

Nepal Earthquake Response
Inter-Cluster Gender Task Force
Fourth Meeting

11 May 2015, UN Conference Room, UN House Kathmandu

Participating:

Ojasi Shah (safer world), Bandana Shrestha (Mission East), Jessica Letch (Red Cross), Theo Sinkovits (IOM), Meenu Hada (WFP), Susan Robertson (Area RC), Sofia Westberg (MSB), Johan Kohler (MSB), Manju Tuladhan (USAID), Agnes Palacia (UNOCHA), Rekha Shrestha (WOREC), Devanna de la Puerte (GBV Sub cluster), Luma Singh Bishowkarma (UNHCR), John Lovdal (NDI), Kenza Aqertft (NDF), Nivedita Tiwari (HI), Archana Sharma (Helpage), Rhea Bhardwaj (Helpage), Anaud Achaud (OHCHR), Sofia Westberg (MSB), Jasveen Alluwallia (CARE), Katja Vauhyonen (UNDP), Gitanjali Singh (UN Women), Barsha Pradhan (UN Women), Marie Sophie Pettersson (UN Women), Sangeeta Thapa (UN Women), Sandhya Shrestha (OXFAM), Sudha Pant (UNFPA), Anjali S. Pradhan (UNICEF), Christine Mougne (GenCap), Anu Pillay(GenCap)

1. Introduction

- Chris Mougne (GENCAP Adviser) announced that this is her last meeting and introduced Anu Pillay as her replacement GENCAP Adviser.
- Announcement of handover to UN women as the Co-Chair of the Gender Task Force (GTF) represented by Gitanjalai Singh, UN Women Deputy Representative. UN Women is in contact with the National Women's Commission and the NPC about Chairing the Gender Task Force.

2. Gender Bulletins. Establishing a process for updates

- Draft Template for the Gender Bulletin was shared by Chris Mougne. Aim to get the first version out of the Gender Bulletin out this week and to publish it on a regular (weekly/ fortnightly) basis going forward.
- **GTF members are requested to submit inputs including various gathered gender-related information, including from the field, to form part of the first Gender Bulletin. These should be sent to the gendertaskforcegooglegroup.com.**
- May need to set up a more structured process for collecting information going forward
- WOREC will consolidate messaging on gender issues from the field and share these.

3. Field presence and establishing field networks

- Gitanjali Singh (UN Women) emphasised the need for GTF presence at the local level in the hubs to ensure gender is thoroughly mainstreamed beyond the local protection clusters, e.g. by replicating the GTF at the local level. **GTF members are requested to share information about current deployment at the local hub level via the googlegroup.** Following inputs will decide on modalities etc. and will ensure to avoid duplication and addressing gaps.
- UNICEF stressed the need to be strategic and utilise current staff members already deployed at the local level through various agencies, including those engaged in the protection clusters.

- It was suggested that the many women's groups at the local level could be consulted and engaged further as focal points, as it was reported this is already being done in Sindhupalchowk.
- Susan Robertson (Area HC) offered her support on this.
- Care requested to produce a ToR for local level gender focal points to cover both protection and gender issues.

4. Role of the gender focal point (package)

- Anu Pillay (GENCAP Adviser) shared the information received from various clusters that their allocated gender focal point sometimes lacked the capacity to adequately advise how to implement and utilize the provided gender checklists. It was noted that the cluster gender focal points are not all gender experts but rather perform the role as the conduit between the GTF and the clusters. Thus, it was proposed that the GTF should advise clusters on how to ensure certain tasks related to gender-responsiveness are conducted and provide support whenever needed. **It was agreed that a ToR for the Cluster Gender Focal Points will be prepared by Anu Pillay and shared through the google group.** Anu Pillay informed about the plan to conduct a capacity needs assessment of the cluster gender focal points. **GTF members were requested to share any relevant resources for the Gender Focal Points through the google group.**
- Devanna de la Puente (GBV Sub cluster) informed that gender checklists are currently available for some clusters and suggested that these be revised/updated, translated and disseminated. WOREC also informed that they have prepared gender sensitivity checklists. **It was agreed to coordinate to produce a comprehensive gender kit support package to distribute to clusters to avoid duplication.** The IMs from the GBV Sub cluster and the GTF will coordinate on this.

5. Accountability, feedback mechanisms and PSEA

- Chris Mougne (outgoing GENCAP Adviser) stressed that the issue of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) is of high relevance in the current context of large police and military presence in affected areas. Thus coordination on PSEA response is key. A request has been received from UNDAC on providing PSEA training to the military currently present in Nepal and a meeting was held with the human rights and protection clusters on the development of a training package. Leaflets on zero tolerance on PSEA have been developed to be disseminated to military personnel. A comprehensive complaints mechanism for people affected by or witness to sexual exploitation and abuse is being developed. This is intended to form a comprehensive framework for reporting and investigation by incorporating aspects of all other existing structures.
- It was suggested to focus on also orientating people and raise awareness of sexual exploitation and abuse and how it can be reported and prevented. The need to link with the government regarding the legal aspects was also stressed.
- WOREC reported that women staying in the safe houses are expressing a desire to return to their homes instead of remaining in the safe houses and to use their traditional handicraft skills to generate income and start their lives up again, WOREC was requesting whether financial support for these women's IGAs can be considered.

