



# PROMOTING THE RIGHTS, NEEDS AND AGENCY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



*With continued population growth, urbanization, stretched natural resources, protracted conflict and the impact of climate change becoming more apparent, the number of humanitarian crises continues to grow, as does the number of communities requiring humanitarian assistance.*

*Within these communities, women and girls are often disproportionately at risk to the effects of these crises. They are more likely to lose their means of livelihood and are exposed to a heightened risk of gender-based violence. Further, in the aftermath of disasters, their specific humanitarian needs are often neither adequately identified nor addressed in the ensuing response by governments and humanitarian agencies alike.*

*To address this omission, UN Women is committed to ensuring equality amongst all women, men, girls and boys affected by disasters both as beneficiaries of humanitarian action and as contributors to its planning and implementation. This brochure provides an overview and examples of how UN Women promotes gender equality and women's empowerment in its humanitarian work around the world.*

## World Humanitarian Summit Gender Commitments

Building on the recent international community's consolidated commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment formulated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals and Security Council Resolution 2242 on Women's Peace and Security, the World Humanitarian Summit developed five core commitments to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into the future architecture and policies of humanitarian action.

### WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT COMMITMENTS TO CATALYZE ACTION TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

**Commitment 1:** Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.

**Commitment 2:** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcome documents of their review conferences for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings.

**Commitment 3:** Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts, including through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.

**Commitment 4:** Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive.

**Commitment 5:** Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.

UN Women calls on the global community to create a more effective humanitarian system by endorsing these commitments and putting in place an accountability framework to closely monitor progress towards their realization.

## Gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action

Crises impact women, girls, boys and men of all ages differently. Their needs and interests vary, as do their resources, capacities and coping strategies. Women and girls are disproportionately exposed to the effects of disasters. One woman in five is likely to experience sexual violence in humanitarian settings, girls are more likely to be pulled out of school and less likely to return than boys, and 60% of preventable maternal deaths take place in crisis settings. Further, natural disasters are known to kill more women than men, and at an earlier age (WHO 2011).

At the same time, women and girls are neither exclusively nor solely the victims of crisis. Experience and research show that when women are included in humanitarian action their entire community benefits (UN Women 2015). Women are often the first responders to a crisis and play a central role in the survival and resilience of families and communities. Local women's groups are also often best placed to mobilize change, identify solutions and spontaneously respond to crises.

Despite their critical contributions, women and girls are often excluded from the decision-making processes that shape response strategies to crisis. The lack of funding for the needs and representation of crisis-affected women underscores this absence. For example, in 2012–2013 only 2% or USD 439 million out of USD 10 billion in DAC funding directed to economic and productive sectors in fragile states actually targeted gender-equality as a primary objective. Women's empowerment organizations and institutions received just 0.4% or USD 130 million of gender equality focused aid to fragile states (OECD 2015).

As an urgent matter both of principle and effectiveness, humanitarian efforts must recognize the rights, roles and agency of women and girls. It is critical that their needs and vulnerabilities are prioritized and their voices included in decision-making regarding the forms of assistance, means of delivery, and the protection and economic and social empowerment opportunities they require.

# 60

**per cent of preventable maternal deaths** take place in settings of conflict, displacement and natural disaster.





In refugee camps across Cameroon, UN Women supports dialogue committees and other activities to promote social cohesion among community members.

## UN Women's core actions to address the needs of women and girls in humanitarian settings

UN Women is committed to ensuring equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of humanitarian action. Our work in humanitarian action is guided by a series of international commitments. Our mandate is to support and enable the UN and the wider humanitarian system to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment throughout all aspects of humanitarian planning and programming. Through our inter-agency leadership and coordination role, we support other UN organizations in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in their humanitarian efforts, including through sharing evidence-based best practice, minimum standards and guidance tools. We assist Member States in developing and implementing policies and commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action. We also promote the voices, agency and capacity of women's civil society organizations and national women's machineries in humanitarian efforts.

