

Regional Policy Dialogue

Adopting the Social Institutions and Gender Index Data to address barriers to Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, and Adolescent Health in humanitarian settings.

July 15th – August 12th, 2021

Background:

Global estimates indicate that more than 295,000 women died from preventable causes during pregnancy and childbirth in the year 2017, with over 66% of maternal deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa.¹ Seventy-six per cent of high maternal mortality countries (those with MMR > 300) are defined as fragile states where emergent humanitarian settings and situations of conflict, post-conflict, and disaster significantly hinder progress. Women and girls are often more greatly affected in both sudden and slow-onset emergencies and are at increased risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, unintended pregnancy, maternal death, and illness, and sexual and gender-based violence.

Sixty per cent of preventable maternal deaths, 53% of under five deaths and 45% of neonatal deaths take place in settings of conflict, displacement, and natural disasters². The majority of those most at risk of preventable maternal and child mortality are living, or over the next 15 years will be living in fragile or humanitarian settings. Health challenges are particularly acute among mobile populations, those in refugee or temporary camps, and among internally displaced communities and among adolescents. People under 25 comprise almost 60% of the 1.4 billion living in humanitarian settings and often face diverse sexual and reproductive health challenges³.

The Austria Development Agency (ADA) and UN Women *Program On Women's Empowerment in Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH) Rights in Humanitarian Settings in the Horn of Africa Region (POWER)* seeks to address some of these challenges. POWER will contribute to UN Women's overall goal, ***every woman, every child, every adolescent girl, everywhere demands her rights to quality SRMNCAH services***, particularly in humanitarian settings. UN Women works on gender equality and women's empowerment to address the barriers that are preventing women, children, and adolescents from demanding and

¹ Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2017: estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division ISBN 978-92-4-151648-8

² Calculation of the proportion of under-five and neonatal deaths that occurred in 2013 in the fragile states listed in the OECD report was done using the UN IGMe Report 2014 data

³ The Global Strategy: Every Women Every Child (July 2015). Report of the Secretary-General

realizing their rights to SRMNCAH services and seeking to: i) establish rights-based national and local SRMNCAH Frameworks; ii) promotion of equal gender norms, attitudes, and practices on women's rights to SRMNCAH; iii) empower women and girls to exercise their SRMNCAH rights and seek services. POWER is being implemented in selected geographies in humanitarian settings in Ethiopia and Uganda and has interventions at the regional level for the Horn of Africa (HoA) region.

As one of the official data sources for monitoring SDG 5.1.1 “Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor gender equality and women’s empowerment”, the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) captures the underlying drivers of gender inequality and aims to provide data for transformative policy-changes. It is implemented by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre and measures discrimination against women in social institutions across 180 countries, considering laws, social norms,^{4[OBJ]} The POWER program, by way of ensuring establishment of rights-based national and local SRMNCAH frameworks, has summarized the SIGI data for the HoA countries and plans to facilitate this policy dialogue for its adoption and use.

Purpose:

Within the POWER Program, the Policy Dialogue aims to support relevant institutions and humanitarian actors in the selected HoA countries to establish rights-based national and local SRMNCAH Frameworks in humanitarian settings. Towards this objective, the POWER program works to improve monitoring by duty bearers to deliver on SRMNCAH commitments in humanitarian settings. This will be facilitated through a policy dialogue that explores the existing indicators and potential measures to track implementation of commitments to address gender-related barriers to SRMNCAH services in humanitarian settings. In this regard, the OECD Development Centre’s Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) is a valuable tool for supporting countries to track progress on women’s empowerment. It will be very important for countries to understand how the SIGI works, what the findings mean and how they will be able to use it to identify their achievements and assess their gaps. The dialogue will also explore the gaps in the existing SIGI data and create the platform for the HoA countries to discuss how they can fill the gap to ensure that they are able to deliver on their SRMNCAH commitments in humanitarian settings.

⁴Ferrant, G., L. Fuirot and E. Zambrano (2020), "The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2019: A revised framework for better advocacy", *OECD Development Centre Working Papers*, No. 342, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/022d5e7b-en>.

Participants:

The Policy Dialogue will engage 30-40 representatives from the eight countries in the Horn of Africa and regional organizations. The participants will include government ministries (Health, Gender, Statistics and Social Welfare/humanitarian), Regional development partners and Institutions working on SRMNCAH such as H6 partners (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO, the World Bank), the Austrian Development Agency, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - the Intergovernmental Authority on Development” (IGAD) - African Union (AU) - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and civil society organizations (CSOs) including women CSOs and organizations working with women with disabilities in humanitarian settings. UN Women country offices will work closely with respective government ministries and other organizations in the nomination of participants from the region.

