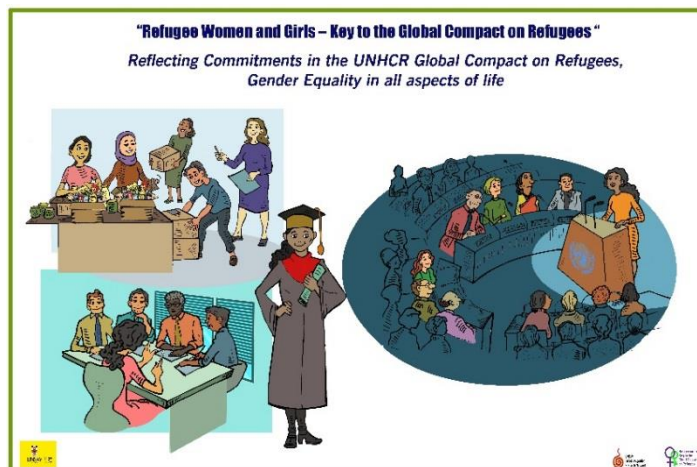


Gender Audit Report

UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs

3rd – 5th July 2019, UNHCR Geneva

Meeting Report



The Gender Audit Process

A successful Gender Audit of the Thematic meetings for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the High Commissioner's Dialogue in 2017 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), March, June and November 2019 and the Forum itself, December 2019. The Gender Audit process will ensure that the commitments made to refugee women and girls in the GCR are acknowledged in the Pledging, Co-sponsorship, and Co-convening process. These commitments include: 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, gender identity and disability and strong promises to address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). There will be an emphasis on the

importance of AGD and SGBV across the key areas of education, jobs and livelihoods, responsibility sharing, energy and infrastructure, solutions and protection capacity. It will document examples of good practice in these areas.

Given the focus on a multi-stakeholder approach in the implementation of the GCR, it was considered important to conduct the gender audit over the three days of the UNHCR Consultations with NGOs which took place immediately following the Second preparatory meeting, from the 3rd to 5th July. The agenda for the first two days of these consultations addressed the over-arching theme of 'Working together Better', while the third day was devoted to the planning of Global Refugee Forum, December 2019. In total over 500 people participated in the consultations with approximately 40 of these being refugee representatives. There were six plenary sessions, two each day and 20 Thematic panels and workshops. Given the scope of the meeting and the number of sessions, the gender audit team was augmented by a number of volunteer supporters.

The team consisted of:

Dr Linda Bartolomei and refugee women Apajok Biar, South Sudan, Hafsar Tammeesuddin, Rohingya/Burma and Sitarah Mohammedi, Hazara/Afghan. They were supported by a group of refugee youth from the Global Youth Advisory Council¹ (GYAC): Gabriela Ernestina Osorio Rodriguez, Ismael Gamboa Ocampo, Faridah Luanda, Hadjara Maikano Fadila, Abdulkarim Albrem, Arash Bordbar, Asif Safdary, Barthelemy Mwanza Ngane, Foni Joyce Vuni, Ibrahim Sallet Mahamat, Mariama Sow, Safia Ibrahimkhel, interpreters: Elizabeth Doyen and Giulia Pinheiro Manccini, and by several refugee and NGO representatives from Australia: Hayat Akbari, Sajjad Askary, Fadak Alfayadh, Leah Percival, MDA, Melika Sheikh-Eldin, Ames and Nadine Liddy, MYAN. They all attended a training session prior to documenting the sessions. Our deepest thanks go to this team. Without them it would not have been possible to audit the Consultations.

Aims of the Gender Audit of the UNHCR/NGO Consultations,

The aims of the gender audit of the UNHCR/NGO Consultations was to ensure that the innovative programs and models of service delivery already in place, and suggestions from INGOs, NGOs and refugee-led networks towards the implementation of the commitments to the UNHCR Age Gender and Diversity, in particular gender equality, refugee participation and addressing SGBV made in the Global Compact on Refugees, are addressed in the Global Refugee Forum.

Key Issues and observations from the gender audit of the NGO Consultations.

General comments (For details on various sessions, please see below).