## UN WOMEN HAS IDENTIFIED FOUR CORE ACTIONS FOR ITS EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION:

- **Coordination and leadership** – UN Women provides technical capacity to ensure planning and implementation of humanitarian response integrates gender equality and women’s empowerment. In this way the needs and vulnerabilities of all women, girls, men and boys in crisis-affected populations are identified and addressed.
- **Capacity building** – UN Women supports the capacity of national gender authorities, civil society organizations and other relevant local stakeholders to engage with, and contribute to, the planning and implementation of gender-integrated humanitarian action, including in disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding. UN Women also emphasizes empowering women and girls to participate as decision makers in the formulation of the plans and programmes that will have a direct impact on their own survival and recovery prospects, as well as those of their communities.
- **Evidence-based response** – UN Women supports humanitarian coordinators to identify and address the response and recovery needs of crisis-affected populations by undertaking gender-focused assessments, based on sex and age disaggregated data and contextualized gender analysis.
- **Targeted programming** – Where programming gaps are identified, UN Women responds operationally in humanitarian contexts. UN Women provides crisis-affected women with the protection, empowerment and livelihood services they need to not only survive but also recover and develop their resilience to crisis risk in the future.

## BASED ON THESE CORE ACTIONS, UN WOMEN HAS DEVELOPED TWO FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME INITIATIVES TO ACHIEVE TRANSFORMATIVE RESULTS THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION. THESE INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- **Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) in Crisis Response** – Improving the gender responsiveness of coordinated humanitarian action by:
  - Ensuring humanitarian planning and programming are informed by gender analysis and assessment.
  - Increasing access to protection and economic opportunities for women affected by crises.
  - Bridging the humanitarian/development divide in protracted crises by promoting sustainable livelihoods.
- **Gender Inequality of Risk** – Addressing the gender inequality of risk and promoting community resilience to natural hazards through:
  - Ensuring disaster risk assessments adequately consider the needs of women and girls and that women have the capacity and opportunity to engage in assessments.
  - Supporting national authorities to develop gender-responsive disaster mitigation plans.
  - Ensuring adequate levels of financing are available for gender-responsive disaster mitigation strategies.
  - Strengthening women’s capacity to prevent, prepare for, and recover from natural hazards.



refugees or displaced women in complex humanitarian settings is estimated to have experienced sexual violence — likely an underestimation given the barriers associated with disclosure.

# CASE STUDIES

*Through its Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) flagship programme, UN Women's core humanitarian actions are intended to provide specific outcomes in sudden onset and protracted crises contexts as well as in the transition to recovery and resilience. These outcomes ensure that the rights, needs and agency of crisis-affected women and girls are central to any humanitarian assistance. The following case studies highlight successful efforts by UN Women and its partners to respond effectively to those most vulnerable in crisis contexts around the world.*

## OUTCOME 1

*Coordinated humanitarian assessment, planning and programming are gender inclusive and responsive.*

*Liberia/Sierra Leone, Uganda, Palestine*

## OUTCOME 2

*Women and girls affected by sudden onset emergencies are provided with the protection and economic opportunities they need.*

*Fiji/Vanuatu, Nepal*

## OUTCOME 3

*Women and girls in protracted crises have access to the services they need to ensure their recovery and develop their resilience to future crisis events.*

*Colombia, DRC, Jordan, South Sudan*



OUTCOME 1 | LIBERIA/SIERRA LEONE CASE STUDY

## Placing women and girls at the heart of an emergency response strategy

*In early 2014, the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Sierra Leone and Liberia devastated the development gains made in both countries over the past decade. The majority of the deceased were women due to their roles as caregivers in the home and as nurses and traditional birth attendants looking after infected patients.*

### ACCOUNTING FOR GENDER IN THE EBOLA CRISIS RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

*“I am doing this for the love of my country, the love of my people. If we do not try to save our own people—who will? And anyway, what is the point of being the only one alive?”*

*– Ms Jatu Kaneh, one of the 29,000 volunteers in UN Women’s Ebola Response Community Mobilization programme*

In Sierra Leone, UN Women undertook gender-focused needs assessment and collected gender-disaggregated data at the community level and at government health facilities to better target affected people. For instance, our findings revealed that quarantined women received food but neither water nor firewood thus increasing the risk of infection when they left their quarters to fetch both for food preparation.

