

Sector Gender Focal Points Network Meeting

Minutes 6 October 2013, convened at UNHCR Office, Main Conference Rm



Present

Sector	Agency	Name	Email
CP	AVSI Foundation	Riccardo Dalla Costa	riccardo.dallacosta@avsi.org
Education	None		
Food	WFP Regional Office	Christine Clarence Irene Babilie	Christine.clarence@wfp.org Irene.babilie@wfp.org
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MHPSS	None		
NFIs & Cash	UNHCR	Samia Qumri	qumri@unhcr.org
Protection	MPDL	Elena Vicario	jordania@mpdl.org
SGBV	None		
Site & Shelter	Care Jordan	Amber Savage	Amber.Savage@jo.care.org
WASH	None		
Multisectoral	UN Women	Ghada Efatih	ghada.ali@unwomen.org
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IATF/HCT	IASC GenCap	Merrin Waterhouse	merrin.waterhouse@unwomen.org waterhou@unhcr.org
Interagency coordinator	UNHCR	Alex Tyler	tyler@unhcr.org

Apologies: Miriam Lopez (Medair, Shelter WG), Miranda Shami (WHO, Health WG), Matt Byrne (UNHCR, Za'atri Camp), Frederick Garoff (CVT, MHPSS) and Jane MacPhail (UNICEF, CP) who passed on their apologies due to competing work commitments or out-of country missions.

Minutes

1) Introduction

- a) Merrin chaired the third Sector Gender Focal Points Network (SGFPN) meeting, welcoming the participants and introducing the agenda.
- b) Introduction of new member: Geeta Kuttiparambil has recently joined UN Women as a Humanitarian Officer and is keen to participate in the SGFPN. Christine advised as she will be away for a month, Irene was shadowing her so that she can assist the WFP Jordan Office with gender analysis for the RRP6.
- c) Agenda:
 - Reports on the progress from SGFPN Action Plan: updating progress with respect to the last meeting. What were we able to do? And what will we plan to do?
 - Preparation of the RRP6: how is the process going? Integration of gender lens into RRP6.
 - Video "The danger of a single story" by Chimamanda Adichie.

2) Reports on the progress from SGFPN Action Plan

- a) *Collection and use of Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD):*
 - i. WFP (Irene and Christine) underlined that all WFP tools now reflect SADD. Not yet for all the reports, the first regional report reflecting gender analysis ready to be realized. In Jordan and Lebanon, all the report integrate SADD while is not yet the case for Turkey and Iraq.

- ii.* Care has adopted a new database such that it is easier to extrapolate SADD. In the shelter sector strategy gender dimensions have been adopted but not yet incorporated into programming and reporting. Further work needs to be done on analysis of the Sex and Age Disaggregated Data in order to consider implications for programming
- iii.* IFH (Manal): Wanted to understand why RRP6 reports for Protection required disaggregation by sex and age but Health sector did not. It was confirmed that all sectors will be encouraged to disaggregate their performance indicators. Manal also raised with Alex that there is an overlapping between sectors, for instance: health and protection sectors especially for the action related to MHPSS and people with disabilities. Need for integration.
- iv.* IRC (Melanie): for the Cash assistance activities, IRC is committed to target gender needs but needs to coordinate with other NGOs so that Cash reports could better integrate SADD. Merrin added that during the workshops she attended with NFI, Cash and Shelter WGs, she had the feeling that a couple of people are not sure why data should be disaggregated by sex and age. Merrin and Samia will work together assist them to understand why, e.g. give good examples on what happens when data are not disaggregated (e.g. coping mechanism adopted by boys). Alex Tyler wondered if NFI and Cash are sectors in which is more difficult to report SADD? Merrin clarified the briefly the steps: first collect and specify data SADD, then analyze the data in order to understand trends, needs and gaps, then report to donors and review actions (and appeal). It is critical for the NFI sector to consult with wgbm about what NFIs they require and whether the aid is effective. Similarly, it is imperative that the Cash assistance is tailored to the circumstances of wgbm and reviewed by wgbm.
- v.* Manal commented on the challenge of reporting about one-off beneficiaries vs advantage of having on-going beneficiaries
- vi.* Ricardo from ASVI commented that gender markers are applied and included into new project proposals as well as data are collected according to SADD. SGBV and CP subgroups are doing very well, indeed they started engaging beneficiaries (M, B, W, G) into the response.
- vii.* Melanie (IRC) suggested that the GFP representation in Za'atari camp should be strengthened in order to be able to explain for instance to WASH sector members the importance of gendered needs and response.
- viii.* Amber said that SADD is very challenging for Shelter, Cash and NFI WGs since they target Household. It's difficult to break down data into MBWG, usually they report only % of targeted men and women. Merrin suggested that the examination of assistance to households headed by women, girls, boys and men could be useful as well as consistent with the developing vulnerability matrix. Melanie suggested that these working groups could triangulate information with the SGBV SWG in order to be congruent in their humanitarian strategies.
- ix.* Alex asked if the problem is at sector level (since SAAD is present in reports). Merrin reflected that while some sectors were collecting SADD, it was difficult to find evidence of this data being used to modify programming in some cases. Ideally, sectors would use the SADD to determine distinct needs as well as patterns (including barriers) to access available humanitarian aid.
- x.* Samia (UNHCR) advised that consultation about NFIs in urban areas is very difficult, that's why there is a focus on counting items, and it is easier in the camp. Melanie reiterated the idea of putting together other NGOs findings and shifting them from agencies level to sector level. Manal added that we should include also a "vulnerability assessment". Alex mentioned a vulnerability matrix by Cash and Health WGs. Care has already developed vulnerability criteria for cash assistance. Care will show it and discuss about it with Merrin.

