

"...at UN Women we are delighted that this year's Humanitarian Response Index is shedding light on these essential issues, and calling on humanitarian actors and donor governments to live up to their commitments to ensure humanitarian actions are adapted to address the specific and different needs of women, girls, men and boys."

-Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women

"I want to encourage donors to take a more active stance, placing gender concerns at the heart of humanitarian action. Donors can play a crucial role by demanding that aid agencies use a comprehensive gender analysis to inform programming. The findings and recommendations from the Humanitarian Response Index report deserve thoughtful consideration."

-Valerie Amos, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator

Donor governments mobilised more than US\$16 billion to respond to humanitarian crises in 2010, including "mega-responses" in Pakistan and Haiti. Challenges to effective humanitarian response continue to grow. Yet far too often, the pressure to respond to vast emergency needs overshadows the different repercussions of natural disasters and conflict on women, men, boys and girls. The Humanitarian Response Index 2011 focuses on the crucial role donor governments have in ensuring that gender receives the attention it deserves in emergency response.

Now in its fifth year, the Humanitarian Response Index is the world's foremost independent instrument for measuring individual performance of donor governments against Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles. The Humanitarian Response Index provides in-depth assessments of the 23 most important donor governments to help ensure their humanitarian funding has the greatest possible impact for people in critical need of aid.