Inter-Agency GBV Capacity Development Project

Funded by

UNFPA
UNHCR
UNICEF
Global Protection Cluster
European Commission
Why Focus on Coordination?

The project based on:

- *Field Survey to Determine Capacity Development Needs to Better Address GBV in Humanitarian Contexts*
- Recommendations from GBV AOR planning meeting 2009
- *Documenting GBV Coordination in Humanitarian Settings assessment*
Top 5 Least Effective Areas of GBV Working Group Activities*

1. Establishing a data collection system
2. Supporting inter-agency development of IEC materials
3. Documenting/disseminating information on best practices and lessons learned
4. Developing an advocacy plan
5. Engaging in inter-agency, multi-sectoral field missions

*as rated by survey respondents
Overall Analysis Findings

• Coordination actors often don’t have adequate knowledge and skills to manage coordination—including information management;

• Humanitarian actors have a poor understanding of GBV coordination structures within the cluster system and how systems are managed in field settings;

• There are few forums for knowledge sharing on lessons learned and best practices.
Who is involved?

• Global Steering committee: UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, IMC, IRC, and Women’s Commission

• In Asia: Regional offices of UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNHCR

• Country level Steering Committee: UN Women, OHCHR, Local NGOs like Afghanistan Women’s Rights Commission, Transcultural Psychological Organization and WOREC
• Asia: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nepal
Recruitment of Capacity Promoters

- Mix of men and women from UN agencies, local NGOs, and Government officials from both disaster-affected and conflict-affected provinces/districts in Nepal, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Only 2 of 40 are international staff.
Asia Regional Trainings

• In April 2011, in Bangkok with 11 capacity promoters from Nepal and 11 from Pakistan
• In June 2011, in Kabul with 18 capacity promoters from Afghanistan
• 2 week long training with focus on hands-on simulations, very participatory, and very active. Curricula developed from “Ghent training”
Contents of Training

• Gender and GBV Core concepts – establishing a common vocabulary
• Country presentations and SWOT analysis
• Lots of focus on practical skills – how do you run a good meeting? How do you make an effective presentation? Advocacy skills and Leadership skills
• Core Tools for Coordination including:
Asia Regional Training of GBV Capacity Promoters
Bangkok, Thailand
April 11-22, 2011
Asia Regional Training of GBV Capacity Promoters
Kabul, Afghanistan
June, 2011
Project Objectives

1. Increased knowledge of GBV leads & partners to manage GBV programs
2. Increased capacity of GBV leads & partners to coordinate GBV interventions
3. Strengthened understanding of multi-sectoral responsibility to prevent and respond GBV
4. Established community of practice that enables ongoing support
Result 1: Increased knowledge of GBV SC leads to manage GBV in humanitarian settings

– In Nepal, over 60 district level development officers and NGOs focused on disaster-prone districts, conflict-affected districts, and “ignored” districts. 90 more to be trained by end of 2011.

– In Pakistan, 38 Child Protection and GBV staff trained as well as GBV clusters in almost all the flood impacted provinces before the start of floods

– In Afghanistan, trainings for UN staff in Kandahar, Herat, Mazr-i-Sharif, and Kabul

– Mentoring and supporting of key government people (sending NDMA Gender Cell lead to training)
Result 2: Increased capacity of GBV SC leads to coordinate systems

- SOPs updated/developed/operational in Nepal and Pakistan – now being rolled out at provincial level in Pakistan; first steps of an SOP process in Afghanistan with mapping of districts
- Rollout of GBV/IMS Project in Nepal – and workshop on safe and ethical collection of data planned for Afghanistan and Pakistan
- GBV Coordination Manual Piloted in Nepal, Pakistan, and Afghanistan – has been translated into Urdu and Nepali and will be translated into Dari and Pashto.
Result 4: Established community of practice (CoP) that enables support

• CoP (www.learnatunitar.org/GBVCOP) has been established with regular posts by capacity promoters in Asia region. **Competing Facebook page!**

• Network updated with new resources, lessons learned from the project countries but rarely accessed – **Name and Shame.**

• Lessons learned workshop planned for Asia region with capacity promoters, UN steering committee members, regional actors, and regional manager to share globally.
Result 3: Strengthened senior humanitarian’s understanding of multi-sectoral responsibility to prevent and respond to GBV

- Integrating IASC Guidelines into cluster plans - in Pakistan, only 4 clusters activated – not GBV SC, still struggling in Afghanistan, **not much movement in Nepal**.

