

To: Call to Action Partners

Date: October 2019

Prepared by: Women's Refugee Commission

Subject: Internal Memo to Partners on 2018 Progress Report

Introduction

This internal memo for Call to Action members is complementary to the [2018 progress report](#). The 2018 report is a public, advocacy-oriented document that highlights the work, challenges, and achievements of the Call to Action and its members. It includes several new elements, such as infographics that can be shared on social media and an annex with links to reports and resources published by partners in 2018. The purpose of this memo is to capture several issues that are not included in the public report, but should inform partners' internal deliberations on their work in 2019 and beyond.

Insufficient Partner Reporting

Accountability is a cornerstone of the Call to Action. Annual reporting by partners is a key aspect of the initiative's accountability framework. All partners that have made Road Map commitments have also agreed to report annually on progress made against these commitments. Despite this, not all partners have fulfilled their obligations. For the 2017 reporting period, 69% of partners (47 partners) submitted reports. For the 2018 reporting period, despite the simplified reporting template, only 56% of partners (48 partners) submitted reports.

The number of reports by NGO partners, as a percentage of the overall stakeholder group, was particularly low. Notably, all IOs reported in 2018, but some reports were submitted late, which impacted the drafting of the progress report.

2018 Reporting by stakeholder group

NGOs: 16/42 (38%)

States & Donors: 17/25 (68%)

IOs: 15/15 (100%)

There are also a number of Call to Action partners that have never reported against their Road Map commitments.

The 2018 reports were the first to be publicly available, which may have impacted reporting for some partners.

Recommendations:

- The NGO and States/Donors working groups should discuss reasons for low reporting and how to increase reporting next year, devise a plan, and make this a priority for the forthcoming 2019 reporting period, which will get under way in early 2020. The IO group should maintain its reporting level and ensure that 2019 reports are submitted by the deadline.
- In the planning for a post-2020 Road Map, the Call to Action should consider the initiative's policy regarding partners that have never reported.

Questions about Policy Frameworks

The Road Map reflects the Call to Action's belief that an enabling policy environment is key to individual and collective success. This is why all partners are required to make commitments against Outcome 1. Partners are also asked to submit their policies on gender-based violence (GBV) and gender equality to the Call to Action Lead, as this is an indicator of progress under this Outcome. Despite this, the level of submitted policies remains quite low. While this may reflect the need to increase reporting rates, it may also suggest that more work needs to be done within partner organizations to institutionalize commitments to address gender and GBV in humanitarian settings. Partners that have updated previously submitted policies should also submit the revised versions.

Recommendations:

- The Call to Action Lead should provide information to the membership about which policies it has received.
- Call to Action partners should ensure that missing or updated policies are provided to the Lead.

Challenges in Analyzing Progress

The low rate of reporting among partners means it is not possible to clearly identify gaps in progress on Road Map Outcomes or to make a definitive determination of which Key Action Areas (KAAs) require more focus moving forward. This challenge is compounded by the failure of some partners that do report to identify the KAA to which a particular achievement is linked. For all stakeholder groups, reporting quality, and level of detail, varied greatly.

Funding Issues

The lack of reliable information about overall funding for GBV in emergencies remains a significant challenge to charting progress under Outcome 4 on funding. But the available data suggest that much more work must be done to achieve this Outcome. It is a question of identifying and overcoming barriers, and increasing funding levels for GBV-related programming, especially to local organizations. The progress report includes the recent findings from the [Voice and IRC report](#) about the severe underfunding of this area of work.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to report how much funding Call to Action partners, particularly donors, allocated to GBV programming in 2018. Some donors did not submit reports. Among donors that did report, detailed funding information was either not included or consistently described.

When considering the following recommendations, partners should keep in mind that following the Oslo conference, OCHA is also exploring how to improve tracking of funds for GBV. Call to Action should complement and not duplicate this process.

Recommendations:

- Donors and others providing funding should report funding amounts in their annual Call to Action reports. The Call to Action partners should discuss whether this would be included in the public annual reports or not.
- The Call to Action Lead (and/or State and Donor group) should maintain a running tally of partner funds directed to GBV-specific programming. As Switzerland noted in its 2018 report, “a regular updated list of investments by Call to Action partners instead of isolated information on specific contributions...would facilitate the advocacy for resources and action.” If possible, information on GBV funding by crisis should be provided so that gaps, needs, and opportunities for collaboration could be more easily identified. The partnership should discuss the role of various Call to Action partners and working groups in contributing to this effort and practical aspects of how to compile the information in the most useful way.

Reflection of Call to Action Efforts in Key Tools and Documents

There have been important advances in the development of guidance to address gender equality and GBV in humanitarian contexts, and commitments to enhance this work in systemic processes. But there is still not sufficient integration of gender equality and GBV in key humanitarian tools and documents. The lack of progress on key indicators for Outcome 3 in particular is very concerning, and does not reflect global policies or agreements. More must be done to pass from paper to reality.

Recommendation:

- At the 2019 partners meeting, discuss ways to advance progress on the effective integration of gender and GBV in inter-sectoral tools, strategic planning processes, and documents. This requires additional leadership and collective work.

Capturing Material for Communication Purposes

Partners engaged in important advocacy efforts in 2018, and the Women’s Refugee Commission was able to capture some good examples for the progress report. These sections could be further strengthened if partners shared compelling findings or quotes associated with their advocacy efforts.

Recommendations:

The partner’s space of the Call to Action website includes resources such as [General Joint Messages](#) that can be used by partners to enhance communications about the work of the Call to Action. There are various ways to develop more material for Call to Action communications purposes, which should be discussed at the 2019 partners meeting. For example:

- The annual reporting template could be amended to include a section where partners can share facts and figures, stories, or quotes that capture the need for or value of the initiative.
- Call to Action partners should use the official Call to Action hashtag #CalltoActionGBV and

#AppelàlactionVBG on social media. This would increase the initiative's visibility and facilitate searches for relevant information when producing advocacy briefs and progress reports.

- A communications bank could be created in the partners section of the Call to Action website and partners encouraged to regularly submit data points, stories, or quotes that make the case for the Call to Action.

It is hoped that this memo, along with the annual report, will generate action by Call to Action partners, inform discussions at the 2019 partners meeting, and contribute to the development of the post-2020 Road Map.