REF-SGFPN Refugee Sector Condo

Refugee Sector Gender Focal Points Network

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, 12 May 2022 [MS-Teams]



Attendees (12)

- Co-chair SGFPN [UNHCR]
- Co-chair SGFPN [UN Women]
- Gender Focal Point [UNHCR]
- SGFP Shelter Sector [UNHCR, IOCC]
- SGFP Health Sector [IMC]
- SGFP Food Security Sector [WFP]
- SGFP Livelihoods Sector [WVI and IRC]
- SGFP GBV Sub-Sector [GFP, JRF and UNFPA]

1. Welcome Remarks and Agenda

The SGFPN Co-chairs from UN Women and UNHCR welcomed the participants.

The UN Women SGFPN Co-chair presented the meeting agenda and invited the participants to add agenda items under AOB.

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review of action points from last meeting
- Updates from the SGFPs' field of work: contribution to the Sectors' Work Plans, good practices, achievements, recommendations, challenges, etc.
- Update on the planned SGFPN capacity building sessions
- AOB

2. Progress of Action Points from the Previous Meeting

Action Points	Responsible	Status
Follow up on nomination of new SGFPs	SGFPN Co-chairs	Done
Start preparing for the capacity building activities scheduled on May - June	SGFPN Co-chairs and as per the CB Plan	On-track
Maintain 'Updates from SGFPs' a standing agenda point for each SGFPN meeting	SGFPN	On track
Suggest agenda topics for the SGFPN meetings	SGFPs	Pending

UNHCR SGFPN co-chair updated members on the progress made against the action points from the previous meeting. Regarding the follow-up on nomination of new SGFPs, she updated that over the past month no new nominations have been received for those sectors where we are missing still FPs or the back-ups. UNHCR and UN Women SGFPN Co-chairs agreed that they will request the Inter-Sector Coordinator to send out another follow-up reminder request. In terms of the preparations for upcoming SGFPN capacity building activities in May and June 2022, she updated that these are ongoing. Updates from SGFPs are expected during today's SGFPN meeting. Suggestions for topics, including creative and innovative ideas, for upcoming SGFPN meeting agendas are encouraged from all SGFPN members to add further to the current agreed forward agenda for Q2 of 2022.

3. Updates from the SGFPs' field of work: contribution to the Sectors' Work Plans, good practices, achievements, recommendations, challenges, etc.

The UNHCR SGFPN Co-chair welcomed SGFPs to share openly about their updates, challenges, concerns and overall perspectives about their ongoing work with assigned sectors. She especially welcomed SGFPs to share if they need any support from SGFPN Co-chairs and also if they have made their own activity plans or checklist of key priorities/tasks for their support to sectors on gender mainstreaming. She emphasised that SGFPs don't need to wait for the regular meetings to share updates but that they are always welcome to reach out to the SGFPN Co-chairs at any time.

The WVI Livelihoods Sector Gender Focal Point shared that not much work on gender mainstreaming had happened over the past month due to multiple proposal deadlines.

The UNFPA GBV Sub-Sector GFP updated that she is following up with the Protection Sector Gender Focal Point to ensure the 2021 Protection Sector Gender Monitoring Dashboard gets submitted by ASAP this month. She further updated that a gender mainstreaming work plan for the GBV Sub-Sector has been finalized by the SGFPs and is currently being reviewed by the GBV Sub-Sector co-coordinators. The SGFPN Co-chairs invited The GBV Sub-Sector GFPs to present on the workplan in the next SGFPN meeting and welcomed other SGFPs to contact the UNFPA GBV Sub-Sector GFP (albaba@unfpa.org) to seek advice and inspiration regarding the development of this work plan.