- CAP, CERF, Flash have increased number of GBV projects – working with Gender marker in Afghanistan and Pakistan to increase # projects. **Process is difficult.**

- Senior humanitarian staff oriented on GBV – **briefings, briefings, briefings! Why does no one want to do them?**

- Cluster members (including leads) orientated on GBV – **briefings, briefings, briefings! Again – resistance from local NGOs to engage.**
Issues specific to Asia

• Nepal – caught between disaster preparedness and “post-conflict”; during project has been no emergency to focus people on humanitarian. Conflict related GBV being researched but in remote areas.
• Pakistan - much easier to focus on floods and flood response but overwhelmed people. Conflict lost in shuffle and lots of government oppression.
• Afghanistan - insecurity limits ability to get to conflict areas, lack of female service providers, lots of people talking about GBV but few actual service providers
Positives

• GBV CPs feel more comfortable engaging in humanitarian action.
• Capacity Promotes think it is relevant in all countries!
• Inter-agency nature promoted better communication and coordination in Pakistan and hopefully Afghanistan
• Brought together people from agencies in Afgh and Nepal who don’t normally work together.
• CPs can advocate for GBV and humanitarian in own organizations better (can speak language of humanitarians – latrines!)
• CPs will continue to work on GBV after project!
Obstacles to Implementation

• Bureaucracy of UN as lead agencies (!!) and high staff turnover and lack of buy-in by UN country partners (see as extra curricular project – no trust in inter-agency process – top down design, Communication difficult! **178 people** to keep cc’d!)

• Lack of interest by INGOS – two week training seen as too long, Caution about engaging in GBV in “highly conservative settings”

• Insecurity and “traditional customs”
General Lessons So Far*

• NGOs often more creative and able to organize faster but don’t have $, **consider small grants to NGOs run by Capacity Promoters?**

• Security of GBV activists and service providers and getting more women service providers is vital.

• Everyone overwhelmed with own job – hard to do projects **even with supervisor written support**.

• Focusing on good meeting habits and presentation skills **VERY MUCH appreciated** by participants

• Even amongst “experts”, **low level grasp of core concepts on gender and GBV** (“asked for it”, alcohol is root cause)
General Lessons So Far*

• Need more cultural awareness about issue in Pakistan and Afghanistan (particularly how religion impacts culture) – our lingo alienates them but there is room to talk with conservative men!

• Children are overlooked but maybe way to overcome barriers in Afgh/Pak (esp working with boys) – less stigma than we suspected. Lots of abuse of boys and easier to talk about than we suspected.

• Advocacy skills are needed, not prioritized as skill.

• Humanitarian work in this part of Asia still needs a lot of work to incorporate GBV response Enter through disasters rather than conflict?
General Lessons So Far*

• Even in a coordination strengthening project, still too many individual or agency driven responses! Coordination is still personality driven and difficult to systematize.

• Humanitarian Cluster System is difficult for local CSOs to approach. It’s very complicated and not ideal but having a dedicated leader to GBV Sub-cluster makes things advance faster.
Some thoughts on the Tools

- IASC Guidelines are popular and easy to use – all CPs feel comfortable using them. Translated into all languages in Asia but not readily available (printing and putting on CoP).

- GBV IMS – there is overwhelming desire to provide data (pressure?) even if the context is not conducive to ethical and safe data collection – we need more capacity to support field teams around data collection!

- CoP – is not very effective – bad interface, password controlled (forgot their password!), not sustainable - should instead use existing technology (Facebook, linked in, bibliographies already existing?) but in Asia social networking is popular and can be used.
Next Steps?

• Asia Regional Lessons Learned Workshop in December 2011 and workshop report produced and disseminated

• Further funding? ECHO will not fund after 24 months but the work has just begun!