

Gender in Germany's humanitarian assistance



Federal Foreign Office



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Abbreviations and acronyms

CBPF	Country-Based Pooled Funds
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CtA	Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies
ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ePMS	Electronic project management system
GAD	Gender, age & disability
GEF	Generation Equality Forum
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IOM	International Organization for Migration

LNOB	Leave no one behind
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MHM	Menstrual hygiene management
MHPSS	Mental health and psychosocial support
MOS	Minimum Operating Standards
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
(P)SEA(H)	(Protection from) sexual exploitation, abuse (and harassment)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SRH(R)	Sexual and reproductive health (and rights)
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
WFP	World Food Programme
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

1. Context and challenges

In March 2023, the Federal Foreign Office adopted a set of guidelines entitled “Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy”. The aims of these guidelines – “rights, representation and resources” for marginalised groups – will now also be fundamental to our action in the field of humanitarian assistance. In line with this feminist foreign policy, the present gender strategy sets out how the combination of “firm principles with pragmatism” that was developed in the guidelines can be translated into needs-tailored humanitarian assistance. German humanitarian assistance has grown and evolved in recent years in keeping with growing needs. Germany is now the second-largest humanitarian donor worldwide and plays a crucial role in shaping the strategy and work of the humanitarian system.

German humanitarian assistance is founded on the **humanitarian principles** of *humanity*, *neutrality*, *impartiality* and *independence* and the **needs-tailored approach** based on these principles. The principle of *independence* draws a dividing line between humanitarian goals on the one hand and political, military, economic and other goals on the other. The principle of *impartiality* means that assistance is based on the level of need. It does not discriminate between population groups on the basis of gender, age, religion or other factors.

This strategy embeds the equality approach – as set out in the feminist foreign policy guidelines and in the humanitarian principles underlying German humanitarian assistance – in concrete political action in the context of the international gender discussion. The strategy lists Germany's gender-specific commitments in national and international agreements and action plans, including the instruments for implementation and follow-up. It supplements the Federal Foreign Office Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad, the humanitarian sector strategies and the more overarching gender strategy of the Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance at the Federal Foreign Office.

It was drawn up in part on the basis of evaluations of other donors' and organisations' gender policies and a consultation process involving partners in German humanitarian assistance.

2. *The gender approach of Germany's humanitarian assistance*

The gender-sensitive approach of Germany's humanitarian assistance is rooted in **feminist foreign policy**. It does a great deal to ensure implementation of the 3R, i.e. support for the **rights**, fair access to **resources** and equal **representation** of women and girls as well as marginalised groups. It also endeavours to take all marginalised groups into account and to consider potential intersectionality and multiple discriminations.

Gender refers to a person's social or internal identity as well as gender roles and relations, as opposed to biological sex; it goes beyond the binary conception of man/woman to include everyone who sees themselves as neither a man nor a woman. In order to do justice to the needs-tailored approach and humanitarian principles in light of this diversity, Germany's humanitarian assistance follows a **gender-sensitive approach**. By "**gender-sensitive humanitarian assistance**", this strategy means **needs-tailored planning, implementation and follow-up** of humanitarian assistance that **analyses and accounts for** the different starting points, effects of crises and possible risks of planned measures on the basis of **gender-specific differences and inequalities** and utilises the different capacities and potentials available. This centres the individual, as required by the feminist foreign policy guidelines, and helps to ensure that marginalised groups – whose vulnerabilities are often exacerbated by humanitarian crises – receive the necessary support. This approach covers all phases of the humanitarian project cycle.



Many humanitarian partner organisations of the Federal Foreign Office consciously rely on women from the local population in their work, in order to open up livelihoods to women and train them in new jobs. This is one example from the demining organisation HALO Trust in Iraq. © *The HALO Trust/Sean Sutton*

The Federal Foreign Office's aim is for 100 per cent of German humanitarian assistance to be at least gender-sensitive, and wherever possible gender-targeted, and for humanitarian stakeholders to systematically take into account gender-specific needs in their work, including in the recruitment, training and deployment of their personnel.

