GENDER ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK REPORT 2020

IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee
Reference Group for Gender in Humanitarian Action

UN WOMEN

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The 2020 Gender Accountability Framework Report is produced by UN Women on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Reference Group for Gender in Humanitarian Action (GRG). As per provisions endorsed by the IASC, a Gender Desk (hosted by UN Women) was tasked with leading the requisite data collection, consolidation, and synthesis to fulfill the reporting requirements of the Accountability Framework.

For the 2020 Report, the exercise benefitted from the contributions of a dedicated Working Group comprising of Save the Children, Women's Refugee Commission, Oxfam, International Rescue Committee, the Gender Capacity Standby Project, the IASC Secretariat, and UN OCHA which supported the Gender Desk in the desk-review of close to 90 documents. As in previous years, a significant portion of information reviewed came through direct inputs from crisis contexts channeled through UN Women and UN OCHA country offices.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 3

ACRONYMS 5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 6

INTRODUCTION 8

Outline of Process 8

Information Sources 9

NOTABLE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF 2019 AF REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS 10

DELIVERY AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL OF COMMITMENTS TO GENDER IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION 13

SUPPORT FROM THE GLOBAL LEVEL TO THE FIELD 19

DELIVERY AT THE FIELD LEVEL 22

GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS 34

ANNEX I – ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS 37

ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
AF	Accountability Framework
CBPF	Country Based Pooled Funds
CCCM	Camp Management and Camp Coordination
CERF	Central Emergency Pooled Funds
ECOSOC – HAS	Economic and Social Council – Humanitarian Affairs Segment
EDG	Emergency Directors Group
GAM	Gender with Age Marker
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GenCap	Gender Standby Capacity Project
GEEWG	Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
GRG	Gender Reference Group
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IAHE	Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OPAG	Operational Policy and Advocacy Group
P2P	Peer-to-Peer Support Project
PSEA	Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SADD	Sex and Age Disaggregated Data
UNFPA	United Nations Populations Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
WRC	Women's Refugee Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2020 Gender Accountability Framework (AF) report marks the third monitoring cycle of the IASC's 2017 Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy. It provides a snapshot of the IASC's output in the calendar year 2020 and allows for cross comparison with the baseline established with the 2018 AF report and the subsequent 2019 report. This report also captures the ways in which the IASC adapted its efforts in humanitarian settings as COVID-19 swept across countries and to what extent these efforts corresponded to the compounded impact of the pandemic and pre-existing humanitarian crises on women and girls.

2020 saw humanitarian actors rapidly mobilize themselves to respond to the pandemic that aggravated humanitarian needs in protracted crisis settings. Significant effort went towards attempts to understand the impact of the pandemic on crisis-affected communities. This is reflected in the large number of guidance materials on COVID-19 and its impact as well as localized needs assessments and analysis across settings. For instance, in 2020, the IASC Principals Group released 22 outputs (compared to six in 2019). Notably, close to 80 percent of these outputs in 2020 reflected the standards and commitments of the IASC Gender Policy – a marked improvement from 33 percent in 2019. However, this improvement was not observed across other parts of the IASC structure. There was a drop in the attention to gender priorities in the work of the subsidiary bodies and associated entities and the percentage of OPAG Results Groups complying with the IASC Gender Policy remained at 20 percent.

Similarly, support from the global structure of the IASC to its field representation in implementing the IASC's Gender Policy was also mixed. Half of the Peer-to-Peer missions in 2020 integrated gender priorities (while an improvement compared to 2018, this figure remains at the same level as 2019). The review observed a drop in the attention to gender among outputs endorsed by the OPAG. As the self-assessment surveys were not released in 2020, the Gender Desk was unable to ascertain the progress made by global clusters in implementing the Gender Policy.

Despite mixed progress at the global level, there was improvement across most priority areas in the implementation of the Gender Policy at the field level in 2020. For the first time, more than half of the HNOs (55 percent) reviewed demonstrated use of SADD and gender analysis. Over 90 percent of HRPs included provisions for sexual and reproductive health and to mitigate and respond to GBV. However, only 63 percent of HRPs included provisions for women's livelihoods, similar to previous years.

68 percent of crisis contexts reported having consulted at least one local women's rights organization in the humanitarian planning process reflecting another area of gradual improvement. Significantly, over 80 percent of settings reported having active gender working groups in place. a cross-analysis revealed that while 68 percent of all responding contexts reporting having consulted with at least oneWRO to contribute to the HPC, in contexts with active gender working groups, 82 percent had consulted with WROs.

The availability of sustained gender capacity for HCT remained limited with less than 20 percent benefitting from appointed senior gender capacity for at least six months in 2020. In 36 percent of all IASC contexts, HCTs relied on the expertise extended by UN agencies (including UN Women, UNFPA) and INGOs. There was a drop in the percentage of HCTs reporting efforts to implement a GEEWG plan with only 11 percent doing so in 2020.

