



# **GENDER RESPONSIVE SETTLEMENT MODEL**

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## I. Context

In a world marked by turbulence and uncertainty, enhancing urban resilience is becoming increasingly necessary. A key challenge lies in navigating the forward-looking nature of risks and vulnerability. Risk and vulnerability assessments need to consider those factors and processes that may not have been evident in past disaster situations.

Resilience building should focus on vulnerable groups, especially girls and women, the poor, older adults, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities under-represented in administrative and community actors. A closer look reveals that crises are not even-handed as far as the impact on people is concerned. In line with UN Women Türkiye supporting gender responsive governance and community leadership at the local level, this report aims to develop a gender responsive settlement model to support these.

On 6 February 2023, Türkiye's southeast region was struck by significant earthquakes that resulted in widespread devastation and damage to residential areas, with millions of individuals affected and over half a million buildings collapsed or severely damaged. To respond to the emerging needs and to support the resumption of essential services in earthquake-affected areas, gender responsive settlement models for new temporary settlements and quick guidance for gender responsive settlements for permanent residential areas are articulated in this report.

If the relevant planning instructions and the following considerations regarding gender responsive design for temporary shelters are ignored and overlooked, temporary shelter settlements may face internal and external threats such as high population density, problems in accessing sanitation and clean water, inability to create a hygienic environment, fires and floods, new traumas, and loss of life and property. Potential risks are as follows:

- **Unsafe living conditions:** Without proper planning, temporary settlements may lack essential infrastructure and services such as clean water, sanitation facilities and electricity. Lack of critical infrastructure can lead to unsafe and unhygienic living conditions, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks and health hazards.
- **Lack of security:** Inadequate planning can result in poorly designed temporary settlements that lack proper security measures. This leaves residents vulnerable to theft, violence – specifically gender-based violence – and other forms of crime.
- **Inefficient use of resources:** Without proper planning, resources such as land, water and energy can be inefficiently used or wasted. This can lead to scarcity and increased competition among residents, exacerbating tensions and conflicts within the settlement.
- **Limited access to education and health care:** As temporary settlements often accommodate displaced populations, including children and vulnerable individuals who require education and health care services, ignoring the relevant planning instructions may result in insufficient educational and medical facilities and transportation systems, limiting access to these essential services. Women and girls, whose specific needs are often neglected, are disproportionately affected by the crises that result in reduced access to these services.
- **Lack of community cohesion:** Planning instructions foster cohesion and social integration within temporary settlements. Neglecting these instructions can hinder the creation of social spaces, communal facilities, and participatory decision-making processes, leading to a fragmented and isolated community. Women and girls may suffer discrimination resulting in limitations and consequently face additional limitations and restraints.
- **Environmental degradation:** Temporary settlements, if not properly planned, can cause environmental damage. Inadequate waste management systems, deforestation, and uncontrolled urban expansion can negatively impact the surrounding ecosystems and natural resources.
- **Difficulty transitioning to permanent settlements:** Temporary settlements are intended as transitional solutions, and planning for their eventual transformation into permanent settlements or the return of disaster-affected populations to permanent housing is essential. Ignoring necessary planning instructions can make this transition challenging, prolonging the period of displacement, and hampering the recovery process.

Planning instructions that encompass a holistic approach and consider the needs and rights of the displaced population, environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and long-term development, can mitigate these risks.

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## II. Gender Responsive Temporary Settlement (GTS) Model

### A. Review of guidelines

Having examined guidelines developed by UN agencies, the following items are considered significant for generating an effective gender responsive temporary settlement model:

|  |                                    |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Gender Analysis</b>                       |                                    | Conducting a comprehensive gender analysis to understand the specific needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities of women, men, girls and boys in the settlement context.                 |
| <b>Gender-inclusive urban planning</b>       |                                    | Incorporating gender perspectives into the planning and design of temporary settlements, ensuring safe and accessible public spaces for women and girls.                              |
| <b>Safe transportation</b>                   |                                    | Facilitating safe and gender responsive transportation options, considering the specific mobility needs and safety concerns of women and girls.                                       |
| <b>Women's participation</b>                 |                                    | Ensuring meaningful participation of women in the planning, decision-making, and management of the settlement, as this helps address their unique needs and concerns.                 |
|  | <b>Women's leadership</b>          | Promoting women's active involvement in decision-making and leadership roles within the settlement's governance and management.   |
| <b>Safety and Security</b>                   |                                    | Implementing measures to enhance the safety and security of women and girls in the settlement, particularly addressing gender-based violence.   |
|  | <b>Lighting and infrastructure</b> | Proper lighting and infrastructure to enhance safety and security, especially in common areas and pathways within the settlement.   |
| <b>Access to resources</b>                   |                                    | Ensuring equitable access to resources, including food, water, sanitation facilities and health care, while considering the different needs of women and girls.                       |
| <b>Livelihood and economic opportunities</b> |                                    | Providing opportunities for income generation and economic empowerment for both women and men to foster self-reliance.  |
|  | <b>Capacity building</b>           | Providing training and capacity-building programmes to equip women and men with skills, knowledge, and resources to contribute to a safe and inclusive settlement environment.        |
| <b>Community engagement</b>                  |                                    | Engaging with the local community to identify and address specific gender-related challenges and promoting a culture of safety and respect.   |
| <b>Education and training</b>                |                                    | Offering educational and vocational training opportunities that are inclusive and cater to the needs of women and girls.  |
| <b>Health services</b>                       |                                    | Establishing gender-sensitive health services, including sexual and reproductive health care, to address the specific health needs of women and girls.                                |
| <b>Safe shelter and services</b>             |                                    | Establishing safe shelters and essential services, such as gender-sensitive counselling and legal support for survivors of violence.  |
| <b>Child protection</b>                      |                                    | Integrating child protection measures to safeguard the rights and well-being of children, considering their specific vulnerabilities.   |
| <b>Communication and information</b>         |                                    | Ensuring that information dissemination methods are accessible to all genders considering their unique communication preferences and enabling them to voice their needs and concerns. |
| <b>Monitoring and evaluation</b>             |                                    | Regularly monitoring and evaluating the implementation of gender responsive measures to assess their effectiveness and make necessary improvements.                                   |
|  | <b>Data collection</b>             | Collecting gender-disaggregated data to understand the experiences and risks different genders face within the settlement and enable evidence-based decision-making.                  |

