



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

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Gender-related impacts of the Ukraine conflict

*Entry points for Gender-responsive and
Inclusive interventions*

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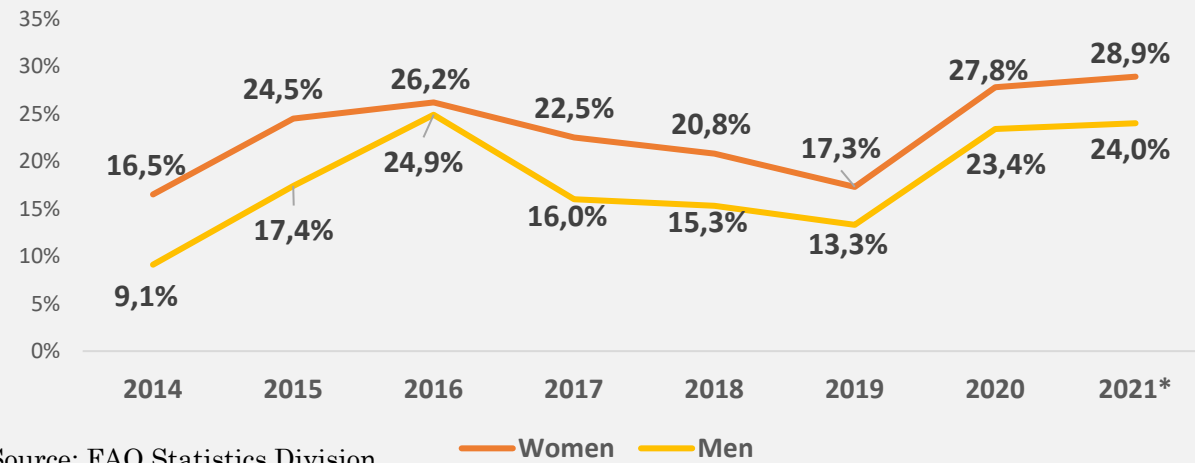
Summary of impacts

Food insecurity



- Trends of the past 8 years show that women are more food insecure than men.
- In 2019-2021, food insecurity increased from **17.3 percent to 28.9 percent** for women and from **13.3 percent to 24 percent** for men.
- Food insecurity situation is worsening as the war is directly constraining agricultural production, limiting economic activity and raising prices.
- Isolated populations face particular risks in accessing food, water, energy and essential services and are more exposed to violence.
- Data from similar events show that women and girls often eat less and last during wars, and their nutritional needs may be side-lined during conflicts.
- Less access to economic opportunities and nutritious food for remaining people due to disruptions of infrastructure, loss of livelihoods and high insecurity.

Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity based on FIES in Ukraine



* The FIES survey module has been collected through the Gallup World Poll individual-level surveys since 2014. The difference between women and men is within the margins of error (7.6%), as 2021 data are preliminary and subject to revisions. While the differences between women and men are not statistically significant, the trend is consistent over time with more food insecurity among women.

Summary of impacts

IDPs and refugees



- About **90 percent** of the 3.7 million people fleeing are women and children.
- There were almost **1.5 million people** internally displaced from the previous conflict, out of which 60 percent were women and girls.
- The current war has caused **6.5 million** more people to be internally displaced.
- More than **20 percent** of displaced households include at least one person living with disability.
- Children and persons with disabilities face increasing challenges to access shelter and are at high risk of abandonment and family separation.
- Economic and social impacts in neighbouring countries receiving refugees (**2.3 millions in Poland, 600,000 in Romania and 380,000 in Moldova**).

Gender-related risks



- Martial law forces men aged **18 to 60** to fight for the country, facing risks related to abduction, and conscription.
- Forcibly displaced women and children are exposed to high risks of arbitrary killings, rape and trafficking.
- Increased food and water scarcity place women and girls at higher risk of violence.
- Acute disruptions in health services threaten **80,000 women** who will give birth in the next three months in Ukraine, without access to critical maternal health care.

Situation prior to the current conflict

Context



- Ukraine is ranked **74th** out of 150 countries for the Gender Gap Index.
- Situation exacerbated by 8 years of conflict in eastern Ukraine and COVID-19 pandemic.
- **71 percent** of total households prior to conflict were headed by women.
- **30 percent** of people in need in the conflict-affected areas are elderly and the majority are women.
- Unique demographic profile with **130 ethnic groups** and many minority language groups.
- **54 percent** women and 46 percent men due to youth migration, low fertility rates and gender gap in life expectancy

Gender-based challenges



- Double and triple burden for women: **24.6 hours/week** spent by women in domestic chores, *vs* **14.5 hours** by men.
- **75 percent** of women experienced violence since age 15 and **1 in 3** suffered physical or sexual violence.
- **22 percent** gender pay gap and 32 percent gender pension gap, making women more vulnerable to crisis.
- Women represent **72 percent** of social protection recipients, and war is expected to reduce their access to social assistance, due to mobility restrictions.

What needs to be done

Important actions for all humanitarian actors

- Identify and address the specific needs of affected men and women from different socio-economic, age and ethnic groups.
- Recognize the key roles of women and men as food producers, farm managers, processors, traders, wage workers, innovators and entrepreneurs.
- Consider the skills of women and youth as agents of change, reconstruction and resilience builders and integrate them in all decision-making and planning processes.
- Establish inclusive and active consultations with affected people and their organizations and informal networks.
- Set-up mechanisms to monitor positive and negative gender-related impacts of the war and the humanitarian response.

What needs to be done

Possible interventions by FAO

- **Collect and analyse sex, age and disability disaggregated data to produce evidence base for gender- and age-responsive planning and mitigation measures, and to monitor gender-related impacts of policies and investments.**
- **Undertake gender-responsive protection risk analysis, adopt special protection measures and establish complaint and feedback mechanisms.**
- **Scale-up gender and shock-responsive social protection measures, including in-kind assistance, food packages, cash, small grants or agricultural inputs, and expand coverage of existing programmes.**
- **Set up advisory and financial services targeting the economic activities of women and youth, supporting creation of women self-help and youth groups and providing relief funds.**

What needs to be done

Possible interventions by FAO

- **Support the productive capacity of men and women farmers during and after the conflict, by equipping them with the knowledge and resources required to produce and consume nutritious foods.**
- **Establish inclusive and active consultations with affected men, women, youth and local actors in the programmatic response, data gathering, from needs assessment and targeting, to monitoring and evaluation.**
- **Coordinate with international and national organizations, humanitarian actors, inter-agency clusters, local women's organizations and committees working with minority groups, setting up Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) mechanisms that include GBV cases management and reporting channels and grievance mechanisms that are locally accepted and trusted.**
- **Engage women and girls in the peacebuilding and peace managing processes, as per the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.**