### THE IASC GENDER ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK REPORT - 2019







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Produced by UN Women on behalf of the IASC Gender Reference Group (GRG)

Design: Rec Design

Cover Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 2019 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 is the monitoring mechanism for 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.

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 28 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.

UN Women would like to express its gratitude to all the stakeholders who provided their inputs and contributions to this report process.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2019 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Accountability Framework (AF) report marks the second monitoring cycle of the IASC's 2017 *Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Actin Policy.* It provides a snapshot of the IASC's output in the calendar year 2019 and allows for cross comparison with the baseline established with the 2018 AF report.

The 2019 report shows some progress and some remaining inconsistencies in the application of the 2017 Gender Policy. At the global level, gender was designated as a strategic priority for the allocation of CERF funding by the Emergency Response Coordinator and the first thematic evaluation by the IASC internal evaluation mechanism – the IAHE – was set as delivery on the gender policy. Both initiatives signifying commitment of the IASC management to address gender in humanitarian action.

Progress on the recommendations from the 2018 report has been limited, indicating the need for strengthened ownership of the recommendations by all stakeholders in the process. Across all levels of the IASC, more effort is needed to translate the recommendations into action, with the GRG taking a more active role in their dissemination and providin.

At the field level, the analysis shows consistent consideration of protection and GBV for women and girls and the provision of maternal-child health services in all of the Humanitarian Needs Overview documents for the 2020 Humanitarian Program Cycle that were reviewed. However, there was a drop in the extent of gender analysis that took a more comprehensive view of the impact on women, girls, men and boys, beyond just protection and maternal health. A comprehensive gender analysis beyond protection is particularly valuable given that the majority of crises are now protracted, multi-year contexts, and as such it is important to consider what the longer-term needs are, especially with regards to addressing livelihoods and education needs. Utilizing this metric, the report notes that percentage of HNOs employing gender analysis has remained the same (90% in 2018 compared to 89% in 2019).

This aligns with findings from the annual Humanitarian Programme Cycle Quality Scoring exer cise led by OCHA which also assesses HNOs and HRPs with a different set of indicators, which states specif ically that "Gender concerns overall and, notably, an understanding of the risks, vulnerabilities, and coping mechanisms along with causes of inequity – the anal ysis required for effective programming – continues to be found in only a few HNOs."

Analysis of the accountability framework's indicator results demonstrate how the provision of gender capacity and facilitation of women's voices contribute to better process results. For example, in the country contexts where local women were consulted 92% of them demonstrated the inclusion of a comprehensive gender analysis. Similarly, in the countries that consulted local women, 70% included provisions for the key service lines – GBV mitigation and response, women's livelihoods and sexual and reproductive health. Where there was no formal consultation with

<sup>1</sup> The enhanced HPC was introduced in 2019 and applied to the 2020 HPC cycle documents. The enhanced HPC approach was piloted during the reporting timeline in 2019. One of its central elements is ensuring inclusivity through disaggregation and analysis of the differential impacts of the crisis and associated needs for diverse groups of people (i.e. gender, age, disability and other diversity characteristics).

local women, these services were only prioritized in 55% of the context countries. Further research on how these this causality is caused through these process relationships is warranted.

In addition, where the country contexts indicated that they had gender in humanitarian action capacity, 100% utilized gender analysis in HNOs, compared to the 89% average and 73% had the key service lines - GBV mitigation and response, women's livelihoods and sexual and reproductive health – compared to the 55% average in HRPs.

The recommendations from the 2018 report still stand and are included as an annex to this report. A number of additional recommendations for the different strata of the IASC and its field representation are laid out in the relevant sections below and are compiled here for ease of reference:

#### **2019 Accountability Framework Recommendations**

#### **Principals:**

- The Gender Accountability Report for 2019 should be tabled for discussion at the Principal's level to reinforce the collective leadership and accountability required to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action.
- Future iterations of the IASC Workplan should ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women is prioritized as a cross-cutting issue across all strategic priorities.
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be an imperative cross-cutting theme across all IASC structures at the global level (IASC Principals, OPAG, EDG, RGs and Entities Associated with IASC, and field support structures; HCTs, ICCGs and clusters.

#### **OPAG and Results Groups:**

- The Gender Reference Group takes the initiative to strengthen collaboration with the IASC Results Groups to further mainstream gender across Results Groups outputs.
- GRG to work closely with the OPAG to support in implementation of the Gender Accountability Framework Report's recommendations, where appropriate.