b) *Gender Marker (GM) Trainings/Workshops:*

So far with the assistance of Merrin, the GM workshops have been delivered to the CP (Jane and Riccardo), Food (Olivia), GBV (Suzan and Geeta) and Education (Wala) sectors. On October 10th another GM workshop (Ghada) has been for Protection WG in Zaatari camp, while it is still pending a WS with shelter WG and a day-long workshop on Gender in Humanitarian Programming is under discussion with the CP subgroup (very likely mid November).

So far, Merrin improved the ppt material for GM WS, however she wishes she could move more towards trainings on “how” to integrate gender equality into daily (humanitarian) work.

3) *RRP6 elaboration process*

- a) Alex explained that sectors are developing the new RRP, which consist of a narrative part plus a table resuming objectives, outputs and indicators. Deadline for the submission of the sector RRP is 15/10. A new system has been launched, which includes extra table reflecting data disaggregated according to: sex and age, camps/non-camps, Syrians refugee population/local vulnerable population. From 20-26 October a committee will review each SRP in order to check the consistence among RRP objectives, outputs and avoid duplication. During this exercise GM will be applied too.
- b) Merrin asserted that it's hard to argue for and defend SADD, gender equality measures and gender mainstreaming if they are not supported by sector leaders, even if we have a system that integrates SADD. We need people to acknowledge that gender equality is important and use it in their programming and coordination.
- c) Amber said that it is good to reflect and agree on “gender” terminology into sector strategies (e.g. RRP), but we need also a structure to monitor it when implementing projects, which sometimes it's more difficult. Melanie agreed saying this is long-term work.
- d) Alex asked about what the added value of having SADD was at target level. Merrin explained that in the absence of further information, the target should be 50/50 as starting point, but after one year of operation and monitoring, if you find that Women and Girls are still struggling to get some services, especially in some sectors, strategies should reflect these trends/needs and targets should reflect realistic movement towards 50/50. Another example: fewer older boys are going to school than older girls in the camp, so the Education SRP should use these statistics to counter the poor attendance with activities that address the reasons why boys are not attending. Christine (WPF) observed that it may be better to put realistic data in the target instead of putting 50%-50% (assuming that we know already that in some sector we can't reach it) and put in place other activities or system to reach vulnerable target groups.

After the finalization of the RRP6, it may be timely for a review of the SGFPN with a survey of sector leads as well as Gender Focal Points about strengths and challenges, and aims for next year. Alex will help with this survey. GFPs can start thinking about questions that they want in these surveys, to be discussed at the next meeting.

4) *Video*

We watched the video TED talk: “The danger of a single story” by Chimamanda Adichie:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhAtYF4EFIE>

After the video, the group discuss about what it can be done to tell people about “multiple stories”. Dr. Manal stated that we should talk about the opportunities and not only about the challenges, likewise Melanie recognised that we rarely acknowledge Jordanians for their professional support. Amber posited we should change the focus. “What can we do, to do it better? Can we disseminate stories about positive coping mechanisms?” (Merrin). Ghada: in Za’atari camp, we started working on dissemination of successful stories. Amber: however sometime it's challenging to find for instance a

journalist who wants to write about these “positive”, successful stories, plus (Melanie) link with funding process too. Merrin suggested that we can come up with a “composition” of stories (let’s say negative and positive stories), and that we can start collecting “positive stories”. Geeta gave the example of the initiative “Voice”, a newly created NGO focused on giving space and opportunity to people to tell their stories. IRC and Save the children are planning to disseminate messages on CP and SGBV developed by refugees. Sector Gender Focal Points agreed to consider ways to reduce the likelihood that the refugees have ‘single stories’.

Next SGFPN meeting: Sunday 3 November 2013.