## B. Gender Rapid Assessments from the Affected Region

Having held meetings with civil society organizations, reviewed assessments from the affected region, and visited the affected areas, the following needs have been identified as most critical needs that must be met:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Gender-disaggregated data</b></p>         | <p>There is an emergent need for collecting gender-disaggregated data, including demographic data such as age, ethnicity, education level, employment status, disability, etc., to understand the specific vulnerabilities and needs of different genders.</p> <p>Disaster-affected people should be urgently provided the means and conditions to continue their private and social lives in a safe environment as well as access to public services to recover from the severe trauma.</p> <p>Ensuring participation in the restoration of the destroyed and damaged urban areas as well as social and economic systems is a tool that can help stimulate this gradual recovery process. Gender-disaggregated data can help governmental personnel and humanitarian aid staff and volunteers that disaster-affected residents' abilities and talents appropriately match participation means and methods in the process of restoring and recovering their lives.</p>   |
| <p><b>Access to resources and services</b></p>  | <p>The earthquake impacted access to essentials like proper food, running water and sanitation (toilet and shower amenities, washroom and laundry amenities, and kitchen facilities). No proper, adequate, and effective infrastructural installations such as electricity and sewage have occurred.</p> <p>Providing access to other campuses, sites and the city to get services such as psychological and legal counselling and health care is as crucial. Effective social support networks for women, men, and vulnerable groups should be identified and made available.</p> <p>The continuity of all services can be vital for the recovery and overall well-being of disaster victims. Familiarity with service providers (especially counselling, health care, legal aid, psychological support, and social service providers) is important for facilitating disaster victims' recovery from the effects of severe trauma. Service providers should be available 24/7 and should therefore be accommodated on-site. Measures should be implemented to ensure the well-being and safety of support workers and service providers.</p> <p>Despite their temporary nature, settlement areas should be respected as residential areas by all service providers; thus, strangers and unfamiliar personnel should not wander within the site. The settlement's residents should not feel threatened, observed or analysed by outsiders.</p> <p>Incorporating the Women's Solidarity Centre Model of UN Women into the GTS Model as a mechanism to foster women's empowerment and participation is key. Based on gender-disaggregated data, disaster-affected women with corresponding abilities and talents living on-site can be employed at women's centres and psychosocial support centres.</p> |
| <p><b>Safety and security</b></p>               | <p>Increased risk of gender-based violence and exploitation has been reported. Women and girls feel insecure and unsafe without gender-segregated facilities such as toilets and bathing areas. Proper maintenance of such common facilities should be organized and carried out by appointed personnel.</p> <p>Pathways should be well-lit and electricity should be provided to each unit separately.</p> <p>Public spaces should be inclusively designed to ensure that privacy is considered and ensured.</p> <p>Preventing and responding to gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and harassment, should be prioritized during crises.</p> <p>Sites should be secure enough to be in, yet they should not be perceived as too safe compared to the outside of the site, which unfortunately would result in the restrained mobility of vulnerable groups, especially women and girls.</p>  |
| <p><b>Decision-making and participation</b></p> | <p>Women should participate in decision-making processes and in accessing information during and after the disaster.</p> <p>Information sharing and knowledge transfer should be carefully facilitated to ensure accessibility. The roles and activities of the various actors (humanitarian aid volunteers, NGO workers, governmental personnel, etc.) in the disaster-affected area, their observations and lists of immediate needs, and their innovative and successful solutions to common problems should be regularly and consistently shared via a central system or process. Coordinating this flow of information is highly important and especially challenging, and therefore deserves particular attention.</p>   |