In Liberia, UN Women’s campaign of community mobilization focused on spreading the word on Ebola prevention and reducing stigmatization through community awareness-raising activities. The campaign featured women speaking to other women and made use of different media, including radio and text messaging.

UN Women helped ensure the integration of gender throughout the UN and government strategies for Ebola response in Sierra Leone, including developing specific protocols for infection prevention in hospital maternity wards. Similarly, in Liberia UN Women developed a gender-focused strategy for the Ebola response to provide guidance and training to UN implementing agencies. In recognition of its important role in the Ebola Response in Sierra Leone, UN Women was presented the Presidential Award for Ebola in December of 2015.



UN Women supported the women of Sierra Leone in leading the “Getting Ebola to Zero and Staying Zero” campaign, launched in May 2015.

Women performing local dance at UNSCR 15th Anniversary event in Northern Uganda, 2015.



OUTCOME 1 | UGANDA CASE STUDY

## Ensuring humanitarian planning and monitoring are gender inclusive

*Since December 2013, Uganda has hosted a rapidly rising number of South Sudanese refugees following the eruption of crisis in their country. Today Uganda hosts 525,968 refugees – 79% of whom are women and children. The sudden influx has escalated violence between newcomers and the host community due to limited resources. Among refugees, there is almost no access to emergency services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.*

### PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES TO SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

*“Before, men refused to allow women to participate in community mediations. After receiving leadership training, we women have resolved many disputes within the refugee settlement. When we return to South Sudan we hope to use these skills to bring peace to our country.”*

*– South Sudanese refugee woman in Mireye settlement, Adjumani*

In Uganda, our emergency programme uses three key sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) interventions targeting host communities and 30,000 women refugees. Our programme increases access to emergency legal aid and psychosocial services, strengthens existing systems to prevent and respond to violence, and encourages the participation of women and girls in the response through a monthly Women’s Forum.

UN Women is also active in inter-agency coordination at the national and local level. As members of the UN inter-agency Disaster Risk Management task force and the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, we participate in all joint assessments and emergency simulation activities to ensure the gender dimensions of early warning, preparedness and response are highlighted in all assessment tools and that teams are gender-balanced. Through UN Women’s efforts, the ongoing monitoring and reporting of the refugee response are based on gender-disaggregated data and gender analysis.

We also engage directly with coordination forums for SGBV and Protection at the local refugee settlement level to ensure full participation in crisis planning and response.



OUTCOME 1 | PALESTINE CASE STUDY

## Ensuring a gender-focused humanitarian response

*While the residents of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) have survived 50 years of protracted occupation, the most recent escalation of conflict beginning in late 2015 has taken its toll. The Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip increased the already existing vulnerabilities related to occupation. Further, the crisis has reinforced traditional discrimination against women in Palestinian society.*

### PROVIDING SHELTER AND SUPPORT THROUGH THE HAYAT CENTRE

*“After my experience of sexual violence, [UN Women’s] specialist finally made me feel safe and ready to talk. They referred me to their partner’s Gaza Centre for Mental Health and from that moment my mental status improved and I can say I am fine now.”*

*– H. S, 30-year-old woman from Al Qarara*


UN Women works closely with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to ensure that all humanitarian action is tailored to address the different needs of the women, men, girls and boys affected by the ongoing violence in Palestine. Our response includes developing the capacity of implementing agencies to mainstream gender into their humanitarian programmes, ensuring assessments are based on the collection and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data.

As a result, gender-related priorities appear in all humanitarian response plans from 2014. We also work closely with national women’s organizations in Gaza and the West Bank to bring them into humanitarian planning and programming processes. Local women’s organizations, including projects from six Palestinian women’s groups, are now included in the 2016 Strategic Response Plan.

Since March 2015, our programmes have provided support for more than 6,000 women through the provision of case management, psychological support, legal services and awareness raising on gender-based violence prevention and response in different displaced communities across the Gaza Strip.



