



## IASC Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action

### IASC GENDER RG-MONTHLY MEETING, 26 February 2014

#### Meeting Chair

Elizabeth Cafferty, WRC

#### Participants

Luisa Cremonese, UNHCR

Sara Gottfredsen, UNHCR

Kariane Peek Cabrera, UNICEF

Stephen Robinson, GenCap

Emma Maggi, UNDP

Frank Elbers, HREA

Njoki Rahab, OCHA

Birgit Velte, IASC Secretariat

Delphine Brun, GenCap

Zara Rapoport, Plan International

Anne Christensen, IFRC

Mirjam Sorli, GenCap Support Unit

Morgane Caujolle, GenCap Support Unit

David Coffey, UN Women

Qi Song, UN Women

#### Summary of and discussion on the face-to-face meeting including the AWP 2014

The minutes of the face-to-face meeting and the AWP were approved.

#### Action points:

- The co-chairs will work out the delivery timelines of the AWP by contacting the focal points of different tasks.
- The focal points will report back on the AWP at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.

#### Briefing on discussion with IASC on the World Humanitarian Summit

Elizabeth and David debriefed the Group on their discussion with two OCHA colleagues on the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). The Chief of the WHS Secretariat is not in place yet. Eight regional consultations will take place, in order to draw broad feedback from the field and from the governments. The WHS Secretariat is calling for applications to work as part-time (30-40%) thematic team members. While there is no position set aside for a gender specialist, gender specialists are encouraged to apply in each of the thematic areas. The application deadline is March 14. Elizabeth has circulated this information through the GRG group email.

The concept note of the WHS is being fleshed out. Regarding the issue of gender not being included in the concept note, launch event or any materials to date, the GRG met with OCHA staff newly seconded to the WHS Secretariat. The meeting was positive and constructive and Secretariat colleagues noted that while the consultations would be led

from the field, that there would be ongoing opportunities at HQ to engage the GRG particularly in terms of reviewing background papers and preparatory work.

**Action Point:**

- All members encouraged to advocate on an ongoing basis, from their respective locations, for gender to be incorporated into the WHS themes and for women civil society organizations to get closely involved in the regional consultations.

**Update on plans for the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment**

The humanitarian segment of ECOSOC will take place in New York at the end June. Two high-level panels and around 20 side events will be held. Given that the side event organized by the GRG went very well last year, GRG is considering organizing another side event this year, as this is a good way to maintain the Group's profile. Luisa alerted the Group that organizing such a side event is very time-consuming, and this factor should be fully considered by potential lead agencies.

A couple of suggestions were made for potential side events, including disaster risk reduction, and the outcome study (The study on the Effect of Gender Equality Programming on Humanitarian Outcomes).

**Action point:**

- The RG to list out ideas for ECOSOC side events and start planning.

**Details of upcoming GenCap Technical Workshop (GenCap)**

Mirjam reported on the upcoming GenCap Technical Workshop. The Workshop will be held in Jordan, and will facilitate team building. Updates on both the Project and its funding will also be presented. There will be further discussions on how GRG and GenCap can continue to support each other. The draft document "Gender RG and GenCap" will be presented to the GenCap Steering Committee for endorsement. Discussions will also be held on how to adapt to the new humanitarian cycle changes, with a view to strengthening the use of Gender Marker and focusing on monitoring.

**AOB**

The 58<sup>th</sup> session of CSW will open on March 10 and last for two weeks. Aside from the official session, a myriad of side events will also take place—the official UN side events and the NGO side events. Elizabeth asked that if any member is hosting a side event, please let the Group know. Elizabeth then gave information on a WRC/UNFPA joint side event on adolescent girls. The detailed information of all the UN official side events can be found on the CSW 58 website:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014/side-events>

### Philippines briefing from OCHA-hosted GenCap

Njoki Rahab, the new Gender Advisor to OCHA, gave a briefing on her recent deployment to the Philippines (1-28 December 2013) in her previous capacity of being an OCHA-hosted GenCap Advisor. Njoki has three major recommendations:

1. There were a lot of advisors in the Philippines emergency, but there was no place/coordinating structure to bring them together. It would be great to have a common ground for humanitarians to come together and exchange ideas.
2. Gender training is highly recommended for the assessment teams. From Njoki's own experience, whether a staff member has taken the gender e-learning makes quite a big difference. Staff who have taken the training demonstrate a much greater understanding and awareness of gender issues. It is recommended that the gender e-learning should become a requirement for staff before joining the emergency teams. The key focal points of all clusters should also be trained beforehand.
3. There is a lack of sex and age disaggregated data. Gender profiles, fact sheets, and critical data were missing. There should be more investment in preparedness in this area. Njoki recommends adding a compendium of gender indicators to the SRP for all clusters.

Following the presentation, Njoki addressed a few questions. Njoki observed certain resistance to gender issues in Philippines L3 response—part of the resistance came from the wrong perceptions that there are no gender issues in the Philippines since the Philippines is pretty advanced in many gender indicators such as women's political participation.

There was also the inaccurate perception that there were too many gender advisors in this emergency response. Njoki pointed out that sometimes there was confusion between GBV AOR and gender advisors. Much gender expertise for this emergency response was either short-lived or remote.