This principle of **gender mainstreaming** – i.e. the systematic integration of the gender perspective – enables German humanitarian assistance to take into account context-specific and gender-specific needs in all of its activities. A needs-tailored approach is ensured through individualised needs analyses that are as precise as possible. This approach means that it is not possible to establish a funding quota in humanitarian assistance (for details, see 3.2.1. Gender budgeting).

Systematic gender mainstreaming is also supported through the **participation of the affected population** and the **involvement of local women-led organisations**. As the Federal Foreign Office can only directly finance these organisations to a limited extent as part of its humanitarian assistance, it works in accordance with the humanitarian principles and the resulting needs-tailored approach to encourage its implementation partners to support and cooperate with local women-led organisations.

Alongside gender mainstreaming, the Federal Foreign Office also pursues a **gender-targeted approach** for targeted funding of mitigating measures to address gender-specific threats and challenges. This relates to, for example, the fields of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), sexual and reproductive health (SRH), menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH).

With the gender-targeted approach, gender equality thus becomes a primary objective of assistance programmes and gender becomes a key factor in programming and outcomes in line with the DAC gender equality policy marker (GG 2). In selected areas, this approach thereby contributes to reaching the goal set out in the feminist foreign policy guidelines of distributing 8 per cent of project funding on a **gender-transformative** basis (see also 3.2.1. Gender budgeting).

The long-term aim is for these measures to bolster efforts towards **a transformation resulting in more gender-equitable societies.**

3. Commitments and measures relating to gender in Germany's humanitarian assistance

Gender equality is embedded in key national and international processes, commitments and agendas as an explicit aim and guiding principle of humanitarian assistance work. As an influential humanitarian donor, Germany is committed to actively helping shape the international equality agenda, rigorously implementing this agenda in humanitarian assistance and requiring the same of its partners. Its commitments include important points set out in the Guidelines for Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy.

3.1. International and national commitments relating to gender in humanitarian assistance

3.1.1. World Humanitarian Summit

In 2016, as part of the **World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)** and the Grand Bargain, Germany entered into **fundamental commitments relating to gender in humanitarian assistance** (Federal Foreign Office Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad). Eight of these are particularly relevant for ensuring gender sensitivity in Germany's humanitarian assistance:

1. **Gender-specific disaggregation of data** (WHS commitment 130)
 - *National Action Plan (NAP) III: Gender-equitable COVID-19 measures on the basis of gender-disaggregated data and gender analyses* (NAP III, 2021).
 - *Charlevoix Declaration* (2018): Accountability in statistics as part of the fifth Sustainable Development Goal of the 2030 Agenda, “Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls” (Sustainable Development Goal, SDG 5, 2015).
2. **Gender-specific analyses** (WHS commitment 150)
 - *NAP III: Consideration of gender-specific analyses.*
 - *Gender equality in the Federal Foreign Office* (2020): The importance of gender-sensitive analyses in addition to equal participation is emphasised in the context of crisis engagement.
 - *Guidelines for cooperation between the Federal Foreign Office and its partners in the realm of humanitarian assistance – Principles, criteria and best practices in the field of humanitarian food assistance* (2014): Gender-specific analyses and planning that builds on these analyses are defined as essential in the sector-specific guidelines for German humanitarian food assistance.
3. Compliance with **gender equality norms** enshrined in *applicable international legal frameworks governing conflicts, including the Geneva Conventions, its Additional Protocols, customary international law and international human rights and refugee law.* (WHS commitment 152)
4. **Inclusion** (WHS commitment 156)
 - *Federal Foreign Office Strategy for humanitarian assistance in the health sector 2020-2025* (2020) and *Federal Foreign Office Strategy for Humanitarian Water, Sanitation*

and Hygiene (WASH) (n.d.): Commitment to explicitly taking account of the differing needs of women, girls, men and boys as well as people of every age and people with disabilities.

