

HO 1.2: Sex- and Age-Disaggregated Data (SADD)

Adapted from: Caritas Australia, CRS, Trócaire, CAFOD. *Protection Mainstreaming Training*. 2018.

What is sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD)?

- SADD is data that is broken down according to a person's sex and age group.
- Once sex and age-disaggregated data are collected, an age and gender analysis should be done. This can help reveal who is affected, why and how. It can also reveal power dynamics, how people share roles/responsibilities and who controls access to resources.

Why is SADD important?

- Natural disasters and conflict do not affect everyone in the same way. They have very different effects on men, boys, women, girls, older people and people with disabilities. Social structures and conditions influence how disasters affect different groups of people.
- We need detailed information to tell us how these things affect different groups and how they are able to cope. This can help us make better decisions about who to help and how to help.

Case study

After the tsunami on Sunday, December 26, 2004, there was a survey of households in Aceh province, Indonesia. The survey found that two-thirds of those who died were female. A higher proportion of children 9 years of age and younger and people over 60 years of age, were also killed. Analysis of displaced families found that a much higher proportion of female-headed households decided not to go into camps. This was because many were widowed and were fearful they would not be safe in the camps. The SADD highlighted that:

- Many children were left without their mothers or older caregivers to look after them (grandparents often helped care for grandchildren).
- Many widowers were not able to take care of themselves and their children.
- People outside the displacement camps also needed services.
- Outreach was needed to identify displaced families.

Challenges¹

Collecting SADD does not automatically lead to better programming for older people or women. Additionally, it can be difficult to collect SADD because:

- It can be hard to collect any data, let alone disaggregated data, at the start of an emergency and in insecure environments.
- In many contexts, there is little data available on older people.
- There is little understanding among disaster risk reduction (DRR) and humanitarian actors on what data can be collected at different stages of an emergency.

¹ This case study is taken from: Mazurana D, Benelli P, Gupta H, Walker P. Sex and Age Matter. UNOCHA, Feinstein International Centre, Tufts University and Care International; 2011.

Troubleshooting

- It is possible to use national census data to estimate the proportions of men, women, girls and boys.
- Census data can be used to help design programs at the very start of a response before primary data is collected.
- Census data can be compared to primary data as it is collected. For example, if national census data shows that 15 percent of the population is over 60 years of age, but only 5 percent of program participants are over 60 years of age, that could mean that assistance is not reaching older people. The program would need to understand what barriers older people face and deal with them.

Further guidance/information

- The Age and Disability Capacity Programme (ADCAP) project developed guidelines to ensure the inclusion of older people and people with disabilities: <https://www.helpage.org/newsroom/latest-news/new-humanitarian-guidelines-launched-for-ageing-and-disability-inclusion/>.
- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides updated information on population estimations: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/>.
- Sphere recommends disaggregating data at the earliest possible stage and has further resources at: <https://spherestandards.org/humanitarian-standards/>.