



# CARE Women and Girls Rapid Analysis



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Cover page photo: CARE Cambodia Officer in brown shirt, engaging with a group of people staying in the camp as the process of focus group discussion (FGD) for Women and Girls Rapid Assessment test was taken place.

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# Executive Summary

The Women and Girls Rapid Analysis (WGRA), conducted by CARE Cambodia in August 2025, provides a gender-focused assessment of the humanitarian impacts of the Cambodia–Thailand border clashes. The conflict, which began on 24 July 2025, displaced over 172,000 people and triggered the return of more than 870,000 economic migrants. This crisis has disproportionately affected women, girls, and other vulnerable groups, exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities and exposed critical gaps in protection, access to services, and livelihoods.

## Key Findings

### Protection and Safety

- 66% of individuals experienced **strong emotional shock** from evacuation and violence.
- 6.5% of women reported harassment; GBV risks are heightened due to overcrowded shelters and lack of gender-segregated facilities.
- 45% of respondents felt unsafe in shelters; 91.6% requested cash assistance; 83% needed mosquito nets.

### Health and Nutritions

- 72.7% of households limited food portions; 66.9% of adults restricted intake for children.
- 12% of respondents were pregnant or lactating; 12% lived with a disability.
- Mental health needs are urgent: 30 out of 33 key informants raised psychological distress as a major concern.

### WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)

- Women and girls reported inadequate access to menstrual hygiene materials and safe sanitation.
- Long queues and lack of privacy in bathing areas were common, especially for girls and people with disabilities.

### Education

- 25,288 students (including 12,391 girls) were affected by school closures.
- Only 18.4% of women over 25 had ever attended school.
- Adolescent girls are at increased risk of early marriage due to school dropout and economic pressures.

### Livelihoods

- Farming as a primary livelihood dropped from 37.8% to 15.4%.
- Unpaid activities rose to 33.1%, disproportionately affecting women.
- Women earned less than men across most livelihood sectors, with the largest gender income gap in farming (USD 75). The most concerns raised among women and men are debts (formal and formal loans) due to the economic activities' loss during the crisis.

## Participation and Decision-Making

- Only 43.1% of respondents were involved in decision-making processes.
- Just 31.2% were consulted by aid organizations; women and marginalized groups were underrepresented.

## Recommendations



### Overarching recommendations

- Continuously update gender analysis to reflect evolving needs.
- Integrate gender-responsive approaches across all humanitarian sectors.

### Targeted Recommendations

#### Protection and GBV

- Establish safe spaces, gender-segregated sanitation, and confidential reporting mechanisms.
- Train staff on GBV prevention and response.
- Address child marriage risks through education and livelihood support for families.

#### Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

- Scale up culturally appropriate, trauma-informed MHPSS services.
- Prioritize outreach to women, children, and persons with disabilities.

#### WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)

- Improve sanitation safety with locks, lighting, and sex-segregated facilities and accessibility for children and people with disabilities.
- Integrate Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) into WASH programming.

#### Education

- Reopen schools and establish temporary learning centers near camps.
- Provide safe transportation and financial support to reduce dropout rates.

#### Shelter, Food, and NFIs

- Expand shelter capacity and improve safety features.
- Prioritize distribution of mosquito nets, tarpaulins, bedding, and MHM supplies.
- Address nutritional needs of pregnant/lactating women and children.

### **Livelihood Recovery**

- Implement cash-for-work programs and vocational training for women.
- Support financial inclusion and access to interest-free loans.

### **Inclusive Participation**

- Strengthen mechanisms for community engagement, especially for women and marginalized groups.
- Support women's organizations to lead protection and recovery initiatives.

## **Conclusion**

*The Cambodia–Thailand border crisis has laid bare the deep-rooted gender inequalities that intensify during emergencies. Women and girls, already marginalized in many aspects of life, now face heightened risks to their safety, health, and livelihoods. This WGRA reveals that while humanitarian efforts are underway, they must be more **inclusive, equitable, and gender-responsive to be truly effective.***

### **Call for Action**

**CARE Cambodia urges** all humanitarian actors, government agencies, and donors to place women and girls at the center of response and recovery strategies. This includes not only addressing immediate needs but also investing in early recovery and long-term resilience through **education, economic empowerment, and protection systems**. By doing so, we can ensure that **recovery is not only possible but a transformative** building for a more just and equitable future for all.



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Our emergency responses focus on the needs of the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. In 2024, CARE worked in 121 countries, reaching 53 million people through 1,450 projects.

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