- The *food assistance guidelines* also describe disabled persons as a particularly marginalised and disadvantaged group and emphasise the fact that they are particularly affected by food insecurity.

5. Inclusion and training of women and girls in technology (WHS commitment 133)

- *Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action* (2018): Participation of women and girls in new technologies.

6. Healthcare for pregnant women and mothers and their children in armed conflicts (WHS commitment 140)

- *2021 G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communiqué* (G7, 2021): Strengthening of healthcare systems and access to basic healthcare and nutrition (explicitly includes SRHR).
- *Federal Foreign Office Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad*: Emergency and basic medical care as a priority for action in German humanitarian healthcare assistance; highlighting e.g. linkages between health and protection (e.g. from SGBV) (cf. World Health Cluster, 2020). The priorities set also reflect the Federal Foreign Office's sector strategy for health.
- *Whistler Declaration*: Implementation of healthcare measures for girls and support for local women's rights organisations in humanitarian crises.
- *Federal Foreign Office Humanitarian Assistance Strategy in Situations of Flight and Displacement*: Medical care and food security for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and toddlers, as well as measures to improve the survival rates of new-born babies.

7. Mine and ordnance clearance (WHS commitment 151)

→ *Federal Foreign Office Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy within the framework of Federal Government humanitarian assistance 2019-2021*: Emphasis on the essential importance of gender and diversity for humanitarian mine and ordnance clearance.

8. Equal access to cash assistance, livelihoods and training (WHS commitment 132)

→ *Charlevoix Declaration (2018)*: Access to humanitarian assistance measures in the field of education for girls and women must be a priority; girls and women in host and diaspora communities are to be supported in order to improve their training opportunities and learning outcomes.

3.1.2. Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

Protection against SGBV and protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH) are one priority of Germany's humanitarian assistance. At the 2016 WHS, Germany joined the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, a trailblazing international platform to protect women and girls from gender-based violence in humanitarian crises. The aim of the Call to Action is to drive change and call for accountability, in order to ensure that all humanitarian efforts, beginning from the earliest stage of a crisis, include strategies, systems and mechanisms to reduce the risk of gender-based violence and provide quality assistance for those affected by this violence. Germany is leading the Call to Action in 2023 and 2024.



A trustful relationship is essential for successful psychosocial support, as shown here in a counselling centre in Sange (Democratic Republic of Congo). The ICRC supports 40 such centres, for survivors of conflicts and GBV amongst others, in the North and South Kivu regions. © ICRC/Albert Nzobe

3.1.3. Women, Peace and Security agenda

The **Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda** and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 together with the nine follow-up resolutions, including Resolution 2467 on *Women, Peace and Security*, which was passed during Germany's Presidency of the Council in April 2019, aim to create peaceful, stable societies. This is to be done by advocating gender equality and women's human rights. The fourth pillar of the **WPS agenda** – relief and recovery, including for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence – relates explicitly to humanitarian assistance. This pillar involves ensuring that humanitarian assistance is gender-equitable.

The **UN Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Compact (WPS-HA Compact)** is part of the *Generation Equality Forum (2021)*. This is a multigenerational, integrative movement to support Women, Peace and Security and gender equality in humanitarian assistance. The WPS-HA Compact calls for a restructuring of peace and security processes and humanitarian measures in order to systematically include women and girls in decision-making.

The WPS agenda is explicitly embedded in German humanitarian assistance work as a cross-cutting task and operationalised through the **National Action Plan (NAP III, 2021;** German Government policy guidelines: Preventing crises, resolving conflicts, building peace, 2017). The current Action Plan (NAP III) for the period 2021-2024 includes the priority area “**Humanitarian assistance, crisis management and reconstruction**”. Under this heading, the Federal Government commits to the strengthening of participation by women and girls in crisis contexts, to measures in the area of gender-based violence as well as SRHR as part of basic provision, to support for local women's rights organisations and networks in civil society, and to the gender-responsive design and transparent, efficient and effective implementation of COVID-19 measures and recovery strategies in connection with the aims of the WPS agenda.