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Household and caregiving roles</b> | As the disaster resulted in the loss of many lives and property, there have since been shifts in the structure of households, with women facing even more of a disproportionate burden than they did pre-disaster. Therefore, household chores and caregiving responsibilities due to gender roles and dynamics should be assessed carefully.<br><br>Impacts on livelihoods and employment and how they changed income and employment opportunities should be determined in relation to changing conditions in household and caregiving roles. |
| <b>Access to education</b>            | Disasters have distinct impacts on access to education for boys and girls, and they might face gender-based educational barriers. Therefore, the potential long-term consequences of disaster-related impacts on education for boys and girls must be analysed and predicted so that innovative solutions can be offered regarding diverse needs, vulnerabilities and preferences.   |
| <b>Health and reproductive needs</b>  | Women and girls' specific health, hygiene, and reproductive needs during and after the disaster should be considered and fully met.  |

### C. Incorporating the “Women’s Solidarity Centre Model” into the GTS Model

Women’s Solidarity Centre Model has been developed with the partnership of Foundation for the Support of Women’s Work (KEDV)-Oxfam, Koç Holding and UN Women.. Incorporating this model into GTS as a mechanism to foster women’s empowerment and participation in decision-making processes is crucial. The GTS model involves creating a safe and inclusive space that addresses the specific needs and challenges women and girls face. Incorporating a Women’s Solidarity Centre into the GTS model makes it possible to address those particular needs and challenges, promote gender equality, and create a more inclusive and empowering environment for everyone in the settlement. The key steps to achieve the incorporation of the Women’s Solidarity Centre into GTS are summarized below:

**(i) Needs assessment:** A comprehensive needs assessment should be conducted to understand the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls in the temporary settlement. This will help identify the areas where a Women’s Solidarity Centre can have the most significant impact. The centre’s programmes and activities should be regularly monitored and evaluated to assess their effectiveness and enable necessary improvements to be made. Data collection should be gender-disaggregated to better understand the impact on women and girls.

**(ii) Designing a safe and inclusive space:** A dedicated Women’s Solidarity Centre within the settlement should provide a safe and inclusive environment for women and girls and should be developed accordingly. The centre should be easily accessible and should respect the privacy, cultural norms, and practices of the women and girls using this space.

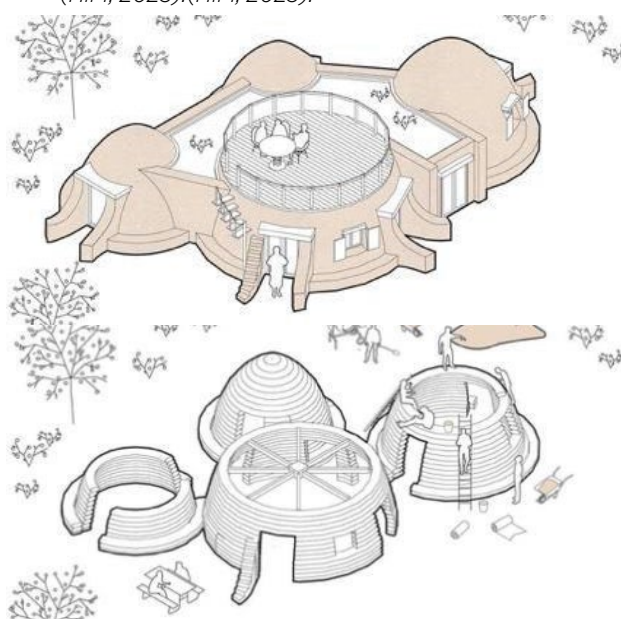
The Women’s Solidarity Centre will facilitate the gathering of survivors and the activities supporting the normalization and recovery process, a function that is often ignored. Facilitating collaboration between the residents in the construction and design of the centre can result in lively, cozy and enjoyable spaces.

*Herkes İçin Mimarlık Derneği (HiM, Architecture for All Association) has been working in the earthquake-affected region to develop a post-disaster reconstruction plan. Having examined the climatic conditions, available material, and*

*cultural and social norms of the area, they offer two projects for community centre developments; one is based on the use of soil and the other on timber.<sup>1</sup>*

#### Example 1: Superadobe construction technique

*Based on the post-disaster site conditions and the requirements for the speed of construction, HiM aimed to produce some common spaces with the superadobe technique. This considers local material possibilities (soil, sand, gravel) (HiM, 2023). (HiM, 2023).*



Images: Superadobe building technique (HiM, 2023)

<sup>1</sup>For more information, the report can be downloaded at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10dvPNLnenKRq7MDAovZc6oK6UVrPCnwH/view>



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### **Example 2: Timber construction technique**

*They are building a wood-based community centre with an eye on providing an everyday “sofa” (dining table) and enabling various social uses.*



*Images: Timber construction technique (HiM, 2023)*

To respond to gender-based violence within the settlement, measures such as establishing reporting mechanisms and training on gender equality and violence prevention should be implemented. As education plays a vital role in challenging stereotypes and promoting gender equality within the settlement, awareness campaigns on gender equality, women's rights, and other relevant issues can be conducted within Women's Solidarity Centres.

**(iii) Offering services and support:** A range of services and support tailored to the unique needs of disaster-affected women and girls should be provided, such as health care, reproductive services, psychosocial support, legal assistance, skills training and educational programmes.

**(iv) Encouraging participation:** Women's active involvement in decision-making processes within the settlement should be encouraged. Female settlement residents should be included in the planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes and services to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are addressed. They also should be involved in designing their “safe space,” which will function as a Women's Solidarity Centre.

