UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Reporting Guidelines

- Annually UN Action is required to report on any Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) projects that were open during the reporting period.
- The current reporting period is 1 January-31 December 2015
- For your entities MPTF project, please use the matrix below to provide a few paragraphs on your project.
- If you have any photos you would like to share for possible inclusion to the glossy report, please send to Laura with photo credit details.

Strategic Objective

Please provide a brief summary of the project and the Strategic Objective:

The activities and mandate of the WPA/Human Rights focus on the JHRO contribution to the MARA in DRC. The main objective is the gathering of data allowing the analysis of trends of sexual violence and identification of perpetrators.

For this purpose the WPA has the main responsibility for monitoring, reporting and investigation of CRSV as well as the lead over the data output of the MARA working group.

Expected Outputs of the Project (Long Term)

Please discuss the expected long-term outputs of the project (these should be linked to the outputs that were in the original project proposal):

Better data gathering allows better analysis of trends. The close monitoring of trends allows better response (PoC, medical, psycho-social) as well as preventive action if possible. Consolidated and high quality data also allows better advocacy at the highest government levels which will lead to less CRSV within security forces.

Outputs achieved during reporting period

Please discuss the actual outputs achieved during the reporting period:

- The MARA working group -led by the WPA/JHRO- met on monthly basis throughout the year 2015. The working group achieved following:
- ✓ Established common standards for data collection, information storage;
- ✓ Coordinated and harmonized analysis of CRSV;
- ✓ Provided regular briefings on CRSV in PoC forums (Monusco and humanitarian);
- ✓ Provided briefings to FARDC and other government security forces on the MARA and the listing/delisting exercise of parties to the conflict;
- ✓ Provided support when required to the monitoring and evaluation committee for the implementation of the FARDC action plan;
- ✓ Provided support to the presidential advisor on sexual violence and child recruitment in the implementation of her annual work plan, when required;
- ✓ Drafting and consolidation of the MARA report (mid term / annual);
- ✓ Consolidation of approach and analysis regarding response and the gaps in response;

WPA coached and exchanged with WPA's in the field;

- ✓ WPA carried out and guided field investigations into CRSV;
- ✓ WPA coached WPA's in the field;
- ✓ WPA produced monthly analytical reports as well as ad hoc updates on the CRSV situation;
- ✓ WPA contributed to the development of the CRSV training material.

Challenges

Please discuss if there have been any challenges in carrying out the project during the reporting period and/or lessons learned (examples include security, delays in implementation, etc):

- ✓ Lack of donor support during the reporting period has led to UN partners losing their partners in the field collecting data and organising response;
- ✓ The FARDC (national army) lacked initiative in the implementation of their action plan against CRSV;
- ✓ Discussions with the government on data as well as compensation have sometimes been difficult mainly because of the political context;
- ✓ Financing of the WPA contract has been a continuous and reoccurring problem, leading to contractual insecurity for the WPA.

Lessons Learned

Discuss what you and your partners learned during this reporting year that has helped inform/improve the project.

The reporting period was rather successful as work with the government partners and the MARA WG intensified. This led to quite some achievements.

It was however noted that the concepts MARA and CRSV remain relatively unclear to our partners in the field (UN and others). This was largely due to a lack in staffing on behalf of MARA WG partners as well as the MARA secretariat (Unicef funded child protection specialist left in the first quarter of the year), whereby the number of briefing and training sessions in the field which were planned could not be carried out.

Impact of the overall project

Please discuss the impact of the overall project. if it is too soon to report on impact, please note the intended impact of the project upon completion:

The project has allowed to support (through investigation and monitoring) and consolidate (through the MARA working group) advocacy efforts and has thereby kept the issue high on the agenda of the government and the military justice system. These elements have led to significant decreases in CRSV during the year 2015.

Specific Story

Highlight a concrete example of a success of challenge that has been important to your project.

The regularity of the MARA WG meetings led to a committed team of working group partners who interacted in a creative and constructive way. This led to a common approach, understanding and joint advocacy on different levels.

The expertise in investigation into CRSV and the availability of the WPA led to swift investigations into a mass rape that occurred in September 2015 in South Kivu for which elements of the FARDC (national army) were allegedly responsible. WPA managed to produce a report shortly after the events. The report was used as an advocacy tool at national and provincial level. The authorities arrested the perpetrators and carried out an investigation shortly after.