A significantly higher proportion of crisis settings – almost 80 percent – reported having conducted joint gender analysis in 2020. 60 percent of all gender analysis was dedicated to understanding the impact of COVID-19 or included such a component in 2020. It is clear that – based on findings at the global level and field level – those efforts to understand the impact of the pandemic largely did strive to understand the specific impact on women and girls. It is vital that this focus and the findings pointing to the specific and often disproportionate needs of women and girls is translated to targeted provisions to meet these needs.

KEY FINDINGS

Close to
80%
of outputs released by the IASC Principals Group in 2020 reflected the standards and commitments of the IASC Gender Policy – **a marked improvement from 33 % in 2019**

Attention to gender priorities in the work of the subsidiary bodies and associated entities dropped and the percentage of OPAG Results Groups complying with the IASC Gender Policy remained at **20%**

1/2 of the Peer-to-Peer missions in 2020 integrated gender priorities (while an improvement compared to 2018, this figure remains at the same level as 2019).

Attention to gender priorities among outputs endorsed by the OPAG **decreased**

For the
1st time, more than half of the HNOs (55%)
demonstrated use of SADD and gender analysis. Where Gender WGs were active, about 70% of HNOs did so

Over 90% of HRPs
included provisions for sexual and reproductive health and to mitigate and respond to GBV.

However, **only 63% of HRPs**
included provisions for women's livelihoods, similar to previous years.

54% of all HRPs included provisions to implement all the three cross-cutting areas of gender priorities (Livelihoods, GBV, and SRH). In settings with active gender working groups, 85% - a notably higher percentage – of HRPs did so.

68% of crisis contexts reported having consulted at least one local women's rights organization in the humanitarian planning process and over **80%** of settings reported having active gender working groups in place reflecting two important areas of improvement.

While **68% of all responding contexts reporting having consulted with WROs to contribute to the HPC,** in contexts with active gender working groups, **82%** had consulted with WROs

The availability of sustained gender capacity for HCT remained limited with **less than 20% benefitting from appointed senior gender capacity for at least six months in 2020.**

In **36% of all IASC contexts**, HCTs relied on the expertise extended by UN agencies (including UN Women, UNFPA) and INGOs.

Percentage of HCTs reporting efforts to implement a GEEWG plan decreased with only **11%** doing so in 2020.

A significantly higher proportion of crisis settings – **almost 80%** – reported having conducted joint gender analysis in 2020. **60%** of all gender analysis was dedicated to understanding the impact of COVID-19 or included such a component in 2020.

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INTRODUCTION

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) renewed its commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action through its 2017 Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action (Gender Policy). This was accompanied with an Accountability Framework (AF), intended to allow the IASC to monitor its delivery – both at the global and field levels – on the commitments, standards and prescribed roles and responsibilities contained within the Gender Policy.

The Accountability Framework focuses on the collective actions of the IASC with regards to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEEWG), monitoring the collective performance of the IASC on standards defined in the Policy, as well as the performance of IASC bodies with regards to fulfilling their roles and responsibilities, as prescribed in the Policy. As such, the overall aims of the Accountability Framework are:

- To monitor the collective actions of the IASC – at both global and field levels - to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls into the coordination of humanitarian response efforts around the world;
- To guide the IASC in identifying priority actions to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

OUTLINE OF PROCESS

Reporting on the implementation of the Gender Policy, the Accountability Framework is intended to capture, monitor, and measure the performance of the IASC Bodies as per the standards, roles and responsibilities set out in the Policy and how they have been implemented at global and field level. Over time, it is intended to show progress in the implementation of the Gender Policy.

As per the provisions of the endorsed Accountability Framework document, a **Gender Desk** (hosted by UN Women on behalf of the IASC's Gender Reference Group) was tasked with the requisite data collection, consolidation, and synthesis to fulfill the reporting requirements of the Accountability Framework. Since 2018, annual reports reviewing the IASC's adherence to its Gender Policy have been developed by UN Women on behalf of the IASC Gender Reference Group.[1] To strengthen the system-wide ownership of the exercise and to better harness the expertise of gender experts across the humanitarian system, the 2020 Report was developed with support from a dedicated Working Group comprising of UN and INGO Gender Reference Group members. In particular, the Gender Desk in 2020 benefitted from the contributions of Save the Children, Women's Refugee Commission, Oxfam, International Rescue Committee, the Gender Capacity Standby Project, the IASC Secretariat, and UN OCHA in its review of outputs produced by various strata of the IASC in 2020. This comprised of close to 90 documents including Humanitarian Needs Overviews

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