



Overview

Recognising the unique challenges faced by diverse actors, this practice paper provides a rapid analysis of emerging evidence to identify promising practices for operational actors and policymakers in applying intersectional approaches in Myanmar. It also provides key opportunities for humanitarian stakeholders to integrate intersectional approaches into programming. Whilst focusing on practice and learning from Myanmar, this paper provides insights that can be applied in other contexts as humanitarian actors look to scale intersectional approaches in crises across the globe.

Methods



What we found

- 1. There are emerging examples of promising intersectional approaches in small scale initiatives as well as longer-term programs.** Approaches identified include working closely with communities to identify intersecting factors that influence access, tailoring needs assessments and processes, incorporating cultural and religious dynamics into program design, the inclusion of diverse vulnerability factors in programming, and consultation with and integration of the perspectives of communities and organisations that represent marginalised groups.
- 2. Local organisations have specific knowledge and expertise in effectively using intersectional approaches at the community level but are under-resourced.** The research highlighted strong examples of local organisations using their specific community knowledge, expertise and networks to develop and implement intersectional approaches and meet specific needs at the community level. However, there is a need for greater investment in capacity strengthening and institutional support to enhance their ability to respond to rapidly growing humanitarian needs.
- 3. Specialist organisations that focus on specific groups or issues provided more examples of intersectional thinking and approaches in practice.** Most examples of intersectional thinking and approaches emerged from specialist organisations, in particular local organisations, that focus on issues such as gender equality, or specific groups such as local OPDs, organisations focused on older people, or LGBTQI+ groups.
- 4. Needs analyses and identification more broadly continues to focus largely on age and gender, without considering their intersection with other identity factors.** The research found few examples of factors such as ability, ethnicity and sexual orientation, and how they intersect with age or gender, being considered in needs analyses.
- 5. Partnerships and collaborative efforts are vital for advancing intersectional approaches.** Larger humanitarian actors that focus on wider humanitarian response issues can engage in longer-term and more equitable partnerships with specialist organisations that already take intersectional approaches.

Opportunities to strengthen intersectional approaches in humanitarian programming in Myanmar



Understanding and awareness:

Invest in enhancing understanding of intersectional approaches and practices that track the impact on inclusion and effectiveness.



Working with local actors:

Value and resource local expertise to better understand how different identity and vulnerability factors intersect in different communities.



Leveraging the expertise of specialist organisations:

Engage and fund specialist organisations; learn from, and integrate their insights on intersectional approaches for addressing needs into broader humanitarian efforts.



Incorporating intersectionality in needs analysis:

Adapt needs analysis processes to reflect specific community contexts and include strong qualitative assessments.



Strengthening collaborative approaches:

Promote collaborative efforts to integrate intersectionality thinking across partnerships, networks and programming areas, including in donor strategies.

Read the full paper [here](#). If you'd like to learn more about our work, please contact: info@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org

