

Sector Gender Focal Points Network Meeting

Minutes 24 June 2014, convened at UNHCR Office, Executive Conference Rm



Present

Sector	Agency	Name	Email
CP	None		
Education	None		
Food	None		
Health	None		
MHPSS	None		
NFIs	None		
Cash	None		
Protection	MPDL	Elena Vicario	jordania@mpdl.org
SGBV	None		
Site & Shelter	None		
WASH	None		
Agency	UNHCR	Bertrand Blanc	blanc@unhcr.org
	UN Women	Geeta Kuttiparambil	geeta.kuttiparambil@unwomen.org
	UNICEF	Maaïke van Adrichem	mvadrichem@unicef.org
IATF	IASC GenCap	Merrin Waterhouse	waterhou@unhcr.org

Apologies: Samia Qumri (UNHCR, NFIs), Riccardo Dalla Costa (AVSI, CP) and Farah el Zubi (WFP) passed on their apologies due to competing holiday and work commitments. Heather Patterson has advised that she will no longer take on the role of Gender Focal Point for Shelter. Miranda Shami (Health) and Suzan Kasht (SGBV) have advised they are not able to attend and consequently support sector meetings. Jane MacPhail (CP), Amber Savage (Shelter) and Frederick Garoff (MHPSS) have changed roles and are no longer able to take on GFP duties. The network appreciates the efforts of the departed focal points to promote gender equality in the humanitarian operations.

Agenda:

1. What worked well in January-June 2014?
2. Where do we want to be in Dec 2014?
3. What actions should we take?
4. Participation in the design and delivery of the Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action training
5. Chairing of the SGFPN
6. Role of the Associate Coordinators

Minutes:

1. *What worked well in January-June 2014?*
 - o Maaïke raised the SGBV and Gender Audit in Azraq camp in March with follow-up; not all recommendations were taken up immediately though many were after advocacy. The audit identified good practices (e.g. separate spaces for female headed households and unaccompanied boys and girls to seek assistance as they enter the camp). It was disappointing that the WASH sector did not follow global standards for separating toilets, then refused to change the signs unless refugees requested it. The new style T-Shelters provide a rectangular space with uninterrupted view as you walk through the door: no provision was made for privacy screening. The Camp Co-ordinator (Bernadette Castel-Hollingsworth) is very interested in feedback. It was agreed that conducting Gender (and SGBV) Audits in the field is productive and should be a tool used more.

- The Gender Audit also queried the model of refugee representation. Geeta advised that Care International (the NGO charged with mobilizing refugees) expressed interest in learning more about how to provide equitable access to women and men to civic participation processes.
 - UNICEF incorporated a [short] session on gender equality in humanitarian action in its agency cross-sectoral programming training.
 - Gender Focal Points provided support to sectors regarding the inclusion of gender equality measures in the ERF proposals and gave editing comments to MYR sectors drafts.
2. *Where do we want to be in December 2014?*
- Colleagues know more about gender equality in humanitarian action, greater visibility
 - How can we involve more national officers?
 - Highlight programmatic results – articulate about considering gender equality makes a tangible difference for refugees
3. *Actions*
- GFPs need to bring practical examples to network meetings
 - Provide training on specific topics (sector leads to prioritize; train others to train in several field locations; short and practical)
4. *Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action Training*
- The GEHA will be rescheduled to be delivered in late August. This will give time for Sector Leads to identify and nominate suitable sector gender focal points. It will also enable the gathering of pertinent information to update the information as well as selected staff to prepare to deliver materials.
 - Maaïke and Bertrand agreed to deliver one of the sessions each. Geeta advised that she would not be available because it was close to her leaving date. Elena advised that she is leaving the operation in July 2014.
 - In 2013, there were many requests from UN agencies in particular for spots in the training for their agency gender officers who did not have a role in supporting sectors. In 2014, spots in the training will only be offered to those supporting the refugee sectors. Geeta advised that she would seek clarity from UN Women about the capacity to meet the expectation of support for a UN Gender Equality Group, and whether the Host Community Platform will have a gender focal point. These mechanism would be more appropriate because the GEHA training is based on the RRP coordination framework.
5. *SGFPN Chairing*
- Merrin approached the Agency Gender Focal Points who are charged with supporting the sector leads from the perspective of the agency (UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP). There was agreement that they will take on chairing responsibilities with the support of the GenCap Advisor. This action is being undertaken to build the sustainability of the mechanism.
6. *Associate Coordination Officers*
- It was suggested that perhaps the ACOs could participate in the GEHA training.
 - There needs to be further clarity about the role of ACOs regarding gender equality measures.
 - It is possible that ACOs could assist Sector Leads to monitor and analyze the gendered performance indicators.
 - It is important that GFPs can raise gender equality issues and strategies in the sector meetings in a manner that will make sense to sector members from a technical basis.

Next Meeting: 11am Sunday 6 July 2014

Venue to be Confirmed