

INTER-AGENCY HUMANITARIAN EVALUATION ON



COMPANION PIECE



REVIEW OF PROGRESS:

MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS INTO THE HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE NEXUS AGENDA

Final April 2021

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This Review was commissioned by the Management Group for the <u>Inter-Agency Humanitarian</u> <u>Evaluation (IAHE) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG)</u> of 2020, which focused on gender mainstreaming in the humanitarian programme cycle. The Review identifies constraints that need to be addressed to achieve greater inclusion of GEEWG in the triple nexus and suggests practical measures to be undertaken to this end.

A team from KonTerra conducted the Review.

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Disclaimer

The contents and conclusions of this Review report reflect the opinion of the authors, and not necessarily those of the United Nations, OCHA, donors, or other stakeholders.

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Acronyms

CCA	Common Country Analysis
DOCO	Development Operations Coordination Office
DPO	Department of Peace Operations
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender-based violence
GEEW	Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
GEEWG	Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls
GTG	Gender Theme Group
HDP	Humanitarian, Development, and Peacebuilding
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IAHE	Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations
IAHE SG	Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group
IANWGE	Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ISF	Integrated Strategic Framework
JSC	Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration
KII	Key informant interview
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
SADD	Sex- and age-disaggregated data
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UN-SWAP	United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit
WPS	Women Peace and Security



Glossary of Terms

Accountability to affected populations	Accountability to affected populations (AAP) is an active commitment to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people humanitarian organizations seek to assist. ¹ The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has endorsed four commitments on AAP and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA): Leadership: Demonstrate their commitment to AAP and PSEA by enforcing, institutionalizing and integrating AAP approaches in the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC) and strategic planning processes at country level, and by establishing appropriate management systems to solicit, hear and act upon the voices and priorities of affected people in a coordinated manner, including for SEA, before, during and after an emergency.
	Participation and Partnership: Adopt agency mechanisms that feed into and support collective/coordinated people-centred approaches that enable women, girls, boys and men, including the most marginalized and at-risk people among affected communities, to participate in and play an active role in decisions that will impact their lives, well-being, dignity and protection. Adopt and sustain equitable partnerships with local actors to build upon their long-term relationships and trust with communities.
	Information, Feedback and Action: Adopt agency mechanisms that feed into and support collective and participatory approaches that inform and listen to communities, address feedback, and lead to corrective action. Establish and support the implementation of appropriate mechanisms for reporting and handling of SEA-related complaints. Plan, design and manage protection and assistance programmes that are responsive to the diversity and expressed views of affected communities.
	Results: Measure AAP- and PSEA-related results at the agency and collective level, including through standards such as the Core Humanitarian Standard and the Minimum Operating Standards on PSEA, and the Best Practice Guide to establish Inter-Agency Community-Based Complaint Mechanisms and its accompanying Standard Operating Procedures. ²
Building back better	Building Back Better (BBB) is an approach to post-disaster recovery that reduces vulnerability to future disasters and builds community resilience to address physical, social, environmental, and economic vulnerabilities and shocks. BBB applies to all aspects and sectors of post-disaster recovery. BBB also applies to cross-cutting issues such as environment, gender, and governance. ³
Empowerment of Women and Girls	The ability of a woman or girl to control her own destiny. This implies that she must not only have equal capabilities (such as education and health) and equal access to resources and opportunities (such as land and employment), but that she must also have the agency to use these rights, capabilities, resources and opportunities to make strategic choices and decisions. ⁴
Gender	A social construct built through cultural, political, and social practices that defines the roles of women, girls, men, and boys as well as the social definitions of what it means to be masculine or feminine.⁵
Gender mainstreaming	Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic, and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.
Gender-based violence	Gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty. These acts can occur in public or in private. ⁶

¹ IASC (no date). Accountability to Affected Populations: A Brief Overview.

² IASC. 2017. *Commitments on Accountability to Affected People and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, November 2017*, IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

³ World Bank/GFDDR (2018): Building Back Better in Post-Disaster Recovery.

⁴ IASC Gender Policy.

⁵ IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action. 2018.

⁶ *IASC Handbook for Coordinating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Emergencies.* 2019. Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility. Global Protection Cluster.



