

## GENDER TIP SHEET FOR FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

**Purpose:** Identify entry points for humanitarian actors working in the Food Security sector in Cox's Bazar to accelerate gender equality

Why is gender important for the Food Security Sector in the Rohingya Refugee Response? The Business Case for focusing on gender.

Recognizing the specific food-related needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, and other marginalized individuals is crucial for ensuring equitable access to nutritious food and reducing the risk of food insecurity and malnutrition.

The gender gap in food security perpetuates a deprivation cycle that makes women and female-headed households vulnerable to malnutrition, child mortality, and disease, thus limiting their educational and work opportunities and control over assets and other resources.

Gender-responsive food security interventions can facilitate the development of culturally appropriate strategies to improve food production, distribution, and consumption practices, ultimately enhancing food security outcomes for all.

Questions to discuss with your team when doing gender analysis in the food security sector:

**Norms and Attitudes:** What cultural practices, taboos, and beliefs impact food security outcomes within Rohingya refugee communities, particularly for women and marginalized individuals?

**Differentiated Risks and Impacts:** How does the distribution of humanitarian aid and food assistance consider the diverse needs and vulnerabilities of different gender groups, including women, men, boys, and girls? What is the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on food security for women and men?

**Gender norms and dynamics:** Who are the key stakeholders involved in food security programming, and how can their roles be gender-sensitive to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness?

**Resources and Access:** What are the specific challenges faced by women, girls, and other marginalized groups in accessing nutritious food, and how can these barriers be addressed through gender-responsive interventions?

## 2. Entry Points (include examples of good practice)

Governance and policy	<p>Advocate for policies and frameworks to ensure the inclusion of diversified food interventions for vulnerable groups. Good practices can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy-level advocacy for integrating food security measures into humanitarian strategies, supported by multi-sectoral collaboration.</li> <li>• Development of standardized protocols for micronutrient-focused interventions</li> </ul>
Access and Opportunities	<p>Expand access to homestead gardening and fishpond interventions to increase food security and improve micronutrient intake. Good practices can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing community-managed agricultural plots with shared responsibility.</li> <li>• Introducing mobile fishpond kits that allow adaptability to space constraints.</li> <li>• Creating demonstration farms for hands-on learning and practice.</li> <li>• Engaging young people in food security and farming activities through key messaging and outreach.</li> <li>• Targeted interventions for adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, elderly people, etc.</li> </ul>
Agency and Empowerment	<p>Foster beneficiary participation in project activities to enhance ownership and ensure sustainable outcomes. Good practices can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting participatory workshops to design tailored gardening and aquaculture interventions.</li> <li>• Including women in leadership roles for project committees.</li> <li>• Using beneficiary feedback loops to improve activity outcomes continuously.</li> <li>• Emphasis on women's decision-making power in food allocation, meal planning, and control over food resources.</li> </ul>
Technical Capacity Building	<p>Provide ongoing technical training and inputs to enable beneficiaries to implement and sustain activities effectively. Good practices can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting hands-on training sessions for optimal gardening techniques, including vertical gardening and fish farming practices.</li> <li>• Hosting regular peer-learning exchange sessions for sharing innovative ideas.</li> <li>• Introducing climate and space-smart agricultural techniques like drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and organic cultivation at the homestead level</li> <li>• Supporting women-led community food storage and management initiatives.</li> </ul>

### 3. Data sets to enable Sex-Age-Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD) and gender analysis

Data sets	Baseline	Current Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data on households with an acceptable and borderline food consumption score &amp; Nutrition (FCS&amp;N)</li> <li>Overall vulnerability (moderate to high) of the Rohingya household</li> <li>Households with Consumption-Based Coping Strategy</li> <li>Households with Livelihood-based coping strategies ( crisis, emergency, and stress) (67%)</li> <li>Households with dietary diversity, and nutrition outcomes (unique food groups consumed, 5.7 groups/ week), disaggregated by sex and age</li> <li>Information on deprivation of Food access among refugee populations</li> <li>Data on nutritional status and micronutrient deficiencies</li> <li>Data on access and utilization of health and nutrition services</li> <li>Survey data on attitudes and perceptions towards nutrition and health</li> <li>Data on gender-based violence and its impact on food security outcomes among refugee populations</li> </ul>	<p><b>90% ( Female: 46%, Male 44%)</b></p> <p><b>97% ((Female: 50%, Male 47%)</b></p> <p><b>68% ( Female: 35%, Male 33%)</b></p> <p><b>63% ( Female: 32%, Male 31%)</b></p> <p><b>100% ( Female: 51.5%, Male 48.5%)</b></p> <p><b>44%( Female: 23%, Male 21%)</b></p> <p>Not available</p>	<p><b>99% ( Female: 51%, Male 48%)</b></p> <p><b>96% (( Female: 49%, Male 47%)</b></p> <p><b>93% ( Female: 48%, Male 45%)</b></p> <p><b>67% ( Female: 35%, Male 32%)</b></p> <p><b>100% ( Female: 51.5%, Male 48.5%)</b></p> <p><b>70%( Female: 36%, Male 34%)</b></p>