3.2. *Measures to implement the commitments*

In order to do justice to the above-mentioned commitments and implement gender mainstreaming in German humanitarian assistance, the Federal Foreign Office utilises a variety of instruments. These aim to ensure gender-sensitive needs analysis, planning, management, implementation and monitoring of German humanitarian assistance as well as measurement and follow-up of outcomes, and to foster participation by the affected population.

3.2.1. *Gender budgeting*

The Federal Foreign Office introduced gender budgeting in the financial year 2023. It now aims to allocate 85 per cent of project funding on a gender-sensitive basis (aligned with GG 1 in the OECD's DAC category system) and 8 per cent on a gender-transformative basis (aligned with GG 2). For the funding that it distributes, from the beginning of the process onwards, the Federal Foreign Office therefore records the extent to which the recipient projects take gender-specific aspects into account. It does this by submitting specific and comprehensive requests for funding data based on an internal gender marker aligned with the OECD's DAC categories.

For humanitarian assistance, the feminist foreign policy guidelines set out the additional goal of deploying 100 per cent of humanitarian assistance on a gender-sensitive, and wherever appropriate gender-targeted, basis. By taking into account both general and specific gender-related needs, this approach helps to achieve the aims of gender budgeting and thus implement the feminist foreign policy guidelines (guideline 2).¹

1 Further information on gender budgeting can be found in the guidelines *Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy*.

3.2.2. Intersectionality: Identifying multiple discriminations based on age and disability

In order to systematically anchor and follow up the inclusive approach of German humanitarian assistance in the evaluation of project applications, reports and documentation, the Federal Foreign Office introduced the **gender-age-disability marker** (GAD marker) in 2018. The marker is both a measuring and a steering instrument and makes it possible to consistently require and follow up inclusion in humanitarian projects funded by Germany. In this connection, partners are expected to make sure that project applications and reports contain specific information about how gender, age and disability aspects are being taken into account.

Particularly important measures for following up on many of the commitments are the **disaggregation of data** and the **performance of gender and/or inclusion analyses** in the interest of needs-tailored planning, implementation and follow-up. These are designed to enable sufficient consideration of gender-specific needs throughout the whole cycle of humanitarian projects. In addition, they enable the design of measures for specific target groups (e.g. women, girls, children, young people, older people and people with disabilities – tailored to their specific circumstances) (ECHO, 2013).

It must be clear not only that specific needs are recognised, analysed and documented, but also that necessary measures are designed accordingly and that the relevant groups are involved in planning and implementing the projects.

In order to ensure that the marker is effective and continue improving it in cooperation with partners, it is subject to ongoing refinements and evaluation of its implementation. **The application of the GAD marker in accordance with the guide in all German humanitarian assistance projects is a key criterion for funding.** We want to follow up the intersectional factors of gender, age and disability even more consistently in future via **systematic assessments of project reports and evaluations**, among other things.

Germany supports numerous projects dedicated to **improving equality and inclusion**, such as projects which specifically target people with disabilities in situations of hardship or which raise German humanitarian actors' awareness of the issue, e.g. through further training.

Another aim of intersectionality is for projects to frequently contain components **that pay greater attention to at least one of the GAD dimensions**. This can mean special services for women and girls, e.g. healthcare for pregnant women, mothers and children, or special services for people with physical or mental disabilities.

In the field of humanitarian assistance, Germany has an active presence in major institutions and as a donor in steering bodies of major organisations. We want to use our influence to firmly anchor gender mainstreaming as well as age and disability mainstreaming. One important aspect, for example, is **improving the data situation**.