The UNHCR and IOCC Shelter Sector GFPs updated that sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) reporting is now being included for shelter data from camps which is a good progress made yet noting that there is still limited SADD available including on female headed households and that it was not agreed to change the relevant Shelter Sector ActivityInfo indicators accordingly. The SGFPs shared that it was interesting to hear the perspectives during the Brussels VI Conference on Syria side-event on "Exploring Syrian women's potential in advancing the humanitarian, development & peacebuilding nexus" in which the importance of providing more non-traditional livelihoods opportunities for Syrian women to not only be trained in tailoring but also be engaged in more administrative and management positions. In light of this they updated that NRC is preparing a training activity for Syrian women in the camps. Yet, it was noted that the engagement of women in Shelter Sector activities is still very limited, e.g. in shelter prepare committees in Za'atari camp no women are engaged and in Azraq camp only 1-2 women are engaged. The SGFPs stressed that the increasing challenge of under-funding of the Shelter Sector as a whole, exacerbated also by the decline in the budget under the Jordan Humanitarian Fund, negatively impacts scope for specific financial allocation for innovative programming including programming targeting women, e.g. efforts to engage women in shelter rehabilitation. The IOCC Shelter Sector GFP updated that she has taken up the role as Co-Chair of the Shelter Sector and hence will continue to prioritize women's empowerment and participation in shelter activities as a key gap area to be addressed, as well as ensuring overall alignment between the Shelter Sector work plan and the SGFPN work plan. The UNHCR SGFPN Co-chair enquired about key success factors for enabling initiatives for women's engagement in non-traditional activities for women under the Shelter Sector, e.g. plumbing. The UNHCR Shelter SGFP explained that to socio-cultural norms/roles and the need to ensure acceptance from women's families and the wider community, there is a need to first ensure women access proper training and for a comprehensive community engagement and communications approach to embark on such initiatives. The UN Women SGFPN Co-chair congratulated the Shelter SGFPs for these efforts ranging from addressing basic gender mainstreaming minimum standards of SADD to working on promoting gender transformative approaches on women's economic empowerment and women's leadership, amid the challenges of this due to gaps in gender-responsive financing of humanitarian action. SGFPN Cochairs suggested for UNHCR and NRC colleagues to keep the SGFPN updates about the progress and lessons learned for this new programme initiative by UNHCR and NRC under the Shelter Sector once implemented. The UNHCR GFP shared about her past experience working on an Oxfam programme engaging women as plumbers which was a great success which also led to active support from local imams and local contractors who were encouraged to hire more women in key positions. The SGFPN Co-chairs suggested for the UNHCR GFP to share relevant material about this good practice initiative with SGFPN members and that interested members can also contact UNHCR GFP directly for more information on: Samira Smairat smairats@unhcr.org. The UNHCR GFP also suggested for joint SGFPN field visits and consultation with women engaged in this Oxfam project for collective learning and further emphasized that for such programmes to be successful they require longer-term funding over multiple years.

If the SGFPN members are interested in a field visit to the Oxfam project, they will have to contact Oxfam directly.

The Caritas Health SGFP shared a few updates on gender mainstreaming efforts under the Health Sector via email as she was unable to attend the meeting. She shared that after her discussion with the Health unit member internally in Caritas, they have started to disaggregate all monthly reports by gender and ensure gender-responsive monitoring to assess health services from a gender lens and feed into planning and gender-equitable outcomes. Caritas has further updated their internal SOPs for the management of anemia and malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years old to be more comprehensive and efficient. Caritas has further finalized a new systematic patient file system in which gender-disaggregated formats have been introduced in line with Ministry of Health protocols as an important step to ensure gender-specific needs are adequately addressed. She further highlighted that upcoming gender mainstreaming training for SGFPs will be important including to strengthen her work on promoting gender mainstreaming and gender equality among health professionals both internally within Caritas and externally with Health Sector partners. The IMC Health SFGP added that he is exploring options for conducting gender training for health sector practitioners and have discussed this issue with the SGFPN Co-chairs. He further emphasized the importance of increasing the recruitment of female health staff as a critical issue within the Health Sector.

