

AGD TIP SHEET FOR GRF PLEDGES

Helping Ensure Age, Gender, and Diversity Inclusive Pledges and Good Practices for the Global Refugee Forum

Why this Tip Sheet?

To help stakeholders ensure their pledges/contributions (“pledges”) and good practices for the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) are more effective and put “people first” by incorporating age, gender, and diversity, including disability (AGD), considerations.

What does the Global Compact on Refugees say about AGD?

An AGD approach applies to the whole Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and is also mentioned explicitly:

*“The programme of action is underpinned by a strong partnership and participatory approach, involving refugees and host communities, **as well as age, gender and diversity considerations**, including promoting gender equality and empowering **women and girls**; ending all forms of sexual and gender-based violence [SGBV], trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and abuse [SEA], and harmful practices; facilitating the meaningful participation of **youth, persons with disabilities and older persons**; ensuring the best interests of the **child**; and combating discrimination.”¹*



Why is an AGD Approach Important?

Each individual's different attributes combine to influence how they experience forced displacement. Various elements of a person's identity can determine how others view and attribute value and power to them. The agency of a woman, man, girl, or boy can be impacted by multiple factors, including in particular, who holds power in a refugee context.

An age, gender, disability, and diversity approach is essential to ensure protection and non-discrimination in all refugee responses. An AGD approach improves the effectiveness of responses to leave no one behind. Education, ethnicity, religion, displacement and citizenship status, income, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other diversity factors can all shape an individual's experience, impact their ability to participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their lives, and contribute to multiple forms of discrimination and specific protection risks.

For example, adolescent girls and young women face different risks and challenges from boys and young men. They can be forced into early marriage, face high levels of sexual abuse and pregnancy resulting from rape, or prevented from attending school. Boys and young men may face increased risks of forced recruitment and can be subject to different forms of sexual violence. LGBTQI+² individuals may be subject to SGBV and face discrimination. “Women” are often treated as a homogenous group, instead of understanding the specific needs and experiences of young and adolescent girls or middle-aged and older women. The needs, protection risks, and capacities of refugees with disabilities can vary by gender, age, types of impairments, and other diversity factors and they can face various barriers in humanitarian response.

An AGD approach helps to understand needs, capacities, and who can – or cannot – access services, rights, and decision-making in refugee responses. An AGD approach enables responses to be adapted to be more inclusive and ensure the realisation of rights.

Examples of AGD Inclusive Pledges/Good Practices:

The following list provides examples, which could be complemented by a geographic focus; a focus on particular refugee groups; a time frame; and specific actions to be taken over different time frames. Pledges could be made collectively with a diverse group of stakeholders.

- Support the individual registration of all refugee women, men, girls, and boys and ensure information and registration processes are adapted and accessible, particularly for those with disabilities.
- Support refugees' access to quality education and inclusion in national systems, particularly with attention to girls and young women, and ensure safe, accessible, and inclusive school environments, especially for children with disabilities.
- Reform nationality laws that discriminate on the basis of gender or other factors to ensure the rights and protection of all refugees, particularly displaced women, girls, and LGBTQI+² persons.
- Promote economic empowerment through support for market-based, protective, and gender-sensitive livelihood interventions, with linkages to financial services, particularly for refugee women.
- Support programmes that integrate efforts and establish partnerships between cash/voucher and SGBV service providers and experts, taking into account age, gender, disability, and diversity needs.
- Target funding to organisations led by women, youth, and persons with disabilities within refugee and host communities, which are on the front lines of delivering life-saving services in refugee responses.
- Support programmes preventing, mitigating, and addressing SGBV and promoting safety and dignity, which are informed by consultation with diverse groups of women, men, girls, and boys of different ages and abilities about barriers and appropriate strategies to make SGBV services accessible to them.

¹ See *Global Compact on Refugees*, UN. Doc. A/73/12 (Part II), para. 13. See also paras. 74-77 for more AGD-specific references.

² Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and + (indicating additional categories).



Key Components of an AGD Approach

Meaningful Participation

Diverse groups of refugees should be engaged in identifying needs, designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programmes. Pledges and good practices should be based on consultations with refugee women, men, boys, and girls in all their diversity and their representative organisations. Pledges should explicitly highlight how refugees will actively participate in decision-making processes, in particular women and girls.