3.2.3. Call to Action (CtA) on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

To implement the CtA Road Map, Germany has developed **instruments for systematic protection from SGBV and SEAH** and for **equality standards** in the planning, allocation and monitoring of its humanitarian assistance. Germany is continually refining these instruments and works within the CtA to constantly improve standards at both national and international level. In addition to its involvement with the CtA, Germany aims to better and **more transparently** follow up the prioritisation and allocation of German humanitarian assistance for fighting SGBV and supporting equality work, and is taking steps to this end including updating its data collection requirements. Germany also **actively contributes to international forums** for preventing and fighting SGBV in humanitarian crises, and ensures that SGBV remains on the agenda including in bilateral talks. In the field of protection from SGBV and SEAH, measures are based on the three pillars of prevention, detection and response. These include awareness-raising and binding guidelines for staff and partner organisations, financing for relevant projects, and work within the UN and international working

groups for comprehensive protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in humanitarian assistance. New guidelines on this issue are set to be presented in 2024.

In 2020, Germany was one of the first countries to renew its commitment to the CtA and commit to implementing the CtA Road Map 2021-2025 and its outcomes (cf. annex I). **Germany has taken over the lead of the CtA for 2023/24.** During this period, we aim to make the CtA a more effective, inclusive working platform that fully exploits the unique opportunities it offers to connect states, international organisations, and international, national and local NGOs. One of our priorities will be to improve SGBV measures and prevention in **contexts of displacement and migration**, as well as **establishing more sustainable partnerships for local and women-led organisations**, e.g. by improving access to coordinating bodies and financing opportunities. To this end, Germany will among other things support specific projects working on capacity-building for local and women-led organisations.

3.2.4. Financing

To ensure that all humanitarian measures are at least gender-sensitive and, wherever possible, gender-targeted, and to meet gender-specific needs, the Federal Foreign Office utilises a range of financing mechanisms and supports both individual projects and established organisations with a focus on gender.

1. **Financing of humanitarian pooled funds:** The aim of Germany's support for *pooled funds* is for these instruments to have a catalysing effect within the humanitarian system. They also make it possible to provide funding on a larger scale for organisations whose work contributes significantly to identifying and meeting **specific** needs. One component of this work is the systematic utilisation of gender expertise on the ground as well as the involvement of local women-led organisations. Germany specifically supports this and therefore continues to advocate for the money from pooled funds to be deployed on a gender-sensitive basis in line with this strategy and to benefit local and women-led organisations. These funds also deploy project funding on a gender-targeted basis, e.g. in the field of SGBV.



Humanitarian assistance centering the individual: In Ukraine, children and young people learn, for example, how to better cope with experiences of war and trauma.

© Help e.V./Lana Dmytrenko



UN Women uses funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund to support women affected by violence in 11 countries. This image is from Jordan and shows a woman being trained in tailoring so that she can regain financial independence.

© UN Women/Lauren Rooney

2. Germany also provides **financing for initiatives and projects** that aim specifically to strengthen the role of women in humanitarian contexts and to support those affected by sexual exploitation and abuse. For example, Germany has repeatedly paid into the UN Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Germany also provides annual support to the **ICRC Special Appeal** on strengthening the response to sexual violence. In 2023, Germany was the leading donor to this Special Appeal, with a contribution of 15 million euros. These flexible humanitarian financing measures represent a major contribution by Germany to fostering equality in humanitarian assistance (Grand Bargain Annual Report, 2023).
3. Another measure to implement gender mainstreaming in Germany's humanitarian assistance is targeted **funding for organisations with a focus on gender**. The Federal Foreign Office cooperates with UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The focus of the pilot project with UN Women is on the secondment of gender advisors, who help to ensure greater consideration of gender capacities in the "clusters" that UN and other humanitarian organisations use to coordinate their work in the various sectors of humanitarian assistance, as well as in Humanitarian Response Plans and disaster appeals. A further aim is for women and girls to be more closely involved in project planning, decision-making and implementation processes. Core funding for UNFPA (amounting to 7 million euros between 2022 and 2024) supports particularly flexible humanitarian assistance in the field of sexual and reproductive health as well as protection from and prevention of SGBV.
4. Germany supports the projects GenCap, ProCap and PSEACap (with contributions of 800,000 euros in 2023-2024, for example), which enables humanitarian country teams to request **support from gender experts**. The experts contribute strategic and operative support, expertise and instruments for implementing guidelines and frameworks on gender, SGBV and PSEAH within the humanitarian system. In practice, this means that the experts design programmes for gender mainstreaming and build up robust networks of relevant stakeholders on the ground, for example.