Displaced women gather in front of a tent set up next to the rubble of their destroyed houses in the Gaza Strip.

A group of women in Vanuatu are gathered around a market stall. One woman in a purple shirt is handing seeds to another woman in a white patterned shirt. There are various items on the stall, including a bottle of orange liquid and some produce. The background shows other people and market activity.

Market vendors in Vanuatu receive seeds in June 2015 as part of a UN Women facilitated distribution to ensure women had access to enough seeds to re-start their gardens.

OUTCOME 2 | FIJI/VANUATU CASE STUDY

## Restoring women's livelihoods in the aftermath of disaster

*Following Cyclone Winston in Fiji (February 2016) and Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu (March 2015), approximately half of each nation's population was impacted through displacement and loss of income in subsistence farming, market vending and unskilled work in tourism – all areas comprised mainly of women.*

### REBUILDING MARKETS IN FIJI, DISTRIBUTING SEEDS IN VANUATU

*“This temporary market space is just one step towards helping market vendors get back on their feet. This is important not only because the market is a place for women to make a living, but also because it provides an opportunity for them to share their experiences and support each other.”*

*– Aleta Miller, UN Women Representative, Fiji Multi-Country Office, in Rakiraki community*

In both countries, UN Women's response has been rapid and women's concerns placed at the centre. Just five days after Cyclone Winston struck Fiji, we were on the ground assessing the impact on the mostly female vendors who had worked at the decimated Rakiraki Market. Through its Markets for Change project, UN Women Fiji now provides ten tents to four markets as well as tables and chairs to serve as temporary market spaces. Nearly 500 women vendors will benefit, most of whom come from rural areas and whose market earnings are their sole family income.

In Vanuatu, post-disaster assessments by UN Women noted that while the government and relief agencies had distributed seeds to market traders, female vendors were given insufficient amounts to re-grow gardens large enough to supply markets and rebuild their livelihoods. With the government and the FAO, UN Women carried out two seed distributions, including bean, pumpkin, corn, watermelon and paw paw. In total 615 market vendors directly benefit from this initiative.

OUTCOME 2 | NEPAL CASE STUDY

## Identifying and addressing the needs of women and girls in a crisis response

*In April 2015, a powerful earthquake struck Nepal leading to widespread damage to buildings and infrastructure. Casualties were high and included over 9,000 deaths. Partly due to women's gendered roles within households and the earlier migration of many men out of the country, more women and girls died than men and boys.*


### ASSISTING WOMEN AND GIRLS AFTER NEPAL'S EARTHQUAKE

*"With my husband gone, all I can focus on is the future of my children ... For that, I am ready to learn any skill, work hard and do what it takes."*

*– Mina Shrestha, 30 year old mother widowed during the earthquake, is one of many women receiving much-needed assistance in Dharmathali*

In response to the earthquake in Nepal, UN Women's support services and distribution of supplies reached nearly 43,000 of the most vulnerable women including widows, those with disabilities, female heads of household and Dalit women. Through the five multi-purpose women's centres that we opened, and in collaboration with partner women's groups, we supported the provision of psychosocial counselling and distributed non-food items including 6,513 dignity hygiene kits, 8,094 solar lanterns, 19,182 sanitary napkins and 2,500 radios. We also opened three information centres to empower women with up-to date information about the humanitarian services available to them.

UN Women continues to work hard with the government and UN partners to bring gender equality to the forefront of national disaster response. Together with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), we developed a gender package to guide the UN's humanitarian response system in Nepal. We also supported local women's groups to provide input into the humanitarian response planning process by developing a Common Charter of Demands for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, highlighting the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected women and girls in Nepal.



72-year old Bishnu Maya and her husband lost their homes in the earthquake. They were supported by UN Women to get a senior citizenship card and now receive a monthly allowance from the government.

In Colombia UN Women actively works with indigenous women, local authorities and educators to strengthen protection mechanisms on gender-based violence for conflict-affected populations.



