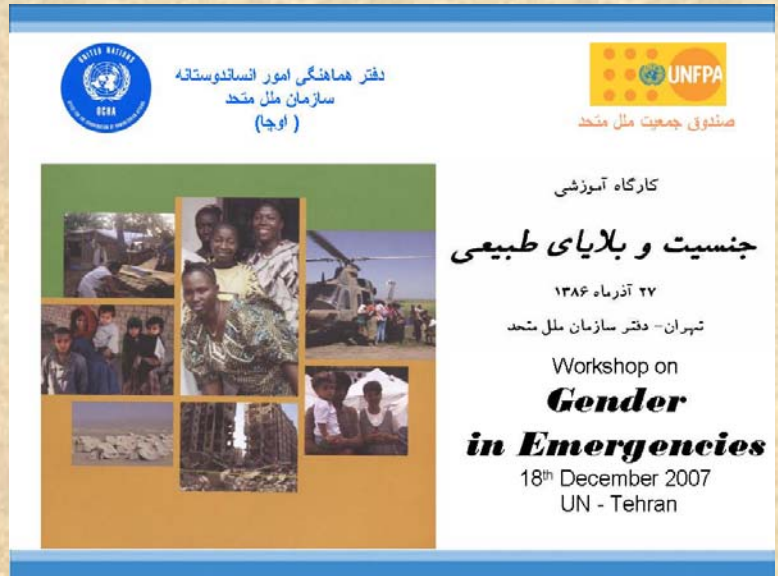


REPORT

Training Workshop on

GENDER IN EMERGENCIES

18 December 2007
UN, Tehran, I.R. of Iran



Introduction:

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Tehran and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Tehran organized a one-day workshop on “Gender in Emergencies” on 18th December 2007. Participants were from different Iranian ministries, governmental and non- governmental Iranian organizations, as well as the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), ICRC and some heads of provincial NDTFs (from 30 participant there were 18 female and 12 male).

The workshop has sought to answer three essential questions:

- What is the link between gender issues and disaster risk?
- What lessons have been learned in the field and through scientific study?
- How can this knowledge be applied in practice to reduce risk and respond equitably to disaster events considering cultural sensitivity of each region?

Main Sessions:

‘Gender in Emergencies’

Dr. Ali A. Mojtahed Shabestari (Head of UNOCHA, Tehran)

Referring to IASC *Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action*, an essential question was raised “Why gender issues matter in crisis situations?” In fact, natural disasters, wars or

related crisis have various impacts on women, girls, boys and men: they face different risks and are thus victimized in different ways. Hence, **gender mainstreaming** should be considered during all relevant plannings. Moreover, addressing the specific needs of each sex/age may best be done by taking **targeted action**. In effect, women and girls may need different treatment than men and boys and as the female group is, in many circumstances, more vulnerable than the other group, there should be special **programmes to empower women and girls** by respecting a **human rights-based approach**. Considering the IASC *Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings*, **Gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse programming** should be also inserted in all stages in dealing with gender in emergencies. It is also important to respect **Gender Balance**, as a principle in humanitarian agencies in order to be more effective in response trends.

‘Overview of Gender Concerns in Emergencies - Lessons Learnt from the Region’

Ms. Kiran Bhatia (Adviser for Gender and Socio-Cultural Research, UNFPA, Kathmandu)

After introductions made by each participants, they were asked to take time and discuss in groups about challenges/concerns they might have regarding gender issues. Ms. Bhatia listed all concerns while each participant was mentioning his/her issues. Some of those can be brought here, as mentioned below:

- Not having gender equality in disasters
- No having equal access to facilities/services
- Specific needs of women are overlooked
- Gender disparity
- Equal opportunities & different needs to be maintained
- GBV in disasters and role of organizations in protecting women
- Need for training women
- Security for women in times of disasters
- Reproductive health teams not being trained well
- Disaster planning staff do not know the rights of women
- Need for gender training in advance of disasters
- Women are passive in disaster management; they are not participating, just recipients of relief aid
- Importance of livelihoods and capacity building for women
- Attention to women in terms of Islamic culture
- Women misused during wars
- Poor sanitation services for women during disasters
- Training programs for women and their attitudes towards men

After a short break, Ms. Bhatia started to present a presentation entitled as “Making a Difference: Addressing Gender and Social Vulnerabilities in Emergencies”. Various issues were discussed during the presentation with examples and active participation of the participants, as mentioned below, but not limited to:

