

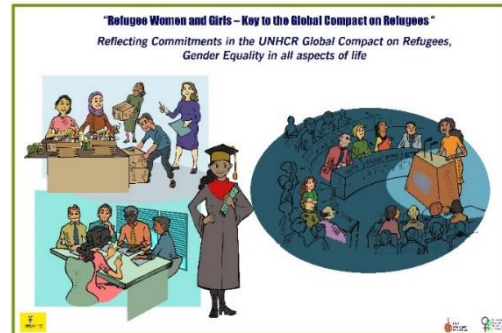
Global Refugee Forum

Gender Audit

First Preparatory Meeting

29 March 2019

UNHCR Geneva



Purpose of the Gender Audit

The successful Gender Audit of the Thematic meetings for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the High Commissioner's Dialogue contributed significantly to the inclusion of strong gender commitments in the GCR. The audit team is now working with UNHCR Geneva to document the process of the implementation of these commitments. This includes the three preparatory meetings for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and the GRF itself in December 2019. The focus is on ensuring an emphasis on the commitments to women and girls, the Age, Gender and Diversity framework, and strong measures to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are reflected in the six co-sponsorship groups, and in Pledges made by key stakeholders to fulfil the commitments of the GCR.

The first preparatory meeting was documented by Ms. Shaza Al Rihawi, a refugee from Syria, working in Germany and Ms. Foni Joyce, a refugee from Southern Sudan working in Kenya. The focus of the meeting was on organisational arrangements for the GRF and Draft indicators for progress towards the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GENDER AUDIT DOCUMENTERS, FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING:

- That UNHCR continues to advocate for gender equality at the local, national and international levels and with all stakeholders.
- That the disaggregation of data according to Age, Gender and Diversity must be made a priority across all areas and co-sponsorship groups.
- That there must be a stronger focus on Gender Equality, Refugee Women and Girls and a Response to SGBV in the Pledging Process, and as a focus for the Global Refugee Forum,
- That the people organising the Preparatory Meetings and the Global Forum on Refugees increase the representation of women and gender input in the panels.

THE AIM OF THE GENDER AUDIT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS, THE UNHCR-NGO ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS AND THE GLOBAL FORUM ON REFUGEES, 2019

The Gender Audit process will ensure that the commitments made to refugee women and girls in the Global Compact on Refugees including: gender equality, the implementation of the UNHCR Age Gender and Diversity (AGD) Policy; addressing the different needs of women and men across the life cycle including in childhood and adolescence; considering the impact of discriminations based on sexuality and gender identity and disability and promises to address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence are acknowledged in the Pledging, Co-sponsorship, and Co-conveners process. There will be an emphasis on the importance of commitments to women and girls, AGD, and SGBV across the key areas of education, jobs and livelihoods, self-reliance, energy and infrastructure, solutions and protection capacity. It will document examples of good practice in these areas.

What is a Gender Audit?

A Gender Audit documents the discussion of AGD and SGBV, with a particular focus on women and girls in each meeting and combines the findings into a comprehensive report with recommendations. The Gender Audit of the thematic meetings for the draft Compact and the High Commissioners Dialogue, 2017 was extremely successful and contributed to the inclusion of a strong AGD and SGBV focus with commitments to women and girls in the final document. For details see the Final Audit Report, 2017, and “Commitments to Refugee Women and Girls in the Global Compact on Refugees.”¹

Because of a short time-frame to prepare for the meeting, a full audit was not possible, but Shaza Al Rihawi and Foni Joyce, who were attending the meeting as organisational representatives, stepped in, supported by UNHCR Gender Equality Unit and did an excellent job collecting the data, which Shaza then put into a comprehensive report.

Sessions Documented were:

- Welcome
- Agenda Items
 1. Organisational arrangements
 2. Draft Indicators
 3. The Pledging Process and Good practice
- Side Event Quantifying response to refugee situations
- Concluding Remarks

GENDER AUDIT REPORT:

Welcome and Introduction:

The welcome and introductions were conducted by His Excellency Mr. Boudjemâa Delmi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Mr. Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection

Gender was not mentioned at all in the introductory remarks, nor in ***Agenda item 1: Organizational arrangements for the Global Refugee Forum:*** convened by Mr. Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection.

In Agenda item 2: Draft indicators for progress towards the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, Mr. Ewen Macleod, Deputy Director, Division of Resilience and Solutions made a strong recommendation that Gender indicators should be disaggregated by AGD.

