

## GENDER EQUALITY MEASURES IN SHELTER

*This Tip Sheet offers interventions, guiding questions and an example of how 4 Key Gender Equality Measures (GEMs) support gender equality in Shelter 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.*

Access to, expectations and needs with respect to shelter often vary according to gender and age. Different opinions and priorities for privacy, socialization, or cooking space make it worthwhile to consult with different family members. Understanding distinct needs requires assessment within the household and tailoring the response to this information.

Shelter projects and managers can make assistance responsive and fair by:

- Accounting for differences: describe and count distinct needs, capacities, preferences and satisfaction rates by sex and age;
- Providing shelter solutions, construction materials, cash, technical assistance, information or a combination of these to meet the distinct needs of the affected groups;
- Involving groups in identifying shelter and settlement solutions that meet their basic needs, along with the relevant authorities and all responding agencies;
- Measuring whether women and men benefited equally from temporary shelter and settlement solutions, and that they are safe and adequate for all.

### QUESTIONS TO INSPIRE ACTION

Needs Analysis Set	<b>Gender Analysis</b>	How does the crisis affect the housing needs women, men, girls and boys in different age groups? What are the different domestic roles and how do they influence design? Is space required for generating income or growing food? Does the design allow for privacy with dignity?
	<b>Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD)</b>	What are the relative rates of male- and female-led families accessing shelter? Transitional accommodation? Tents? How do rates of access to project benefits vary for different groups?
	<b>Good Targeting</b>	How do gender & age affect ability to access and maintain shelter? What barriers exist for specific groups? Are some members of polygamous families disadvantaged? Do arrangements for people with alternative genders/orientation prevent homophobic violence? What efforts are made to ensure people with mobility issues can access shelter? Do some groups resort to harmful strategies to access shelter?
Adapted Assistance Set	<b>Tailored Activities</b>	Do shelter solutions respond to the different needs and priorities identified in the analysis? Do solutions reduce or add financial stress for different groups?
	<b>Protect from GBV Risks</b>	What steps are taken to reduce the risk of sexual violence and exploitation in public and private settings? Are men and women, girls and boys asked how safe they feel in and around the shelters? Are staff familiar with the referral path for GBV incidents?
	<b>Coordination</b>	Does the project fit with the cluster response plan & complement other clusters' actions? Is gender analysis and access data shared?
Adequate Participation Set	<b>Influence on Project</b>	Are men, women, boys, girls consulted equally and appropriately about the design (layout, location, safety, materials) implementation and review of the project? How are people with disabilities or alternative genders involved? Are there equal opportunities to earn income or get training? Are diverse women and men meaningfully involved in decision-making bodies?
	<b>Feedback</b>	Is there a feedback process for affected people? Do they take gender, age, mobility, language into account? Is there a safe, accessible and responsive complaints mechanism?
	<b>Transparency</b>	Is information about shelter interventions accessible, appropriate and easy to understand for different gender and age groups?

<b>Review Set</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	Are targets and indicators disaggregated by sex and age? Is assistance provided/distributed based on priority or preference information from the gender analysis?
	<b>Satisfaction</b>	Are men and women in different age groups asked about their level of satisfaction? Are they equally satisfied?
	<b>Project Problems</b>	Do people in need identify access barriers or unintended negative consequences? Are they different depending on gender or age? Are discrimination and exclusion issues dealt with promptly? Are there plans to improve?

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING, OR A TARGETED ACTION?