It was particularly exciting to have both male and female members of the GRN and GYAC attend pre-meeting training and take an active role in the gender audit process. Their energy and enthusiasm generated many questions and interventions.

Overall, the recognition and inclusion of gender, an acknowledgement of the specific needs of women and girls and the need to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) was strong and consistent through many of the sessions. It is clear that the majority of the NGO community is taking this very seriously, and many committed to continue with strong advocacy to member states in the

¹ Special thanks to Kate Mahony, Women's Refugee Commission for supporting the GYAC's involvement and for coordinating the interpretation and data entry.

lead up to the Global Forum on Refugees. The team was also very encouraged to hear strong support from so many of the UNHCR colleagues. However, there were times when lack of an AGD perspective in the panel presentations and discussions was extremely disappointing, and these omissions occurred both from NGO participants, panel presenters and UNHCR representatives. While significant moves forward have been achieved there is still a long way to go.

Of the six plenary sessions over the three days, only three made strong references to women and girls, and when it did occur it was often mainly in response to Pigeonhole questions. There were only two brief references to gender in the opening plenary session. Despite a strong presentation in which ICVA emphasised the importance of an AGD Framework, neither the High Commissioner nor the NGO moderator mentioned Gender, AGD, or SGBV. They did however speak strongly about the need for refugee participation. Despite a question from the Gender audit team posted on Pigeonhole receiving the 2nd highest level votes at 32 (see question below), it was not addressed by either the High Commissioner or the moderator.

Informal refugee women leaders play critical roles in supporting refugee communities. What can UNHCR and NGO partners commit to do to better support, resource and include their community-based organisations? (Gender Audit team, Pigeonhole question)

At other times the Pigeonhole system worked extremely well, eliciting very strong responses, such as those made by Daniel Endres and Apajok Biar in the Opening plenary of Day 3 in response to a question about the application of the AGD approach in supporting gender equality and addressing SGBV as cross-cutting issues.

We need to think intersectionality, we need to think about disability and accessibility, think about women and girls who have faced SGBV but also recognise that women and girls and refugees have agency but we face barriers and these need to be recognised and addressed to make best use of all our capacities (Apajok Biar, Gender Audit team)

Overall, there was a positive focus on gender issues, and on the importance of an AGD approach in many sessions. Of the 20 Thematic panels, 10 included a significant or very strong focus on AGD, gender equality, SGBV and the particular concerns of women and girls².

For example, in contrast to the opening plenary, the “Conversation with the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Turk” moderated by Safia Ibrahimkhel, Youth Delegate, Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC), was very strong on gender and the AGD framework as a key protection tool. It was particularly useful to have high level of support from the top of the organisation. The significant gender focus in the NGO Statements co-ordinated by ICVA made a strong impression on the meeting. As noted above, good use was made of the pigeonhole system, and the number of questions raised from the floor demonstrated the importance placed on these by the NGO community and refugee groups.

² A further 7 panels included at least one or two references, though often these were relatively superficial, while only 3 panels were completely on gender/AGD silent.

It was therefore particularly disappointing to see that the otherwise excellent verbal report from the NGO Rapporteur included no references to gender, women and girls or to the AGD approach. With the exception of a reference to the importance of including 'the prevention of sexual abuse and harassment for all staff and refugees in all codes of conduct' it included no further mention of the critical issues of recognising and addressing SGBV in all aspects of refugee women, men and children's lives, despite this being discussed in several sessions. Once again this highlighted the need for a Gender audit to fully report the content and discussion in each session and in each meeting.

As noted above, on the third day of the meeting, Apajok Biar spoke strongly on the importance of taking an intersectional approach to addressing SGBV, the particular issues facing women and girls, and of applying an AGD approach. The audit team noted that without using an intersectional framework, people advocating for a specific issue such as Statelessness or a specific group, such as youth, the elderly or people with a disability, often failed to include gender in their advocacy positions. The concept of intersectionality provides an effective and useful framework for them to do this without weakening their position. For example, a disability advocate could argue that the needs of a young refugee woman with a disability are different from those of an older refugee man and present evidence that many disabled girls are sexually abused, because their disability makes them more vulnerable. The focus is still on disability. This is an important point because many significant opportunities to include a gender and diversity perspective were not taken, and key issues which could have been addressed, remained unspoken and unacknowledged. For example, while there was a strong focus on the importance of providing refugee children access to education, without the application of an age, gender and diversity lens the vast disparity in access for teenage girls compared with teenage boys remained invisible, as did the reasons for this disparity which include lack of access to menstrual hygiene materials and high levels of sexual and gender based violence.

