**Minutes of IASC Sub-working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action**

**14 April 2010**

Participants: Melissa (Women’s Refugee Commission), Nika (UNDP), Laura (NRC), Kate (OCHA), Stian (OCHA), Galit (UNICEF), Angie (IMC), Mirjam (GenCap), Lundine (IOM), Mireia (Care International),

Meeting chaired and minutes recorded by Amelia Peltz

**1. E-learning Dissemination Plan**

* It was suggested that the timelines will need to be revised in light of what has and has not been accomplished so far (i.e. the March activities have not yet been completed and it is now April)
* Would it be useful to have a strategic framework at beginning of plan that outlines the target audience as well as monitoring indicators so we can ensure that we are reaching the objectives that we want
* It was also suggested to have a summary budget at beginning of plan so that it is clear what financial resources are needed
* Suggestion to disseminate on IAWG listserve
* It was underscored that it is the responsibility of all SWG members to disseminate the e-learning
* Question about funding for translation: is it still needed? If so, this should be mentioned in the dissemination plan.

**2. ECOSOC**

* ECOSOC will be held in New York this July
* The SG’s report will include a section on issues, challenges, etc. on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action
* A series of three panels will be convened by member states: Transition (chaired by UNDP), High Risk Environments, Vulnerability
* The question now is what should be the theme of the side even this year and how will the report fit into the panels
* The three overarching strategies are: Coordination, Capacity Building, Norms and Standards
* Suggestions to highlight e-learning, gender marker
* A question was asked about how to provide feedback into the ECOSOC report: are we going to collectively submit comments SWG? For anyone who wants to comment, contact Kate. She reminded the group that all comments due by noon Thursday April 15. Gender-related contents of the report so far include:
  + AOR GBV
  + UN Action
  + Gen Cap
  + Marker
  + E-learning
  + Protection from SEA
  + Language on fuel & firewood initiatives

**3. GenCap Update**

* A GenCap advisor is being deployed to Chad for 6 months beginning this Saturday and will be hosted by OCHA. The primary focus will be on gender mainstreaming.
* Through the GenCap mechanism with UN Action funds, GenCap has deployed an advisor to work on sexual violence in Eastern Chad on sexual violence; GenCap has sent a letter to the HC to explain how this is separate from the mandate of the new GenCap being deployed
* Haiti updates: Caroline Blay is working with clusters to see how they can put in place systems so that cluster services is better meeting needs of men, women, boys, girls;. The majority of the focus currently is on camp management as well as on cash for work programs (this is the primary way people are earning money to buy food as the food distribution will be stopping soon). Caroline is also leading an effort to improve lighting in the camps. Mendy Marsh in country to work on GBV issues. There remains a huge challenge with lack of government capacity to run government services
* The Gender Marker is being rolled out to the field. Linda Pennells is traveling to oPt and will then continue on to Yemen. Siobhan Foran will travel to Kenya and Somalia. Both are working with the Country Teams to roll out the Gender Marker.
* There are two new regional GenCap positions for an initial six months: 1 in Pacific, 1 for Southern Africa. They will primarily focus on disaster preparedness
* There are currently a total of nine ongoing GenCap deployments

**4. Draft Tor for SWG co-chairs**

* UNDP raised the issue of language in the ToR in that it is very focused on humanitarian actors. It was suggested that there be some way to modify the language to better reflect other aspects, such as Early Recovery.
* Question of how to initiate the rotating co-chairs: it is open for discussion among members
* Suggestion: have more discussion on IASC SWG and what it does
* There was a question as to why the co-chair position should be held by person, not institution? Suggest that it be held by institution not by a person
* Suggest that those who are interested in taking over co-chair positions should notify Henia and Amelia ASAP
* Need decision on timeline when to instigate rotational co-chair and adoption of ToR
* Action Point: need clear procedure on finalizing ToR and selection of rotational co-chairs
* Procedural suggestion action point: have co-chairs make request for nominations
* Suggestion to have staggered rotation of co-chairs to ensure continuity of leadership

**5. Re-cap of WG Meeting Highlights**

* Cluster evaluation was discussed; need to look at results and be cognizant of ensuring that gender issues are mainstreamed into clusters

**6. Sending of documents to SWG listserve**

* Send docs to Amelia if you want disseminated to Amelia and she can circulate to membership

**7. AOB**

* No other items discussed