4. Update on the planned SGFPN capacity building sessions

The UN Women SGFPN Co-chair reminded SGFPN members of the key upcoming capacity building sessions planned for the 1st semester under the SGFPN Capacity Building Plan for 2022, namely on: IASC Gender with Age Marker (GAM); UNHCR Gender, Age and Diversity Principles; Gender Mainstreaming in the Programme Cycle; and the Sector Gender Monitoring Dashboard.

In relation to the IASC GAM training, the SGFPN Co-chairs updated that discussions are ongoing with the Senior Gender Capacity Adviser (GENCAP) currently deployed to the Jordan refugee response who has kindly agreed to organize and conduct this training with support also from GENCAP HQ colleagues. More details will follow soon. The WVI Livelihoods SGFP stressed the importance of this training to not only focus on the use of the IASC GAM as a tick-box tool to approve the project proposals for funding but to also focus on its use for project monitoring and evaluation to measure gender and age responsive programming. The UN Women SGFPN Co-chair echoed these reflections and added that this was already a part of the ongoing discussions with GENCAP for the planning of this training session.

In relation to the UNHCR Gender, Age and Diversity Principles, the UNHCR SGFPN Co-chair updated that internal discussions on this are ongoing and that further updates will follow soon.

In relation to the Gender Mainstreaming in the Programme Cycle training session, the UN Women SGFPN Co-chair updated that a concept note for this training is being prepared and that this training is planned to take place in Q3 and in-person. The next few months till then will focus on ensuring substantial preparation for this training including contextualizing and adapting and contextualizing some of the existing training materials available on this topic, e.g. the ToT training package from the recent regional GiHA ToT for the MENA region by the Regional GiHA working group. The UN Women SGFPN Co-chair also mentioned that interested SGFPs would also be invited to help contribute to the planning and facilitation of this training session, including those who attended the GiHA ToT organized by the Regional GiHA WG.

In relation to the Sector Gender Monitoring Dashboard (SGMD) training session, the UNHCR SGFPN Co-chair updated that this will be a refresher training for those SGFPs who are already well-familiar with the SGMD and will be an introduction for the newly joined SGFPs. The timing of this session will be confirmed in line with the ISWG reporting calendar.

The UNHCR GFP commented that the sequencing of these SGFPN training sessions will provide an important holistic set of skills and tools for SGFPs to better equip them to support the sectors on gender mainstreaming across the different phases of the programme cycle.

7. AOB

The UN Women SGFPN Co-chair updated that she will be going on maternity leave for 6 months this month and hence may not be attending the next regular SGFPN meeting in June. She mentioned that her maternity cover is being recruited and will be introduced to the SGFPN as soon as that staff is onboard.

The UNHCR Shelter SGFP shared an update to the group about a new UNDP report on "Changing spaces to change behaviours" as recommended reading for SGFPs: https://www.jo.undp.org/content/jordan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2022/changing-spaces-to-change-behaviors-/

Action Points	Responsible	Deadlines
Follow up again on nomination of new SGFPs	SGFPN Co-chairs	ASAP
Continue preparing for the capacity building activities scheduled on May - June	SGFPN Co-chairs and as per the CB Plan	May
Maintain 'Updates from SGFPs' a standing agenda point for each SGFPN meeting	SGFPN	Continuous
Suggest agenda topics for the SGFPN meeting in June	SGFPs	May
GBV Sub-Sector GFPs to present on gender mainstreaming work plan in next SGFPN regular meeting	GBV Sub-Sector GFPs	2 June
Shelter SGFPs to keep SGFPN posted about progress in implementing new gender-transformative programme initiative by UNHCR and NRC	Shelter SGFPs	Following initial period of programme implementation

Next SGFPN Monthly Meeting

The next SGFPN meeting will take place on Thursday, 2 June at 11:30am with the below forward agenda.

- ✓ Development of the mid-year 2022 Sector Gender Monitoring Dashboards (SGMDs)
- ✓ Monitoring progress of the SGFPN work vis-à-vis the 2022 SGFPN Work Plan

For further information, please contact:

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