Mirroring discussions in the Standing Committee on Protection, June 2019 and the round table on Gender held at the Australian mission³, July 3rd the key issues of gender equality in refugee participation, the impacts of SGBV, the specific needs of refugee women and girls, access to education, livelihoods, protection measures, application of an AGD Framework, and solutions were all raised in many of the sessions.

The critical need for gender and diversity disaggregated data was raised in several sessions, however, there seems to be a lack of knowledge and understanding of how this could be undertaken and incorporated into service delivery and planning for solutions.

Final Note:

In a debrief with the expanded gender audit team it was inspiring to hear their perspective and opinion on how it was for them as their first time conducting the audit. All of the participants said that it was great to feel as though they have a purpose in every meeting. They commented that the targeted advocacy and auditing role helped bring to their attention how little or how much gender, youth and diversity was raised in discussions and how important this was.

We have changed lives and developed skills and have new purpose moving forward. Which is fantastic (Gender Audit Team Member)

³ See the Gender Audit Report of the 2nd Preparatory Meeting for the GRF at <https://www.unhcr.org/5d88ab6e7>

Recommendations:

- That considering the number of occasions on which “gender” has been totally ignored in rapporteurs and other meeting reports, and often in recommendations, the reports of the Gender Audit team be considered as formal records of meetings along with other inputs.
- That all UNHCR staff be briefed about the importance of including a cross-cutting AGD approach in all meetings leading up to and including the Global Forum on Refugees, and accessible concept note, demonstrating the many cross cuts between the major issues to be addressed at the Global Refugee Forum be prepared and widely circulated to all key stakeholder and co-sponsorship groups. This would outline the value of an intersectional approach to these problems, with step by step examples of how this might function.
- That the Indicators being developed for the Global Refugee Compact have a clear section on age, gender and diversity disaggregated data, and a Guidance note be developed to assist key stakeholders to undertake this, and to incorporate the data into reporting mechanisms and planning procedures
- That more structured preparation and support be provided for refugees and other new advocates from NGOs and civil society at UN meetings. The current ICVA/UNHCR Guidance⁴ on Advocating at UNHCR meetings could be updated and a short chapter specific to each meeting, including regional meetings prepared. This should include a section on ways in which refugee participants could identify allies with similar interests and work together to develop common advocacy strategies including from an age, gender and diversity perspective.

Key issues from the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs with observations from the gender audit team and recommendations

This documentation was primarily undertaken by the dedicated group of refugee women from the Gender Audit team with the support of female and male youth from the Global Youth Advisory Network (GYAC) and has been presented mainly in their voice.

Session by Session comment on Gender content

Opening Plenary 3rd July 2019 10 Am – 11.30am

Ignacio Packer, ICVA opened the meeting by emphasising the importance of the Principles of Partnership and the need to develop and sustain better partnerships if the ambitions of the GCR for greater burden and responsibility sharing are to be achieved. He highlighted the importance of partnerships with refugee communities and emphasized the urgent need to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation in all its forms. He noted that this would be the focus of one of the sessions on Day 2 of the consultations. Gulad Mire a former refugee from Somalia, then moderated a dialogue with the High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi. This was an engaging session with a strong focus on the global rise in xenophobic violence and on the importance of refugee participation:

⁴ <https://www.icvanetwork.org/system/files/versions/Guide-for-NGOs.pdf>

We need refugees to come as advocates at the global level, but where refugee participation is crucial is at the country level (High Commissioner).

However, the dialogue with the High Commissioner was disappointingly completely gender silent. Furthermore, while a clear attempt was made to ensure regional diversity, the vast majority of questions and interventions invited from the floor were from men.

