

OSF Women's Rights/Gender Integration Meeting
March 12, 2013

Summary of Key Points

Meeting Participants: President's Office: Johanna Chao Krelick; Ariel Meckler; Washington DC Advocacy: Wendy Patten; EU Advocacy: Marta Martinelli; Communications: Amy Weil; USP: Patricia Jerido, Maggie Corser, Heddy Nam; ARO: Hanan Rabbani; OSF Armenia: Anna Kalashyan; Initiative on Climate Change: Nancy Youman; HRI: Allison Hilman, Herta Toth; PHP: Olga Ruchkova; OSJI: Marc Kupanski; HESP: Kata Miklos; IWP: Maryam Elahi, Meghan O'Connor, Katie Tyrrell, Sarah van Wattering Gabrielle Tang.

Agenda Items:

1. Report back from the *Food Security in Africa in the Context of Climate Change* meeting

- On the last working group call, participants discussed the ways in which women's rights can be highlighted in the first organizational shared framework on Food Security in Africa in the Context of Climate Change. Programs across the network had the opportunity to develop concept notes on ideas and interventions their program could contribute should OSF choose to invest in the intersecting issues of food security and climate change in Africa. Programs who submitted concept notes were invited to participate in a meeting, called a 'charrette,' in Johannesburg, South Africa from March 4th-7th. Several members of the Women's Rights/Gender Integration working group were present at the charrette and offered their perspectives on how women's rights were addressed in the charrette discussions and outcomes.
- There were 79 participants representing a range of geographic and thematic programs across OSF as well as several experts on climate change and food security in Africa. The meeting was structured such that the large group had the opportunity to put forth ideas in the concept notes as key priorities for discussion. 'Women's rights' was one of the six priorities identified by the large group. Small groups were then formed for each of the six priorities and they were tasked with developing a goal, strategies, and tools that articulated why OSF should invest in this particular issue and strategic ways to do so. The other priority issues were: community empowerment, investing in small holder framers, agricultural productivity, knowledge production and land rights. Each small group presented their concept to the large group and to the charrette 'jury' which comprised Chris Stone, Akwe Amosu and external experts. The jury's role was to identify from the small group presentations ideas that they consider to be most strategic and achievable for OSF to support in these intersecting fields.
- From the presentations, the jury developed one overarching goal and three sub-goals. The overarching goal is: to strengthen food security in Africa in the face of climate change in ways that advance practitioner and marginalized communities: small holder farmers, women, pastoralists, the urban poor, and youth. The three sub goals are focused on the following:

1. Knowledge building and empowerment, focusing on widening and deepening the connections between scientific, policy, practitioner and marginalized communities.
 2. Agricultural and food systems, focusing on supporting resilient agricultural and food systems from farm to table.
 3. Laws, policy and accountability, focusing on the ability of practitioners and marginalized communities to hold institutions accountable to law and policies relevant to Goals 1 and 2.
- While women/women's rights was not identified as a goal in of itself IWP staff and others present at the charrette indicated that there was much discussion about women and women's rights throughout the meeting and much support for OSF integrating a focus on women into the final goals and strategies.
 - In terms of next steps, Akwe Amosu, Director of the Africa Regional Office and Chris Stone will work with the jury members to present a final strategy document to the OSF Global Board in April for comments and approval. If the strategy is approved, details about the scope and resources for the work will be discussed with programs.
 - Johanna Chao Krelick, Special Assistant to the President's Office, suggested that while we wait for this organization-wide strategy to be approved, this working group can continue its thinking and discussion about how we want women to be represented in the various issues that the goals will encompass. She recommended reviewing concept notes from other programs' to get a sense of their perspectives on this issues as well as building relationships internally and with experts and other actors in the field.

2. Discussion about Shared Frameworks

- Johanna Chao Krelick briefed the working group on the process for Shared Frameworks that the President recently announced.
 - The main communication platform for the Shared Frameworks will be a KARL community called "The Souk" (an Arabic word for marketplace). The Souk will serve as the initial on-line portal for the nomination and development of these ideas. It is intended to be a place for exchange, discovery, and development of new ideas that may eventually become part of the proposed and approved Shared Frameworks. Anyone within the OSF network can submit an idea to the Souk and ideas can be discussed and developed within the Souk platform.
- Marta Martinelli of the EU Advocacy Office suggested a shared framework on elections and gender-based political violence.
- Hanan Rabbani, Senior Program Officer on Women's Rights from the Arab Regional Office suggested two possible shared frameworks: sexual violence in the Arab region; and population and gender in the context of UN review of International Conference on Population Development.
- The working group will continue to discuss ideas for shared frameworks on future calls.

3. Developing a Community of Practice

- On the last call, Wendy Patten of the Washington DC Advocacy Office raised the idea of developing a community of practice on women’s rights and gender integration. Wendy and Meghan O’Connor of IWP had further discussions about this idea and identified it as a strategic way for building organizational capacity and commitment to women’s rights throughout the foundation and its programming.
- During the call, Wendy and Meghan provided their initial thoughts on why a community of practice would be beneficial to advance this issue in OSF. A community of practice can:
 - Help us identify existing expertise in the organization on women’s rights and gender
 - Build the capacity of other staff through learning exchanges and discussions and provide a concrete platform for developing tools and resources that could programs could use for incorporating a gender analysis and lens into their work
 - Provide a platform for capturing impact and results of this process of gender integration.
 - By developing a cadre of experts within the community of practice, we would have a potential mechanism for delivering training and providing technical expertise to staff and programs.
 - The community of practice will also allow for deeper thinking and discussion than the monthly women’s rights/gender integration calls. Staff could join and get involved to the extent that they want to for their program and own professional development.
 - The shared frameworks provide a good starting point for launching this kind of forum.
- Wendy also shared the example of a successful community of practice established at USAID which eventually led to key institutional commitments to advancing gender equality in their policies and practice.
- Participants on the call noted that eventually there will need to be budgetary/financial support as well as some sort of structural support, including staff time, for this work. Staff of IWP recommended that it was best to demonstrate demand and impact first to senior management and then use that to leverage institutional and financial support.
- Overall participants on the call were very enthusiastic about the idea of developing this community of practice. IWP will take the lead on communicating about next steps on the community of practice.

4. Next steps

IWP will send out notes next week and will identify a date for the next call in April.