**(v) Vocational training:** To empower women economically, vocational training and livelihood support to help women generate income and gain economic independence should be offered in the Women's Solidarity Centre. Economic empowerment is crucial for enhancing women's agency and decision-making power.

**(vi) Working in partnerships:** The Women's Solidarity Centre should collaborate with local organizations, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders to maximize its impact. Engaging the community is essential for long-term sustainability. The sustainability of the Women's Solidarity Centre should be planned beyond the temporary settlement, and its successful elements should be considered for integration into broader development and empowerment initiatives.

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## D. Gender Responsive Self-Assessment Checklist for Temporary Settlements

A gender responsive self-assessment checklist for temporary settlements has been developed based on guidelines set by UN agencies and assessments from the affected region. The checklist below assesses whether a settlement adequately addresses the needs and rights of women and girls and promotes gender equality and whether it considers the diverse experiences and perspectives of individuals within the community. While this checklist provides a starting point for assessing the gender responsiveness of a settlement, it is critical that the checklist be tailored to the specific context, cultural norms and local challenges, which may influence the implementation and effectiveness of gender responsive measures.

| Subject  | Checklist Questions   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>I. Shelter and housing opportunities</b>                  | Are separate sleeping spaces provided for men, women and children?  | Y | N |
|  | Is there adequate lighting, locks and privacy for each sleeping space?  | Y | N |
|  | Can women and girls access sanitary and safe bathing and toilet facilities?   | Y | N |
|  | Do shelter materials and design considerations take into account the safety and privacy needs of women and girls?                                       | Y | N |
| <b>II. Safety and security</b>                               | Are there designated well-lit pathways between essential facilities like shelters, water points and sanitation areas?                                   | Y | N |
|  | Is there a system in place to report and address incidents of violence and crime?   | Y | N |
|  | Is there a comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment?          | Y | N |
|  | Is there a safe and confidential space for reporting gender-based violence incidents?   | Y | N |
|  | Are women actively involved in planning, design and decision-making processes related to security and safety measures?                                  | Y | N |
|  | Are there support services available for survivors of gender-based violence, including access to counselling, legal aid and safe shelters?              | Y | N |
| <b>III. Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities</b> | Are WASH facilities designed with input from women and girls to meet their needs for privacy and security?  | Y | N |
|  | Are menstrual hygiene products and disposal facilities available and accessible to women and girls?   | Y | N |
|  | Is there a mechanism to ensure regular maintenance and cleanliness of WASH facilities?  | Y | N |
|  | Are WASH facilities such as toilets and bathing areas gender-segregated to ensure privacy and safety?   | Y | N |
| <b>IV. Health services</b>                                   | Are reproductive health services, including access to family planning, antenatal care, and skilled birth attendance, available and accessible?          | Y | N |
|  | Are the specific health needs of women and gender-related health issues addressed in the health services provided?                                      | Y | N |
|  | Is there equal access to quality and continuous psychological and social support?   | Y | N |
| <b>V. Livelihood and economic opportunities</b>              | Are women included in livelihood programmes and economic activities?  | Y | N |
|  | Are the specific skills and expertise of women recognized and utilized?   | Y | N |
|  | Is there access to safe and secure markets and income generation opportunities for both men and women?  | Y | N |
| <b>VI. Education and training</b>                            | Are girls and boys equally encouraged to participate in educational and skill-building programmes?  | Y | N |
|  | Are educational opportunities available to all genders, including girls and women, with a focus on eliminating gender-based educational barriers?       | Y | N |
|  | Is the learning environment free from gender-based discrimination and violence?   | Y | N |
|  | Are there any educational and training opportunities and facilities on-site?  | Y | N |
|  | Are there educational programmes and initiatives that challenge gender stereotypes, promote gender equality, and foster respectful relationships?       | Y | N |
|  | Is there awareness and understanding of gender issues within the settlement, including the importance of gender equality and the rights of all genders? | Y | N |

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>VII. Social and community spaces</b>       | Are there spaces for women, men and children to gather separately and together?   | Y | N |
|   | Is there a community participation and decision-making system that ensures women's voices are heard?  | Y | N |
|   | Are women actively involved in the planning, design, implementation, and decision-making processes related to the settlement?                           | Y | N |
|   | Are there safe and accessible public spaces, such as parks, transportation, and community centres, that consider the specific needs of women and girls? | Y | N |
| <b>VIII. Child and dependent care</b>         | Are child-care and dependent care services available?   | Y | N |
|   | Can child-care and dependent care services support women's participation in community activities and livelihood opportunities?                          | Y | N |
|   | Are child-care and dependent care services safe and accessible?   | Y | N |
| <b>IX. Women's leadership and empowerment</b> | Are women actively involved in leadership roles and decision-making within the settlement?  | Y | N |
|   | Is there an equal representation of women in community organizations?   | Y | N |
| <b>X. Communication and information</b>       | Is information distributed in a way that is accessible to all, considering potential literacy (including digital literacy) and language barriers?       | Y | N |
|   | Are women and girls equally represented in communication initiatives?   | Y | N |
| <b>XI. Legal assistance and protection</b>    | Are mechanisms in place to address legal issues and provide legal assistance to women, mainly related to property rights and family matters?            | Y | N |
|   | Are there mechanisms for monitoring and enforcing gender-responsive policies and holding perpetrators accountable?                                      | Y | N |
| <b>XII. Data collection and monitoring</b>    | Is gender-disaggregated data collected to understand the specific needs and experiences of women, men, girls and boys in the settlement?                | Y | N |
|   | Is gender-segregated data used to inform decision-making and improve services provided?   | Y | N |
|   | Can the gender-disaggregated data identify and address gender disparities within the settlement?  | Y | N |
|   | Are there mechanisms for monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of gender responsive initiatives?  | Y | N |