11h30 – 12h30 Conversation with the Assistant High Commissioner Protection

There is gender in different aspects of who people are. We need to talk to them to understand who they are. The CGR helped us to understand the different needs based on age and gender and other needs (Safia, GYAC)

Moderated by Safia Ibrahimkhel, an Afghan refugee young woman living in Pakistan, with a strong personal commitment to the empowerment of refugee women and girls through education, this panel had a strong and thoughtful focus on refugee protection informed by issues of gender, age and diversity, and the meaningful participation of refugees.

I have never thought that refugee law was a science, it was never meant to be a science, the definition was meant to be encompassing and inclusive of everyone who needs protection. We need to push back against the critiques that seek to narrow it. The definition when it was crafted was meant to cover everyone in need of protection. LGBTI were always covered as were women and children in need of protection (Volker Turk, UNHCR)

Safia posed Volker the question: *In emergencies - there are some immediate protection concerns - including SGBV, abuse of persons with a disability and children. What else is needed to better address their needs?*

Volker replied: *Protection concerns are at the forefront of the emergency response - we received generous funding from the USA for "Safe from the Start" so that we can have gender experts available in emergencies and also the early deployment of child protection staff and as soon as possible an age, gender and diversity approach to influence the design and ways that camps are set up. If discrimination against different groups is to be addressed, the age, gender and diversity approach is key to understanding the different discriminations people face. As I mentioned we have an AGD policy and process to ensure that offices engage in participatory processes and this should also influence program design and what we are trying to do. We also need to have gender balance when it comes to the inclusion of refugees in education.*

13h30 – 15h30 Thematic Sessions

1. Are Standards the Key to Working Together Better?

Despite the gender parity on this panel, the whole session was gender silent. The panel examined the ways in which standards help build trust and accountability when viewed through a protection lens, and strategies to enhance the use of standards across the sectors. While there was ample opportunity to include gender issues in this discussion, in particular in unpacking gender difference in protection needs, this did not occur.

2. IDPs and Data

Despite the acknowledged importance of gender disaggregated data, the panel presentations were gender silent and the only gendered questions raised were by a male NGO participant and male youth representative. One question highlighted the high risk of rape faced by displaced women in IDP camps in Central Africa and the second noted the importance of including women as part of an inclusive AGD approach. There was however a strong focus on the importance of refugee participation and on the inclusion of refugee youth in interventions from NGOs and refugee youth delegates.

3. Data Protection

This session was also gender silent with the exception of one question from a female youth delegate in relation to how data collected from Transgender refugees could be kept safe and secure.

4. Information for Risk Analysis, Early Warning and Preparedness

Again, this session was gender silent with the exception of a comment made by Sajilu Kamwendo from World Vision about the need for early warning systems to incorporate educating refugee communities, especially women and children, about health concerns in situations such as the outbreak of Ebola. Given the well documented evidence of high levels of SGBV in conflict, flight, and reception, and the different needs of female and male refugees this was a lost opportunity to bring a broader and more complete analysis to the issue.

16h00 – 18h00 Thematic Sessions

5. Statelessness Data and Evidence: The Challenges and the Road Ahead

This session was predominantly gender silent with the exception of one very strong statement made at the closing of the session by the UNFPA representative on the panel about the urgent need to address the extreme health risks faced by young women giving birth who are Stateless and as a result of their status are denied access to hospitals or any form of adequate healthcare. The lack of recognition of the gendered impacts of Statelessness render these women and their stateless children invisible.

6. Enhancing Partnership Integrity

This session highlighted the importance of partnerships between refugees and service providers. It discussed the risks associated with fraud, corruption and exploitation without mentioning gender difference, or the sexual abuse experienced by so many women and girls refugee women and girls. A number of tools have been developed to outline partners' obligations to report on disciplinary investigations and investigations, build in certain disclosure requirements and to undertake better due diligence checks. We have to make sure that someone fired for disciplinary action by one NGO is not employed by another tomorrow. While it is well documented that sexual abuse of refugees, in particular women and girls, is a major reason for disciplinary action, this was not explicitly mentioned.

