



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

Establishing Women's Committees in IDP Camps

Rationale and problem identification:

Camp Managers should have as their overall objective the enhanced involvement of IDP women and girls at all levels of camp management and camp activities. Increased participation at the local level has the potential of affecting and effecting macro-level spaces for women's engagement, as well as providing targeted solutions to the immediate problems of displaced women and girls.

The establishment of Women's Committees in the camps are essential as they can serve not only a discussion forum for IDP women and girls to present needs, perceptions and concerns, but also act as a channel through which they can influence the overall decision making processes in the camps.

Overall Objective:

Enhance the involvement of IDP women and girls at all levels of camp management and camp activities.

Specific Objectives:

1. Establish **Women's Committees** in IDP camps.
2. Create a place for open discussion and awareness-raising, and service provision with and for women and girls.
3. Enhance the participation of women in the daily decision making and camp management.

Responsibility of Camp Managers

As such, Camp Management staff responsible for establishing Women's Committees in the camps will:

- Inform, organise and facilitate the elections to create a representative Women's Committee in each IDP camp;

- Analyse, with women and girls in the camps and the elected Committee members, the protection risks that they in particular face;
- Ensure Women's Committees represent women's concerns in all decision making structures in the camps (shelter, NFIs, food and security, reproductive health);
- Ensure that the operational design of the camps considers risks particular to women and girls and advocate with the Committee and on its behalf, for changes in camp layout to mitigate against those risks;
- Provide conditions/space and time for Committees to meet, discuss common problems and advise collective strategies and share their experiences and ideas;
- Provide information and training to Committee members on the identification, referral and legal process involved in the reporting and prosecution of cases of gender-based violence (GBV);
- Implement and facilitate trainings and workshops for women in camp, through and with the assistance of the Women's Committees, and through coordination with other agencies/NGOs;
- Raise awareness and promote women's participation in peace negotiations and political and local governance;
- Promote men's participation in activities that reinforce women's empowerment;

Women's Committee: Role-Specific TORs

a) General Coordinator

Is the overall Committee leader. The GC is elected by women in the camp. The GC must:

- Be in charge, with Camp Manager's assistance, of developing a workplan for the Committee;
- Supervise Committee members;
- Facilitate discussions and dialogues with the Committee members and IDP population in the camp;
- Conduct and moderate regular meetings with the Committee Members;
- Be able to establish a collaborative relationship with the IDP population in the camp;
- Be able to take decisions and resolve issues and disputes amongst the Committee; and
- Supervise any activities, trainings and workshops undertaken by women and facilitated by the Committee.

Deputy Coordinator

Is the main assistant to the Committee Leader. The DC is elected by women in the camp and must assist the GC in all the above activities, as well as:

- Organise and ensure the participation of all members and other relevant stakeholders at Committee meetings;

- Disseminate information about Committee activities, meetings and training to women in camps and IDPs in general; and
- Collect information of relevance to the Committee from various service providers and agencies;

GBV Focal Points

Besides the roles of Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator, one member will also become the GBV camp focal point. This role may be given to either Coordinator, or other Committee member. The position may be directly appointed by Camp Managers after ascertaining level of interest and commitment to the issue.

The GBV focal point will receive specialized training on the identification, referral and legal process involved in the reporting and prosecution of cases of gender-based violence (GBV). GBV focal points will be also be given guidance and training in basic ‘case management’ for when cases of GBV are reported to them. Case Management will includes: Referral (to the relevant/applicable body: Medical assistance, Police, Counseling services, Local NGOs) Supportive Reporting and Follow-Up/Monitoring of victims. Throughout this process, the GBV focal point may be initially accompanied and monitored by Camp Managers (Protection focal Point if applicable.) Finally, all committee members will be provided with information on GBV prevention and recovery, for both their own consultation and distribution.

Other Focal Points

Committee members, depending on their availability, camp needs, and gaps in protection, may choose to serve as child or health focal points. Camp Managers should assist, where possible, the development of these roles.

Method of Elections of Women’s Committees in Camps.

Steps for Camp Management Staff	Smaller Camps	Larger Camps (camps divided into large blocs or sectors)
STEP 1	MEETING Camp Managers will organize, with the assistance of the committee, a camp-wide women’s meeting. At this meeting, the role and purpose of the Women’s Committees is explained to the women, and an opportunity to answer questions about its usefulness and feasibility will normally develop.	BLOC MEETING CAMP MANAGERS staff will organize, with the assistance of the camp manager and bloc chiefs (where applicable) a bloc-wide women’s meeting. At this meeting, the role and purpose of the Women’s Committees is explained to the women, and an opportunity to answer questions about its usefulness and feasibility will normally develop.
STEP 2	NOMINATION Women are invited to submit their names for election to the committee.	BLOC NOMINATION Women are invited to submit their names for election as bloc representatives in the committee.
STEP 3	ELECTION	BLOC ELECTION

	<p>Once names are submitted, camp managers will facilitate elections. Again women from the camp will meet and vote for their preferred candidate. Whoever receives the most votes is elected Women's Committee Coordinator, the recipient of the second highest number of votes will become the Deputy Coordinator, and the next 4 or 6 most popular (depending on camp size/structure) become the Committee's members.</p>	<p>Once names are submitted, camp managers and the camp manager/bloc chief will facilitate elections. Again women from the bloc will meet and vote for their preferred candidate.</p>
STEP 4		<p>ELECTION Once Bloc representatives have been elected, CAMP MANAGERS staff and the camp manager will facilitate camp-wide elections. Again women from the camp will meet and vote for their preferred candidate, form the list of bloc representatives elected. Whoever receives the most votes is elected Women's Committee Coordinator, the recipient of the second highest number of votes will become the Deputy Coordinator, and the remaining representatives become the Committee's members, ensuring that each bloc is represented.</p>