

Feminist MEAL in Humanitarian projects in CARE

Women Lead in Emergencies Approach

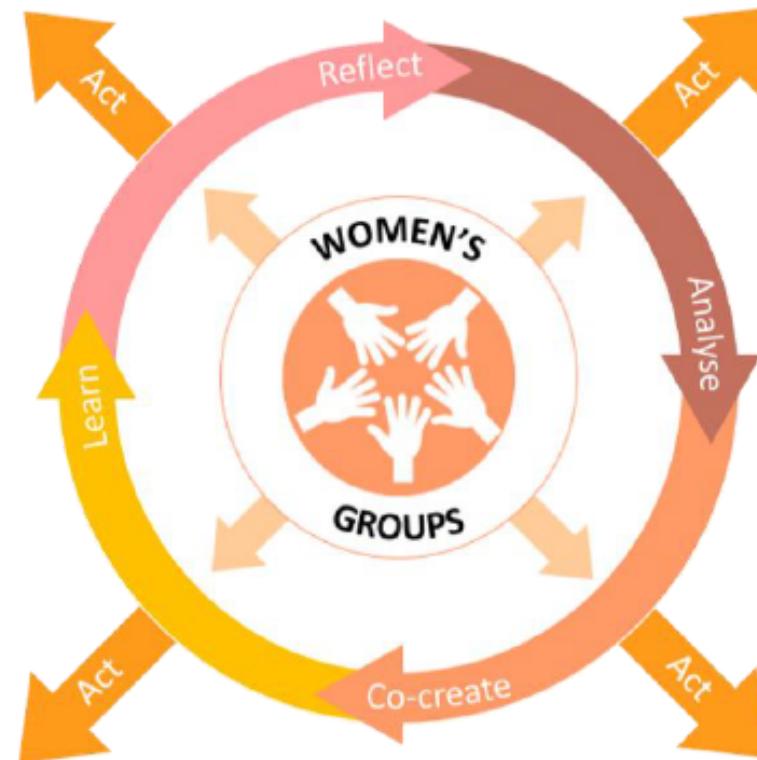
Women Lead in Emergencies supports local women's groups to take a lead in responding to the crises that affect them and their communities. It is the first practical toolkit for frontline CARE staff and partners with guidance on how to promote women's participation and leadership in humanitarian settings.

- CARE's Women Lead in Emergencies Model has been developed to operationalise CARE's commitment to women's leadership
- Through this initiative we seek to develop tools and approaches which can be used to improve the accountability, inclusivity, and ultimately the effectiveness of humanitarian response.

Women Lead in Emergencies

Women Lead in Emergencies works with women's groups using an approach with five distinct but iterative components designed to support women to collectively take action on the issues that affect their lives.

1. **Analyse:** CARE, with the groups, conducts a [Rapid Gender Analysis](#) on local power and decision making (RGA-Power) which is then used as a basis for further discussion and planning as well as in order to have discussions with other stakeholders in the humanitarian response.
2. **Reflect:** CARE staff, partners and women's group explore social norms and individual beliefs about gender, participation and leadership, as well as what community and organisational changes would be required in order to enable women's participation and leadership in their context.
3. **Co-Create:** The women's group work together to identify their goals for participation and leadership. They then isolate actions to address barriers and to build on opportunities for women to influence the humanitarian response.
4. **Act:** The group takes action on the issues which affect them and their communities: speaking up in decision making forums; seeking out opportunities to influence power holders and the issues they have identified. This can include building blocks for women's collective power, such as critical consciousness, solidarity, peer learning, literacy, safety, healing and the support of their families.
5. **Learn:** The group takes opportunities to consider what has and has not been working and considers what adaptations may be needed.