Thursday 4th July

09h00 – 10h30 Conversation with the Assistant High Commissioner Operations

In GVB sector our mantra is talk to women (Joe Read, Care)

There was a strong focus on the role and leadership of women and girls in data collection. This included using stories as evidence, and how to collect data on SGBV. Key questions discussed: included how refugees and IDPs can be engaged in data collection in data collection, and where sexual violence against children is a child protection responsibility, who should hold the data?

A powerful story of ethical considerations when collecting data was told by Mr George Okoth-Obbo Assistant High Commissioner for Operations. He recounted a visit to Kakuma Refugee camp in Kenya on the 11th November 2004 with representatives of the Government of Sweden:

"a group of young refugees 'kidnapped us' - they said it was the 83rd time that a group had visited with the same questions. They said if they could only implement one thing that they had said 83 times - they would let us go."

He linked this story directly to the importance of systematised consultations with refugee communities but emphasised that in doing so that the imperative to act should not be constrained by an undue focus on 'data collection':

The ultimate indignity we should guard against is ignoring the fact that the refugee story, with or without data' mainly tells itself. It is important that this reality, which is so often hidden in plain view, must not be ignored. When we can all see young women being raped, children out of school, food provision that has collapsed for example in Chad where distribution has been reduced if not 3 times, twice. The imperative to act must not be compromised by the need to collect data. We must not lose the reflexivity to react by a wall of data collection. (George Okoth-Obbo, UNHCR)

Jo Read from CARE discussed the importance of working with women led organisations to develop community-based data collection. This evidence must then be included in the mainstream data stream. The Refugee Law Project in Uganda also emphasised the importance of collecting data about men who have experienced conflict related sexual violence.

11h00 – 13h00 Workshops

7. Evidence for Action: Connecting People and Data in Support of Evidence informed Outcomes

The panel were very frank about the challenges of engaging community, achieving meaningful engagement and ensuring diverse representation. There were reflections on the difficulties and the importance of including women and girls, boys and men, and diverse groups in all community engagement activities.

Data collection informed by AGD as well as better systems to share data on SGBV risks, and monitoring systems for human rights abuses including child and early marriage, were identified as critical. Several questions from the floor raised issues relating to refugee participation and how to engage women and

girls in monitoring and evaluation. Issues of power and hierarchy as barriers to the inclusion of diverse groups and to prioritising gender concerns were debated.

It was noted that there is a tendency to professionalise data collection and distribution, when in fact we need to humanise it, and ask what people of concern want to know. Their needs may not be what we perceive. One UNHCR speaker emphasised the importance of challenging staff when they decide what refugees need to know, sharing a disturbing example of the kind of information that might be withheld from a community:

We won't tell people which water holes girls are being assaulted at, as they won't go to that water hole!! I tell them that if it was my daughter I would want to know!!

8. Are Refugees' Lives Improving? – Facilitating and Measuring Self-reliance and Economic Inclusion

This session had some strong references to gender specific challenges and solutions and was one of the strongest across the three days.

This included that “*specific needs of single women to be involved at the heart of what UNHCR work towards*” (UNHCR)

There were great comments in relation to gender diversity, detailing approaches that could be adopted to ensure inclusivity. Suggestions included:

Single women households and those members aged 18 and over to sit together and identify how best to engage in programs through a case management approach” (Refuge Point)

We must work with women and people with disability (Refuge Point)

Considerations of LGBTQI refugees be considered when discussing and responding to GBV (Female participant)

9. Informed decision-making in urban crises – Can area-based data make a difference?

This session was largely silent on gender with only a brief mention during a small group exercise in reference to the importance of applying a gender lens in data collection in Urban settings to ensure appropriately targeted funding allocations. In particular it was noted that “*women headed households needed to be supported to access services due to the additional barriers they face*”. However there was far greater scope across this double session to apply a gender lens to the topic. For example, to consider ways to make sure that the voices of women are included in participatory mapping as well as to ensure that all data collected is disaggregated.

