

## **Gender-Based Approach To Crises And Conflicts**

Iris Kristjansdottir<sup>1</sup>

Wars, natural disasters and related crisis situations have profoundly different impacts on women, girls, boys and men. Of the estimated 135 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, over 3/4 are women and children. Research shows that women and girls are more likely to die in disasters, they are exposed to specific forms of gender-based violence, they tend to have uneven levels of access and capacity to recover from crises and are exposed to different kinds of risks in the aftermath, whether in the immediate or in the longer term. To ensure that women are protected from violence and to ensure that women and girls have access to assets, productive resources, education, livelihoods and financing, targeted actions are needed by all humanitarian actors at all levels.

UN Women, as the member of the UN family, is committed to ensuring equality between women and men as contributors, partners and beneficiaries of humanitarian action by adhering to gender sensitive refugee response and by providing support to women refugees in different parts of the world, whether it is Rohingya women in Bangladeshi refugee camps, Syrian refugee women in Jordan, displaced women farmers in Juba, internally displaced persons in Iraq or the unprecedented number of women refugees hosted by Turkey. In Turkey, UN Women has become an active change agent in the refugee response since 2016 with an agenda to empower refugee women and girls, and ensure their access to rights and services. The SADA Women-only Centre, launched by UN Women in Gaziantep in 2017, provides protection and psycho-social services to refugee women, as well as livelihoods programs for both refugee and local women. In 2017, UN Women together with ASAM carried out a comprehensive needs assessment for Syrian women and girls in Turkey, which has revealed the critical challenges they are facing with regards to shelter, language, employment, social cohesion and protection.

---

<sup>1</sup> Gender and Humanitarian Specialist, [UN Women](#) Email: [iris.kristjansdottir@unwomen.org](mailto:iris.kristjansdottir@unwomen.org)