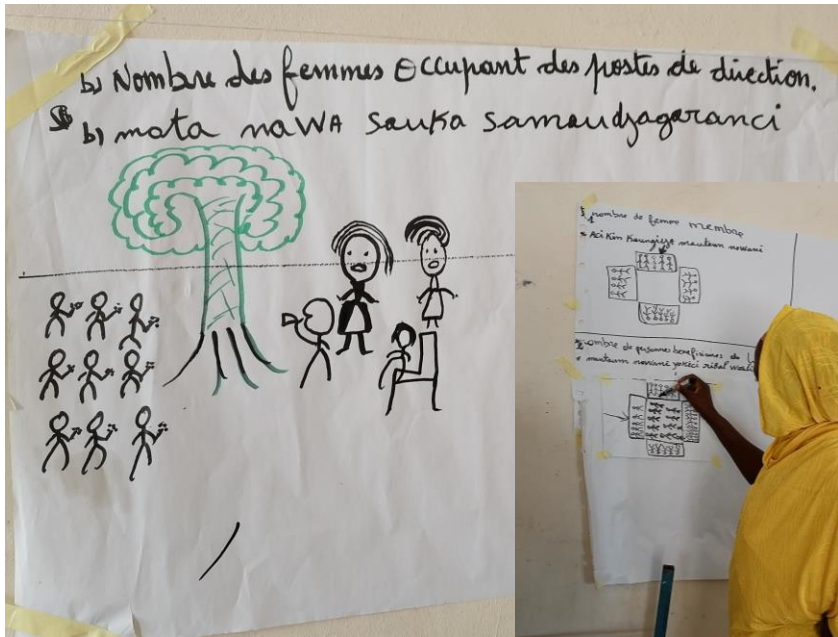


Comparison: multi-sector RGA and RGA on Power and Participation

A Rapid Gender Analysis on Power and Participation (RGA-P) (which is used in WLiE projects) provides information about the different aspirations, concerns, needs and capacities of women and adolescent girls in a crisis. It is based on CARE’s multi-sectoral Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) but **focuses specifically on the barriers to and opportunities for women’s participation and leadership in public decision-making and humanitarian action** before, during and after conflict and emergencies.

The RGA-P provides **practical entry points for supporting women directly affected by crisis to participate more and in more meaningful ways in humanitarian and community decision-making processes**, and to attend to protection risks during these activities.

Rapid Gender Analysis	Rapid Gender Analysis on Power and Participation
Analyses different needs, capacity and power of women and girls, and men and boys – before, during and after crisis	
Uses secondary and primary data	
Includes demographic data on crisis-affected population	
Applies RGA principles: speed, imperfection, practicality	
Broad focus: Analysis of gender across sectors – Shelter, WASH, Food, Health, GBV, Participation, etc.	Specific focus: analysis of women’s participation and leadership
Uses gender frameworks/tools	Uses both gender and governance framework/tools
Primary audience is humanitarian actors in a rapid onset crisis	Primary audience is WLiE project teams and women’s groups. Secondary audience is humanitarian actors
Provides concrete and practical recommendations on gender specific and mainstreamed interventions	Provides practical suggestions for promising entry points for WLiE project activities and women’s action plans



WLiE Indicator Development, Niger

CARE Global Impact Indicators for Women Lead

- # and % of women who have meaningfully participated in formal and informal decision-making spaces (#19)
- % of women reporting that they can work collectively with other women in the community to achieve a common goal
- % of women reporting high self-efficacy, e.g. to achieve goals in personal life, to access certain services, to leave house or community without permission

WLiE MEL framework

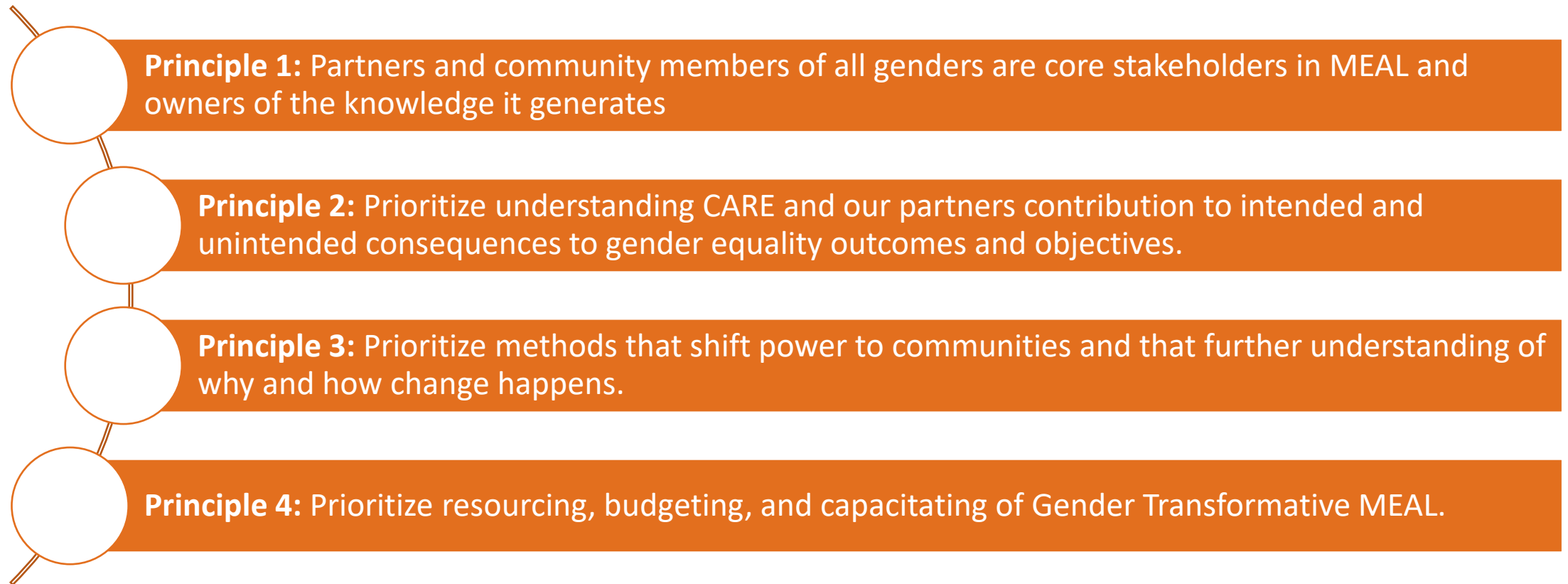
- Core WLiE indicators

Plus

- Additional indicators **identified by women's groups** based on their own goals, definitions of success and the methods for monitoring progress relevant to each group and their action plans

Gender Transformative MEAL

Approaches which **shift power to communities** by **prioritizing the voices and choices** of participants and community members in identifying what change means to them and **involving them in each step of the project cycle**.



