



## IASC Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action

### Memo regarding the IASC Gender Marker Process – 24 May 2013

#### Introduction

As part of broader efforts to ensure that humanitarian assistance meets the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men, the IASC Sub-Working Groups on Gender in Humanitarian Action (Gender SWG) and the Consolidated Appeal Processes (CAP SWG) support the roll-out of the IASC Gender Marker. Since 2012, the IASC Gender Marker is mandatory for all CAP and has been used in five pooled funds mechanisms. The IASC Gender Marker is a tool to assist humanitarian actors to make cluster response plans and projects more gender-responsive. The Gender Marker is designed to help clusters/sectors assess and strengthen the gender equality potential of projects in humanitarian appeals or funding mechanisms, including CAPs, CERFs, and country-based pooled funds.

Cluster Lead Agencies at field and global levels have the primary responsibility for ensuring that gender equality programming takes place and that attention is paid to the different needs of women, girls, boys and men of all ages throughout the humanitarian response. The application of the Gender Marker can serve as a strategic tool to meet this responsibility by providing a simple framework to assess projects' gender-responsiveness. The Gender Marker also responds directly to requests in Security Council Resolutions<sup>1</sup> and recent UN Secretary General Reports to track gender-related allocations in the interest of generating greater accountability and positive outcomes for all humanitarian affected populations. Increasingly, the Gender Marker is being used as a critical factor in donors' decisions around funding, as the Gender Marker code serves as a good proxy for sound project design. In addition, some humanitarian organisations have adopted internal commitments to maintain high standards of gender sensitivity in their own humanitarian action, and that of their partners.

The **IASC Gender Standby Capacity project** (GenCap), as the implementing arm of the **IASC Gender SWG**, seeks to build the capacity of humanitarian actors at country, regional and global levels to mainstream gender equality programming in all sectors of humanitarian action. The GenCap Project deploys Senior Gender Advisers to the field as an inter-agency resource on gender equality. These Advisers are deployed to assist all members of HCTs throughout the duration of the response.

As the Gender Marker has now become a mandatory tool and as we enter the fifth year of its implementation, the IASC Gender SWG takes this opportunity to remind all stakeholders that it is the primary responsibility of Cluster Leads Agencies to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into humanitarian action. GenCap Advisers have played an important role in supporting the Gender Marker, but now seek to focus their support on building the capacity of Cluster Leads and humanitarian actors to take on ownership of the Gender Marker.

GenCap Advisers are available to support the Clusters at field and global levels to take on their responsibility and will continue to support the implementation of the Gender Marker by;

- responding to requests for support with project design
- providing constructive feedback to Clusters project designers and other relevant stakeholders
- enabling efficient gender analysis in the CHAP and Cluster Response Plans
- identifying, mobilising and nurturing existing capacities to use the Gender Marker
- supporting capacity strengthening plans through bilateral collaborations
- working with clusters/sectors to strengthen gender equality programming beyond the Gender Marker

However, it should be noted, for clarity, that GenCap Adviser will not;

- be held responsible for the quality of gender equality programming
- code and score projects, in the field or on OPS.

Please do not hesitate to contact the GenCap Support Unit at the global level ([gencap@un.org](mailto:gencap@un.org)) or the GenCap Adviser, if one is deployed in the operation concerned, with questions or for any clarifications.

*Signed by the co-chairs of the IASC Gender SWG: Siobhán Foran, UN Women, NY, Elizabeth Cafferty, Women's Refugee Commission, NY and Luisa Cremonese, UNHCR, GVA.*

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<sup>1</sup> Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009)