



KEY FACTS

HUMANITARIAN ACTION

- ▶ Pregnancy and childbirth are particularly dangerous for women and girls during humanitarian crises. It is estimated that under these conditions, 500 women and girls die every day from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth.⁴⁷
- ▶ A study in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake found the pregnancy rate was three times higher in camps for internally displaced people compared to the average urban pregnancy rate before the crisis. Approximately two thirds of these pregnancies were unwanted or unplanned.⁴⁸
- ▶ When it comes to food distribution during humanitarian crises, it has been shown that giving women and girls priority access to food helps to deliver better nutrition and reduce the incidence of hunger.⁴⁹

As one example, in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, women played a central role in the recovery and reconstruction process, helping to guide the shelter recovery program and making important decisions about their homes (traditionally the purview of men). With support from Canada, women in the community worked closely with male carpenters to prioritize assistance to women and vulnerable groups and to ensure that recipients of assistance were included in repair and reconstruction decision making. Local women reported feeling especially empowered by information they were given on how to make their homes safer in the future.

Canada is recognized as a leader in providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by conflicts and by natural disasters and will continue to support timely humanitarian action, based on humanitarian principles and on needs, to save lives, alleviate suffering and support the dignity of those affected.

Building on the existing global frameworks and guidelines for humanitarian action, Canada will require its humanitarian partners to invest in and report on gender data and analysis. This will make it possible to deliver more effective responses to humanitarian crises, while taking into account—and responding to—the unique needs of women and girls.