OUTCOME 3 | COLOMBIA CASE STUDY

## Building the capacity of local communities in protracted crises

*After 50 years of conflict, Colombia faces persistent humanitarian needs stemming from armed conflict and violence as well as recurring natural disasters. Nearly 90% of conflict-related sexual violence survivors are women. In remote rural areas, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities suffer disproportionately from forced displacement and violence with girls and women bearing the greatest human rights violations.*

### EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-COLOMBIAN COMMUNITIES

*“Our Women’s Alliance is born out of the violence. We empower ourselves [and] unite to prevent violence and make ourselves visible.”*

*– Weavers of Life, Putumayo Women’s Alliance*

In the departments of Cauca and Chocó, UN Women helped build the capacity of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities to cope with the risks due to displacement and confinement. For instance, communities now have access to their own protective spaces where we provide services to about 3,000 women and girls and 2,000 men and boys. We offer livelihood opportunities, protection from gender-based violence (GBV) and forced recruitment and awareness-raising activities on the perils of landmines and undetonated explosives such as bombs and bullets.

UN Women also provided support in August 2015 when thousands of Colombians were suddenly deported from neighbouring Venezuela and the government declared a state of calamity. We worked with local and regional women leaders to provide protection and support around gender-based violence. We established a local GBV group to help survivors receive support services and to train leaders and relevant officials in psychological first aid for women in temporary shelters.

OUTCOME 3 | DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO CASE STUDY

## Promoting positive coping strategies for displaced women and girls

*In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 8.2 million people struggle in the aftermath of two decades of successive conflicts. About 1.6 million people displaced by the crisis experience great vulnerability as a result of shortages in food, shelter, washing facilities and basic non-food items. The crisis impacts women in particular ways. For instance, rape is often used as a weapon of war during armed conflict.*

### SAFE HAVEN CENTRES OFFER PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT

“Through training and access to credit I can contribute my part to the family without relying on my husband.”

– *Libératrice Nyarushumba, recipient of UN Women training for IDPs and returnees*

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we focus on women who are internally displaced or refugees, especially survivors of sexual violence, women with disabilities and women heads of household.

In the Lusenda, Mugunga and Nyiragongo IDP camps and the South Kivu refugee camp, UN Women supports three multipurpose Safe Haven centres that offer safety and protection and facilitate training and information on women’s rights, as well as psychological support. These activities helped 8,387 refugees become activists against sexual and gender-based violence.

UN Women also offers livelihood and income generating opportunities. With our assistance, 264 women refugees contributed to camp food security after attending training on growing vegetables. Nearly 300 women gained temporary employment by undertaking building rehabilitation work in the camp. Another 80 women and girls acquired soap-making skills and 38 learned how to operate a camp restaurant. In addition to camp-based income-generating activities, UN Women trained 1,500 displaced women on farming and marketing agricultural products before they returned to their territory of origin.



A woman claps at a dance act organized by the youth at the UN Women center inside the Lusenda refugee camp.

Alaa' is engaged as a cash-for-work beneficiary in UN Women's mosaic workshop in Za'atari camp. Through this she is able to express herself through art, and works in a safe space with her peers each day - breaking the isolation of camp life and bolstering her physiological wellbeing.



UN  
WOMEN  
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

OUTCOME 3 | JORDAN CASE STUDY

## Supporting displaced women's economic empowerment

*Za'atari refugee camp is home to some 80,000 refugees, 80% of whom are women and children, with 1 in 5 households headed by a female. One of the key challenges refugee women experience is the absence of livelihood opportunities.*

### ENCOURAGING SELF-RELIANCE THROUGH OASIS CENTRES

*“UN Women has given me the emotional and intellectual support to prove myself with a stable job. I ask for my right as a human to work and live with dignity.”*

*– Fayiez, a Syrian woman hairdresser and cash-for-work programme participant*

In Za'atari, UN Women operates three Oasis centres that offer 16,000 people a year refuge from the harshness of camp life as well as the chance to earn desperately needed income. Since 76% of cash-for-work (C4W) opportunities target men, UN Women responded by starting the camp's largest female-focused C4W programme.