#### Gender Reference Group:

- The GRG, on behalf of the IASC, should be designated its own standing side-event slot at ECOSOC HAS to facilitate presentation and debate on key gender equality and the empowerment of women and girl's issues.
- The GRG should establish a working group to review and undertake future Gender Accountability Framework reports, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the IAHE on GEEWG.
- GRG to collaborate with the RGs and ensure that they participate in RG discussions and contribute to policies and normative work produced by the RGs.
- The GRG should support OCHA to further mainstream gender into Emergency Response Plans. The criteria required to endorse an Emergency Preparedness Plan should include minimum standards for ensuring adequate gender considerations in assessment, consultation, inclusion, planning, implementation and M&E.

#### **HPC Steering Group:**

• OCHA in collaboration with IASC members critically explore systems and ways to more accurately and timely track funding for all gender equality programming, including pooled funding mechanisms.

#### **Global Clusters:**

- The GCCG should encourage all global clusters to nominate a gender focal point internally as a first step towards ensuring that gender is consistently mainstreamed in the work of the field clusters.
- Strengthen engagement and collaboration between Global Clusters and GRG with regular information sharing, briefings, and exchange regarding obligations and commitments contained in the IASC Gender Policy and Accountability Framework.
- OCHA, Cluster Lead Agencies, GCCG should promote the application of the IASC Gender Age Marker (GAM) as a mandatory project design and monitoring tool for all humanitarian interventions.
- Cluster lead agencies and global clusters should explore options to provide and/or facilitate access to resources and funding for sustainable technical gender expertise to support with integrating gender in responses.

#### HCs, HCTs and Clusters:

- Clusters should make efforts to promote more robust gender analysis including impacts on marginalized groups such as adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls, and ensure consistency between identified needs and response plans.
- HCTs and Country Based Pooled Funds Advisory Groups at country level should facilitate access to humanitarian funds to local women's organizations to build capacity and to enable engagement with the processes of humanitarian coordination and planning.
- HCTs and ICCG should develop a framework/process to ensure sustained engagement of women's organization within the planning process and coordination architecture, in particular women's meaningful participation in decision making.
- HCs and HCTs should ensure consistency between needs identified in the gender analysis findings outlined in the HNO with the final prioritized response plans. This includes issues such as added care burden and the means to alleviate.

# 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*. This was accompanied with an accountability framework (AF), intended to allow the IASC to monitor its delivery -both at the global and field level – 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 (GEEWG);
- To support the strengthening of accountability across the IASC with respect to advancing gender equality in humanitarian action.
- To showcase good practice and implementation of the IASC's commitments on gender equality.
- To highlight gaps where the IASC needs to amplify efforts to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

### Revised Accountability Framework Logframe

Based on the lessons learned from completing the first iteration of the Accountability Framework reporting cycle covering 2019 Humanitarian Program Cycle and given the reforms of the IASC's global structures and working procedures that were adopted in 2019, the IASC Gender Reference Group – through a sub-group led by UN Women and supported by OCHA, Plan International and WFP – revisited the indicators of the Accountability Framework logframe to streamline the data/info gathering process and to remove any redundant metrics. The new Accountability Framework logframe is attached in annex A.

#### **Outline of Process**

Reporting on the implementation of the 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 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.

The monitoring and reporting exercise is done against the two logframes contained within the Accountability Framework covering:

1) The Standards of the Gender Policy

• Analysis, Design and Implementation

- Participation and Leadership
- Organizational Practice to Deliver on Programme Commitments – financial resources, human resources
- Monitoring and Evaluation

2) Roles and Responsibilities defined in the Gender Policy:

- Principals Group,
- Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) and its Results Groups,
- Emergency Directors Group,
- P2P,
- GRG,
- IASC Associated Bodies,
- Global Clusters,

#### **Information Sources**

#### • Humanitarian Coordinators,

• Humanitarian Country Teams

In addition, the Accountability Framework includes an annual self-assessment mechanism, allowing the IASC structures and representation<sup>2</sup> to reflect on their performance vis-à-vis the Gender Policy.

• For the analysis of specific documents, a set of criteria was established to ensure continuity in the review process across time. These criteria are set out in the annexed updated logframe.

Through the IASC Secretariat and the network of UN Women and OCHA country offices, the Gender Desk attempted to liaise with all IASC Bodies and field representation, as necessary. It also analyzed the official policies, guidance notes and planning documents developed by the IASC and its representation at the global and field levels over the course of 2019.

Note on Reviewed IASC Documents and Publications:

All documents reviewed for the 2019 Accountability Framework report were those developed and published in 2019, including the 19 Humanitarian Needs Overviews and 20 Humanitarian Response Plan for the 2020 Humanitarian Program Cycle.

The scope of this exercise is limited to IASC managed crisis-contexts in which a Humanitarian Coordinator was present in 2019. This covers a total of 30 crisis settings which included 29 crisis countries plus one regional context: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso<sup>3</sup>, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC),

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen and the Syria Region.

From across these 30 crisis-settings, documents and direct inputs were collected and reviewed as follows:

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