



IASC Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action

IASC GENDER RG-MONTHLY MEETING, 2 April 2014

Meeting Chair

Siobhán Foran, IFRC

Participants

Elizabeth Cafferty, WRC

Frank Elbers, HREA

Nora Malikin, InterAction

Sara Gottfredsen, UNHCR

Kristi Tabaj, Save the Children

Bethany Brown, HelpAge

April Pham, GenCap deployed to UNHCR-led
Global Clusters

Njoki Kinyanjui, OCHA

Natasha Kindergan, WHS Secretariat

Blerita Aliko, UN Women

Qi Song, UN Women

Approval of the minutes of February 26 meeting

The minutes of the February 26 meeting were approved.

Update on progress to date on agreed action points in GRG AWP, including levels of engagement with other subsidiary bodies

Please note that, as agreed during the monthly call, the minutes elaborate the updates on the AWP in more detail than the time limits of the call would allow and also to give members of the GRG more time to consider the activities undertaken, the action points and to invite more feedback again than the one-hour meeting would permit.

I. LEADERSHIP ON GENDER EQUALITY

1. Working Group (WG) & Emergency Directors' Group (EDG)

Action point:

- The IASC GRG co-chairs to request to be added to the distribution list of both the IASC EDG.

2. Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

IFRC (GRG co-chair) reported on behalf of IFRC and UNICEF. IFRC, on behalf of IFRC and UNICEF, has twice met the Coordinator of the AAP/PSEA Task Team. The TT's two-year work-plan contains three work-streams, 15 objectives and 40 activities. In addition, a large number of their 200-strong membership are taking the lead on various activities.

Accordingly, the GRG (policy level) and GenCap (operational level) are discussing with the TT how best to target its support to the TT to integrate gender throughout its work. In addition, IFRC/UNICEF and GenCap may reach out to UN Agencies and organizations who are taking roles in

the implementation of the AAP work-plan and are members of the GRG to see if entry points for engagement on particular entry points open up.

The GenCap Adviser with UNHCR-led Global Clusters (April), in the absence at the GRG meeting of the GenCap Adviser with the UNICEF-led Global Clusters (Delphine) advised that, while not exclusively related to AAP/PSEA, the GenCap Adviser deployed to UNICEF-led Global Clusters has provided support to the TT to ensure that the indicators in the Humanitarian Indicators Registry are gender-sensitive. The indicators look at participation, satisfaction and feedback loops.

As part of the work on the registry, Delphine also conducted an analysis of how well the registry takes people-centered issues and GBV into consideration. The findings and suggested ways forward were presented to the Global clusters in February.

Action Point:

- GenCap UNHCR-led Global Clusters continues working with OCHA and Geneva-based Global Clusters on the Humanitarian Indicators Registry.
- IFRC and UNICEF to follow-up discussions with the AAP/PSEA TT and to reach out to GRG member Agencies and organizations leading activities on the TT's work-plan to determine if it would be possible to open up strategic entry points that way.
- IFRC and UNICEF to advise GRG of proposed focus activities and deliverables and, at that stage, to solicit feedback and guidance on best way forward.

3. Preparedness and resilience

UN Women (GRG co-chair) summarized the three objectives of the Preparedness and Resilience TT:

- Gaps identified and guidance/tools developed and disseminated on IASC preparedness, including through the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), [*links to "Hybrid Group" in process of revising HPC version led by UNICEF*]
- Gaps identified and existing guidance/tools strengthened and disseminated, including through the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), on humanitarian contribution to resilience-building based particularly on country-level practice
- Strategy for engagement and advocacy on both IASC preparedness and the contribution of humanitarian action to resilience

Action point:

- UN Women will share the TORs and work-plan with GRG and will solicit feedback on best strategic entry point and identify activities/ deliverables to be supported by the GRG (Annex 1: TORs, and Annex 2: work-plan).

4. Protection

UNHCR (GRG co-chair) to provide an update in the next meeting

5. Needs assessment

The GenCap Adviser deployed to UNICEF-led Global Clusters was not able to attend the meeting, and inputs were shared in writing beforehand. The key points are: The GenCap Advisers have provided feedback to the various countries on how well their Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) take gender issues into account. Also, the GenCap Adviser based in UNICEF Geneva provided recommendations to CASS in OCHA on how the HNO guidance should be revised to enhance its gender sensitivity.

At the GenCap technical workshop, GenCap Advisers exchanged views on how well the MIRA was taking gender issues into account, both in the tool as such and in the information it provides when being rolled out. The results of the MIRA from the Philippines showed the limitations of the tool as it stands in capturing the distinct assistance and protection needs of the affected female and male community members. These challenges were recognised by gender and GBV advisers and by the Global Clusters and Agencies.

Looking ahead, when the MIRA is revised, Geneva-based GenCap Advisers need to ensure that gender, including GBV is better reflected. The GenCap Adviser based with UNICEF-led Global Clusters suggested that it might also be useful for the GRG champion (ASG Kang) to specifically stress the importance of a more in-depth mainstreaming of gender in the MIRA. The GenCap Adviser based with UNICEF-led Global Clusters will establish if the revision of the MIRA will take place by June, along with other tools accompanying the HPC, and advise the GRG accordingly.

