What we know:

• In humanitarian and crisis settings: situation for women and girls deteriorates, gender relations change
• Women are first responders, agents of change, women’s organisations are active, on the ground (social networks and broad agenda)
• Limited funding for women’s organisations and gender often seen as not ‘life saving’
• Limited access to decision-making on humanitarian and crisis response
• Women leaders challenge gender norms and WROs have wider/transformative agendas
UN Women and Friends of Gender

- UN Women has LEAP humanitarian program. Leadership and Accountability, Livelihood, Protection (498 org/33 countries)

- Aim GB: 2020: 25% of budget to local actors. UN Women’s aim: substantial size to WRO/WLOs (and track)

- 2016: initiative to set up informal Grand Bargain Friends of Gender group

- 4 workstreams identified as key for women: cash, humanitarian needs assessments, participation revolution, LOCALISATION
What UN Women and FoG achieve:

- Technical Guidance Notes (TGN)
- Research on transformative gender responsive localization and participation – community perceptions (Jordan, Bangladesh, Uganda and Colombia), with UNFPA
- Global meetings/Global Dialogue
- Ongoing engagement in operationalization of all workstream workplans (enhance gender dimensions/across WSs)
- Global advocacy (GB Annual Meeting with Annual statement)
- Accountability through gender indicator integration in the GB Annual Reporting Format /reinforcing all Gender Commitments/ 2018 Self-reporting
Technical Guidance Notes: process

- Ongoing process: International, regional, national/local level
- Also beyond GB (Feminist humanitarian policy, Leadership in LEAP, IASC Gender Policy and Accountability Framework, SENDAI, BPfA, CEDAW 37)
- For Workstream on Localisation: regional conferences (Addis Abeba, Amman, Jakarta)
- UN Women, FoG and co-hosts Oxfam, Care and OCHA: pre-consultation with WOMEN’s GROUPS (July-August 2019)
- Aim: bring women’s organisations together for joint thinking and recommendations from their practices
- Consultations have informed presence in WS regional/global meetings and TGNs
• Primary audience are humanitarian actors: donors, member states, UN, international organizations, national and local civil society organizations (FoG members add to TGN)

• What: **Practical** guidance, advocacy tool, practitioner framework (language)/with checklists, case studies

• Outcome: gender equitable outcomes through promoting women and girls in **decision-making processes**, **stronger partnerships** with local women’s rights and women led organizations and **direct access to funding** resources for the advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian settings. **Result:** more effective and inclusive humanitarian action.
Key issues, globally shared:

• Ensure dedicated, flexible and sustainable **funding** for WLOs and WROs – including through a dedicated **quota** - and ensure internal **tracking** mechanisms

• Focus on long-term, quality and **equitable partnerships** to strengthen local WLO and WRO leadership through training, policy development, fair overheads, flexible funding and reporting requirements;

• Ensure the **meaningful participation and leadership** of local WLOs and WROs at the different stages of humanitarian planning processes and in humanitarian coordination mechanisms, including in **decision-making** and ensure the inclusion of their voices in HROs and HRPs;
Key issues:

- Make available sex and age disaggregated data and gender specific at-risk profiles in HNOs, HRPs and cluster plans and document the voices and experiences of affected women and girls;
- Conduct gender analysis and needs assessments consistently, with the meaningful engagement and leadership of women’s networks, WLOs and WROs;
- Support the capacity, strengthen and establish local women’s networks, WLOs and WROs to monitor, inform and influence humanitarian response prioritization and funding allocations and to promote social norms towards gender equality, inclusion and women’s empowerment;
Key issues:

• Promote **organizational change** in the culture, structures and policies of humanitarian partners and in coordination structures to ensure greater leadership and effective influencing by local WLOs and WROs as well as a **more inclusive leadership for all, taking into account intersectionality and inclusion**;
• Strengthen and establish meaningful partnerships between humanitarian partners and local WLOs and WROs on issues related to **accountability** for affected populations through gender-responsive community feedback mechanisms
Key issues:

• Recognise the importance of investing in GEEWG as a strategy to end women’s and women’s organisations’ marginalisation