11h00 – 13h00 Thematic session

10. Our Joint Journey – Towards a Working Environment Free from Sexual Misconduct

The session included some very strong gendered analysis of the power issues which enable sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings and explored some of the key challenges in prevention and response. However, there was limited focus on the impacts of sexual abuse and exploitation on refugee women and communities. The prime focus of the session was on NGO staff affected by sexual misconduct while working on the ground, and what individual organisations are doing to prevent this.

14h00 – 16h00 Thematic session

11. Protecting Rights in Mixed Movements: Practical and Principled Responses in the Post-compacts Era

This session included quite a strong focus on the gender aspects of mixed movements, highlighting some of the risks and challenges common to refugee and migrant women. In particular high risks of SGBV. It also highlighted some of the impacts on refugee women unable to access refugee status determination processes.

A typical example is a refugee woman in Asia lacking access to status determination procedures and to identity documents who is a survivor of SGBV and ends up being treated as an undocumented migrant (Carolina Gottardo, JRS).

Carolina Gottardo noted that both the GCR and the GCM are strong on gender and emphasised the importance of gender analysis in mixed movements, highlighting that the way in which women and girls and boys and men experience displacement is very different.

14h00 – 16h00 Thematic sessions

12. Social Media

This session had two significant mentions of gender, in particular women and girls. The first was with regard to ensuring there are safe environments and monitoring available for Hazara women and girls, with appropriate support for them to participate in advocacy at home and in diaspora communities and to have safety on return. The second mention related to the use of storytelling on social media to highlight the plight of refugee women and children facing homelessness and heightened risks of robbery and assault in urban contexts.

16h30 – 17h30 Panel on Regionalisation with the Deputy High Commissioner

Overall the session was great with lots of questions raised from the floor and engagement from Pigeonhole. However, it lacked the gender lens we were after. There were strong messages about “no one being left behind” and the need to strengthen our practice. But there was much room for improvement in bringing a gender lens into the discussion. Only one question from a Gender audit team member mentioned women and girls in the context of forced returns of Hazara refugees.

Friday 5th July

09h00 – 10h30 Opening Plenary with the Director for the Global Refugee Forum

The presenter in this session was Apajok Biar, a member of the gender audit team in conversation with Daniel Endres, Director for the GRF. Gender was a strong theme and in response to a Pigeonhole question, Apajok made an impassioned argument on intersectionality, the importance of addressing SGBV and the AGD framework.

We need to think intersectionality we need to think about disability and accessibility, think about women and girls who have faced SGBV but also recognise that women and girls and refugees have agency but we face barriers and these need to be recognised and addressed to make best use of all our capacities. (Apajok Biar)

Daniel concluded the session by highlighting the importance of the AGD approach, as an issue ‘close to all our hearts’, and challenged us collectively to do a better job than we currently do to incorporate it in all aspects of our work.

11h00 – 12h30 Broadening the Base of Support

13. Cities and Local Authorities

The City of Athens presented their strategic integration plans, and we were pleased to hear that women refugees and gender issues was one of the six working groups which are part of that plan. Athens Refugee Council also focused on the needs of single men. Both services reported much higher outcomes of getting people jobs and rented homes than the mainstream service providers. The UNHCR speaker highlighted the importance of services to assist single women to integrate, including targeted case management for women and assisting women to get jobs.

14. #BeyondFundraising: Working Together Better, with Companies

Despite very obvious gender components to potential responses from companies, this session was gender silent.

15. Islamic Social Finance

This session was gender silent however reported on some excellent ‘good practices’ working in a range of service provision areas support by Islamic philanthropy.

16. Inclusion of Refugees and Other Persons of Concern

This session had a very good a gender equality approach to refugee participation. An example was given by Robert a member of the GRN about the importance of refugee women’s empowerment. A member of the GYAC made comments and statements in relation to gender and youth, Asif Safdary, GYAC, the moderator was good on including gender issues. However, Mariam Sow, GYAC, was a powerhouse in demonstrating the importance of gender equality and participation and the importance of addressing SGBV in a bio-psycho-social way before anything else. She emphasised “*Empowering women who have experienced SGBV*” is a key part of recovery.