6. Humanitarian financing

There is no update on this item at this point from GenCap who were nominated in the GRG AWP.

7. Protocol on GenCap - Gender RG

The document was finalized at the GenCap Technical Workshop in Jordan.

Action point:

- The GenCap Support Unit to share the protocol document and the meeting minutes that took place in Jordan as soon as they are available.

8. Two-pager on the 2008 IASC Gender Policy to highlight the intersection of gender equality with age and other diversity issues

Action point:

- Sara (UNHCR) will get in touch with the UNHCR GRG co-chair, absent on sick leave, and share the current draft in the next week in order to inform a common positioning and voice within the GRG.
- The GRG will provide comments to the draft two-pager and discuss in the next GRG meeting.

II. Accountability to Gender Equality

1. Baseline of the implementation of the IASC Gender Policy reviewed

UN Women reported that the TORs on the approach are being drafted and will be shared (Annex 4 attached).

Action point:

- UN Women will send out the TORs to the GRG the week of 7-14 April.

2. Revitalization of GRG membership

The group members reported some outreach efforts and progress made, including towards the following organizations: UNFPA, WHO, WFP, FAO, Save the Children UK and Oxfam.

Action points:

- InterAction to follow up on the senior-level letter to encourage GRG membership amongst NGOs

- GRG co-chairs to work out division of labour as who to reach out to whom and timeline

3. Two-pager on the IASC Gender Policy 2008 for advocacy

This is the same document as the above-mentioned “two-pager on the 2008 IASC Gender Policy to highlight the intersection of gender equality with age and other diversity issues”

III. COORDINATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

1. SOPs for crises

UN Women will deliver the first draft the 2nd Quarter of 2014.

2. Gender e-learning

UN Women reported that they have allocated a budget for making copies of the e-learning (CDs and flash drives).

GenCap deployed to UNICEF-led Global Clusters reported in writing that EMOPS in UNICEF and the NGO Solidarites have made the e-learning mandatory, with a completion rate of over 90% at this point in time. The NGO ACTED is now considering making the e-learning mandatory.

UN Women has committed to make the condensed version of the e-learning mandatory for all UN Women staff deployed to and working in emergencies. Other organizations are considering the same. Feedback from members and users of the e-learning is that it is too long and repetitive. It is important, therefore, that as discussed at the face-to-face meeting, modifications be made as soon as possible so that users can take the introductory part and one sector-specific module before getting the certificate.

InterAction reported on the organization’s contact with the sub-contractor on a condensed version of the e-learning. (After the meeting, InterAction re-sent the email with more detailed information including the cost estimates to the co-chairs for consideration.)

It is agreed that a shortened version serves the GRG’s advocacy purpose better, and can reach more people. Therefore the GRG should prioritize the task of shortening the e-learning.

Action points:

- The co-chairs will clarify the cost estimates for the condensed version of the e-learning in English and French, as well as for the production of the Spanish version
- When the cost estimates are finalized, the co-chairs will try to mobilize funding for the productions

At the end of the discussion for this agenda item (update of progress made towards AWP), UN Women suggested for the GRG Secretariat to develop a two-pager quarterly report to highlight progress made to date. This should be a practice for every quarter. The suggestion was approved at the meeting and the deadline for the progress report is for mid-May 2014.

Action point:

- The GRG Secretariat to draft the first quarterly progress report

3. Update on the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the upcoming Security Council (SC) Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SViC)

GRG Co-chair (WRC) briefly updated the Group on CSW 58. The CSW Agreed Conclusions called for gender equality and women’s empowerment to be set as a standalone goal for the post-2015

development agenda. Some Member States have already expressed support in this regard. There was also a very strong resolution adopted on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Natural Disasters, a number of members worked together to help achieve this good outcome.

On April 25th, the Security Council will hold its annual open debate on conflict-related sexual violence. There is no specific theme assigned to this year's debate. The Debate will reflect on the UN Secretary-General's report on this issue. A woman civil society representative will hopefully participate.

4. Update on side event for ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment Side Event

The GRG Secretariat circulated an email regarding this topic to the Group on March 19 and March 25. No concrete feedback had been received. GRG co-chairs therefore decided to apply to organize a side event on the following theme:

A presentation and discussion on how the results from the Gender Reference Group commissioned research study on The Effect of Gender Equality Programming on Humanitarian Outcomes demonstrate the value of the recently adopted CSW Resolution on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Natural Disasters.

The Canadian Mission has shown some informal interest in co-sponsoring this event. UN Women will also approach the First Secretary of Japanese Mission regarding their potential participation, as they were the sponsor of the CSW resolution on Gender equality and Women's Empowerment in Natural Disasters (Annex 5 attached).

