

THE IASC GENDER ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK REPORT - 2018



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2018 IASC Gender Accountability Framework Report is produced by UN Women, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Reference Group for Gender in Humanitarian Action (GRG). The Report marks the first monitoring cycle of the IASC's Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy endorsed in 2017 alongside the accompanying Accountability Framework. As per the provisions of the endorsed AF 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.

Reporting on the implementation of the 2017 Gender Policy, this Accountability Framework Report 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 Policy. As the inaugural Report, the information contained in this Report will serve as the baseline by which to measure progress.

The information required to carry out this analysis was gathered 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 Agency, Sida.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
AF	Accountability Framework
CBPF	Country Based Pooled Funds
CCCM	Camp Management and Camp Coordination
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
ECOSOC HAS	The 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
GFP	Gender Focal Point
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
GRG	Gender Reference Group of the IASC
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
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
WFP	World Food Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This 2018 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Accountability Framework (AF) report marks the first monitoring cycle of the IASC's *Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action Policy* endorsed in 2017. It provides a snapshot and baseline of where the structures and representation of the IASC were at during the calendar year of 2018 with regards to fulfilling the commitments, standards and roles and responsibilities set out in the Gender Policy.

Global Level - The IASC showed inconsistency in the adoption and application of its Gender Policy. For the Principal's output in 2018, only one-third of its published decisions reflected inclusion of the commitments to gender. For example, they were only reflected through reference to PSEA and AAP in the Strategic Priorities set for the IASC for 2018-2019.

The workplans for the Working Group and the Emergency Directors Group covering 2018 were rolled over from 2017, before the Gender Policy was adopted.

2018 saw the launch of two key IASC gender in humanitarian action tools, namely the IASC's Gender with Age Marker and the IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action. Both these resources were developed by GenCap and the Gender Reference Group (GRG) respectively, the two mechanisms offering gender in humanitarian action capacity to the IASC. However, it should be noted that the other key outputs of the Working Group in 2018 – *the Protocols on Humanitarian System-Wide Scale-Up Activation* – which were developed without gender-in-humanitarian-action technical capacity input, had very limited content from the Gender Policy. This demonstrates the need for continued cooperation and dialogue across the IASC to ensure gender commitments are upheld.

Feedback from the global clusters was limited. This is likely due to a lack of knowledge of the 2017 IASC Gender Policy and their reporting obligations to the Accountability Framework. This is an issue that will need to be addressed by the Principals, the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) and the GRG. The former for reiterating to its constituent parts the IASC's

stated policy and reporting commitments and the latter two for socializing the policy contents and the AF's added value to the IASC.

Feedback from the subsidiary bodies was limited due to their being dissolved in 2019 (other than the *Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings* and the GRG).

Field Level - It is welcoming to see 90% of the Humanitarian Needs Overviews 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, it is important to reflect that only 45% of them contained both. Furthermore, the issues identified in the gender analysis was inconsistently applied to the prioritized actions of the clusters/sectors in the HNOs and the HRP. It is worth noting that only five of the reporting countries had an independent gender analysis developed as a resource to feed into the humanitarian planning process.

Looking at specific action plans that address the specific needs (though not exclusive) of women and girls, the Humanitarian Response Plans were reviewed for inclusion of action on sexual and reproductive health (70% included), women's economic empowerment (60%), mitigation and response to GBV (65%).

70% and 95% of the HRPs included strategies and plans for PSEA and AAP, respectively. But what needs to be further developed are details on how women and girls can equally and safely access the feedback and complaints mechanisms that are central to both.

In terms of functioning gender reference/working groups at the country level, 44% of the reporting countries had them functioning in 2018. Often, these gender working groups were the main-point of contact of consultation with local women's groups. But there were other points of contact, with 56% of the reporting country contexts confirming direct consultations with local women's organizations during the humanitarian planning process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The report provides a set of recommendations applicable to the bodies and representation of the IASC at the global and field level. They are collated below, but more detailed context can be found in the analysis for each indicator in the main body of the report.

Principals:

- When establishing strategic priorities for the future work of the IASC as a whole, the Principals must ensure they include reflection of the commitments, standards and roles and responsibilities set-out in the IASC's 2017 Gender Policy.
- Practical guidance documents published by the IASC Principals – such as the El Nino SOPs and the Cash Assistance Statement – should include provision on how they relate to and will address the specific needs and rights of at-risk or affected women and girls.
- IASC Principals should strengthen the promotion of the IASC Gender Policy and Accountability Framework to all of its structures, member agencies and field representation so that they are aware of the Policy's contents and their obligations with regards roles and responsibilities and reporting requirements.
- The Principals group should ensure that they have – or consult with - the requisite gender in humanitarian action capacity at the decision-making level so that adherence to and application of the Gender Policy is consistent

OPAG, EDG and Deputies Forum:

- The IASC Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) which replaced the Working Group in 2019, as well as the Emergency Directors Group and Deputies Forum will develop their workplans for 2020 based on the Principal's established strategic priorities. It is essential that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is given the space it needs to be operationalized.
- OPAG, EDG and Deputies Forum should ensure that they have the requisite gender capacity at the decision-making level so that adherence to and application of the Gender Policy is consistent.
- The revised IASC Gender with Age Marker (GAM) should be consistently used in the development and monitoring of all humanitarian interventions.

Gender Reference Group:

- The GRG needs to continue to socialize the contents of the IASC Gender Policy, both globally and at the field level to ensure that all humanitarians are aware of the Policy's existence and what it contains. Working with the IASC Secretariat and Peer 2 Peer group, the GRG should conduct webinars, host relevant and topical events and other communication strategies to ensure all bodies and all positions included in the Policy know what the commitments, standards and roles and responsibilities are that pertain to them and everyone else.
- The GRG should also promote and help facilitate the recommendations contained within this report.

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