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## E. GTS Model for new and already established settlements

The GTS model rests on three pillars and employs a scale-down approach starting with (1) the location of the settlement area, then scaling down to (2) the site and the layout design, and finally scaling down with some critical issues regarding (3) the design of units. The instructions below are to be implemented in both new and established settlements. According to the urgency of needs, planning and implementation are broken into short-term, medium-term, and long-term stages. Short-term instructions signify those directives that require emergency action. Medium-term instructions imply those directives that should be considered in developing the new and already established settlements, both temporary and permanent. Finally, the long-term instructions suggest prescripts that constitute the ideal condition in temporary settlements but should be implemented in permanent settlements. To adapt the design to the specific cultural, social and geographical context, local stakeholders, humanitarian organizations, and gender experts who have valuable insight, knowledge, and expertise should be consulted.

### E.1. Gender responsive site selection

**Safety and security:** The safety and security of the site should be adequately assessed, considering factors like lighting, visibility, presence of public spaces and crime rates. The perception of safety should be ensured so that women and vulnerable groups feel comfortable moving around the area at different times of the day. According to planning regulations,<sup>2</sup> there should be a minimum distance of 8m between the settlement boundary and the nearest unit cluster. A security-control at the entrance of the centre should be maintained.

**Accessibility and mobility:** Transportation options and infrastructure should be systematically evaluated to ensure that the site is easily accessible for people of all genders. The needs of women with caregiving responsibilities, older persons, and persons with disabilities should be studied.

The settlement site must be accessible. The urban/rural centre damaged by the disaster should be accessible even on foot. Temporary shelter sites should be close enough to existing settlements to protect the disaster-affected people against external threats and dangers and to ensure control and coordination.

Settlement areas should be connected to existing main road axes. Alternative connection routes should also be considered to prevent the risk of blockage in a possible aftershock or disaster.

Providing commuting solutions for all in a disaster-affected settlement can be challenging, but it is essential to ensure that people can access the necessary resources and services. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, temporary transportation solutions like shuttle buses or vans/minibuses can be implemented to connect the settlement to nearby towns or cities where essential services and relief supplies are available. These temporary options can

help bridge the gap until more sustainable solutions are implemented. Only after the repair and reopening of the damaged roads should public transportation services to/from the settlement be introduced and enhanced. In the meantime, there should be an attempt to design bicycle and pedestrian paths to strengthen connections to nearby settlements.

**Proximity to services and amenities:** The site should be close to essential services such as health care facilities, schools, markets and public transportation. This will reduce the burden on women, who are often responsible for accessing these services.

For emergency conditions, it is vital that these essential services are provided on-site; however, in the medium- and long-term, not everything should be provided in an isolated way within the protected boundaries of the settlement. Residents need to be willing and should be encouraged to leave the settlement to run some errands. Women and girls should feel safe and secure if they leave the settlement to work, engage in recreational activities, participate in socialization opportunities, access fundamental services (physical/psychological health care), continue education and training, etc.

**Employment opportunities:** The availability of job opportunities near the settlement is critical.

**Connection to urban infrastructure:** In the short term, access to clean water and sanitation should be ensured. In the medium- and long-term, access to clean, running water must be considered. The site must be suitable for urban infrastructural network connections to provide electricity, telecommunication and water, as well as to integrate the settlement with the city's sewage system. Infrastructure accommodating the specific needs of women and girls, such as the design of public transportation, sidewalks (in and out of the settlement), and lighting, must be inclusive and safe

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<sup>2</sup>Michael Hooper (2021). Prefabricating marginality: Long-term housing impacts of displacement in post-disaster Montserrat. *Housing and Society*, vol. 48, No. 2.

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It is also important to note that according to planning regulations:<sup>3</sup>

- The temporary settlement areas should not be smaller than 500m<sup>2</sup>.
- The settlement should be located at least 3m above the rainwater basin.
- For the drainage of rainwater/melting snow, the site should have a slope between 2%-6%.
- The dominant wind direction (East/West and North/South) should be considered while setting up the settlement units on the site. With simple design techniques, it is possible to make living on the site comfortable for disaster-affected populations.
- Temporary settlement areas should be designed as flexible for expansion in case of need.