Gender equality	Equal enjoyment by women, girls, men and boys of rights, opportunities, resources, and rewards. It does not mean that women and men are the same, but that their enjoyment of rights, opportunities and life chances are not governed or limited by whether they were born female or male. ⁷
Gender- responsive humanitarian programming	Gender-responsive programming refers to programmes where gender norms, roles and inequalities have been considered, and measures have been taken to actively address them. Such programmes go beyond raising sensitivity and awareness and actually do something about gender inequalities. ⁸ Gender-responsive programming recognizes that the needs and vulnerabilities of women, men, girls and boys in humanitarian settings are specific and different, and use the analysis of the gender relationships, roles, access to and control over resources, and constraints different groups face relative to each other to inform the design and implementation of interventions. The concept of participation of women and girls must have as its starting point their meaningful engagement (separately from men and boys) in the design, implementation, and monitoring of humanitarian programmes. In addition, it is important to consider that a person's experience of a crisis is intersectional and depends on the multiple identities people hold and their real-world implications in the context of the crisis. The complexity of human identities and power relations shape the experience of the phenomenon, and any response should be tailored to the specific and multi-layered needs and experiences of various individuals and groups and also consider the agency people may hold.
Gender- sensitive programming	Programmes and policies that take into account the particularities pertaining to the lives of both women and men, while aiming to eliminate inequalities and promote gender equality, including an equal distribution of resources.
Gender- transformative programming	Programmes and policies that seek to transform gender relations to achieve gender equality. Transformative results would contribute to changes in social norms, cultural values, power structures and the root causes of gender inequalities and discrimination. Furthermore, transformative change involves changes to social structures and relations, including addressing economic and political disparities and patterns of stratification also related to class, ethnicity, religion, or location. This requires changing both norms and institutions that shape the behaviour of people and organizations in the social, economic, environmental, and political spheres. ⁹
Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development	The concept of Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) aims at improving integration and coordination between humanitarian actors and development actors in transitional contexts. ¹⁰
Localization	Localizing humanitarian response is a process of recognizing, respecting, and strengthening the leadership by local authorities and the capacity of local civil society in humanitarian action, in order to better address the needs of affected populations and to prepare national actors for future humanitarian responses. ¹¹
New Way of Working	The New Way of Working (NWOW) calls on humanitarian and development actors to work collaboratively together, based on their comparative advantages, towards collective outcomes that reduce need, risk and vulnerability over multiple years. A collective outcome is a concrete and measurable result that humanitarian, development and other relevant actors want to achieve jointly over a period of 3-5 years to reduce people's needs, risks and vulnerabilities and increase their resilience. ¹²
Triple nexus	The "triple nexus" refers to the inter-linkages between humanitarian, development and peace actors. In the UN's "New Way of Working (NWoW)," these actors are expected to work towards collective outcomes over multiple years, when appropriate. ¹³

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ UNICEF. 2018. Gender Responsive Communication for Development: Guidance, Tools and Resources.

⁹ UN-SWAP 2.0. 2019. Accountability Framework for Mainstreaming Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in United Nations Entities, Version 2.

¹⁰ VENRO. 2006. *Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development*, February 2006.

¹¹ C. Fabre. 2017. Localising the response: World Humanitarian Summit, Putting Policy into Practice, The Commitments into Action Series, Paris: OECD.

¹² United Nations Joint Steering Committee To Advance Humanitarian Development and Collaboration. *The New Way of Working.*

¹³ ICVA. 2018. What is the Triple Nexus?



Executive Summary

About the Review of Progress on mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls into the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus agenda

Scope

In 2019, the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) Steering Group launched an <u>evaluation on</u> <u>Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG)</u>. Key informants indicated that GEEWG is not yet adequately considered within the new nexus processes. Subsequently, the IAHE Management Group commissioned a light Review to analyse the state of gender mainstreaming in the triple nexus, and entry points for helping humanitarian stakeholders to strengthen programming linkages with development and peace-building actors, in support of longer-term gender transformative initiatives. The Review is thus intended to: 1) make suggestions to Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) partners on possible entry points for gender mainstreaming in the triple nexus, and 2) present for consideration further initiatives required to deepen understanding and action to achieve this end.

Review questions

The Review sought to answer the following questions:

- What are the key policy, governance, resource, or other constraints that need to be overcome to achieve greater inclusion of GEEWG considerations in planning and implementing the nexus agenda?
- What are some of the immediate and medium-term practical measures that IASC governance can undertake to address these constraints?

Use

The main users of the Review are intended to be the: Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UN Sustainable Development Group, individual UN agencies, NGOs and research bodies working on the triple nexus. The actions presented for consideration to these bodies are in support of enabling operationalization at the country level.

Methodology

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