Executive Summary:
IASC Gender Accountability Framework Report
2019

The 2019 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Accountability Framework (AF) report marks the second monitoring cycle of the IASC's 2017 Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Actin Policy. It provides a snapshot of the IASC's output in the calendar year 2019 and allows for cross comparison with the baseline established with the 2018 AF report.

The 2019 report shows some progress and some remaining inconsistencies in the application of the 2017 Gender Policy. At the global level, gender was designated as a strategic priority for the allocation of CERF funding by the Emergency Response Coordinator and the first thematic evaluation by the IASC internal evaluation mechanism – the IAHE – was set as delivery on the gender policy. Both initiatives signifying commitment of the IASC management to address gender in humanitarian action.

Progress on the recommendations from the 2018 report has been limited, indicating the need for strengthened ownership of the recommendations by all stakeholders in the process. Across all levels of the IASC, more effort is needed to translate the recommendations into action, with the GRG taking a more active role in their dissemination.

At the field level, the analysis shows consistent consideration of protection and GBV for women and girls and the provision of maternal-child health services in all of the Humanitarian Needs Overview documents for the 2020 Humanitarian Program Cycle that were reviewed.

However, there was a drop in the extent of gender analysis that took a more comprehensive view of the impact on women, girls, men and boys, beyond just protection and maternal health. A comprehensive gender analysis beyond protection is particularly valuable given that the majority of crises are now protracted, multi-year contexts, and as such it is important to consider what the longer-term needs are, especially with regards to addressing livelihoods and education needs. Utilizing this metric, the report notes that percentage of HNOs employing gender analysis has remained the same (90% in 2018 compared to 89% in 2019).

This aligns with findings from the annual Humanitarian Programme Cycle Quality Scoring exercise led by OCHA which also assesses HNOs and HRPs with a different set of indicators, which states specifically that "Gender concerns overall and, notably, an understanding of the risks, vulnerabilities, and coping mechanisms along with causes of inequity – the analysis required for effective programming – continues to be found in only a few HNOs." [1] Analysis of the accountability framework's indicator results demonstrate how the provision of gender capacity and facilitation of women's voices contribute to better process results. For example, in the country contexts where local women were consulted 92% of them demonstrated the inclusion of a comprehensive gender analysis. Similarly, in the countries that consulted local women, 70% included provisions for the key service lines – GBV mitigation and response, women's livelihoods and sexual and reproductive health. Where there was no formal consultation with local women, these services were only prioritized in 55% of the context countries. Further research on how these this causality is caused through these process relationships is warranted.

In addition, where the country contexts indicated that they had gender in humanitarian action capacity, 100% utilized gender analysis in HNOs, compared to the 89% average and 73% had the key service lines - GBV mitigation and response, women's livelihoods and sexual and reproductive health – compared to the 55% average in HRPs.

The recommendations from the 2018 report still stand and are included as an annex to this report. A number of additional recommendations for the different strata of the IASC and its field representation are laid out in the relevant sections below and are compiled here for ease of reference:

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[1] The enhanced HPC was introduced in 2019 and applied to the 2020 HPC cycle documents. It was piloted during the reporting timeline in 2019. One of its central elements is ensuring inclusivity through disaggregation and analysis of the differential impacts of the crisis and associated needs for diverse groups of people (i.e. gender, age, disability and other diversity characteristics).

2019 Accountability Framework Recommendations

Principals:
- The Gender Accountability Report for 2019 should be tabled for discussion at the Principal's level to reinforce the collective leadership and accountability required to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action.
- Future iterations of the IASC Workplan should ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women is prioritized as a cross-cutting issue across all strategic priorities.
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be an imperative cross-cutting theme across all IASC structures at the global level (IASC Principals, OPAG, EDG, RGs and Entities Associated with IASC, and field support structures; HCTs, ICCGs and clusters.

OPAG and Results Groups:
- The Gender Reference Group takes the initiative to strengthen collaboration with the IASC Results Groups to further mainstream gender across Results Groups outputs.
- GRG to work closely with the OPAG to support in implementation of the Gender Accountability Framework Report's recommendations, where appropriate.

Gender Reference Group:
- The GRG, on behalf of the IASC, should be designated its own standing side-event slot at ECOSOC HAS to facilitate presentation and debate on key gender equality and the empowerment of women and girl's issues.
- The GRG should establish a working group to review and undertake future Gender Accountability Framework reports, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the IAHE on GEEWG.
- GRG to collaborate with the RGs and ensure that they participate in RG discussions and contribute to policies and normative work produced by the RGs.
- The GRG should support OCHA to further mainstream gender into Emergency Response Plans. The criteria required to endorse an Emergency Preparedness Plan should include minimum standards for ensuring adequate gender considerations in assessment, consultation, inclusion, planning, implementation and M&E.

HPC Steering Group:
- OCHA in collaboration with IASC members critically explore systems and ways to more accurately and timely track funding for all gender equality programming, including pooled funding mechanisms.

Global Clusters:
- The GCCG should encourage all global clusters to nominate a gender focal point internally as a first step towards ensuring that gender is consistently mainstreamed in the work of the field clusters.
- Strengthen engagement and collaboration between Global Clusters and GRG with regular information sharing, briefings, and exchange regarding obligations and commitments contained in the IASC Gender Policy and Accountability Framework.
- OCHA, Cluster Lead Agencies, GCCG should promote the application of the IASC Gender Age Marker (GAM) as a mandatory project design and monitoring tool for all humanitarian interventions.
- Cluster lead agencies and global clusters should explore options to provide and/or facilitate access to resources and funding for sustainable technical gender expertise to support with integrating gender in responses.

HCs, HCTs and Clusters:
- Clusters should make efforts to promote more robust gender analysis including impacts on marginalized groups such as adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, and ensure consistency between identified needs and response plans.
- HCTs and Country Based Pooled Funds Advisory Groups at country level should facilitate access to humanitarian funds to local women's organizations to build capacity and to enable engagement with the processes of humanitarian coordination and planning.
- HCTs and ICCG should develop a framework/process to ensure sustained engagement of women's organization within the planning process and coordination architecture, in particular women's meaningful participation in decision making.
- HCs and HCTs should ensure consistency between needs identified in the gender analysis findings outlined in the HNO with the final prioritized response plans. This includes issues such as added care burden and the means to alleviate.

The full IASC product is available at https://iasc.ch/gender-report-2019
This executive summary was included in the original IASC product, endorsed by the IASC.