### 3. Performance indicators and entry points

	Suggested minimum indicators for ensuring gender equality and WE actions	Key Discussion Questions
Food availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● % of households who received food rations (General Food Assistance), <b>disaggregated by male-/female-headed HHs</b></li> <li>● % of income spent on food, <b>disaggregated by male-/female-headed HHs</b></li> <li>● % of households who say they can eat enough meals per day, <b>disaggregated by gender and age.</b></li> <li>● % of HHs meeting dietary diversity score (General Diversity Dietary Score and Women's Diverse Dietary Score), <b>disaggregated by male-/female-headed HHs and age</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What strategies can be implemented to ensure equitable access to nutritious food for all gender groups?</li> <li>● How do gender disparities in access to healthcare services contribute to differences in food security outcomes?</li> <li>● What are the specific nutritional needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys, and other marginalized individuals?</li> <li>● What are the barriers to women's participation in livelihood opportunities, and how can they be overcome?</li> <li>● How can gender disparities in access to agricultural and other socio-economic resources be addressed to enhance food security outcomes?</li> <li>● How do gender-based wage gaps impact household food security and nutrition outcomes?</li> <li>● How to reduce barriers that women, girls, persons with</li> </ul>
Food accessibility and allocation, and coping strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● % increase in households participating in homestead and fishpond activities, <b>disaggregated by male-/female-headed HHs</b></li> <li>● Proportion of households with primary reliance on clean fuels <b>disaggregated by male-/female-headed HHs</b></li> <li>● % of HHs with safe cooking spaces, <b>disaggregated by male-/female-headed HHs</b></li> <li>● % of household members who skip or reduce meals, <b>disaggregated by gender and age</b></li> <li>● % of household members who borrow money for food, <b>disaggregated by gender and age</b></li> <li>● % of households that sold any assets to fulfill food needs (furniture, seed stocks, tools, other NFI, livestock, etc.)</li> <li>● % of households that engaged in potentially risky or harmful activities (child labour/school dropout/others)</li> <li>● % of women participating in household budgeting and consumption</li> <li>● % of women face the risk of GBV during food collection</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of women and men who say they need to sell assets or aid to buy food</li> </ul>	disabilities, FHH, elderly women, and marginalized groups face in food distribution sites, such as mobility restrictions, safety concerns, and cultural norms?
Food utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of HHs involved in meal planning, disaggregated by sex</li> <li>• % of HHs who say they are involved in decisions related to food choices, <b>disaggregated by sex</b></li> <li>• % of households participating in the homestead gardening project, <b>disaggregated by male-/female-headed HHs</b></li> <li>• % of households participating in the fishpond project, <b>disaggregated by male-/female-headed HHs</b></li> </ul>	

#### Resources:

- SHED. (2025). Climate Resilient Agricultural Innovation in Cox's Bazar. [https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/SHED\\_Climate%20resilient%20Agriculture%20Presentation%20for%20FSS.pdf](https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/SHED_Climate%20resilient%20Agriculture%20Presentation%20for%20FSS.pdf)
- Inter-Sector Needs Assessment (ISNA) Food Security Sector – FSS (Cox's Bazar), October 2024.
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Gender, food security, and nutrition. <https://www.fao.org/gender/learning-center/thematic-areas/gender-and-food-security-and-nutrition/7/en>
- Gender with Age Marker. Food Security Tip Sheet. <https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/food-security-tipsheet.pdf>
- UN Women. Empowering women through climate-resilient agriculture in west and central Africa: Key results of UN Women's flagship programme. [https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/EN%20Women%20in%20Climate%20Resilient%20Agriculture%20in%20WCA\\_0.pdf](https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/EN%20Women%20in%20Climate%20Resilient%20Agriculture%20in%20WCA_0.pdf)
- World Food Programme. WFP and Gender Brief. <https://www.wfp.org/publications/wfp-and-gender-brief>
- UN Women (2021). Integrating Gender in Climate Change and Disasters-Related Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/final-gender-in-cc-and-drr-statistics.pdf>
- Bangladesh: Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-8). *link to be added once published*
- Resilience Index Measurement Analysis (Round 4) *link to be added once published*