UN Women will leverage existing platforms in the region and joint UN initiatives (e.g. the European Union and United Nations Spotlight Initiative, which is a regional, multi-year partnership to eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence including harmful traditional practices and the Sweden-funded 2gether for SRHR) to continue the advocacy and share outcomes from the dialogue. The Dialogue will reinforce the momentum generated through the Generation Equality Forum in Paris and Action Coalitions on Gender-Based Violence and Bodily Autonomy.⁵

Expected Output:

- The regional policy dialogue will enable key stakeholders in the region to identify opportunities for the SIGI index to be adapted to address barriers to SRMNCAH in humanitarian settings.
- Specifically, the dialogue will contribute to duty bearers having a monitoring mechanism to track implementation of commitments to deliver on SRMNCAH commitments in humanitarian settings.

⁵ See more on the Generation Equality Forum at: <https://forum.generationequality.org/generation-equality-forum-paris>

- The country teams established during Session Three will continue to serve as Reference Group on SRMNCAH rights in humanitarian settings for the country.

Method (format):

Given the COVID-19 travel-related restrictions, the dialogue has been adapted from an in-person session to four on-line sessions (each 3 hours) scheduled 2 weeks apart.

Session 1: Introduction to SIGI in HoA (15th July 2021)– this session will focus on an introduction to regional legal and policy commitments on SRMNCAH, drawing upon regional knowledge products, specifically the *Regional Reference document on SRMNCAH Strategies in Humanitarian Settings* and SIGI analysis conducted in 2020. This will provide an overview of the SIGI index in the Horn of Africa (HoA) region and sharing of experiences from the different countries on the use of SIGI index data. There will be presentations from OECD, interactive reflections from partners in the HoA countries and as well as experiences from a SIGI adaptation in Tanzania and Uganda. **The Session will result in clarifying the data sets available and requirements for the SRMNCAH commitments in the HoA.**

Session 2: SRMNCAH Data in humanitarian settings (22nd July, 2021) – during this session, there will be presentation of the *Community Solutions for SRMNCAH in Humanitarian Settings in the Horn of Africa*, presentation on *Gender Barrier Analysis of available Policy and Legal frameworks on SRMNCAH rights and service access for women and girls in humanitarian setting* from Ethiopia, discussion on data from diverse partners working in humanitarian settings in the region (government civil society, OCHA- UNFPA -UNHCR- UNICEF and other development partners) in the form of a panel discussion. There will then be reflections on what the data shows regarding women’s empowerment and enjoyment of their SRMNCAH rights. **The Session will result in identification of the SRMNCAH data needs for humanitarian settings in the HoA region and gaps in the available data.**

Session 3: Women’s enjoyment of their SRMNCAH rights in humanitarian settings (29th July 2021) – this session will be a working session, with a focus on how countries can better measure women’s enjoyment of SRMNCAH and their rights in the humanitarian context. There will be exploration of how SIGI can be adapted for application in humanitarian contexts and dialogue on 1) which measures can capture women’s enjoyment of their SRMNCAH rights, 2) what are the sources of data in humanitarian contexts, 3) how such data can be collected in ethical and safe ways that elevate women’s experiences and voices and 4) How can the collection and reporting of these measures improve accountability for women’s rights?

The Session will result in participants collaborating as country teams to develop the ideas generated as a plan of action on how the agreed measures could be part of a pilot SIGI adaptation to measure SRMNCAH rights in humanitarian contexts within their countries. The country teams will consist of representatives of the member states, UN Women Country Offices and other CSOs or development partners working in that country. The established country teams will have one hour to discuss on these during session three, but are expected to reconvene as a team, through UN Women COs facilitation to finalize their Plan of Action.

The expectation is that the team will continue to serve as a reference group for future actions on SRMNCAH rights in humanitarian settings. The engagement of member states in the discussion will facilitate ownership of the commitments resulting from this session. The member states will take lead in implementing the action plans from the policy dialogue promoting continuity and sustainability at the country level.

