late April, the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) intends to deploy further to the Center, South and Southeast departments.
- Support to the Haitian National Police (HNP) remains one of the priorities of the MIF and often, joint patrols are carried out.
- OCHA continues its liaison function regarding not only Civil Military Cooperation - Civil Affairs but also the future deployment in the country, disarmament projects and security issues. This arrangement enables MIF to report regularly to the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator.
- In view of the Secretary-General's Report as of 16 April 04 on Haiti, MIF has begun to focus on the transfer of authority in Haiti to the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH).

■ Question: What lines of communication has MINUSTAH opened with women's organisations?

#### Security

The situation is still volatile and the crime rate is on the increase. MIF contacts with armed groups show that stability has not yet been reached, as these groups do not want to disarm and are waiting for compensation or official recognition.

■ Question: What type of crime? Are there patterns along gender lines – perpetrators, victims, types of crime, etc.?

After weeks of negotiations with rebel groups in Cap-Haïtien, the national police and the French Contingent of MIF are controlling the entire city, including the port. However, the rebel group - Armée du Nord - is still present in the city, with its headquarters located in a former prison.

■ Question: Is the rebel force predominantly male? Are there any females in leadership positions? In the ranks? Are there un-armed women accompanying the rebels (cooks, porters, wives, etc.)

The presence of MIF has improved the security situation, but the low number of 3,700 MIF soldiers deployed makes it difficult to have a greater impact. (cf. the deployment of 20,000 US soldiers to Haiti in 1994). MINUSTAH will include up to 6,700 troops and 1,620 policemen.

■ Question: Have these troops received gender training (as per Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)? If not, is there a provision for this being provided?

■ Question: Is there a projection of the gender balance of the troops and police officers deployed? Is this an issue?

Police forces throughout the country are gradually returning, but they are still understaffed. There is still no presence of police in the police stations of Jean-Rabel, Môle Saint-Nicolas, Bombardopolis and Baie-de-Henne in the North West Department.

Currently the Haitian National Police (HNP) force is composed of 2,300 servicemen in the country. Recruitment efforts will be undertaken to achieve a total number of 5,000. The first attempts from the national police in Haïti to recruit additional policemen on 20 April 2004 gathered a crowd of some 15,000 applicants, which unfortunately led to the death of one person and injured 23.

■ Question: Are there plans to recruit women for the police? What types of structures are in place to accommodate this?

Curfew is still in force from midnight to 5:00 a.m. UN Security Phase III is still in force in the capital and in the northern and central parts of the country with the exception of the city of Gonaïves in Phase IV. The South remains in Phase II.

- Question: Have there been new reports of sexual violence? Is this an issue to be monitored?

### Governance

The Provisional Electoral Council is being constituted. The Prime Minister has publicly declared an inclusive policy to have the Fanmi Lavalas party on the Council. An agreement with this party has not yet been reached. A deadline has been set for end April.

- Question: Are there prominent women's organisations involved in politics that should be consulted, involved, supported?

Vulnerable Groups (Source: UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS)

On 19 April 2004 UNICEF published the results of an assessment of the impact that the conflict has had on children within 31 zones in Haiti. The assessment shows a severe impact:

- Question: does the assessment look at differences between girls and boys?

Armed gangs in 10 of 31 zones have recruited children.

- Question: were only boys recruited?

19 of 31 zones have indicated street children in their communities.

Considering the fact that most violent acts take place in the streets, these children are often obliged to participate in armed conflicts and witness criminal acts.

The price increase of basic products has created misery never seen before in most of the families.

Some 380,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and their families constitute an extremely vulnerable group on the medical and socio-economic level. UNFPA and UNAIDS are supporting a solidarity network for this vulnerable group and their families.

- Question: are there sex-disaggregated statistics on people living with HIV/AIDS? What is the impact on family structure? Are there vulnerable women-headed households?

### Water Supply

The Haiti drinking water sector has been suffering for several years the disturbing effects of a long political crisis. One of the consequences has been the freezing of external funding. CAMEP (Centrale Autonome Métropolitaine d'Eau Potable) and SNEP (Service National d'Eau Potable) resources are insufficient, and the national budget seems to be unable to deal with the funding of new projects.

As a direct consequence of these problems, water supply has fallen to 75% of what it was before the latest crisis and the expansion and enhancement of the distribution networks is now at a halt. Serious added problems are extreme difficulties in controlling the quality of water and conducting maintenance operations.

A rapid assessment of the situation carried out by WHO in partnership with the aforementioned institutions identified some critical needs: the provision of fuel to operate the pumps, purchase of generators, rehabilitation of the offices and analysis centres, replacement of damaged parts and the provision of means of transportation and communication to these institutions. The estimated minimum cost of the needed resources is about of USD 2.5 million.

- Question: what have been the impacts of the water situation on workloads of women and girls?