

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

IASC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action

First Quarter Progress Report 2014

The current report aims to track progress made toward the Gender Reference Group's (GRG) 2014 Annual Work Plan (AWP) *in the first quarter of 2014*, and to identify potential gaps and challenges in the process of implementing the Work Plan, so that the GRG can stay on target toward its commitments made in the AWP.

I. LEADERSHIP ON GENDER EQUALITY

1. Act as the gender expertise resource to the IASC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure adequate gender mainstreaming.

1.1. Assigned focal points/co-chairs via ASG sponsor:

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

Nothing to report.

1.2. Subsidiary bodies:

1.2.1 Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) (Focal points: IFRC and UNICEF)

IFRC, on behalf of IFRC and UNICEF, met with the Coordinator of the AAP/PSEA Task Team (TT) to discuss the GRG support to the TT's two-year work-plan, which contains three work-streams, 15 objectives and 40 activities.

A large number of their 200-strong membership is 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.

While not exclusively related to AAP/PSEA, the GenCap Adviser deployed to the 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 their work on the registry, the GenCap Adviser 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.

1.2.2 Preparedness and resilience (Focal points: UN Women and UNICEF)

No progress to report

1.2.3. Protection (Focal Point: UNHCR)

No progress to report

1.2.4. Needs assessment (Focal Point: GenCap)

The GenCap Advisers have provided feedback to the various countries on how well their Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) takes gender issues into account. Also, the GenCap Adviser deployed to UNICEF-led Global Clusters provided recommendations to CASS in OCHA on how the HNO guidance should be revised to enhance its gender sensitivity.

At the GenCap technical workshop held in early March in Jordan, GenCap Advisers exchanged views on how well the MIRA was taking gender issues into account, both as a tool 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.

1.2.5. Humanitarian Financing (Focal Point: GenCap)

No progress to report

2. Protocol on GenCap - Gender RG (Focal Point: UNHCR)

The document was finalized at the GenCap Technical Workshop in Jordan. (Please see Annex: 2014 Protocol GRG and GenCap)

3. Two-pager on the 2008 IASC Gender Policy to highlight the intersection of gender equality with age and other diversity issues (Focal Point: UNHCR)

UNHCR drafted a two-pager on the 2008 IASC Gender Policy, which highlighted the intersection of gender equality with age and other diversity issues. This is still under review.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY TO GENDER EQUALITY

1. Review the baseline of the implementation of the IASC Gender Policy (Focal Point: UN Women)

UN Women drafted the TORs on the approach and shared the document with the GRG.

2. Enhanced participation and revitalize GRG membership Letters to Agencies (Focal Points: InterAction and UN Agencies)

Some outreach efforts and progress has been made, to the following organizations: UNFPA, WHO, WFP, FAO, Save the Children UK, CRS and Oxfam.

Letter to ASG Kang (Focal Point: N/A)

No progress to report

III. COORDINATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

1. Develop SOPs for the GRG's responses to crisis (Focal Point: UN Women)

GRG produced three Gender Alerts for the following three countries: the Philippines, Central African Republic and South Sudan.

UN Women will deliver the first draft of the SOPs for GRG responses to crisis in the 3rd Quarter.

2. Review of Gender Handbook initiated in 2014 and finalized in English in 2015 The Review (Focal Points: OCHA and InterAction)

No progress to report

TOR and Fundraising (Focal Points: UNHCR and GenCap)

No progress to report

3. Gender Advisors integrated as part of IAARM Advocacy and Lobbying (Focal Point: UNDP)

It has been agreed that Gender Advisors should be integrated as part of the IARRM in any L3 crisis.

4. SG Reports and relevant ECOSOC and GA Resolutions incorporated inputs of GRG (Focal Points: WRC and HelpAge).

WRC and HelpAge, working with IFRC NY, UN Women, and OCHA, conducted advocacy around the CSW Agreed Conclusion and the CSW Gender and Natural Disasters Resolution.

5. World Humanitarian Summit addressing gender in humanitarian action Draft Letter to WHS (Focal Point: UNICEF)

The co-chairs held a meeting with WHS Secretariat, and raised the issue that gender had not been included in the WHS concept note, launch event or any other materials to date. The meeting was constructive. The WHS Secretariat noted that there would be ongoing opportunities at HQ to engage GRG particularly in terms of reviewing background papers and preparatory work.

Follow Up Letter to WHS (Focal Point: OCHA)

For now, ongoing consultation will take the place of a direct letter.

6. Advocacy for compulsory e-learning tool including analysis of users

6.1. Letter to for ASG Signature (Focal Point: UNHCR)

No progress to report

6.2. Letter to Global Clusters (Focal Point: UN Women)

No progress to report

6.3. Advocacy for E-Learning Course (Focal Point: All Member Agencies)

The GRG members continued to advocate for the gender e-learning to become mandatory for humanitarian organizations. 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. UN Women has also 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. Plan International has added the E Learning course to their online learning platform for their Disaster Risk Management team.

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.

Condensed E-Learning Course (Focal Point: UN Women)

InterAction contacted the sub-contractor and obtained a quote on a condensed version of the e-learning in English and French. UN Women has allocated a budget for making copies of the e-learning (CDs and flash drives).

Prepared by GRG Secretariat (UN Women)

Reviewed by the co-chairs