Of 39 interventions made from the floor only 13 mentioned gender. 7 of these were women and 6 men. 8 represented Member States, 2 represented NGO's and 2 represented UN agencies.

AUSTRALIA	AGD must be mainstreamed throughout the indicators measuring the progress of the objectives of Global Compact on Refugees, and that the empowerment of women and girls is key to its success,
CANADA	Stated that all data should be disaggregated by gender and ability
DENMARK	Commented on the importance of SADD data being incorporated throughout the indicators
UK	Argued that Gender disaggregation should be comprehensively incorporated in all indicators and that. Close attention to protection element of GBV is also important
KOREA	Stated that consideration should be given to women and girls and that there be specific indicators on women and girls.
GERMANY	Also noted that Indicators should focus on the rights of women and girls and the needs of the vulnerable with a focus on gender mainstreaming
SWEDEN	Stated that Indicators should be disaggregated according to AGD
NORWAY	There should be inclusion of gender data on all the relevant indicators
EUROPEAN UNION	We recommend disaggregation of data based on gender
UNICEF	Discussed the importance of the Prevention of SGBV and suggested that disaggregated data according to AGD would contribute to this.
ILO	Also suggested that data should be disaggregated by AGD
GLOBAL REFUGEE LED-NETWORK	Supported the suggestion data should be disaggregated by AGD and suggested that an indicator on freedom from sexual

	violence be included, as well as recognition of the needs of women engagement in conflict management
ICVA (NGO statement)	The combined NGO Statement also requested that Data should be aggregated by AGD, by length of stay in country of Asylum. They also recommended that sensitivity involved in data collection be addressed.

In the concluding remarks of the session, Mr. Volker Türk, Ewen Macleod, Daniel Endres Boudjemaa Delmi and Ewen Macleod all noted that disaggregation of data according to Age Gender and Diversity was a recurring and important theme of the session and promised that much attention will be paid to it.

Side event: Addressing challenges in quantifying responses in refugee situation's

Presenters:

Mr Juan Carlos Moreno (permanent mission Colombia), **Ewen Macleod** (DRS)

Ms Sarah Charles (International Rescue Committee) **Ms Caroline Sergeant** (World Bank) and **Ms Rachel Scott** (Crisis and Fragility)

Disappointingly, the importance of gender disaggregated data in addressing gender inequality was not discussed in the session. It was only mentioned in reference to the lack of gender disaggregated data in addressing SGBV, when Sarah Charles (IRC) stated “if we don’t know how many girls are experiencing SGBV we will not be able to respond”.

Agenda item 3: Areas of focus for the pledging process and the sharing of good practices for the first GRF

Mr. Daniel Endres, Director, Division of Resilience and Solutions noted that Age, gender and diversity considerations that have already been mentioned in relation to key areas of focus for the GRF in December and that he was pleased to see a “Focus on AGD as discussed through the morning”.

Floor intervention:

Of 29 intervention from the floor, only 3 mentioned gender. The 3 were all female, two representing member states, and one the UNHCR youth advisory council.

Korea	Suggested focus on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the pledging process, they referenced a new Korean initiative 2018 on SGBV prevention for Rohingya women which was mentioned in relation to areas of focus for the GRF
Denmark	Applauded UNHCR for focus on age, gender and diversity
UNHCR GLOBAL REFUGEE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL	Suggested possible areas for Pledges were: a. Women participation in peace process b. Women participation in protection of other women and girls

Closing remarks:

Mr. Volker Türk, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection stated that Gender Equality and AGD has come out as an important focus in the session.

“The Gender Equality dimension, and the AGD dimension has come out as strong focus. That has also been clear from remarks that has come through the *pigeonhole* [an electronic system which enables participants to send messages to the chair of the session and share these with other participants]”.

Observations from the Gender Audit Documenters

- It was observed that gender-equality concerns were clearly addressed by panellists, including the panel chairs and interventions.
- Notably, the importance of clearly recognising the gender equality dimensions of protection and the Age, Gender and Diversity approach was emphasised by UNHCR.
- Several State and Civil Society representatives made strong interventions, which highlighted needs of women and girls and called for a strong focus on gender equality and AGD Approach.
- Youth and women from refugee backgrounds were actively participating in the sessions and also called for Gender equality and AGD, in addition to women’s involvement in peace building.
- On a negative note, women speakers were significantly not-represented on the formal panels, only in the side events.

Authors Shaza Al Rihawi Global Refugee-led Network and Eileen Pittaway UNSW Australia

ⁱ <https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/global-refugee-forum.html> Search under Gender Audit