

1.3.2 (3.2)	Conflict and Gender Sensitivity. How you will be sensitive to the Gender dimensions of the project’s objectives and design the project accordingly?	Pages: 1	Points: 75
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Gender-Sensitive Programming. Torchlight’s project has been designed by women team members who are HMG Gender and Conflict advisers, ensuring our approach is benchmarked and validated against equivalent previous projects. *We have grounded our activities in contextually-relevant research* which shows that gender sensitive programmes deliver better results regarding stability and security:

- ▶ Communities with more empowered women enjoyed more rapid recovery and poverty reduction in the wake of conflict (Petesch, 2011);
- ▶ The severity of violence used in a crisis decreases as national gender equality increases (Caprioli and Boyer, 2001);
- ▶ When women’s groups are able to exercise strong influence, then chances of peace agreements being implemented are much higher (Paffenholz, 2015);
- ▶ Gender equality has been linked to improved economic and development outcomes (World Bank, 2012).

Experience also shows that security and justice programmes can deliver positive outcomes in relation to gender, even when this is not the primary purpose, as successfully evidenced in our programmes in Afghanistan. Ensuring gender sensitivity and equality will be at the core of what we do in this project. This will be ensured by our M&E lead, **Rebecca Emmerson Keeler**, *who has led reviews on the sensitivity of programmes to gender and conflict, and is a Gender and Conflict Advisor for the Stabilisation Unit*; this is more than simply good practice, it is a legal obligation under The Development (Gender Equality) Act (2014), which ratifies UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and fits within the UK’s National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security.

A solution designed by women and led by women. Torchlight has a proven record of operating in fragile and conflict-affected states engaging the full resources of local communities, including youth and women whose leadership, engagement and full participation we believe is critical for any meaningful and sustainable peacebuilding, dialogue and counter-extremist narrative. Female senior leadership in Torchlight (at Executive and Board level) actively engage with international and local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that specifically seek to empower women. *Our solution has been designed by women and its implementation will be led by women, with the key roles of Programme Manager, In-country Project Lead, and M&E Expert held by women with strong, recent and relevant experience of running counter-Daesh campaigns across the region.* We are partnering with the *Lebanese Development Network* and *Palestinian Human Rights Organisation*, both of whom are leading Lebanese NGOs working with Palestinian communities to promote women’s equal participation in decision-making processes and prevent social exclusion by promoting the integration of women into public life.

A solution informed by a deep understanding of the role of women in radicalisation and recruitment to violent extremism. Our women-led team have conducted extensive research into the role of women in the lives of youth in vulnerable areas across Lebanon and identified that women are often catalysts either for destructive behaviour in young men, or adversely, constructive attitudes that highlight the consequences one’s actions have on peers, families, and communities.

Women’s critical role within families and communities render them a unique vantage point from which to recognise unusual patterns of behaviour and signs of impending conflict. Traditionally underappreciated, women are crucial allies in efforts to counter violent extremism and the impact of disengaging them from violent extremist pathways, undermining Daesh by demonstrating how its values are inherently misaligned with their own and giving them the tools to critically assess information and enable their families, communities and networks to do so, is crucial.

As such, through our community engagement work, we will identify how to support positive change in female and male perceptions not only as mothers, sisters or daughters of, but also of women’s roles. Gendered roles – such as the desire or need to demonstrate masculinity – also play an important part in encouraging young men into VE; we will therefore pay careful attention to social expectations of young men and identifying socially acceptable ways for men to resist recruitment into VE. We have also incorporated within the project a spotlight on gender-based and domestic violence as well as women’s empowerment and women’s roles within the community to help improve the security and safety of all Lebanese Palestinians. We also propose that in each component of the programme, a small number of young women of the same age as the target audience are allowed to participate. We aim to empower women, not treat them as victims of terrorism.

Values. We will institute specific measures to enhance counterpart human rights compliance, promote gender inclusion and ensure conflict sensitivity across the programme – all of which will enable rather than hinder delivery. This will include all members of our programme team signing a commitment to respect and uphold these values. Our technical advisers and programme management staff have extensive and specific experience in these areas across a range of other sensitive HMG-funded security sector reform programmes.

Monitoring and Evaluation. M&E is integral to achieving gender mainstreaming. This is primarily achieved by incorporating specific gender equality and gender-sensitive indicators into the data collection plan. We plan to conduct a **gender review** during the project, quantitatively, our results will be **gender- and age-disaggregated** where data we collect can be distinguished in this way, for example on engagements with our social media platforms, and with our educational programme. This will also help us provide evidence that the audience engaging with the programme is the specific audience we are targeting. The evidence will help us adapt and amend our approach to maximise its positive effect on gender inclusion and equality. We will report against the agreed indicators on a quarterly basis and will provide a comprehensive M&E report as part of the project completion process.