Cross-cutting Issues at A Crossroads?

Siobhán Foran (UN Women)
Kate Burns (UN OCHA)
Cross-cutting Issues

- History and Context
- Towards ‘people-centered’ approach and action
- Challenges
- Ramifications – positive and negative - for the IASC Gender SWG of pursuing a ‘people-centered’ approach
Late 2006/2007, a Cross-Cutting Review Team (UNDP, UNHCR, OCHA, UNEP, WHO, UNFPA, IOM & UNAIDS) discussed a comprehensive approach to cross-cutting issues within Cluster Approach.

The Review Team discussed:

- Responsibility:
- Mechanisms for integration:
- Resource implications:
- Role of GenCap and others “experts”
History & Context 2


- Mid-2007 – the Review Team is disbanded.

- Gender moves ahead – GenCap

- Other Cross-cutting issues groups (age, Mental Health, disabled) more active.
‘People-centered humanitarian response’/approach as one of the six Core Standards – “People’s capacity and strategies to survive with dignity are integral to the design and approach of humanitarian response”.

History & Context 4

- Mid-2012 - Cross-cutting Issues’ Review (Consultancy) Sept./Oct. advertised, appointment of consultant is imminent
- 2013 – Outcomes of consultancy
Challenges

- Evaluations continue to report lack of attention to XCIs
- Continued ‘peripheralisation’ of XCIs
- Different structures and mechanisms for XCIs
- Inconsistency in commitment from Clusters
- Little consistency in capacity or funding by the Clusters
- Lack of clarity about what cross-cutting issues are.
More Challenges

Focusing on gender and age in particular (GenCap paper/HelpAge)

- Engagement and capacity
- Accountability/Responsibility
- Common coordination platform
Even More Challenges

- Conceptual clarity: XCIs = age, gender, HIV/AIDS, environment, disability/diversity, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), Early Recovery, Protection Mainstreaming, CCCM, Human Rights, conflict mitigation, DRR, etc.

- Cross-cutting issues fatigue

- New efforts on Accountability to Affected People?
Conceptual Framework

Differentiate

- Universal determinants (SADD)
- Sub-groups
- Approaches
Ramifications for Gender

Positive
- Transformative Agenda
- Contribution to AAP
- Focus on resilience-strengthening
- Greater coherency with ADGM (UNHCR) in refugee multi-sector work

Negative
- Absence of cohesion/silo’ing
- Examples:
  - MHPSS in Protection and CCCM
  - Environment Marker CAP 2013
- Risk of diluting gender in broadening the issue?
A Way Forward?

- Outcomes of XCIs Consultancy.
- Reshape how we package/‘brand’ ourselves.
- People-centred approach and action.
- Addressing specific needs of people of different gender and age*.
- What role, position does Gender SWG take in this?