- Global challenges
- Barriers to inclusion
- Social relations
- Varying practical and strategic needs of women, girls, boys and men
- Power dynamics change
- Varying impacts of various disasters and crises
- Impact of conflicts on women and girls
- Gender-based Violence (GBV) and act
- Forms of GBVs
- GBV throughout the life cycle
- Consequences of GBV
- Mugs & protection
- Priority concerns
- Domestic violence
- Rape, addressing situations of armed conflicts, sexual and GBV in conflicts
- Security Council Resolution 1325 & the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
- Policy Framework
- Models of Equality
- Analyzing current interventions of UNFPA
- Progressive legislations in Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Thailand, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan
- UNFPA interventions pyramid
- Current approach: Service Delivery
- Examples: IDPs’ situation in Angola, post tsunami in Indonesia
- Key challenges
- Importance of gender v& social analysis of our partners.

The whole presentation was given with short breaks and discussions especially about need for basic social gender analysis, experiences from Bam, UNFPA emergency health kits, social-cultural factors as well as Q/A especially about reasons for and roots of GBV, which made it very dynamic.

‘UNFPA Commitments to Emergencies in RH, PDS and Gender’
Dr. Ali Shirazi (Programme Officer, UNFPA- Tehran)

UNFPA Liaison Mechanisms were described as below:

- Active participation in the UNDMT and UN emergency theme group to liaise in regular basis with OCHA and other UN agencies
- Participation in the UN field assessments, regular consultations and meetings with other UN agencies including OCHA as well as NGOs, ICRC/IFRC, etc. and task forces such as the cluster arrangements based on the IASC guidelines and contributes to the formulation of the flash and consolidated appeals
- Liaise with the UNFPA HQ-Humanitarian Response Unit (HRU) in line with the strategic plan and Humanitarian policy of UNFPA and the concept of Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP)
- Liaison with various stakeholders, engaging in various resource mobilization activities and development of humanitarian projects
- Leading the protection cluster within the UN country team during Lorestan earthquake the UN country team in coordination with UNICEF, UNHCR, and IOM

‘Discussion on UNFPA Core Commitments Ensuring Gender is Mainstreamed for Improved Effectiveness.’

Ms. Kiran Bhatia

At the end, Ms. Bhatia explained and discussed about key activities of possible UNFPA supports in the four phases of disaster management project cycle (including preparedness, acute emergency assistance, chronic humanitarian situation and transition/recovery). Different issues such as reproductive health, resources/manuals, vulnerability analysis, poverty mapping, gender analysis, IASC Gender Guidelines, protocols and advocacy were touched upon and discussed.

‘Gender and Quality Standards of SPHERE’

Mr. Amir A. Abdollahpour Makouei (Humanitarian Assistant, UNOCHA, Tehran)

First, a short video clip about SHPERE project was shown to the participants to stimulate discussion about quality standards and accountability in disaster response. Then, SPHERE book was introduced through a quick review on the purpose of the SPHERE project, humanitarian charter and its three fundamental principles, a general chapter as well as other four technical chapters of the book. Moreover, practical examples from first technical chapters (Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion) were brought and read in order to make participants know how to use SPHERE standards in disaster planning/preparedness/response. Minimum Standards, Key Indicators and Guidance Notes, the key technical words of the book were also elaborated more. Throughout the presentation it was emphasized on the fact that gender considerations have been mentioned and incorporated into the whole book thus making this book as one of the very useful tools to maintain gender consideration in disaster planning/ preparedness/

response/ monitoring. And finally, the participants were divided into four working groups to work on the four case studies as mentioned below:

- **Case Study No. 1:** Questions to work on: Q1: to make a camp to provide shelter for 1,200 homeless families due to a disaster, a) minimum toilets needed for men and women, b) minimum trained traditional birth attendants, c) minimum required community health workers (male & female), Q2: After Lorestan earthquake, Ministry of Education brings 9 containers (each with a capacity to accommodate 20 students) to establish temporary classes for disaster affected children. The question was how many toilets were required for 125 girls and 58 boys.
- **Case study No. 2:** Please list gender considerations mentioned in SPHERE book in the field of water supply and sanitation.
- **Case study No. 3:** Please list gender considerations mentioned in SPHERE book in the field of food security, nutrition and food aid.
- **Case study No. 4:** Please list gender considerations mentioned in SPHERE book regarding relief disaster project management cycle.

One SPHERE books was given to each group to work on the cases. After about 40 minutes, groups presented their findings on flip chart papers to their fellow groups. Answers to case studies were prepared with reference pages, which were then distributed amongst all participants for their future reference.