- The OCHA CivMil coordinator requested GTF members to help with coordinating and consulting the military focal points about the PSEA training.

6. Update from small working groups

- Inclusion WG: This WG reported that it has absorbed the previous two sub clusters under the protection cluster on old-age and disabilities since it was agreed that inclusion is a cross-cutting issue which does not only fall within the protection cluster. The inclusion WG held an initial workshop with 33 agencies representing old-age and disability associations and there was collective agreement to focus their work on the inclusion WG and members will provide feedback from the field level. Discussion was held on the development of messaging and district level profiles. To ensure consistency, it was agreed to incorporate the inclusion WG messaging inputs into the overall GTF messaging products.
- Messaging WG: Key messaging will be distributed from the humanitarian coordination group on safety and security information (e.g. hotlines). All messaging needs to be coordinated to avoid duplication. **A second round of messaging inputs from the cluster focal points was requested.**
- Assessment WG: discussion was held on how to ensure that both assessment methodology and tools are gender-responsive.
- WG on linking with women's groups: The Women's groups' charter will be released this week. **The mapping of women's groups is being consolidated by UN Women and will be shared by next meeting.**

7. Update from cluster focal points

- Food cluster: gender inputs have been provided on the methodology for needs assessment.
- Assessment team: shared that they are currently trying to produce profiles on pre and post crisis knowledge and are requesting further inputs on gender issues. **Currently gender inputs received have been more general, thus more specific concrete information would be useful, while noting the sensitive nature of this information.** Care gender profile and resources are to be shared with the assessment team.
- Cash Coordination Group: cash interventions are being provided to affected families through cash transfers (conditional, unconditional, and cash for work) based on thorough analysis in relation to markets, minimum expenditure baskets, standards of living, financial service providers etc. **There is a key focus on how to ensure targeting of female beneficiaries and ensure gender-responsiveness and the GTF is requested to provide technical advice on the intervention guidelines on gender.** Help Age is currently supporting for targeting of old-age beneficiaries. It was noted that several UN agencies have already provided inputs on the Cash for Work guidelines.
- Wash cluster: It was noted that while gender and vulnerabilities are on the agenda, no specific action is being taken. It was stressed that a dedicated gender focal point is needed in the sub-clusters.
- The Central Monitoring Group is established and going to the districts, thus the need to assess their work from a gender perspective was stressed - including ensuring the relief distribution is being monitored from a gender perspective.
- Shelter: gender balance is being advocated for in the VDC monitoring teams.

- It was stressed that simply ensuring gender balance is not sufficient, but that comprehensive incorporation of gender considerations is needed through application of gender monitoring checklists. **Care will share their gender toolkits.** It was further stressed to ensure inclusion women of excluded groups, including elderly women and female household heads. WOREC reported that many women in male headed households and female headed households are excluded from relief support due to gender power dynamics and due to men's often stronger political affiliations. Red Cross stressed careful categorization of female headed household into those who are benefitting from economically sustainable remittances and those who are not. They are not all vulnerable.
- The issue of women without citizenship documents (due to lack of registration or having lost the documents) was raised. It was noted that this is a key protection issue.
- UNICEF shared feedback from Gorkha district for the health cluster focal point that pregnant women are suffering from bleeding problems and damp living conditions.

8. AOB

- Update on cultural Orientation: daily cultural orientation has been conducted for new arrivals and discussion was held on whether gender should be included. Yet these orientation no longer take place as people are moving straight to the hubs. The orientation coordinator shared that extracts from the gender profile were included in the orientation sessions. It was noted that the GTF may revisit and refine this orientation information to ensure gender is adequately incorporated.
- Googlegroup - All GTF members will be added to the googlegroup, which will include all email lists, communication chains, resources, minutes from discussions etc
- BBC Action Media: currently looking at how to work with them on key gender messaging (security, shelter, early recovery, etc.). **Will brief members at next Gender Task Force meeting.**
- **ToR for Gender Task Force will be redrafted and circulated including feedback comments.**
- Suggestion to establish GTF core group was discussed and **a draft proposal will be prepared and shared with members.**
- Announcement that the Protection cluster work is currently being expanded to focus on much broader issues beyond GBV and CP.

NEXT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 14 MAY AT 12.30 IN THE UN CONFERENCE ROOM