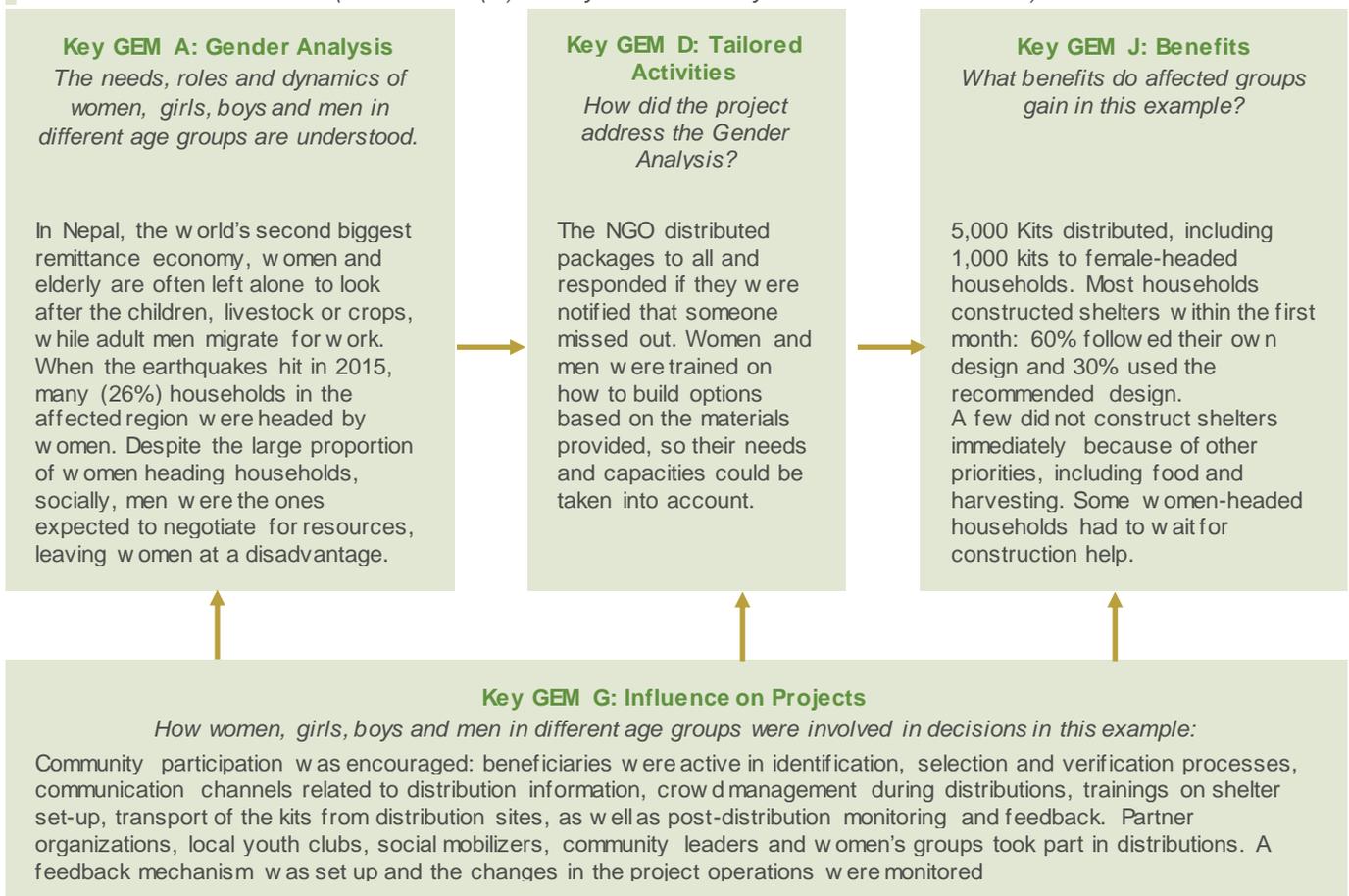
Some shelter interventions may target actions to address specific discriminations or gaps resulting from gender norms or expectations (Targeted Actions/T). For example, a project may focus solely on supporting single women with family responsibilities (“female-headed households”) by providing rental assistance and advocating to stop discrimination against female lease-holders.

However the majority of humanitarian interventions will aim to assist everyone in need while considering and adapting activities to meet the different priorities and dynamics among women and men (girls and boys) in different age groups (Gender Mainstreaming/M). An example would be a project providing shelter to an entire affected population, offering different options depending on family configurations and reflecting preferences of women and men.

The GAM Overview explains coding in more detail.

### EXAMPLE OF GOOD GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAMMING IN SHELTER

*(GAM Code 3(M) – 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](http://iascgenderwithagemarker.com)