By doing this exercise, all participants found SPHERE book a very useful practical book for disaster planning, preparedness, response and monitoring to maintain gender considerations.

‘Discussion and Closing Remarks’

Dr. Ali A. Mojtahed Shabestari

While original IASC manual, guidelines on gender was put on table for free collection, the Head of UNOCHA Office explained to the participants that both the above mentioned manual and GBV manual have been translated by UNOCHA and will be published soon.

Some pages of IASC published Guidelines for GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings as well as IASC Operational Guidelines on Human Rights and Natural Disasters were copied and distributed amongst the participants for further reading as useful references.

Q/A were exchanged among facilitators and the participants. UNFPA mentioned that it is going to play much role in involving itself in gender education with ministry of education.

The participants acknowledged the initiation of such training workshops and the need to continue organizing similar training events with the participation of more NGOs.

The Head of UNOCHA Office put emphasis on the fact that UNOCHA carries out gender mainstreaming through its various training workshops in which gender issues are brought to be discussed.

Conclusion

The main objectives of this workshop could be summarized as, how to:

- Improve mobilization of both women and men to exercise their rights and to be active partners in emergency response, rehabilitation and development in order to ensure gender expertise in emergencies;
- Coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors;
- Apply a cultural sensitive approach on dealing with the concept of Gender in Emergencies;
- Promote gender analysis in order to understand who in the population is affected by a disaster, what they need and what they can do for themselves;
- Hold a constant, continuous inter-agency information exchange in order to update each other on the activities, improvements and progress of each agency and share the results with partners within the Govt. and counterparts in the country.

Annex 1.

List of Participants

Name	Organization
BIDGOLI Maryam	Nokhbeghan ghom
BAHMANPOUR Soraya	Hamyaran
ASADI Ronak	Ministry of Energy
AVARDI Fariba	Ministry of Energy
ESLAMI Mahaz	Sabz Andishan
FARHANGKHAH Fatemeh	Ehyayeh Arzesha

TIRA Mandana	IRC
GOLPOUR Farrokh	SDC
POURMOHAMMAD Behzad	NDTF Mazandaran
KHALILI Kianoush	IRC
SHOJAEI Soheila	Emdadgaran guylan
ALAGHBANDAN Masoud	Individual
BEHZADPOUR Simindokht	MPO
HOSEINNEJAD Katayoun	ICRC
ZAMANI Leila	Kerman Municipality
HASSANZADEH Reza	Kerman Municipality
DEHBASHIZADEH Tayebah	Hamrahan Kerman
REZAIIFAR Ms.	IRCS
ASHRAFI Fatemeh	Hami
ASADI Leila	Hami
HASSANI Fariba	MFA
SADEGHPOUR Farkhondeh	Madaran Emrouz
SADATINEJAD Mohammad	UNISDR
Mojtahed Arefeh	Individual
SHABESTRAI Ali	UNOCHA
MAKOU EI Amir	UNOCHA
BHATIA Kiran	UNFPA
ABDOL-AHAD Mohamad	UNFPA
SHIRAZI Ali	UNFPA

Annex2.
Program

Tuesday, December 18th 2007

Morning Session:

Opening Ceremony

8:30-9:00 Registration

Opening Session

- 9:00-9:20 Mr. Mohamed Abdel- Ahad (Representative UNFPA, Tehran)
'Welcome address'
Dr. Ali A. Mojtahed Shabestari (Head of UNOCHA, Tehran)
'Gender in Emergencies'

Module 1:

- 9:20-10:30 Ms. Kiran Bhatia (Adviser for Gender and Socio-Cultural Research, UNFPA, Kathmandu)
'Overview of Gender concerns in Emergencies- lessons learnt from the region'

- 10:30-10:50 Break

Module3:

- 10:50-11:40 Dr. Ali Shirazi (Programme Officer, UNFPA- Tehran)
UNFPA commitments to Emergencies in RH, PDS and Gender
Kiran Bhatia; Discussion on UNFPA core commitments ensuring gender is mainstreamed for improved effectiveness. '

Module4:

- 11:40-12:00 Mr. Amir A. Abdollahpour Makouei (Humanitarian Assistant, UNOCHA, Tehran)
'Gender and Quality Standards of SPHERE'

12:00- 13:00 Group work, Presentations & Discussions

13:00- 14:00 Lunch and Prayers

Module5:

14:00- 15:30 Group work

15:30- 16:00 Discussion and Closing Remarks by Dr. Ali A. Mojtahed Shabestari