



Gender considerations and to-do list for Covid 19 emergency response activities

Covid 19 pandemic has different effects on the lives of women and men. Both in prevention and treatment and care, different groups of people (male/female/other, age, educational levels, migrant status, living with HIV/AIDS, etc) have different needs. Careful considerations and preparation is necessary to provide effective awareness raising and services to all.

How Covid 19 crisis impacts women uniquely

1. Women are the majority of human resources in disease response. Their roles as healthcare professionals, community volunteers and more have put them at an increased risk of infection.
2. Women will be hit harder at an economic fallout. Women work disproportionately in the informal sector and insecure labor. Lockdowns and quarantines can prevent them from meeting their families' basic needs. They will face higher domestic and care burden.
3. During crises, gender-based violence increases. Domestic violence and sexual exploitation tend to increase when households are placed under strain.
4. Essential services for women and girls suffer when services are overstretched. Resources from routine health services including pre- and post-natal health care, sexual and reproductive health services may be diverted.

Therefore, it is critical that women have an equal voice in the crisis management, decision making and responses.

Due to gendered differences, such as patterns and prevalence of smoking, and other high risk behaviors, more men are adversely affected by the Covid 19 than women.

Ways (to-do list) to ensure that women are not left behind in Covid 19 emergency response

1. Make sex-disaggregated data available.
2. Build gender expertise into the response teams
3. Provide priority support to women on the frontlines of the response, for instance, by improving access to women-friendly personal protective equipment, menstrual hygiene products and flexible working arrangements (especially for the pregnant women and nursing mothers)
4. Ensure that women are included in decision making of the response
5. Ensure that public health messages are properly targeted to all women
6. Boost women's economic resilience
7. Protect essential health services for women and girls



L i v e l i h o o d s a n d F o o d S e c u r i t y F u n d



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8. Prioritize services for prevention and response to gender-based violence
9. Ensure that in the community led quarantine (especially for the areas where the returnees are kept outside of the villages) safety and security measures are included, for example, secure windows and doors for the temporary shelters, proper fencing for the bathrooms and toilets, etc...

Contact numbers for domestic violence

Department of Social Welfare Hotline **067-3404222** or **067-3404999**

Reference:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/3/news-womens-needs-and-leadership-in-covid-19-response>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response>

<https://www.unfpa.org/covid19?fbclid=IwAR1wzaL7edZS4rG0VyLsN183eKcQdQbHulbpLakPOUxP6k0kc9lv-EIXZ0>

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