Session 4: Committing to counting women's access to SRMNCAH in HoA (12th August 2021) –

Country teams will present on their proposed plan of action and commitment to measure women's enjoyment of their SRMNCAH rights in humanitarian settings in their country; including planning to adapt SIGI in select humanitarian context. Development partners will have reflection time to consider opportunities for collaboration to take these efforts forward. **The Session will result in duty bearers have identified ways to track implementation of commitments to deliver on SRMNCAH.**

Agenda for Dialogue Sessions

Overall Facilitator: Kidest L Hagos

Rapporteur: Jackline Kiambi

Agenda	Speaker	Moderator	Time	Remark
Session One – July 15th, 2021, 2:00 –5:00 pm East Africa Time.				
Opening remarks	UN Women Regional Director, ADA Representative, Ethiopia Government Representative, Uganda Government Representative	Sunita Caminha, EAW Policy Specialist	30 min	
Introductions	Speakers and participants	Sunita Caminha	30 min	Interactive session
General Overview of SIGI & Setting the context in HoA– SIGI presentation	Ms. Hyeshin Park, Gender Programme	Sunita Caminha	35 min	

	Coordinator OECD Development Centre			
Reflections by participants		Sunita Caminha	20 min	
Health Break			5 min	
SIGI adoption and execution in Tanzania	Dr. Mitra Sadananda	Addisalem Befekadu	15 min	
Uganda's experience with localizing SIGI	Elizabeth Mushabe	Addisalem Befekadu, Program Specialist – EVAWG and Human Right, UN Women Ethiopia	10 min	
Reflections by participants		Addisalem Befekadu	20 min	
Regional Reference document presentation	Sunita Caminha, EVAW Policy Specialist	Kidest L Hagos	15 min	
Reflections by participants		Kidest L Hagos	15 min	Based on a guide for discussion
Next steps	Kidest L Hagos		5 min	
Closing	Sunita Caminha, EVAW Policy Specialist		5 min	
Session Two – July 22nd, 2021, 2:00 –5:00 pm East Africa Time.				
Opening of Session Two	Kenya Government Representative Somalia Government Representative	Sadiq Syed, UN Women Somalia Country Representative	15 minutes	
Recap – Last session	Jackline Kiambi		10 min	
Community solutions – presentation	Kidest L Hagos	Sadiq Syed	15 min	
Gender Barrier Analysis of available Policy and Legal frameworks on SRMNCAH rights and service access for women and girls in humanitarian setting from Ethiopia	Tigist Worku, Gender and Public Health Officer, UN Women Ethiopia	Sadiq Syed	15 min	
Panel Discussion – (guided by the Community Solutions Report)	OCHA, UNFPA, UNHCR, COs, CSO (SRH, humanitarian), Government (Ug, Et or Dj), UNICEF, UNAIDS	Sadiq Syed	1 hr.	

	(Uganda), org working on women with disabilities, and IOM – panel –			
Health Break			5 min	
Q &A and General Discussion – including reflections on country experience	All participants	Sadiq Syed	55 min	
Next steps/ Closing	Kidest L Hagos		10 min	
Session Three – July 29th, 2021, 2:00 –5:00 pm East Africa Time.				
Opening	Sudan Government Representative, Eritrea Government Rep	Mary Mbeo	15 minutes	
Recap – Last session	Jackline Kiambi	Mary Mbeo	15 min	
Overview of ethical and safe data collection and use in humanitarian settings Q &A	OCHA/ GiHA and Beatrice Teya	Mary Mbeo	10 Min 15 Min 20 Min	
Introduction on the session /discussions/ group work	Kidest L Hagos		5 Min	
Facilitated break out room discussions	Guided discussion with key questions and come up with action plan on how they go forward getting data on SRMNCAH in humanitarian setting and improvement on data collection.	Facilitators Cos, rapporteurs Barbra's Unit)	90 min (with 5-10 min health break)	1) Which measures can capture women's enjoyment of their SRMNCAH rights 2) What are the sources of data that can track these measures in humanitarian contexts? 3) How can such data be collected in ethical and safe ways that elevate women's experiences and voices

				4) How can the collection and reporting of these measures improve accountability for women's rights? (Plan of Action?)
Next step/Next agenda and closing	Sunita Caminha		10 Min	
Session Four – August 12th, 2021, 2:00 –5:00 pm East Africa Time.				
Opening Session Four	South Sudan Government Representative Djibouti Government Representative	Monalisa Zatjirua	15 Min	
Recap on all sessions	Jackline Kiambi	Monalisa Zatjirua	15 Min	
Country presentations and Discussion		Sunita Caminha	2hrs – 15 min each	Duty bearers will have identified ways to track implementation of commitments to deliver on SRMNCAH
Health Break			5 Min	
Reflections from Participants and Partners		Sunita Caminha	25 Min	Partners to include: CSOs, OECD, UNFPA, UNHCR and OCHA (TBC)
Next steps	Kidest		10 min	
Closing remarks	ADA Zebib Kavuma, UN Women, Deputy Regional Director		10 min 10 min	

