

Gender and Age (Monitoring Phase)

Meeting of 3rd March 2016

Time: 11.00am – 12.15pm

Location: OCHA Blue Meeting Room

Meeting Chair: Senior GenCap Adviser, Simon Opolot

Co-chairs: UNHCR, UNICEF,

Participants (Present): UNHCR, UNICEF, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), CARE International Jordan.

- Agenda:**
1. Introduction of Members present
 2. Review of 2015 (IATF) Pilot Monitoring of Gender Equality Measures (GEMs)/Gender and Age Marker
 3. Introduction of the Enhanced IASC Tool for Monitoring GEMs/Gender and Age Marker.
 4. Call for Sectors/Agencies to apply the tool to (some of their projects)
 5. AOB

1. Introduction

The chair of the meeting welcomed the Gender and Age Marker (Monitoring Phase) Working Group members. Members introduced themselves by name, agency and sector they represent.

2. Review of 2015 (IATF) Pilot Monitoring of Gender Equality Measures (GEMs)/Gender and Age Marker

Most of GEMs Monitoring Working Group members present in the meeting had participated in piloting earlier last year (2015) of the monitoring phase of the IASC Gender and Age Marker. It was noted that the "Tool is Easy to Use and Takes No More than an Hour to fill out". In general, the tool was applied by asking the project manager or the implementing partner to review the questions and collect the "means of verification." Some agencies had the implementer fill out the description field (with a short narrative of the answer to the first question) and reviewed their answers together with the means of verification. Others conducted the pilot as an interview where they sat together and answered the questions. In all cases, the implementers found it much easier and faster to implement than they had feared. In general, the time taken to use the tool was 45 minutes to an hour.

IRC used a two-step process – the project coordinator on the ground and the project manager filled out the tool and then compared and discussed their answers. The Project Manager physically verified the means of verification and this took about 45 minutes. UNHCR used it as a discussion guide within a monitoring visit and walked through the questions and discussed in a group. UNHCR didn't physically verify the documents but spoke to the project about how they documented information which showed the gaps. This took about an hour. CARE had both M&E and program staff participated in a discussion which took about an hour. UNICEF used it as a discussion guide with the implementing partner who was asked to fill it out in advance. Information on the experience of WFP was not readily available.

The Tool can be used by both donors and project implementers. Donor agencies noted that they found that implementing it with a partner was very useful. They used the activity information as a means of verification and found that the reporting was very useful for the analysis stage of the project.

3. Introduction of the Enhanced IASC Tool for Monitoring GEMs/Gender and Age Marker.

Simon Opolot (Senior GenCap Adviser) presented the enhanced IASC Tool for monitoring the Gender and Age Marker; taking them through the introductory and monitoring stages of the tool. A Pseudo Protection sector project was used for learning purposes. This session demonstrated the applicability of the tool. Participants made the following recommendations for improving the tool:

- (i) Provide a paragraph or two of the pilot stage (in 2015) of the tool in Jordan as background context of its use in Jordan.
- (ii) Map out/block out actual "age ranges" under the section in the tool called, "Age group(s) targeted by the project."
- (iii) Consider any potential and adapt the tool for monitoring
- (iv) Training on the tool should be adapted as most Working Group members did attend the training last year and for the enhanced tool.
- (v) Could the tool be adapted to monitor GBV as well? If so, widen the scale/its range.
- (vi) Justify more why the tool is linked to the Gender and Age Marker.
- (vii) Can a section on "follow-up" actions be created to address ongoing program monitoring? This could be done by adding a recommendation box on specific follow up that needs to help. This could link to the scores so people understand that it doesn't mean the project will be terminated.

4. Call for Sectors/Agencies to apply the tool.

Participants observed that the tool has great potential to improve the mainstreaming and monitoring (and reporting) of gender measures throughout the project cycle. There was a strong majority sentiment that the use of the tool should no longer optional but mandatory. The tool should be shared with Sector Leads and Sector Gender Focal Points for them to have discussions with partners to improve analysis. The tool should also be shared with donors as a way to discuss with partners on improving gender mainstreaming. The tool should also be incorporated into the regular project reporting. All agencies should be encouraged to incorporate this into their regular project reporting.

Next Working meeting will be convened upon receiving additional communication from Geneva – Global M&E GenCap.