5. Update on inclusion of gender equality as a central facet of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) consultations and the role of the GRG

WHS Secretariat attended the meeting to brief the group on developments regarding the WHS. They noted the good meeting held with WRC and UN Women, and updated the Group on this agenda item. The WHS Secretariat consists of 15 staff members, and the majority of the staff are women. Team meetings on different thematic areas will be held in end April. Online consultations will start in May. Currently the WHS Secretariat is gearing up for the following two regional consultations (out of the total 8 consultations):

- The West and Central Africa Regional Consultation in Abidjan, in June
- The North and South-East Asia Regional Consultation in Tokyo, in July

While the consultations aim to solicit feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, they also stress the participation of women, persons with disabilities, and people from different age groups. Women's civil society organizations will participate in both the regional consultations and the online consultation.

OCHA also added that based on follow up discussions with the WHS secretariat; there were suggestions to use the following avenues to address gender in the WHS processes; 1. Review and participate in the development of the 4 thematic concepts and papers- especially identifying the gender related sub-themes. 2. Through the existing gender and protection networks eg the gender reference group, IANWGE, Protection cluster etc., mobilize participation of partners, national government gender machineries, affected populations and gender related forums at the regional level consultations. 3. Support moderation of on-line discussions on gender to feed into the four themes. 4. Encourage various networks and forums to engage in discussions on the WHS themes including at the national level and provide feedback to the WHS secretariat. 5. Reach out to member states to identify gender champions for each regional consultation.

UN Women flagged to the Group that it could contribute by tapping into a strong gender network for GRG advocacy for WHS—IANWGE (the Inter-agency Network of Women and Gender Equality). Regarding mobilizing women CSOs, UN Women also reported that it has a unique relationship with civil society through its boards at the country, regional and global levels, and could reach out to them to ensure women’s CSOs were involved in the WHS and WHS consultations.

Action points:

- GRG should mobilize women’s groups for strong participation in the regional consultations and online consultation; UN Women will liaise internally with the Civil Society Section to tap into the strength of UNW Civil Society Board.

Briefing on GenCap Technical Workshop and Steering Committee meeting

Not being able to attend this meeting, UNICEF sent their input through writing beforehand.

The aim of the workshop was to bring advisers together to learn from each other, build on existing skills and to solidify a common understanding of the GenCap project.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for the GenCap Steering Committee members and field GenCap Advisers to share experiences. GenCap Advisers gained a wider perspective on the role of each Agency member of the Steering Committee.

In light of the recent changes in the wider humanitarian system this year, the specific focus of the workshop was on the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC) and particular attention was given to monitoring.

Highlights of the workshop included:

- The three-year strategy and details on establishing a core team of GenCap Advisers was finalised.
- As part of the humanitarian system, it is felt that more accountability for gender equality programming is needed from all humanitarian actors.
- In order to promote a systems approach to gender mainstreaming, it is felt that the presence of the GenCap Advisers and other forms of support must be strengthened at the humanitarian country team level.
- Gender mainstreaming objectives are currently done per activity, project-less SRPs should be encouraged to establish gender mainstreaming objectives per cluster.
- The lack of SRP support material and templates available in French is problematic for complex emergencies such as the Sahel emergency.
- It was felt that there was a wide gap between the work the GenCap Advisers are doing on the ground and the work being done at policy level with the Steering Committee, especially relating the work on AAP. GenCap Advisers would like to receive updates of the Steering Committee regarding to the changes being brought about by the Transformative Agenda and the reality of this on the ground.
- UNICEF reported that overall, the meeting yielded positive outcomes.

AOB

The Group was advised by IFRC (co-chair) that the Global Cluster Coordinators Group held a retreat in Rome in March. For approximately five years, a GenCap Adviser at Geneva-level has represented gender at this forum, however, in this case, participation was restricted to Global Cluster Coordinators only and, therefore, GenCap was not invited to participate. Further, after a GenCap Adviser asked for confirmation on participation, it was confirmed again that they were not

invited. It is understood from informal reports from the meeting that during a discussion on protection mainstreaming, a number of GCCs raised the issue of cross-cutting issues. This followed a tabling of the OCHA-commissioned strategic review report on the Coordination and Funding of Cross-Cutting Issues (Dec. 2012) at the GCCG's meeting on 12 February.

The GenCap Adviser based with UNICEF-led Clusters sought a meeting with the new Chief of Humanitarian Coordination Support Section (HCSS) to discuss GenCap's continued representation of gender at the GCCG and was accompanied by IFRC in its capacity as GRG co-chair. The issue of the strategic review report was raised and OCHA HCSS advised that the report would be on the agenda for the GCCG's meeting at the end of April. HCSS suggested that a coordinated response by the GRG in concert with all other groups it considers represents cross-cutting issues (so called "people-centred" issues) to reply formally to the report. It is worth noting that neither the GRG nor any other IASC Sub Working Group/now Task Team or other subsidiary body representative had been given the formal opportunity to reply to the report before, despite sharing some of our misgivings, formally and informally.

It was suggested that, given the criticality of this issue, that the GRG may have to dedicate the next meeting to discuss. In the meantime, the GRG continues to look for the best way to represent the opinions of the group on this matter and feed them back in a consolidated form to HCSS.

Action Point

- GRG co-chairs will be in contact with the members of the group as soon as we have more information and an agreed way to move ahead.