



# **“Humanitarian architecture: responding to the needs of older men and women in emergencies “**

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April Pham, Senior Gender Advisor, UN OCHA,

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**UNDESA**  
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Crises”**

# The situation

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- A growing aging population.
- 131.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.
- Exacerbated by disabilities, gender, other factors.
- 56% deaths were aged 65+ in earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011
- 38% of the fatalities in Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines in 2013 were aged 60+
- 29% of deaths in the earthquake in Nepal 2015 were 60+

# The situation: some key issues

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- MHPSS (burial/cremations, Sri Lanka)
- Mobility (or lack thereof, impacts on access to services, Ukraine)
- Family and care responsibilities (also a form of protection)
- Malnourishment due to lack of dental care
- Disabilities
- Health
- Shelter
- Exploitation and other protection risks, including GBV
- Isolation

## The response

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Agenda for Humanity

IASC Protection Policy

IASC Gender Policy

Accountability to Affected Populations

IASC Gender with Age Marker

# The response: humanitarian program cycle

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Humanitarian Needs Overview

Humanitarian Response Plans

## The gaps

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The need for inclusion.

Not the part and parcel of everyday humanitarian business.

The need for sex and age disaggregation

The need to consider leadership, wisdom and knowledge of older persons.

## Need more of....

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The use of the Gender with Age Marker (GAM) and other tools that disaggregate and analyse sex and age.

Gender and age analysis in humanitarian needs and plans, and the prioritization of such needs.

Recognition of capacities and not just vulnerabilities.

Engagement of older persons, in particular women.

Fostering leadership and stronger accountability to all people affected by crisis, across the whole humanitarian system.