5. The Federal Foreign Office played a pioneering role in developing the approach of **anticipatory action** in humanitarian assistance. In its own programme planning and in international forums, it promotes an expansion of anticipatory action so that the humanitarian system can be made more efficient and effective, address crises in good time and reduce needs or, ideally, prevent them from emerging. Its plans, which can be swiftly implemented once the relevant trigger has been activated, are designed to align with the Federal Foreign Office's guidelines on gender-sensitive humanitarian assistance and can also include gender-targeted measures. As part of a CERF-funded anticipatory project to protect against flooding in Bangladesh, for example, UNFPA was able to implement suitable anticipatory measures on SRHR and preventing violence against women, as well as providing special dignity kits for LGBTIQ people.

3.2.5. Follow-up and regular reporting

Alongside these specific, comprehensive follow-up and financing measures, Germany regularly reports on the progress made with its various commitments.

1. **Call to Action:** All commitments associated with the Call to Action (CtA) are followed up in publicly available annual progress reports. As the current CtA lead, Germany is endeavouring to make these progress reports even more transparent and effective.
2. **WPS agenda and National Action Plan (NAP):** After the end of each NAP period, Germany reports on progress made in implementing UNSC Resolution 1325. The most recent implementation report refers to the previous NAP (2017-2020).
3. **Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action Compact (WPS-HA Compact):** Germany will also report on its commitments in connection with the Compact using a procedure that is to be developed by UN Women.

3.2.6. Strengthening the international humanitarian system

Germany advocates the strengthening of gender aspects in humanitarian work as part of the following supervisory and advisory bodies and donor support groups: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Germany also advocates for gender aspects to be taken into consideration in negotiations on resolutions within the various forums of the UN, such as the Security Council, the General Assembly and the associated committees, and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and as part of the Grand Bargain.

As a CtA partner and, as of 2023, its lead, Germany also uses its role on supervisory and advisory bodies of humanitarian organisations to campaign for greater involvement of women and girls in humanitarian assistance (Grand Bargain Annual Report, 2023).



Empowerment through mobility. A girl in the Central African Republic, sitting in a wheelchair provided through German humanitarian assistance.

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4. Gender-sensitive German humanitarian assistance

The commitments and measures set out in the present strategy are intended as a guide on the path to gender equality in humanitarian assistance. By implementing the strategy, Germany hopes to contribute to making the international humanitarian system inclusive and effective. The Federal Foreign Office's aim of making 100 per cent of its humanitarian assistance at least gender-sensitive, and wherever possible gender-targeted, in order to contribute to gender budgeting goals as part of the gender-targeted approach, can only be reached in cooperation with partners and funding recipients. We will therefore continue our efforts to ensure that partner organisations and the measures that they implement consistently take the gender perspective into account. Alongside ongoing discussion of gender equality in humanitarian assistance, the involvement of local women-led organisations is indispensable. We follow up the attainment of these goals in internal reporting as part of our gender budgeting efforts. The GAD marker, too, has a particular role to play here. The GAD marker makes it possible to more clearly request information on gender aspects and multiple discriminations (based on age and disability).

This information is reported as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the gender strategy of the Directorate-General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Assistance.

Annex I: Further information on gender-relevant commitments

WHS core commitments

Core commitments that address gender and form the basis of the individual WHS commitments:

- “Commit to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.” (*Natural Disasters*, core commitment 4)
- “Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women’s groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.” (*Women and Girls*, core commitment 1)
- “Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcome documents of their review conferences for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings.” (*Women and Girls*, core commitment 2)

- “Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive.” (*Women and Girls*, core commitment 4)
- “Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women’s empowerment, and women’s rights.” (*Women and Girls*, core commitment 5)

CtA Road Map 2021-2025, Outcomes

Outcome 1. Policy Frameworks and Capacity: Actors working in humanitarian settings have the institutional and system-wide policies and capacity to address GBV, promote gender equality, and ensure accountability.

