

# 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.



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



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



**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.



**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**.



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



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

**Sources:** [www.genderinpractice.care.org](http://www.genderinpractice.care.org); [www.interactive.unwomen.org](http://www.interactive.unwomen.org); World Health Organization (2011) "Gender, Climate Change, and Health" (Geneva, 2011); Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2014/13), p.3. Vu, A., Adam, A., Wirtz, A., Pham, K., Rubenstein, L., Glass, N., Beyrer, C., and Singh, S. (2014) "The Prevalence of Sexual Violence among Female Refugees in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis" PLoS Currents. Public Library of Science, UN Security Council (2015). Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security; and UN Security Council (2014). Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security. CARE International. "Empowering women and girls affected by crisis: CARE progress towards achieving gender equality in humanitarian programming". Inter-agency working group on reproductive health in crisis (Retrieved March 20, 2017), Adolescent sexual and reproductive health facts and stats. UN Women, In Brief: Economic Empowerment of Women. CARE International. "Empowering women and girls affected by crisis: CARE progress towards achieving gender equality in humanitarian programming". UN Security Council (2015). Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security; and UN Security Council (2014). Report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, p. 22.