13h30 – 15h30 Thematic Conversations on Pledging and Showcasing

17. Solutions

A French program offering complementary pathways through university education (18-25 years) was presented as an example of good practice. It emphasised the importance of education pathways to the integration of young people into new countries. They particularly focused on the role and importance of access to higher education in building positive futures. Disappointingly gender was only mentioned in relation to young women in terms of cultural adjustment, and wearing the hijab, suggesting limited cross-cultural understanding. There was no discussion of the additional support girls might need to access higher levels of education.

The Swedish delegate spoke about the importance of girls accessing education, and several delegates spoke of the need to address SGBV in this context. The Gender audit team and the GRN's role at the NGO Consultations was mentioned as an example of good practice on training refugees in methods of effective participation.

Amnesty International noted that few nations provided complimentary pathways, and that those that did generally went to men. He argued that much more needs to be done to include opportunities for women.

18. Protection Capacity

Disappointingly, apart from one request for attention to LGBTQI issues, and a question from the Danish Refugee Council in relation to the incorporation of AGD principles, the session was mainly gender silent.

19. Unlocking the Potential for Refugees and Host Communities through Energy and Infrastructure

SGBV issues were prominent in the discussion in this session. Security issues, with graphic examples of abuses were raised in relation to every aspect of the energy provision. Everyone was well aware of the gaps between needs, the availability of fuel and the direct links to increased risks of SGBV. Importantly, the panel noted the need to push for gender considerations and inclusion in all aspects of energy provision.

In response to the Gender audit team question about gender and energy concerns: There was specific mention of risks to young pregnant women. In an interesting example of a broader reaching need for a consistent supply of energy to hospitals, the following example was given:

In Tanzania when women need Cesarean sections when giving birth, lack of energy supply means that instruments are not sterilised. This is major gendered issue of problems with access to energy.

20. Education: Building Bridges to Inclusion and Quality

Despite the importance generally placed on education for refugee girls, the session included few gendered comments or statements. One comment was made by a male refugee addressing these issues but it was only briefly raised in discussion in relation to education facilitating the involvement of women and girls in community engagement.

Closing Session

16h00 – 16h45 Summary of Discussion on the Global Refugee Forum

In a positive and affirming final statement, the commitment to women and girls and an AGD framework throughout the discussions were summed up by Ms Perveen Ali, Senior Policy Advisor, UNHCR who noted:

*The importance of age, gender and diversity came across all co-sponsorship groups. There have been a lot of concerns that it would be side lined or erased. **However, what we want to have happen is that AGD concerns are fully integrated across all co -sponsorship areas.** For example. if you have a particular focus on gender you might lend your voice to closing the gap for refugee girls' access to education.*

16h45 – 17h30 Report Back on the NGO Consultations and remarks by the Deputy High Commissioner

The rapporteur's report of the first two days of the meeting was surprisingly and infuriatingly gender silent. While the report did note the discussion of codes of conduct in relation to the prevention of sexual exploitation, any form of AGD analysis was absent.

This highlights importance of the parallel gender audit and of fully briefing all session rapporteurs.

This was in striking contrast to the strong recognition of key gender issues in the closing remarks made by Deputy High Commissioner Kelly Clements.

We want to focus on the integrity piece and misconduct, this is the result of unequal gender and power dynamics and we need to think about our areas of privilege. We look forward to working with you to make some of these fundamental cultural shifts happen to ensure the safety of persons of concerns (UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner)

Ignacio Packer, ICVA also concluded with a very strong statement which highlighted the importance of the Gender audit of the commitments to women and girls, gender equality and SGBV. However the final word went to Arafat Jamal, UNHCR Partnerships who stated:

We are delighted that we are being put under the lens around intersectionality and the work that UNSW is doing - we have had some positive comments but we have also been told that there are some sessions where gender was not included and we do need to pay attention to that

The extended gender audit team are confident that will happen.

For Further information, please contact Dr Linda Bartolomei, linda.bartolomei@unsw.edu.au, or Adjunct Professor Eileen Pittaway, eileen.pittaway@unsw.edu.au