Outcome 2. Coordination: Effective coordination within the GBV sector, and between other relevant actors and the GBV sector, ensures action and accountability to prevent and respond to GBV at all levels of the response.

Outcome 3. Data, Assessment, and Analysis: Data on GBV and gender is collected, shared, stored, and analysed safely and ethically in consultation with GBV and gender experts, and supports humanitarian planning, programming, and funding decisions.

Outcome 4. Funding: Sufficient funding is provided for GBV and gender equality staffing, interventions, initiatives, and programmes during every phase of emergency response.

Outcome 5. Specialised GBV Programming: GBV prevention and response programming, including specialised services, that meet the *Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming* are implemented in every phase of emergency response.

Outcome 6. GBV Risk Mitigation: GBV risk mitigation and promotion of gender equality are effectively integrated into program design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation across all humanitarian sectors in line with the *IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action*.

Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action

As a member of the G7, Germany signed the *Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action* in 2018. In the Declaration, Germany acknowledges the importance of driving progress on gender equality in all humanitarian activities and measures by paying particular attention to the needs of women and girls. This is to be done by focusing on innovative solutions, for example using new technologies – developed, tested, refined and adopted with women playing a pivotal role, as recipients and pioneers (Government of Canada, n.d.). Women are emphasised as “powerful agents of change” (Whistler Declaration, 2018, p. 2) and leaders. In this context, Germany is committed to fostering systemic change and ensuring that humanitarian measures are principled, evidence-based and empowering together with its partners. The issues emphasised by the Whistler Declaration are measures for meeting basic needs (access to education, healthcare for girls and prevention of and responses to gender-based violence) and the promotion of local women’s rights organisations and networks in humanitarian crisis situations (Whistler Declaration, 2018, p. 3).

Whistler Declaration on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in International Assistance

In addition, Germany – like all other G7 member states – has approved the *Whistler Declaration on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in International Assistance*, which focuses on the strengthening of national and international systems to protect people from, and respond to, sexual exploitation and abuse in international assistance.

Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries

At the 2018 G7 summit in Charlevoix, Canada, the G7 states – including Germany – emphasised the value of education for women and girls in order to realise gender equality in developing countries in particular. The focus in this context is on education in humanitarian situations that aims to achieve gender equality. In the closing declaration, the *Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries*, Germany made commitments that included improving coordination between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation and prioritising women's and girls' access to high-quality education in the early stages of humanitarian assistance measures (Charlevoix Declaration, 2018). Germany also pledged to invest 75 million euro in improving access to high-quality education for women and girls around the world (Prime Minister of Canada, 2018).

G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communiqué (London 5 May 2021)

At the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting in May 2021, Germany emphasised the G7's role as a global leader in **gender equality** and the promotion and protection of women's and girls' rights. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Germany recognises the importance of the following three overlapping goals: (1) educating girls, (2) empowering women and (3) ending violence against women and girls. Particularly noteworthy is the emphasis on strengthening **health systems** with sustainable financing, in order to, among other things, recover and then sustain access to essential health and nutrition services and health commodities in humanitarian settings (explicitly including **sexual and reproductive health**). Germany is committed to strengthening meaningful participation and **leadership by women** in COVID-19 taskforces and humanitarian measures (G7, 2021, pp. 21-23).

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Publishing information***Published by***

Federal Foreign Office
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin

www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Authored by

Division S08

Last updated

February 2024

Printed by

www.zarbock.de

Designed by

www.kiono.de

Cover image

Women in Amhara, Ethiopia, receiving dignity kits. These include items such as soap, a comb, tissues and sanitary pads. © UNFPA