



GENDER EQUALITY MEASURES IN FOOD SECURITY

This Tip Sheet offers interventions, guiding questions and an example of how 4 Key Gender Equality Measures (GEMs) support gender equality in Food Security projects and programs. It should be read together with the GAM Overview. The IASC GAM identifies and codes projects based on the extent to which key programming elements are consistently present in proposals and implemented projects. Four steps (GEMs) are assessed in the design phase, and twelve GEMs are reviewed in monitoring.

Roles and preferences in producing, providing, preparing, and consuming food can differ depending on gender and age groups. Food insecurity poses different risks for different groups: for example, women, girls or the elderly may eat last and least when food is scarce; inability to secure food may cause men and boys to migrate in search of income.

Food Security interventions can make assistance responsive and fair by:

- Documenting differences in dietary needs, preferences and restrictions; roles and relationships in food, agricultural and livestock production through to consumption;
- Providing food and agriculture packages, cash-based or other assistance tailored to meet the distinct needs of different groups;
- Ensuring women and men (girls and boys as appropriate) have equal say in decisions affecting the project;
- Monitoring whether women and men (boys/girls) receive fair and comparable benefits from interventions in food, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and/or livelihoods.

QUESTIONS TO INSPIRE ACTION

Needs Analysis Set	Gender Analysis	How does the crisis affect the food security of women, men, girls and boys in different age groups? What tasks do women, girls, boys, and men do in their home? Is space required for growing food or generating income? What are the different roles in food production, selection, collection and preparation?
	Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD)	What are the consumption trends? How do women and men use their incomes? What are their preferred distribution methods?
	Good Targeting	How does gender and age affect the ability of household heads & members to access food? In polygamous families, how are wives and children supported equally in food security? Does violence or discrimination against people with different gender identities or orientation affect their access? How do people with disabilities access food?
Adapted Assistance Set	Tailored Activities	Do interventions respond to the needs, roles, and dynamics of different gender/age groups identified in the analysis? What efforts are made to address service access barriers affecting different groups? What changes when food assistance is provided through cash versus in kind?
	Protect from GBV Risks	What steps are taken to reduce the risk of sexual violence and exploitation for people accessing assistance? Are women, girls, boys and men asked how safe they feel in food or agriculture distribution lines? Are men and women surveyed on distribution modalities and their impact on decision-making? Is there a GBV/SEA referral pathway?
	Coordination	Does the project fit with the cluster response plan & complement other clusters' actions? Is the gender analysis and data shared?
Adequate Participation Set	Influence on Project	Are different gender and age groups consulted separately about the location and design of food distribution points? Are women and men equally involved in decisions about modalities? Are people with disabilities included in these discussions? Are women and men of various age groups equally involved in implementation and related work or training opportunities? Is there balanced involvement in project monitoring?
	Feedback	Is there a process where people can safely raise issues, including complaints? Are these issues dealt with and responded to appropriately?
	Transparency	Is information about food, agriculture and livelihoods interventions accessible, easy to understand, and appropriate for different gender and age groups?