## **E.2. Gender responsive site planning and layout design**

Designing a gender-responsive settlement involves creating spaces that consider all genders' needs, preferences and safety, ensuring inclusivity and equal access. First, a gender analysis of the community inhabiting the settlement should be conducted. The different roles, responsibilities and challenges faced by women, men, girls and boys in the community must be perfectly understood. Community members, both women and men, should be engaged to gather insights and to ensure their needs are considered in the design process. While a simple and single model that fits all situations is almost impossible to provide, there are some critical considerations for designing a site:

**Social infrastructure:** The site plan should include community spaces, child-care facilities, recreational areas, and safe public toilets, making it convenient for all genders to participate in social and economic activities. Educational facilities, nurseries, markets, places of worship, health centres, psychosocial support service centres, administrative units, playgrounds, and recreational facilities are essential for establishing a solid infrastructure. According to planning regulations,<sup>4</sup> the farthest unit to the public facilities should be within reach of 500m.

### **Delicate balance between inclusive public spaces and preservation of privacy:**

• **Inclusive public spaces:** Welcoming, safe, and accessible public spaces, that match the cultural norms and preferences should be designed. According to planning regulations:<sup>5</sup>

- › For each cluster of units (which may consist of up to 16 units), a wasteyard must be installed and should be located on driveways.
- › If not possible to integrate sanitary facilities (shower, toilet, laundry, and clear water units) within each unit, a sanitation centre should be allocated at the centre of each cluster.
- › More than 2,500 people should not populate the settlement.
- › The size of the settlement should be a minimum of 45m<sup>2</sup>/person.

While designing inclusive public spaces, the concept of "Eyes on the Street," coined by urbanist Jane Jacobs, can be applied to the design of new settlements to create more secure, attractive and livable environments. The theory emphasizes the importance of natural surveillance and community engagement to create safe and vibrant neighbourhoods. The theory suggests that when more people are actively present and observing public spaces, the likelihood of criminal activity decreases and the sense of community and social cohesion increases. Natural surveillance and community engagement can be achieved by "diversity producers" and can be accomplished using the following measures:

- 1. Mixed-use and multi-purpose development:** A mix of residential, commercial and recreational spaces ensures that people are present throughout the day and night, making the area more active and safer. The settlement and its elements should have more than one primary function. Residents should be able to use the facilities for different purposes at different times, meaning that the same people can use many facilities in common. Multi-purpose communities can serve as inclusive spaces for recreational activities, social gatherings, and skill-building programmes. They should be designed to accommodate women's and men's diverse needs and interests, including separate or flexible spaces for different activities.
- 2. Well-defined public spaces:** Attractive and well-maintained public spaces such as parks, squares and plazas invite people and encourage social interactions, fostering a sense of community ownership.

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<sup>3</sup> İnan, Zerrin and Korgavuş, Bengi (2017). Mülteci Kampları ve Yerleşim Alanlarında Sürdürülebilir Tasarım (Sustainable Design in Refugee Camps and Settlements). Contemporary Research in Economics and Social Sciences, vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 103-122.

<sup>4</sup> Hany Abulnour, Adham (2014). The post-disaster temporary dwelling: Fundamentals of provision, design and construction. HBRC Journal, vol. 10, No 1, pp. 10-24.

<sup>5</sup> Çınar, Ali Kemal (2018). Afet Sonrası Acil Toplanma ve Geçici Barınma Alanlarının Planlanmasındaki Faktörlerin İncelenmesi: İzmir- Karşıyaka Örneği (Examining the Factors in the Planning of Post-Disaster Emergency Assembly and Temporary Shelter Areas: İzmir-Karşıyaka Example). Planlama Dergisi, vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 179-200.

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**3. Sports fields and exercise spaces:** Sports facilities catering to various sports and games can encourage physical activity and promote gender equality.

- a. Ensuring equal access to and availability of sports equipment and resources is vital for creating a level playing field for everyone.
- b. Exercise areas should be accessible to all, including individuals with disabilities. Features like ramps, accessible equipment, and clear pathways to accommodate diverse needs should be incorporated.
- c. Privacy and safety for all users of recreational facilities can be achieved by providing separate changing areas or individual changing stalls, lockers and showers. Adequate lighting and surveillance systems can also enhance security.
- d. A wide range of exercise equipment should be offered to cater to different interests, fitness levels and preferences.
- e. Users should be able to adapt facilities to their preferred workout styles. Modular or adjustable equipment can be incorporated and easily customized to meet individual needs.
- f. The exercise area should be spacious enough to accommodate different workout activities simultaneously.

**4. Green spaces and environment:** Green areas and public parks within the settlement promote physical and mental well-being for all residents.

Designing parks and playgrounds with safety in mind is crucial. Considerations should include well-lit areas, clear sightlines, and proper maintenance to enhance security. The layout should also accommodate different age groups, abilities, cultural norms and preferences to promote inclusivity.

**5. Pedestrian-friendly design:** Prioritizing pedestrian-friendly streets with wide sidewalks, street lighting, and clear lines of sight encourages more people to walk and spend time outdoors, increasing natural surveillance.

**6. Connectivity and accessibility:** Easily accessible settlements with well-connected pathways, streets, and public transportation inspire people to move around and explore different areas, increasing the number of eyes on the street.

**7. Community engagement:** Involving the community in the design and planning process to ensure that the settlement meets their needs and preferences

creates a sense of ownership and responsibility for maintaining a safe and welcoming environment.

