Gender & Protection in Emergencies

THE WORK OF VANUATU’S GENDER & PROTECTION CLUSTER
Why gender and protection, and why does it matter in emergency response?

Gender equality and social inclusion is a critical step towards achieving sustainable development. Crisis situations radically affect social and cultural structures, changing women and men’s status. They often provide a window of opportunity for addressing gender-based discrimination and rights violations. If humanitarian interventions are not planned with gender equality in mind, not only do the chances of doing greater harm increase, but the opportunity to support and promote equality in livelihoods between men and women can be lost. (The Basics of Gender in Emergencies, WHO 2006)
Who is responsible for progressing this work?

We all are. As field practitioners, team leaders and policy makers our job is to make sure that the assistance and protection we provide meets the needs of all the population equally, that their rights are protected and that those most affected by a crisis receive the support they need. We are all accountable. (Also from The Basics of Gender in Emergencies, WHO 2006)
The Humanitarian Cluster System
How the Gender and Protection Cluster is contributing to the Government’s big plan, the Sustainable Development Plan, 2030.
National Gender Equality Policy 2015-2019

**Strategic areas:**

1. Reducing domestic and gender based violence
2. Enhancing women’s economic empowerment
3. Promoting women’s leadership and equal political participation
4. **Building a framework for gender mainstreaming**
IN VANUATU

- National Coordination Mechanisms
- The Vanuatu Gender & Protection Cluster
VANUATU’S GENDER & PROTECTION CLUSTER

Objectives:

- Increase knowledge and skills
- Operational Support
- Influence and Advocacy
- Operational Coordination
Enabling Environment:

- Government’s commitment and mandate
- Well-developed processes & systems
- The commitment & contributions to the G&PC by its member organisations
LOOK HOW FAR WE’VE COME
Increasing Knowledge and Skills:
- Training
- Skill development
- Raising assessment
- Building capacity
Operational Support:

- Development of key resources
- Pre deployment briefings
- Development of assessment forms
- Supporting focal points in other clusters
- Input into the Government’s response and recovery work
- Embedding women into assessment teams
- Real time data collection and sharing
Influence and Advocacy:

- Lessons learned
- High level liaison and advocacy
- Informing assessments
- Disability advocacy
- Protection as a strategic priority
- Sharing information between agencies
Operational Coordination:

- Mobilisation of people & resources
- Ongoing improvements in planning, coordination, implementation & information management
- Sharing information to assist planning
- Providing personnel for response/assessment teams
- Identification of risks
- Coordinated engagement by all G&PC partners
BUT WE STILL HAVE WORK TO DO...

Challenges:

- Complexity
- Resourcing
- Monitoring and evaluation
- G&PC’s own ongoing capacity building
- National vs provincial
- Participation/engagement
- Focus on training (a dilemma)
Thank you!
Let’s talk more
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