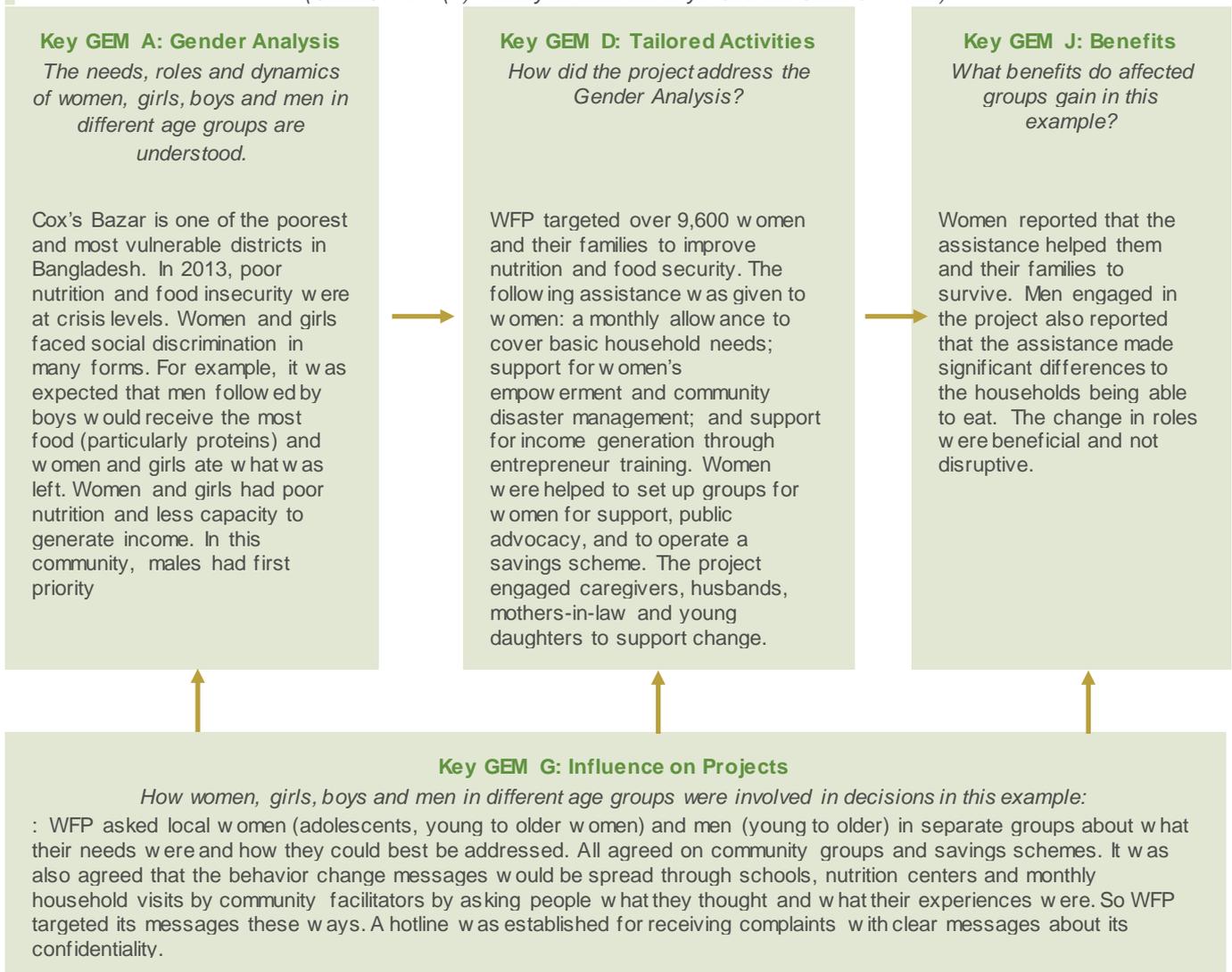
Review Set	Benefits	Are targets and indicators disaggregated by sex and age? Do they demonstrate the project is reaching those it needs to?
	Satisfaction	Are women and men in different age groups equally satisfied with the assistance and modality?
	Project Problems	Does the project regularly check with affected groups to find out how the assistance is used or not used? Are there barriers to assistance for any group? How does the project plan to improve?

GENDER MAINSTREAMING, OR A TARGETED ACTION?

Some Food Security interventions may target actions to address specific discrimination or gaps resulting from gender norms and expectations: these are “targeted actions” (T.) However, the majority of humanitarian interventions will aim to assist everyone in need while considering and adapting activities to meet the distinct priorities and roles of women, men, girls and boys in different age groups: this is gender mainstreaming (M). The GAM Overview explains coding in more detail.

EXAMPLE OF GOOD GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAMMING IN FOOD SECURITY

(GAM Code 4 (T) – can you work out why? See the GAM Overview)



Using Gender Equality Measures in projects or cluster programs leads to better quality programming, responsive to gender and age issues.

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

RESOURCES? Refer to iascgenderwithagemarker.com