- a. Urban farming
- b. Community gardens

**8. Visibility:** Large walls or objects obstructing visibility and creating hiding spots should be avoided. The design of units and unit clusters should promote openness and visibility. Unit clusters should be short; streets and corners should be frequent.

**9. Active public programmes:** Organized activities such as community events and gatherings help people come together and actively use public spaces.

**10. Safe and well-lit environment:** Adequate lighting in public spaces, streets and alleys enhances visibility during evenings and nights and discourages criminal activity.

• **Preservation of privacy and safety:** According to planning regulations,<sup>6</sup> to ensure and provide privacy:

- › The minimum width of main roads should be 15m, the minimum width of side roads should be 10m, and the minimum width of sidewalks between clusters should be 6m. (There should also be a fire lane with a minimum width of 30 m.)
- › The minimum distance between units should be 2m.
- › Windows and unit openings (e.g., doors) should not face each other to ensure there is no line of sight between units.

• **Planning the transitional areas:** Measures such as fencing, keeping units under lock and key, and natural and technological surveillance enable a certain level of safety and security perception. However, designing transitional areas between the public and private units is also helpful as they create a sense of “home,” allowing residents to identify with their personal space, personalize it, and develop a sense of ownership. Creating a smooth and visually appealing transitional area while respecting residents’ privacy is essential. These spaces, often referred to as “semi-public” or “semi-private” areas, play a crucial role in enhancing the overall quality of the settlement.

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<sup>6</sup> Paparella, Rossana and Mauro Caini (2022). Sustainable design of temporary buildings in emergency situations. Sustainability, vol. 14, No. 13, p. 8010.

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1. **Gradual transition:** A gradual transition from public to private spaces may start with more public-oriented spaces near the street or common areas and gradually transition to more private areas closer to the individual units.
  2. **Landscaping and greenery:** Landscaping and greenery can delineate spaces and provide privacy. Shrubs, trees and low walls can act as natural barriers, maintaining a visual connection while creating a sense of separation. The density of solid systems (e.g., containers, the natural landscape, and urban furniture) should be balanced so that the settlement does not feel abandoned or frightening.
  3. **Pathways and hardscaping:** Clear and defined pathways guide people from public areas to private units. Hardscaping materials like paving stones or different textures visually distinguish between public and private spaces. Sidewalks are transitional areas that establish a common ground for socialization. Treating sidewalks not as a passage for vehicles but as a facilitator for local activity and mobility encourages vibrant and lively systems, resulting in a positive perception of safety and security.
  4. **Fencing and personalization:** Fencing, trellises, and screens create physical separation without completely blocking the view. These elements can add privacy while maintaining an open and inviting atmosphere. There should be room for the personalization of individual units. Units with different colors, sizes, and shapes should be sufficiently mixed to create diversity.
  5. **Seating and gathering spaces:** Seating areas, benches, or small gathering spaces in transitional zones encourage people to linger and interact, fostering community.
  6. **Lighting:** Proper lighting is crucial in transitional spaces, especially during the evenings. Well-designed lighting enhances safety and creates a pleasant ambiance, making these areas more inviting.

### **E.3. Gender responsive unit design**

Designing a gender responsive (dwelling) unit according to universal design principles involves creating a space that accommodates all individuals' diverse needs and preferences, regardless of their gender identity. According to planning regulations, the indoor area within residential units should be

considered as a minimum of 4.5 m<sup>2</sup>/person. Unit designs should allow a variety of living arrangements for different household compositions. Privacy, security, and flexible living arrangements, as well as universal accessibility to accommodate individuals with mobility challenges should be ensured. Within the unit, there should be enough room for personal space, and if possible, separate living spaces designated for individuals of different ages and genders should be incorporated. Private spaces within the dwelling unit, such as individual bedrooms and areas where occupants can retreat for some quiet time, can be vital for disaster-affected residents suffering severe trauma.

**Inclusivity and accessibility:** The dwelling unit is accessible and usable by all individuals, regardless of age, mobility or gender. This entails features like step-free entrances, wide doorways to accommodate wheelchairs, and lever-style door handles that are easier to operate.

**Flexible spaces:** Flexible spaces can be adapted to suit various preferences and activities, e.g., movable furniture can be rearranged to create different room layouts.

**Bathroom and toilets:** The design should consider privacy locks on doors and providing sufficient space for maneuvering for individuals with mobility challenges.

**Safety measures:** Safety features, such as proper lighting, non-slip surfaces, and accessible emergency exits, should be incorporated into the design.

**Kitchen design:** An inclusive kitchen space with adjustable countertop heights and appliances should be created that can be easily accessed by all occupants.

**Storage and organization:** Ample storage space should be planned. Individuals with varying heights and mobility levels should be able to reach these spaces.

**Multi-generational considerations:** The dwelling unit should accommodate potential changes in household dynamics over time.

**Natural lighting and ventilation:** Maximizing natural lighting and ventilation creates a healthy and comfortable living environment.