For more information : [Overview of CARE Gender Transformative MEAL](#)

HOW is Gender Transformative MEAL different?

Standard MEAL

- ⇒ Collects data through surveys **designed and used by CARE** staff, partners, and donors only.
- ⇒ **Driven by donors** and does not usually consider and reflect different stakeholders' interests.
- ⇒ Measures performance and success against **pre-determined** goals.
- ⇒ Analysis of data by an 'expert' independent from stakeholders.

Gender Transformative MEAL

- ⇒ **Creates space** for consciousness-raising, reflection, and capacity building.
- ⇒ Focuses on gender **power relations**.
- ⇒ Encourages evaluation processes that are **participatory** and empowering.
- ⇒ Promotes **innovative methodologies** which challenge reductive understandings of knowledge, and the methods by which it is obtained.
- ⇒ **Shifts the role** of the evaluator.
- ⇒ Contributes to **ownership** for stakeholders.

Gender Transformative MEAL throughout the Project Lifecycle

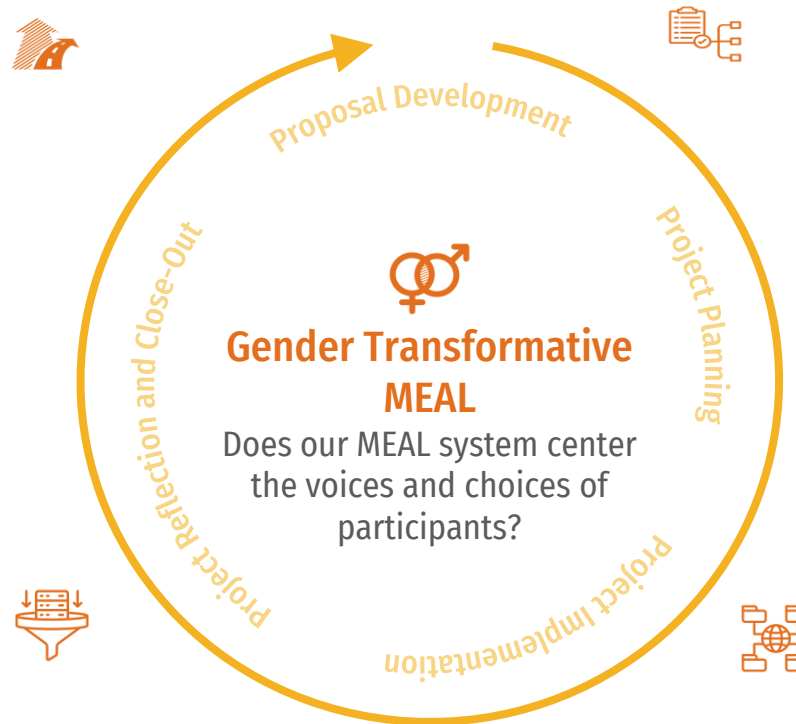
Sharing Findings + Learning

Are we sharing findings with decision-makers?
Are we using findings to make better decisions?



Analyzing + Sensemaking Data

Are we partnering with participants and partner to analyze and make sense of our data?
Do our analyses help us answer the questions participants, communities and partners want answered?



Designing & Planning

Has a gender analysis been conducted to inform our MEAL design and approach?
Have we partnered with communities and participants on our theory of change?
Have we included Gender Indicators and approaches in the MEAL plan?
Have we partnered with participants, communities and partners to identify evaluation questions and goals?
Have we budgeted for GT MEAL Approaches for evaluation and monitoring?

Implementation

Are our MEAL activities using gender transformative methods and approaches?
Are we partnering with participants, communities and partners to collect data?
Is our data safe and available to participants, communities and partners as appropriate?

Links

[WLiE Guidance Note](#)

[5 Min Inspiration: How women lead in emergencies](#)

[Women Lead in Emergencies Global Learning Evaluation Report, 2022](#)

- [CARE Gender transformative MEAL \(overview and methods\)](#)
- [CARE Gender transformative MEAL in Action: HER VOICE: Listening to women in action](#)
- [Overcoming Hardships: From Community Leaders to Champions of Change during Humanitarian Crisis](#)
- [Strengthening Women-Led Organizations' Meaningful Engagement in Humanitarian Settings: Year 1 Learnings](#)
- [CARE Study: Gender transformative Partnerships in emergencies](#)
- [Rapid Gender Analysis \(RGA\)](#)

More Learning and Evaluation Reports and Gender Analyses from CARE are publicly available on <https://careevaluations.org/>