Priority is given to single women, widows or members of female-headed households and those supporting vulnerable dependents. Women are hired as administrators, hairdressers, tailors, guards, cleaners, teachers and day care workers thereby providing the camp with various services at any Oasis centre.

The benefits to C4W participants are clear: average monthly income has increased from 10 to an average of 145 Jordanian dinars. Ninety-one per cent of women also report an increase in household and community decision-making as a result of programme participation. Given its success, the number of participants in 2016 will go up from 172 to 400 and a fourth Oasis will open in Azraq camp in 2016.

OUTCOME 3 | SOUTH SUDAN CASE STUDY

## Addressing the long-term prospects for displaced women and girls

*In December 2013, a fresh political crisis engulfed South Sudan and rapidly escalated into an ethnic war. Despite a recent peace agreement, widespread displacement and human rights violations persist worsening already difficult living conditions caused by extreme poverty and inequality. Such dire circumstances increase exploitation and violence against girls and women. In order to survive, many are in danger of resorting to negative coping strategies such as transactional sex.*

### PROVIDING TRAINING AND ASSETS, MAKING SAFE SPACES

*“My life has changed since getting this training. (...) I was a midwife in the centre clinic before. I now use the computer to access midwife programs online.”*

*– Mary, beneficiary of computer training in the IDP camp in Juba*

As the crisis in South Sudan continues into its third year, UN Women works to address the long-term prospects of displaced women and girls in four sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities. To date, UN Women has assisted 3,380 women and girls by supporting livelihoods through training in marketable skills and providing start-up kits. We also distributed grinding mills, green house kits and certified sorghum and maize seeds.

We provided informal education through adult literacy and numeracy training to over 1,300 women and girls and 600 men and boys. In addition, we provided 576 women and girls and 384 boys with computer training as a marketable skill – especially valued given the lack of secondary education due to the crisis.

To address the pervasive issue of gender-based violence (GBV), UN Women and partners provided 5,200 adolescent girls with information about GBV, their rights and the services available for survivors. We also successfully trained 150 men and boys as male champions against GBV by involving them in its prevention and response.



UN Women offers computer training that equips internally displaced women and girls with valuable skills to rebuild their lives.

# UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

Cover photo: Jenny Tom (30), Roslyn Moli (30) and Julia Morris (29) live in Tasariki village on Moso Island. All three are members of Silae Vanua, the first market vendor association to be legally registered in Vanuatu. In the past they headed to the market by boat and road 1-2 times a month, staying in Port Vila for up to five days at a time. Now, however, there is very little fresh produce on the island to eat, let alone sell. A year ago Moso was among the islands devastated by Cyclone Pam and is now suffering from the effects of an El Nino drought. Tasariki Village, Moso Island, Vanuatu, 28 January 2016.

© UN Women 2015. All rights reserved.  
Produced by the Humanitarian Unit of UN Women Headquarters.  
For more information, contact [humanitarian@unwomen.org](mailto:humanitarian@unwomen.org).  
Editor/Co-writer: Kelly O'Neill  
Design: Dammsavage Inc.  
Printing: OFSET YAPIMEVI  
Photo credits: Cover: UN Women/Murray Lloyd; pg. 3 and 11: UN Women/Ryan Brown; pg. 5 and 12: UN Women/ Catianne Tijerina; pg. 6: UN Women/Emma Vincent; pg. 7: Claire Hawkins/UN Women; pg. 8: UN Women/Shareef Sarhan; pg. 9: UN Women/Murray Lloyd; pg. 10: UN Women/Narendra Shrestha; pg. 13: UN Women/Christopher Herwig; p.14: UNMISS/JC McIlwaine.



220 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10017, USA  
Tel: +1-646-781-4400  
Fax: +1-646-781-4444

[www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)  
[www.facebook.com/unwomen](https://www.facebook.com/unwomen)  
[www.twitter.com/un\\_women](https://www.twitter.com/un_women)  
[www.youtube.com/unwomen](https://www.youtube.com/unwomen)  
[www.flickr.com/unwomen](https://www.flickr.com/unwomen)  
[instagram.com/unwomen](https://instagram.com/unwomen)