

DER Sub-Group

Meeting of the Gender and Diversity in Disasters Working Group

22 December 2004

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Charlie Higgins, WFP Senior Advisor on Disaster Preparedness and Response.

The attendance list is at Annex A.

MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

Formation of Working Group on Gender and Disasters

- **The objective of the working group**

- The objective of the working group could be primarily to assist DER members to reach women, girls and other neglected groups of people through their disaster and emergency operations. The working group should also lead the DER Sub-Group as a whole in preparing and implementing its plan and activities so that they will meet the needs of those groups of people. The DER Sub-Group should work on advocacy, either within the given working group, or by setting up a separate working group as required.
- There was a discussion whether a separate working group should be set up for the advocacy role. The points considered included the scope of the working group, the need of strategic planning, and the limited resources of member agencies. The meeting did not reach an agreement in this matter. It could be discussed at a later time as required.
- It was suggested that the working group should address not only gender issues but also other neglected groups in disasters. To reflect the idea, it was proposed to name the group 'Working Group on Gender and Diversity in Disasters.'

- **Lead agency**

- It was discussed that whichever lead agency is selected, it should be committed and have the capacity to take the gender issues forward and lead the group in disaster settings. Oxfam volunteered to be the lead agency, on account of its experience and capacity in addressing gender issues. Disaster Forum was also considered, on account of its wide network.

- It was concluded that Oxfam would take the lead, and Mr. M.B. Akhtar, Programme Coordinator, Gender Equity, Oxfam was nominated as the focal person and chair person of the working group.

- **Membership**

- Membership of the working group entails a continuous commitment and regular attendance at the working group meetings. Agencies with a gender component in their programmes could be considered for membership in the group. The Chair asked the floor if the agencies present at the meeting could all be considered as members. CARE, Concern, UNICEF, Oxfam and WVB agreed explicitly.

- **Procedure**

- It was agreed that the working group should respect and utilize the existing capacity of the member agencies.
- The workplan should be tightly focused with realistic goals so that it could achieve its planned outputs.
- Activities of the working group should be demand driven, by the DER Group as a whole.
- One early task would be a vulnerability and capacity mapping in order to identify the gap between capacity and needs, so that the working group could prioritize the issues, then select a few critical ones to address. The mapping should be done with a focus on response activities. The discussions at the DER Sub-Group's Special Meeting on Gender and Disasters, July 2003 should be reflected in the mapping exercise.
- The logical framework relating to the subject prepared at the Lessons Learned Workshop needs further work, to make it more concrete and detailed.
- The Chair proposed that the lead agency, supported by the DER Secretariat, should draft the log frame with more concrete details, and the draft should be consolidated and agreed at the next working group meeting. The agreed log frame (especially the outputs) will effectively be the working group's TOR. Oxfam, as lead agency, and the DER Secretariat will meet on Monday, 27 December to discuss further details.

Special Meeting on Gender and Disasters, July 2003

- Participants who attended the DER Special Meeting on Gender and Disasters, July 2003 shared their experience with the others. The meeting identified critical issues and shared best practices. It basically served as the forum for information sharing among the participants. Since the meeting, however, specific actions to follow-up the discussions had not been taken.
- The log frame produced by the lead agency, and the DER Secretariat, should also reflect the discussions at the meeting.

Any other business

- The Chair announced that the drafting of the report of Lessons Learned Workshop by Mr. Sanual Mustofa, the workshop facilitator, should be underway, and the first draft would be ready by 31 December 2004. The draft will be circulated among the participants of the workshop for their inputs, finalized, then printed and distributed to the participants, hopefully before the end of January 2005.
- The Chair reminded members that the next DER meeting would be on 5 January 2005 at 1400 hrs.
- UNDP and UNICEF raised their concern about the pneumonia cases associated with the 'cold-wave.' They agreed to provide the Secretariat with the relevant document for circulation to the wider DER Group.

Next meeting

- The next working group meeting will be on 11 January 2005 at 1400hrs, once the DER Secretariat and Oxfam, the lead agency have met on 27 December 2004.

DER Sub-Group Secretariat

28 December 2004

ANNEX

A. Attendance List

ANNEX A – ATTENDANCE LIST

Serial	Category	Name	Organization
1	GoB	Ms. Md. Shantana R Halder	CDMP
2	GoB	Ms. Nargis Akhter	Department of Women Affairs
3	GoB	Dr. Mohd. Shahadt Hossain Mahmud	DRR
4	UN	Mr. Md. Tarik-ul-Islam	UNDP
5	UN	Dr. Bushra Alam	UNFPA
6	UN	Mr. Masood Ahmed	UNICEF
7	UN	Ms. Usha Mishra	WFP
8	NGO	Mr. Matiur Rahman	BDRCS
9	NGO	Ms. Anwara Begum	BRAC
10	NGO	Mr. Monzu Morshed	CARE
11	NGO	Mr. Habibur Rahman	CARE
12	NGO	Ms. Umme Salma	Concern
13	NGO	Mr. Khaled Hossain	Disaster Forum
14	NGO	Mr. Farhad A. Majumder	Handicap International
15	NGO	Mr. Rafiqul Islam	HEDS
16	NGO	Ms. Ayesha Doza	Islamic Relief
17	NGO	Mr. Md. K. M. Sanwar Ali	Oxfam
18	NGO	Mr. M.B. Akhter	Oxfam
19	NGO	Mr. Parvez Zabed	Proshika
20	NGO	Ms. Sufia Nurani	RDRS
21	NGO	Mr. Taherul Islam Khan	WVB
22	Secretariat	Mr. Charlie Higgins	WFP
23	Secretariat	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP
24	Secretariat	Mr. Mariko Hattori	WFP
25	Secretariat	Ms. Nazria Islam	WFP