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## III. Quick Guidance for Gender Responsive Residential Areas

### A. Gender Responsive Self-Assessment Checklist (for newly established permanent residential areas)

This checklist aims to ensure that gender considerations are incorporated during the planning and development of these areas. The checklist allows decision-makers to identify potential gender disparities and design more inclusive and equitable communities. Tailoring it to the specific context and needs of the residential area in question is crucial. Moreover, involving community members, especially women and other marginalized groups, in the planning and implementation process will help ensure that the checklist effectively addresses their unique requirements.

| Subject   | Checklist Questions   | Y | N |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>I. Safety and security</b>                     | Are adequate street lighting and security measures in place to enhance safety, especially for women and girls in the evenings?  | Y | N |
|   | Are public spaces, such as parks and recreational areas, designed to be safe and accessible for all genders?  | Y | N |
| <b>II. Housing and shelter</b>                    | Is housing designed to accommodate various family structures, including extended and single-parent households?  | Y | N |
|   | Are gender-specific needs and privacy considered in communal household spaces and shared living arrangements?   | Y | N |
| <b>III. Transportation and mobility</b>           | Are transportation facilities and infrastructure accessible and safe for all genders, including individuals with mobility challenges?   | Y | N |
|   | Are public transportation schedules and routes designed to meet the needs of women, considering factors like safety and proximity to key locations (e.g., schools and health care centres)? | Y | N |
| <b>IV. Education and training</b>                 | Is there equal access to educational institutions and training centres for all genders?   | Y | N |
|   | Are there initiatives to address the area's gender-based barriers to education and training?  | Y | N |
| <b>V. Health care services</b>                    | Are health care facilities and services easily accessible to all genders?   | Y | N |
|   | Are there provisions for gender-specific health care needs, such as reproductive health services?   | Y | N |
| <b>VI. Social services</b>                        | Are social support services available and accessible for women and girls, particularly for vulnerable or marginalized groups?   | Y | N |
|   | Is there a support network for survivors of gender-based violence?  | Y | N |
| <b>VII. Employment and economic opportunities</b> | Are there opportunities for employment and economic participation for women?  | Y | N |
|   | Are there initiatives to address gender wage gaps?  | Y | N |
|   | Are there mechanisms to promote women's participation in traditionally male-dominated fields?   | Y | N |
| <b>VIII. Participation and decision-making</b>    | Are mechanisms in place to ensure equal representation and participation of all women and girls in community decision-making processes?   | Y | N |
|   | Are there platforms for women and marginalized groups to voice their concerns and ideas?  | Y | N |
| <b>IX. Cultural and recreational activities</b>   | Are cultural and recreational activities inclusive and accessible to women and girls?   | Y | N |
|   | Is there an equal representation of women in community organizations?   | Y | N |
|   | Are there efforts to challenge gender stereotypes through community programmes and events?  | Y | N |
| <b>X. Communication and information</b>           | Is information about services, opportunities and resources easily accessible to women and girls, including those with limited access to technology and language barriers?                   | Y | N |
| <b>XI. Evaluation and monitoring</b>              | Is there a system to monitor and evaluate the impact of gender responsive initiatives in the area?  | Y | N |
|   | Are there regular assessments of gender-related issues in the community to inform future planning?  | Y | N |



## B. Quick Guidance (on what to do and what not to do while establishing a new residential area with a gender perspective)

|        | Do's   | Don'ts  |
|--------|--|---|
| Aims   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Understand specific needs, challenges, and preferences of women and girls in the community</li> <li>✓ Promote and encourage inclusivity</li> <li>✓ Reduce gender-based segregation</li> <li>✓ Improve community well-being</li> <li>✓ Ensure options are available to cater to diverse household structures and sizes</li> <li>✓ Facilitate access to schools, workplaces and essential services</li> <li>✓ Create a safe environment for all residents</li> <li>✓ Ensure the design meets women's and girls' needs</li> <li>✓ Support women's participation in the workforce</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Do not perpetuate traditional gender roles!</li> <li>× Do not create an unwelcoming environment!</li> <li>× Do not create barriers for individuals with disabilities!</li> <li>× Do not limit the participation of women and vulnerable groups in the community!</li> <li>× Do not create safety concerns!</li> <li>× Do not discourage community engagement!</li> </ul>   |
| Mean's | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Conduct gender analysis</li> <li>✓ Ensure accessibility and safety</li> <li>✓ Consider the needs of people with disabilities and vulnerable groups</li> <li>✓ Offer diverse housing options to accommodate various household structures, including single-parent households, extended families and women living alone</li> <li>✓ Create mixed-use spaces within the community to promote work, recreation and social interaction opportunities</li> <li>✓ Incorporate green spaces, parks and recreational areas in the residential area</li> <li>✓ Implement efficient and accessible public transportation</li> <li>✓ Involve the community and engage women in planning, seeking their feedback, ideas and concerns</li> <li>✓ Establish and implement safety measures</li> <li>✓ Provide child-care facilities and daycare centres within the residential area</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>× Avoid gender segregation in the design of the residential area!</li> <li>× Do not neglect safety concerns specific to women and girls!</li> <li>× Do not design a car-centric community (as women rely more on public transit)!</li> <li>× Do not fail to involve the community in the planning process!</li> <li>× Do not adhere to a "one-size-fits-all" approach!</li> <li>× Do not disregard accessibility!</li> <li>× Do not ignore the need for safe spaces and well-lit areas!</li> </ul> |





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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 ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide.

It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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