Accountability

Funding and programming structures should be adapted to ensure that they promote an AGD approach that enables accountability to refugee women, men, girls, and boys in all their diversity.

Addressing the Needs of At-Risk Groups

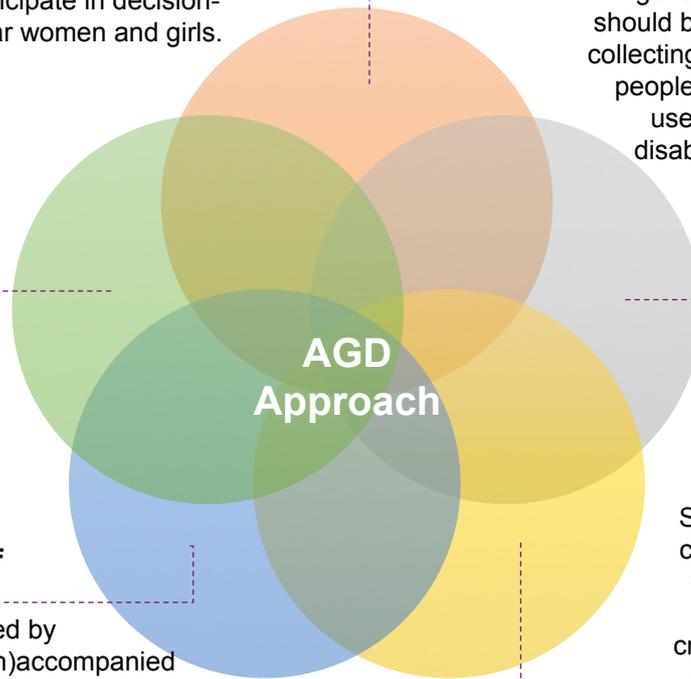
Refugee crises are characterised by disproportionate numbers of (un)accompanied children and women. Globally, children make up the greatest number of refugees and are a distinctly vulnerable group requiring dedicated preparedness, response, resources, and supports.

Disaggregated Data

Collecting and analysing disaggregated data is fundamental to quality humanitarian programming and one of the most basic – and yet often neglected – components of an AGD approach. Good practice encourages data to be disaggregated by sex, age, and disability, at a minimum. Other diversity factors, such as gender, pregnancy, or sexual orientation should be considered based on the context: collecting and managing data should *not* put people at risk. When broad categories are used, certain groups, such as girls with disabilities, can have their distinct needs neglected – or worse – ignored.

Addressing SGBV

Refugees – particularly women, adolescent girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, and those with disabilities – are at high risk of SGBV and vulnerable to SEA, which can impede their access to services, well-being, quality of life, and ability to participate and succeed. It is critical to prevent and mitigate SGBV and ensure access for all survivors, without discrimination, to safety, as well as legal, psychosocial, and health services – including sexual and reproductive care.



Checklist for Pledges/Good Practices to Ensure an AGD Approach

Achieving any **one** of the following will ensure your pledge/good practice is AGD sensitive:

- ✓ The pledge/good practice acknowledges and addresses the different needs and capacities of girls, boys, women, men, and LGBTQI+ persons, including those with disabilities, in all their diversity.
- ✓ The pledge/good practice contributes to the promotion of safety and dignity, access to justice, and the provision of accessible and quality services, including sexual and reproductive health care for all, without discrimination.
- ✓ The pledge/good practice advances gender equality and addresses the structural barriers that prevent the equal participation of all, particularly women and girls, including persons with disabilities.
- ✓ The pledge/good practice targets groups of individuals that are usually excluded to promote their ability to genuinely engage in decision-making processes and take on leadership positions (e.g. (older) women, adolescents, girls, persons from minority groups, persons with disabilities, or LGBTQI+ persons).
- ✓ The pledge/good practice promotes mechanisms that are AGD inclusive to ensure accountability to all affected people.

Organisations supporting this Tip Sheet: ACT Alliance, Act for Peace, AMES Australia, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW), CARE International, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), INTERSOS, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Jesuit Refugee Service Australia, Justice Centre Hong Kong, Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network Australia (MYAN), National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU), PHALS from Bangladesh, PLAN International, Settlement Services International (SSI), Townsville Multicultural Support Group Inc. (TMSG), UNSW Forced Migration Research Network, Women Deliver, Women's Refugee Commission (WRC), Women Refugee Route