When disaster strikes: Why women and girls are most affected

60% of preventable maternal deaths happen during conflicts and natural disasters.

1 in 5 refugees or displaced women is estimated to have experienced sexual violence.

Women and girls are more likely to die in a natural disaster than men and at a younger age than men.

Only 9% of landholders in conflict and post-conflict countries are women, compared with 19% globally.

Girls are more likely to be pulled out of school in crises and less likely to return, than boys.

In times of crisis women are often the last to eat, which makes them more vulnerable in times of drought when meals are reduced.

Teen pregnancy is particularly high in disaster affected areas.

In Afghanistan and in Yemen, 1 in 4 women aged 20 to 24 have had their first child before the age of 18.

Spikes in child marriage rates during times of conflict and disaster have been documented across multiple countries cross the globe, including Haiti, Pakistan, Syria, Niger and Guinea.

In many countries, women do not possess national identity cards as they have not been permitted to register, leaving them without proof of identity to receive emergency aid.

In the majority of countries, women’s wages represent between 70 and 90% of men’s, with even lower ratios in some Asian and Latin American countries.

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Ummee Salma, 16, in a camp of more than 900,000 people near the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar. CARE/Josh Estey