## **IASC Gender Reference Group**

# **Progress Report - January 2015-December 2015**



### **KEY OBJECTIVES:**

- **1. LEADERSHIP ON GENDER EQUALITY -** provide guidance and support, wherever feasible, to all bodies and structures of the IASC to be able to incorporate gender equality into relevant aspects of their work.
- **2. ACCOUNTABILITY TO GENDER EQUALITY** support and champion the IASC's commitment to work in an interagency fashion.
- 3. COORDINATION & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT Provide the humanitarian community with timely and practical information, tools and resources in order that they can meet its commitments to gender equality towards the goal of gender equality in all aspects of humanitarian action

<b>KEY RESULTS FOR 2015</b>	
Consolidated guidance on gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action	In 2015, the GRG has developed and disseminated Gender Alerts for:  The Ebola Crisis in West Africa  The Earthquake in Nepal  Conflict in Yemen
	Inputs to the Gender Alerts were gathered from HQ and the field, across the membership agencies – CARE, GBV AoR, GenCap, IMC, OCHA, Oxfam, UNDP. UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO and WRC.
2. Gender in Humanitarian Action On-Line Training	The online training course was streamlined by UN Women so that sector experts could complete the course by focusing on their own area of interest (WASH, shelter, nutrition etc.), but with the option of taking all sectors if so desired. The course now takes 2 hours, is hosted by UN Women's e-learning campus at <a href="https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/topics/gender">https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/topics/gender</a>
3. IASC Gender Marker Review	The GRG – in collaboration with OCHA - convened a task team to review the current model of the <i>IASC Gender Marker</i> and approved the following recommendations to be developed in advance of the start of the 2016 humanitarian programme cycle:  • Define the scope of marker to include age in the guidance and coding  • Develop Gender Marker to serve as monitoring tool  • Change name of marker to include age
4. Completion of a research study on The Effect of Gender Equality Programming on Humanitarian Outcomes	On behalf of the GRG, UN Women completed and <u>published-online</u> a unique study that collected and analysed evidence on the effects of gender equality programming by surveying more than 2,000 crisis-affected households and organizing focus groups in four case-study locations: Nepal, the Philippines and two sites in Kenya (the county of Turkana and the Dadaab refugee camps). Information was collected from women and
	men – as well as key informants, such as humanitarian workers and community leaders – in the target communities to determine if the gender-equality programming improved their humanitarian outcomes and, if so, how.  The study also developed a unique new "Gender Intensity Measure" which was used to
	analyse the evidence and assess the degree to which gender equality and women's empowerment was perceived to have been integrated into humanitarian programmes – by hearing from women beneficiaries themselves.
5. The IASC's <u>Handbook on</u> <u>Gender in Humanitarian Action</u>	In advance of the planned update of the IASC <i>Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook</i> , UN Women printed a final run of 200 copies in English, French, Spanish and Arabic which were sent by OCHA for dissemination to GenCap colleagues in the field.
	Led by UN Women, the GRG also began the process of updating the Handbook – holding an Expert Group Meeting in NY in late November to attended by IASC member agencies, to set out the parameters of the revision, to outline the conceptual framework and to agree the means of consultation and content development. The EGM was attended by CARE, UN Women, the IASC Secretariat, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and WRC amongst others.
	A Steering Committee for guiding and monitoring the process was also convened – made up representatives from UNFPA, CARE, GenCap, UNHCR, Oxfam, WRC, WFP and IFRC.
6. ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment Side-Event	UN Women – in collaboration with CARE International and Oxfam – facilitated on behalf of the GRG a side event at the 2015 ECOSOC HAS on <i>The Role of Crisis Affected Women and Girls in Shaping an Effective, Inclusive and Coordinated Future of Humanitarian Affairs.</i> The well attended and well received side-event included speakers from the field

	(Syria and Sierra Leone), as well as the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat.
7. 2008 IASC Gender Policy	A comprehensive review - led by UN Women with support from OXFAM, OCHA and CARE
Review	International - of the IASC's gender policy was completed and presented to the Working Group for their feedback on July 26. The following recommendations were agreed on for action to be led by the GRG in collaboration with the Working Group:
	<ul> <li>Update of the IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Policy Statement to reflect the current humanitarian landscape.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Develop an IASC Gender Policy Statement Accountability Framework.</li> </ul>

### PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE END OF 2015:

- Finalize the IASC Gender Policy Review report and begin process of updating the policy and develop Accountability Framework.
- Develop advocacy and promotion messages for the World Humanitarian Summit
- Start process of updating the IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook

### **GRG PARTICIPANTS IN 2015**

*UN Entities):* OCHA, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.

Non-UN: IFRC

INGOs: CARE Intl, Concern, HelpAge, IMC, NRC, Oxfam,

Plan Intl, WRC

Other: IASC Secretariat, GenCap

