

Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls

Speakers:

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Moderator:

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Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group



IAHE Evaluations



1. First thematic evaluation commissioned by Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations Steering Group
2. Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls has been implemented and mainstreamed within the IASC humanitarian responses since 2017
3. To identify gaps, best practices and lessons learned for gender equality in humanitarian action

Background – Brief Timeline

1990s: Humanitarian crises and unequal effects on women

2000s: Gender Policies and Handbooks

2010s: Capacity Development Tools

- Gender with Age Marker, GenCap project

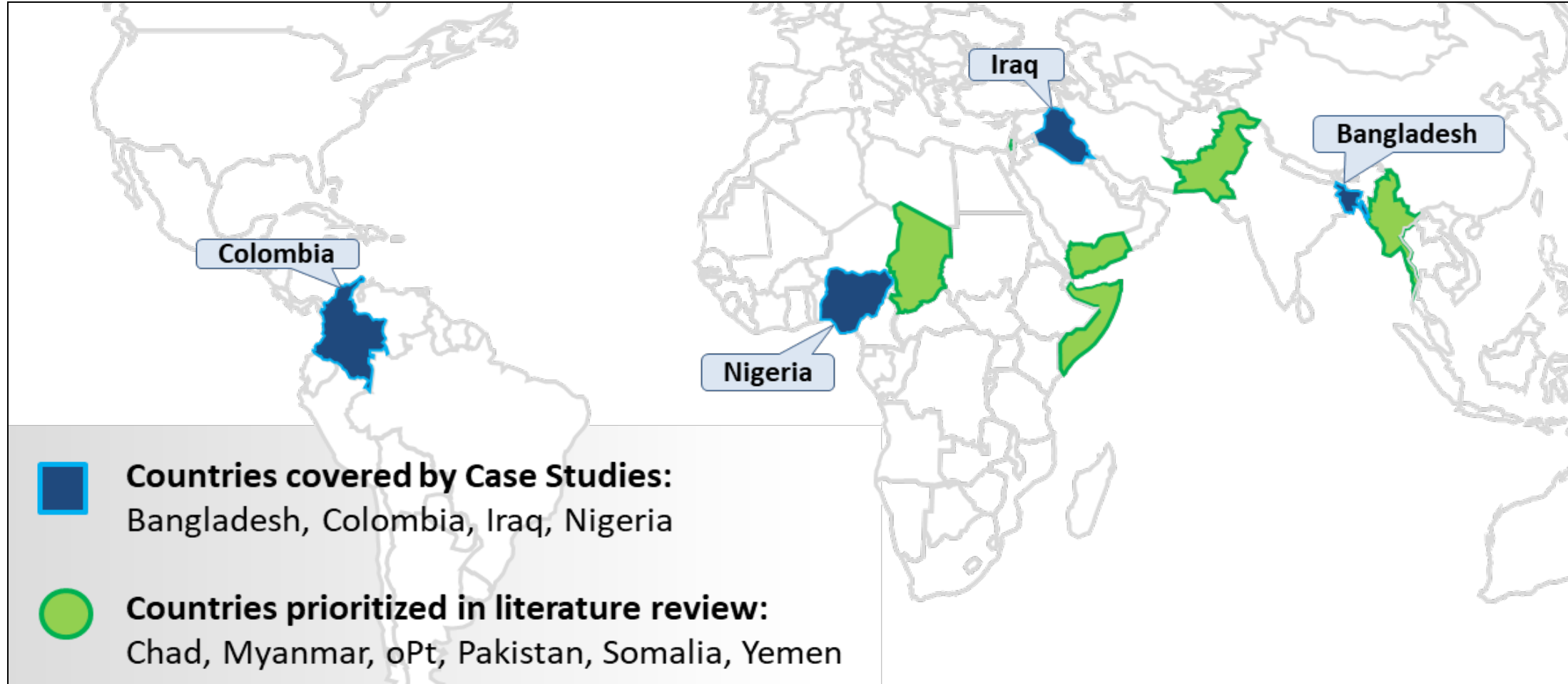
2016: World Humanitarian Summit Member State Gender Commitments

2017: Revised IASC Gender Policy, Gender Handbook, Gender Accountability Framework, and GAM

2018: First annual Gender Accountability Framework Report

2020: IAHE GEEWG Evaluation Commissioned

Case Studies



Findings



Progress in integrating Gender in longer term operations

1. Integration of gender mainstreaming, and expertise.
2. Key Inter-Agency Resources
3. Country level success factors:
 - a. HCT Senior gender advisor,
 - b. HCT Gender commitments,
 - c. Gender coordination structures (beyond GBV and Protection)
 - d. Cluster level inter-agency gender advisors

Findings



In the initial phase of the response, Gender is largely missing

1. Global cluster deployment of Gender expertise during sudden onset responses.
2. Unintended impacts on Gender prioritization and integration.
3. Quality and frequency of gender analysis at initial phase tended to remain a gap.

