INTER-AGENCY HUMANITARIAN EVALUATION ON

GENDER EQUALITY

AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

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Disclaimer

The contents and conclusions of this evaluation 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

AAP	accountability to affected populations/people
ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
DERC	Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator
EDG	Emergency Directors Group
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator
ET	Evaluation Team
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FGD	focus group discussion
FTS	Financial Tracking Service
GAF	Gender Accountability Framework
GAM	Gender with Age Marker
GBV	gender-based violence
GEEWG	gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
GenCap	IASC Gender Standby Capacity Project
GH	Gender Hub
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
GRG	Gender Reference Group
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HPC	humanitarian programme cycle
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IAHE	Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordinating Group
INGO	international non-governmental organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KII	key informant interview
LGBTI	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPAG	Operational Policy and Advocacy Group
P2P	Peer 2 Peer

ProCap	Inter-Agency Protection Standby Capacity Project
PSEA	protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
RC	Resident Coordinator
SADD	sex- and age-disaggregated data
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	sexual exploitation and abuse
SOP	standard operating procedure
SRH	sexual and reproductive health
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	terms of reference
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN-SWAP	United Nations System-wide Action Plan
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WRC	Women's Refugee Commission

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]

Contribution analysis

Contribution analysis is a methodology used to identify the contribution an intervention has made to a change or set of changes. The aim is to produce a credible, evidence-based narrative of contribution that a reasonable person would be likely to agree with, rather than to produce conclusive proof.[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]

Gendered Approach

Implementation of activities that focuses on women and men and not on women in isolation. It highlights the differences between women's and men's interests even within the same household and how these interact and are expressed.

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]

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 equity

Gender equity refers to fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities between women and men, according to their respective needs. It is considered part of the process of achieving gender equality in terms of rights, benefits, obligations, and opportunities.[8] Gender equity may involve the use of temporary special measures to compensate for historical or systemic bias or discrimination to ensure equality of outcomes and results and not just of opportunities.

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[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 Exploita*tion and Abuse.*

[3]   INTRAC. 2017. *Contribution Analysis.*

[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.

[7]   Ibid.

[8]   *IASC Gender Handbook.*

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.[9] 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 equity. 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.[10]
Humanitarian action	Humanitarian action comprises assistance, protection, and advocacy in response to humanitarian needs resulting from natural hazards, armed conflict or other causes, or emergency response preparedness.[11]
Humanitarian principles	Underlining all humanitarian action are the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence. These principles, derived from international humanitarian law, have been taken up by the United Nations in General Assembly Resolutions 46/182 and 58/114. Their global recognition and relevance are furthermore underscored by the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations in Disaster Relief and the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability. The General Assembly has repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of promoting and respecting these principles within the framework of humanitarian assistance.[12]
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.[13]
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.[14]