



IASC Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action

IASC GENDER RG-MONTHLY MEETING, 7 May 2014

Meeting Chair

Blerta Aliko, UN Women

Participants

Elizabeth Cafferty, WRC

Siobhán Foran, IFRC

Bethany Brown, HelpAge

Howard Mollett, CARE International

Angela Wiens, International Medical

Corps

Sibi Lawson Marriott, UNICEF

Njoki Rahab, OCHA

Delphine Brun, GenCap deployed to
UNICEF-led Global Clusters

David Coffey, UN Women

Qi Song, UN Women

Allison Varricchio, UN Women

Approval of the minutes of April 2 meeting

The minutes of the April 2 meeting were approved.

GRG co-chair: vacancy announcement and call for nominations

A GRG co-chair vacancy (to replace UNHCR, outgoing in June 2014) was announced at the meeting. The TOR on the GRG co-chair arrangements had been circulated to the Group prior to the meeting and these stipulate that the co-chairships are made up of 2 x UN agencies 2 x non-UN as well as 2 x NY-based and 2 x Europe-based. The preference would be to replace UNHCR with a different Europe-based UN agency. GRG members are encouraged to put forward either self-nominations or nominations for others.

Action point:

- GRG members should submit their nominations as soon as possible, but no later than the deadline of **Wednesday, 28 May 2014**.

Update on Gender Equality Programming Study

UN Women updated on the research study on *The Effect of Gender Equality Programming on Humanitarian Outcomes*. IDS has completed the case studies in Nepal, Kenya, and the Philippines, and is drafting the case-study reports before compiling the synthesis report. The findings of the case studies suggest that GEP is transformative for humanitarian outcomes, but it takes time for GEP to show its impacts. The benefits usually become evident in the recovery phase rather than the response phase.

The GRG application for the ECOSOC Side Event on the GEP Study has been approved by the ECOSOC secretariat. The concept note for this side event will be submitted to the ECOSOC Secretariat by May 16. GRG is approaching Canada for co-sponsoring this event. IDS is identifying panelists from the beneficiary communities.

CARE International raised the question of how to draw linkage between this side event with the DFID Call to Action event. CARE was encouraged to follow this up offline to explore linkage and cross references to see if there was any relevance for the Call to Action event.

Action points:

- GRG to submit concept note on the side event to the ECOSOC Secretariat by May 16

Discussion on the “Coordination and Funding of Cross-cutting Issues in Humanitarian Action” report

The following documents were shared with the Group before the meeting:

- Two-page summary on the 2008 IASC Gender Policy drafted by UNHCR,
- Cross-cutting Issues Study Report,
- 2013 Gender SWG comments on the Cross-cutting Issues Study Report
- Questionnaire for review on cross-cutting issues coordination.

It was clarified at the meeting that the Questionnaire under discussion was not a separate AAP/PSEA TT questionnaire.

IFRC and Plan International had already responded to the Questionnaire by the time of the meeting. HelpAge and UNICEF had submitted their responses directly to the AAP Task Team.

UN Women and UNICEF recalled conversations held at the face to face meeting about the IASC Gender Policy Statement which is the group’s guiding document and complementary to its TOR. Members also recalled a conversation on how the GRG should address age, disability and other cross-cutting issues in its work, both theoretically and in the day to day work of the group. UN Women maintained that bringing too many other issues would be counter-productive to the GRG mandate. IFRC viewed responding to the Questionnaire as a great opportunity to offer constructive feedback. WRC stressed that the GRG response should not be limited by the Questionnaire.

- OCHA Gender Advisor to follow up with OCHA’s Humanitarian Coordination Support Section (HCSS) to clarify the timeline and the next steps regarding the XCI study.
- GRG members to send any further responses to the Secretariat by **May 9**.

GRG inputs into gender-integrated response to L3 and other major crisis

UN Women provided a brief update on the GRG ad-hoc meeting on South Sudan. (Please see Annex, minutes of this meeting)

OCHA Gender Advisor called for institutionalizing GRG responses to crisis, so that the GRG could be proactive rather than reactive toward crisis. GRG co-chairs confirmed that this was already discussed at the annual face-to-face meeting and part of the GRG Annual Work Plan was to develop SOPs for GRG responses to crisis.

Action points:

- GRG to produce a Gender Alert for South Sudan
- GRG to finalize the SOPs for responses to crisis