• Better map and scale up excellent country-based initiatives, strategic partnerships and explore entry points, linkages and advocacy strategies with other coordination and advocacy mechanisms on gender and GBV issues in humanitarian settings (e.g. GBV Area of Responsibility; Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies; Women Deliver; key IASC mechanisms; and others) to broaden commitments to GEEWG beyond the Grand Bargain.
• Women leaders and women’s organisations challenge existing norms on leadership and women’s roles

• Women’s organisations face exclusion, discrimination, invisibility and backlash (and share concerns of all smaller NGOs)

• For Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: fund along the HDP NEXUS

• Good example of funding modality is Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund: 30 million US$ directly to WROs/WLOs since 2016 (https://wphfund.org/)

• Make unpaid (care) work central in Humanitarian Needs Assessments and HRP/HNOs

• Support the establishment of networks between women's organizations as well as alliance-building

• Further discuss feminist approaches to humanitarian action and crisis response and advocate for transformative approaches drawing on the experiences and knowledge of local women’s organizations in country.
TGN on Financing

• **Increased, specific, global and national allocations of funds** (including CERF and pooled funds)
• Include specific **tracking** and accountability requirements
• **Keep women’s leadership on the international agenda and keep pressing for accountability** in very specific terms, (link advocacy and operational)
• **Establish long-term/standby/pre-existing agreements** (with women’s orgs)
• Increase **access** to humanitarian funding for local women’s organizations and **support capacity** for self-sustaining fundraising, prioritising multi-year, flexible and sustainable funds;
• **Reduce bureaucratic requirements** (fair overhead arrangements, harmonise and simplify procedures, translation and other requirements)
• Set a **dedicated percentage** for women’s organisations
• Consider proven funding modalities reaching women’s organisations like the UN Women’s **Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund**
• Prior to seeking partnerships, **assess their own organisational capacity** strengths and weaknesses
• Institutional **strengthening and investment in local and national WROs and WLOs**; including both human and technical resources as well as financing;
• Redesigning partnership processes and requirements to prioritise, value and resource the establishment of relationships of trust, including by **simplifying due diligence requirements and overcoming risk aversion by sharing risks more equally**;
• Establishing **long-term partnerships**, allowing for growth and transition in capacity, accountability and transparency, and knowledge sharing and management; also in view of the necessary long-term engagement towards gender equality
TGN on Coordination

- Design, develop, and consistently implement gender responsive policies and strategies;
- Promote Women organisations’ consortia and networks and their involvement in humanitarian needs assessments and planning processes;
- Ensure monitoring and accountability;
- Disseminate good examples, such as rotating chairing arrangements; ensure that inter-cluster coordination and sub-groups are also co-led by UN Women to ensure a gender perspective
- Enhance good examples of Coordination between UN, national governments and INGOs, plus local (women’s) organisations
- Create an enabling environment for women’s leadership and decision-making in disaster management, including funding, by mandating a minimum of 30 per cent women’s representation in coordination structures as well as through training, mentorship, apprenticeship and mobilization into immediate response teams;
Women’s leadership/Capacity Strengthening

• Recognising, reducing and redistributing women’s unpaid (care) work; this includes the often unpaid work of women’s organisations advising and advocating on gender equality

• **Invest** in women’s organisations

• Shift towards **meaningful participation and decision-making by women/girls** and women’s organisations and move towards enhancing inclusive leadership overall.

• **Comprehensive leadership program**, building support for women’s leadership in communities and organisations, enhancing women’s self-organisation and links between women’s rights organisations and humanitarian actors; **invest in networks and alliance-building**

• Enhancing and expanding women’s leadership can **build on cultural notions of women’s leadership roles already existing**, keeping in mind that each context is different;

• **Set quota** for women and women’s organisations present in all decision-making mechanisms

• Introduce specific provisions on institutional capacity strengthening for women’s organisations through **funding integrated in the partnership agreements**

• Expand women’s networks to **include grassroots group and self-organising affected women**

• Humanitarian actors to **invest in expanding the pool of local actors engaging in global spaces by Involving local women leaders** in systematic ways;