

Expert Group Meeting, Nov 30th-Dec 1st 2015 IASC Gender Handbook Update

Co-lead by UN Women and OXFAM as part of the IASC
Gender Reference Group work plan.



A focused consultation opportunity to ensure the key guidance necessary for gender equality and women’s empowerment in humanitarian action is as relevant and pragmatic as possible.

The EGM welcomed the participation of: CARE, GBV Guidelines, GenCap, IASC Gender Reference Group Secretariat, IASC Secretariat, IRC, OCHA, Oxfam, Plan International, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women (Humanitarian Unit and Coordination Division), WFP, WHS Secretariat, & WRC.

Facilitated by: Mireia Cano Vinas, Lead Consultant



During the discussions there was a general consensus that the updated handbook should take into consideration:

- The **primary audience are non-gender specialists in the humanitarian community** (following the same rationale as the IASC GBV Guidelines).
- GENCAPS and other gender advisors will be involved in rolling out and using the guidelines. **Clarity of concept** is essential for what gender experts are talking about when they are discussing gender equality.
- The **Steering Group to be established and composed of gender experts** and play an advisory role: providing vision, direction and leadership to complete the updated handbook, problem-solving, addressing technical issues, and giving final sign off in decision-making.
- **A wide range of stakeholders should be involved in order to generate ownership:** clusters, UN agencies and INGOs, GENCAPS, IASC Gender Reference Group, IASC Working Group and Secretariat, GBV Area of Responsibility, governments, donors, local CSOs, women's organisations, as well as organisations working with men and boys and LGTBI groups, faith-based organisations, etc.
- There is a need to move beyond just humanitarian response and **look more broadly at the HPC** including preparedness to recovery and the link to SDGs.
- There is consensus that **the book remains the Gender Handbook** and explanations should be provided on intersectionality of gender with other key social determinants such as age, sexual orientation, and ethnicity particularly as relevant to the context. Case examples will serve to illustrate this.

Phases of Consultation