Findings

Women's influence on decision making remains limited

1. Consultation versus decision making
2. Feedback and complaints mechanisms
3. Women-led and Self-organizing women's groups

Findings



Gaps in country level expertise and coordination thwart efforts to sustain progress

1. Strategic expertise AND inter-agency cluster specific gender expertise
2. Heavy reliance on GenCap senior advisors to fill gaps.
3. Gender coordination often disconnected structurally from operations **and** from HCT or ICCG.

Findings



Gender is not as visible in the current IASC structure, plans and management processes as it should be.

1. The GRG's role in influencing IASC decisions and processes should match normative mandates: high-level results statements and accountability mechanisms should demonstrate its importance and relevance.

Findings



Gender is not anchored to existing accountability mechanisms

1. Voluntary Leadership commitments - necessary but not sufficient.
2. Gender Accountability Framework annual recommendations not yet institutionalized for follow up
3. Gender as an IASC theme
4. The non-negotiables and Gender
5. In-country, real-time tools for inter-agency Gender assessment underutilized

Findings



Achieving Gender targets require adequate funding

1. Assumption that Gender can be addressed without resources – including for expertise.
2. Funding requests vs. Funding Allocations
3. Best investment: resource allocation to inter-agency gender equality *expertise*- within clusters and strategic level.
4. Tracking resource allocation for Gender limitations

Good Practices



COUNTRY-LEVEL

- ✓ Presence of an inter-agency senior gender advisor at HCT or ICCG level with a long-term mandate
- ✓ Adoption of the IASC's global gender equality commitments to local context by HCTs
- ✓ Availability of cluster-level senior gender advisor to support all members of a cluster

IASC-LEVEL

- ✓ Development of relevant policy and guidance such as the IASC Gender Policy and Gender Accountability Framework (GAF)
- ✓ Availability of gender advisors for surge deployment (GenCap project)
- ✓ Increased adoption of the Gender with Age Marker

Implications



Key Lessons

1. Gender equality technical expertise in responses - and the timing of its deployment - is critical.
2. Progress impeded by gaps in the standard humanitarian infrastructure.
3. Treatment, tracking, and accountability of gender equality is less visible because of the mainstreaming emphasis.
4. Need for further strengthening of meaningful participation of women in decision-making.
5. High vulnerability to shifts in personnel and individual voluntary commitments.

Recommendations – General Categories

**Enhance
Management
Response to GAF
Report**

The IASC should strengthen mechanisms for follow-up to the recommendations from the IASC GAF

**Strengthen
Meaningful
Participation of
Women in Decision
Making**

HCs and HCTs should strengthen the meaningful participation of Women in decision-making

**Increase HCTs
Access to Strategic
and Technical
Expertise on
GEEWG**

All HCTs should have access to inter-agency strategic gender capacity, complemented by technical-level cluster expertise

**Strengthen
Global Leadership
and Capacity for
Gender**

The IASC should integrate the Gender Reference Group within the core structure of the IASC

Recommendations – Headlines

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Strengthen Gender Equality Expertise in Sudden Onset Emergency Response

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Strengthen Meaningful Participation of Women in Humanitarian Decision-Making

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Increase HCTs Access to Strategic and Technical Expertise in GEEWG

Recommendations – Headlines

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Improve IASC Strategic Planning and Monitoring of Gender Results Outcomes

RECOMMENDATION 5:

Strengthen Global Leadership and Capacity for Gender

RECOMMENDATION 6:

Enhance Management Response to Gender Accountability Framework Report

Recommendations – Headlines



RECOMMENDATION 7:

Enhance Accountability for GEEWG Action

RECOMMENDATION 8:

Improve Tracking of GEEWG Resources and Expertise



Where to go for more information?

The [Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation \(IAHE\) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls \(GEEWG\)](#) and other valuable resources can be found on the IASC website:

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/>

IASC

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