



IASC Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action

IASC GENDER RG-MONTHLY MEETING, 2 July 2014

Meeting Chair

Elizabeth Cafferty, WRC

Participants

Kariane Peek Cabrera, UNICEF

Zara Rapoport, Plan International

Patricia Colbert, WFP

Siri Elverland, NRC

Bethany Brown, HelpAge

Njoki Rahab, OCHA

Blerta Aliko, UN Women

Puk Ovesen, UN Women

Qi Song, UN Women

Allison Varricchio, UN Women

Apologies to colleagues who attempted to join the call but were unable due to technical issues with the dial-in connection

Approval of the minutes of May 7 meeting

The minutes of the May 7 meeting were approved. The Chair noted that the minutes are intended to capture broad aspects of discussion, in addition to the decisions and action points. The minutes will not make attributions on all comments or document all opinions. This also allows the GRG meetings to be a space for open discussion, including that of sensitive issues, without these discussions being published unless discussed and agreed to.

Action point:

- The Co-chairs will hold a co-chair meeting by the end of July to further discuss cross-cutting issues, and the relationship with Global Clusters Coordination Group (GCCG).

Debrief on ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), including the GRG's Side Event (WRC)

WRC briefed on the ECOSOC HAS June 23-27 in New York. The very packed agenda resulted in long hours and may lead to a need to decrease in the number of events for next year. Gender equality did not get much attention and was almost absent from the formal sessions. Gender language did not advance much, despite the efforts of some Member States, in the final resolution that was adopted. WRC mentioned that the GRG could consider the strategic value of discussing the importance of incorporating a stronger gender perspective in next year's resolution, with a broader group of Member States to help address this concern.

The GRG-facilitated Side Event “*The Impact of Gender Equality Programming (GEP) on Humanitarian Outcomes*” (co-hosted with the Irish Permanent Mission to the UN) was a success, drawing over 50 participants from UN system, NGOs and governments. The event was moderated by Kevin Kelly, Director of Emergency and Recovery of IrishAid. There was a total of 4 panelists:

- *Blerita Aliko (UN Women)* - Presented the preliminary findings emerging from the study.
- *ASG Kang (OCHA)* - Discussed what is needed to translate existing policy on gender equality and women’s empowerment in humanitarian action into scalable practice, how it fits into the developing humanitarian system and what gaps need to be addressed.
- *Seline Locham (Turkana Women Advocacy & Development Organization, Kenya)* – Spoke of her first hand experiences of the Turkana as an active participant in gender equality programming.
- *Florika Fink-Hooijer (ECHO)* – Presented, from a donor’s perspective, GEP priorities and the use of the ECHO Gender and Age marker, emphasizing the need for more evidence and research on gender equality in humanitarian action.

In the Q&A session, a representative from Mission of Norway noted the absence of gender from all the preparatory documents for World Humanitarian Summit. GRG Secretariat is preparing a 2-pager summary of this side event, and will share with GRG.

UN Women briefed the GRG on the next steps regarding the Outcome Study, which was discussed in the side event. Currently the study is being finalized and a final draft is expected by end of September 2014. A one-day workshop with GRG representatives on the study is tentatively planned for the 2nd week of September. UN Women will share the proposed date as soon as possible.

Action point:

- GRG Secretariat will share the 2-pager summary of the GRG side event

Briefing, and next steps on Gender Marker (GM) Assessment Report Presentation (UN Women)

Michelle Evans, the consultant who conducted an assessment of the IASC Gender Marker, made a presentation to GRG on June 20, which consisted of four segments:

- overview of methodology
- quick review of findings
- discussion of the findings
- how to move forward

The presentation received positive feedback from GRG members. The findings and recommendations fall into two categories: short term/technical, and long term/policy, which will be developed into a more solid concept note. The Concept Note aims to have some purely technical level changes implemented in the 2014/2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) process, while the longer term/policy issues will receive deeper consideration for the 2015/2016 SRP. The major recommendation is that the GM needs to evolve to

monitor gender integration throughout the entire programme cycle, beyond the current focus on design.

Concerning next steps, the consultant will now revise report based on feedback. It was furthermore agreed that the Global GenCap Advisors would form a working group to develop an implementation plan for the consideration of GRG. The launch of the final report can be used as a fundraising opportunity to stimulate donor interest.

AOB

The humanitarian situation in Iraq was discussed. Co-chairs had been providing inputs to need assessment tool, however, this process was put on hold temporarily due to the need to prioritize aid coordination and in light of the Saudi funding contribution. OCHA suggested to the GRG should provide an overview of existing information and gender capacity currently in Iraq in order to determine the need for a Gender Alert. UN Women reported that the Executive Director of UN Women issued a statement on Iraq, condemning the grave violation of human rights including deliberate targeting of women and girls for kidnapping, rape and forced marriage by militants. WFP co-chair mentioned the possibility of tapping into AAP processes.

Action point:

- GRG members will discuss offline on how to strengthen GRG capacity to support the needs of the population affected by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Iraq.