

# **PROGRESS REPORT**

April - October 2019

## **IASC-Associated Entity - Gender in Humanitarian Action**

**Co-Chairs:**

- Ms. Julie Lafrenière, Gender Team Leader, Global Humanitarian Team, OXFAM International Secretariat
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## 2019 Priority Areas of Work

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK AS AGREED BY OPAG	CONCRETE DELIVERABLES	STATUS	LEADS	PARTNERS
Support the roll out of the <b>2017 IASC Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy</b> and the set-up of the endorsed accountability framework.	Establishment of a Gender Desk to carry out monitoring of the Accountability Framework	[COMPLETED]	UN Women	Donor: SIDA
	Produce the Gender Accountability Framework Report covering 2018	[COMPLETED]	UN Women	IASC secretariat, OCHA Donor: SIDA
	Promote accountability towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action	[COMPLETED]	ActionAid, UN OCHA, UN Women, PM of Ireland to the UN	
Disseminate findings of the <b>2018 Gender Accountability Framework Report</b> and raise awareness of the <b>Gender Policy</b> and prescribed roles and responsibilities.	Publish the 2018 Gender Accountability Framework Report online (IASC, ReliefWeb, UN Women websites)	[COMPLETED]	UN Women	IASC Secretariat Donor: SIDA
	Share key relevant findings from the Report through targeted briefings, events, and webinars	[ONGOING]	UN Women	UN-OCHA, PM of Ireland to the UN
Enhance the <b>capacity of humanitarian actors</b> in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.	Conduct face-to-face trainings on Gender in Humanitarian Action for frontline humanitarian actors	[ONGOING]	UN Women	UN OCHA Donor: SIDA
	Provide online self-paced courses on gender in humanitarian actors	[ONGOING]	UN Women	

## Achievements

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### ➤ **Achievement Area 1: IASC Gender Policy and Gender Accountability Framework Report**

During the **ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment**, the GRG, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN in Geneva, Action Aid, UN OCHA, and UN Women, organized an event drawing attention to the need to make gender equality a reality in humanitarian settings by translating standards to action on the ground including by strengthening accountability to commitments such as the IASC Gender Policy.

Following the endorsement of the 2017 IASC Gender Policy, the **'Gender Desk' was established** to carry out the monitoring function of the policy's Accountability Framework to ensure that the roles and responsibilities and standards set out in the IASC Gender Policy are adhered to by the IASC and its global and field level structures and functions. UN Women assumed stewardship of the 'Gender Desk' on behalf of the IASC Reference Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action. The Gender Desk gathered information required to carry out this analysis from a wide range of sources. This included liaising with the global and field level representation of IASC bodies with the support of the IASC Secretariat and the network of OCHA and UN Women country offices. Direct inputs submitted from 25 country contexts, including from Humanitarian Country Teams, as well as information from the IASC subsidiary bodies and global clusters was also crucial in the data collection process. The development of this Report was supported by funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation

**The Gender Accountability Framework Report was published in September 2019<sup>1</sup>.** The inaugural Gender Accountability Framework Report provides – for the first time – a review of where the IASC stands with respect to GEEWG at the global and field levels, with specific areas of progress and gaps highlighted. Some key findings included:

- **Global level outputs** - At the global level, the IASC launched both the updated IASC Gender Handbook and the Gender and Age Marker – both of which are landmark resources for gender in humanitarian action. However, these tools were developed by the gender-focused entities associated with the IASC, namely the GRG and GenCap, respectively. In comparison, the remainder of the output of the IASC's Principals and the Working Group – which was developed without direct gender capacity support- had very limited content from the Gender Policy. Also evident at the global level (as well as the field level) was the lack of internal IASC knowledge of its own Gender Policy commitments, prescribed roles and responsibilities, and reporting obligations. Without a system wide understanding on what is required and what is expected by its constituent parts, the IASC will struggle to deliver.
- **Field Level Planning and Prioritization** - 90% of the HNOs published in 2018 had some degree of gender analysis included on the impact of the given crises on women, men, girls and boys (beyond just protection and reproductive health issues) and 55% of them demonstrated use of SADD in at least half of the clusters contained within. However, only 45% of them contained both. Furthermore, issues identified in the gender analysis was inconsistently applied to the prioritized actions of the clusters/sectors in the HNOs and the HRPs. Only 5 of the reporting countries had an independent gender analysis developed as a resource to feed into the humanitarian planning process.
- **Gender in Humanitarian Action Capacity in the Field** - The humanitarian system still relies primarily on temporary deployments of senior gender technical staff through the GenCap programme. In 2018, 10 of the 27 humanitarian contexts with an appointed Humanitarian Coordinator had GenCap deployments, ranging from one month to a full year, with only 4 of them lasting six months or longer. In addition, OCHA has a system of Gender Focal Points (attendant in 26 of the 27 countries), but their gender focused duties are in addition to their existing TORs, rather than a full-time function.
- **Joint Efforts and Coordination** - 11 humanitarian contexts reported having a functioning humanitarian gender working group in 2018, of which 6 were reported to work directly with the HCT. Analysis showed that where there was a functioning gender working group 45% had HNOs that demonstrated development of a gender analysis and an average of 81% of the clusters utilizing SADD. By comparison, of the 14 country contexts that did not have a gender working group, only 4 (28%) had adequate gender analysis and use of SADD.

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<sup>1</sup> Accessible here: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/gender-and-humanitarian-action/documents-public/iasc-gender-accountability-framework-report-2018>

- Facilitating women's voices in decision making – 14 of 24 (56%) country context covered by the IASC that provided information reported direct consultations with local women's organizations during the humanitarian planning process. This is despite 100% of the analyzed humanitarian response plans stating their commitment to AAP and participatory planning.
- Gender parity was achieved in just 3 of the 19 humanitarian country teams which kept records of attendees in 2018.

UN-Women, in partnership with UN OCHA and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN in New York, co-hosted an event in September 2019 to disseminate these and other key messages from the Report and brief Member States on the imperative of translating norms reflected in the Gender Policy to action at the global and field levels. Efforts to further disseminate the Report through webinars, briefings, and events will continue in Q4 of 2019.

### ➤ **Achievement Area 2: Building Capacity on Gender in Humanitarian Action**

In 2019, over 100 frontline humanitarian actors have enhanced their capacity in gender in humanitarian action through face to face trainings in Asia Pacific, Vanuatu, Kenya, and Libya each lasting four days. These trainings focused on integrating gender into each stage of the humanitarian programme cycle and was based on the 2018 IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action revised and produced by UN-Women on behalf of the IASC GRG in 2018. The trainings therefore also serve as a practical way of translating the IASC Gender Policy into action. Participants included colleagues from UN agencies engaged in relevant humanitarian response as well as local actors including women's civil society organizations.

To complement the Gender Handbook and the face-to-face trainings, and with the view to expand the reach of the resources, an eLearning platform for remote learning was also launched. In 2019, close to 300 participants were certified through the online course.

The online version of the handbook was also launched in April 2019 at [www.qihahandbook.org](http://www.qihahandbook.org) containing the content of the IASC Gender Handbook in English, Spanish, French and Arabic. Between launch and Sept 2019, the online handbook has been used by over 4,000 site visitors.

## **Forward-Looking Priority Areas of Work for 2020**

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- Socialization of IASC Gender Accountability Framework findings for 2018
- Working with IASC, clusters, HCs, HCTs on the recommendations from the Gender AF report 2018
- Update and adjust AF to reflect the new IASC structure
- Accountability framework report for 2019
- Ongoing gender in humanitarian action capacity building in IASC country contexts

## **Key Dates**

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- IASC GRG Annual Strategic Planning Face to Face Meeting – NY/GVA Feb 2020 GRG Membership
- GRG quarterly meetings – GRG Membership
- CSW side-event March 2020
- ECOSOC HAS side event June 2020

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