

# TIME TO WALK THE TALK AND PRIORITIZE GIRLS AND WOMEN IN EMERGENCIES

Over the past five years, there has been a palpable rise in global talk about the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women in emergencies. From the World Humanitarian Summit, to the advent of the Sustainable Development Goals, the world has witnessed a wave of commitments and targets to address the severe gendered impacts of humanitarian crises. Encouragingly, the plight of girls and women in humanitarian settings has moved from an often forgotten reality to a steadily increasing global concern.

Yet today, there is still much to be done. When emergencies strike, girls and women are still hardest hit, still suffer most, and deep-rooted inequalities are brashly exposed. Traditional first-line responses often omit essential sexual and reproductive health services, putting girls and women at even greater risk and vulnerability. In countries facing protracted humanitarian emergencies like South Sudan, Somalia, and the Central African Republic, the rates of women dying in pregnancy or childbirth are among the highest in the world.

It's time to walk the talk and move to real action that puts girls and women at the center of all emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. As rightly suggested by CARE Danmark's Women and

girls in Emergencies report, good data can help guide gender-sensitive humanitarian policies, programs, and investments that are smart, impactful, and urgently needed.

If meaningfully integrated into humanitarian programming, the recommendations in this report can not only save lives, but also advance gender equality and power progress for all. Allow me to highlight the call for increasing women's participation in humanitarian decision-making and peacekeeping. Evidence shows that when more women are engaged, humanitarian action is more effective and peace agreements last longer. Girls and women are powerful agents of change that lift up entire communities – during crises and well beyond.

The world is more united than ever in our will to advance progress for girls and women in the world's most dangerous environments. Now we must act – without hesitation or exception – to support solutions that prioritize girls and women, everywhere.



Katja Iversen  
President/CEO  
Women Deliver

We need it, and it is urgent.