

COORDINATION

WHY DOES GENDER EQUALITY MATTER IN COORDINATION INTERVENTIONS?

Coordination within and between clusters is essential to effective programming and response. When it comes to addressing the gender dimension of humanitarian action, joint planning – the collection, analysis and reporting of sex- and age-disaggregated data (SADD); exchange of information and collaboration across the UN system, international actors, NGOs and local civil society; promoting the meaningful and equal participation of all segments of the affected community; and ensuring a gender-balance in assessment, aid delivery and service provision teams – is crucial.

OCHA and cluster coordination projects that promote gender and age mainstreaming within their clusters and in the broader response - a response based on the distinct needs, priorities and capacities of both the female and male population of all ages - are far more likely to improve the lives of affected populations. The IASC Gender Marker is a tool that codes, on a 2-0 scale, whether or not a humanitarian project is designed to ensure that women/girls and men/boys will benefit equally from it, and that it will contribute to increasing gender equality. A full description of the IASC Gender Marker and its application can be found in the Gender Marker Overview Tip Sheet.

NEEDS ASSESSMENTS → ACTIVITIES → OUTCOMES

A **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** is the essential first step in providing emergency coordination programming that is effective, safe and restores dignity. A gender analysis is critical to understanding the social and gender dynamics that could help or hinder aid effectiveness. The gender analysis in the needs assessment will identify gender gaps, such as unequal access to services for women/girls and men/boys, that need to be addressed. These should be integrated into **ACTIVITIES**. The project's **OUTCOMES** should capture the change that is expected for female and male beneficiaries. Avoid outcome statements that hide whether or not males and females benefit equally.

GENDER IN COORDINATION PROJECT NEEDS ASSESSMENTS	
✓	Are gender and age as cross-cutting issues represented as a working group/task force? If so, do all Clusters send senior members of staff to participate?
✓	Does a senior gender expert participate in the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group?
✓	Is there agreement on the categories of specific needs, including gender and age, to be identified in assessments and responses?
✓	Does the coordination project promote, and encourage cluster partners to promote, the integration of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention measures/activities?
✓	Does the coordination project promote, and encourage cluster partners to promote, the integration of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) prevention measures/activities?
GENDER IN COORDINATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES	
✓	The Cluster commits to; the collection, analysis and reporting of beneficiary data by sex and age;
✓	Clusters include a detailed gender and age analysis in the Cluster's Needs Assessment to inform their Humanitarian Response Plan;
✓	Support Cluster Partners in the development of project-specific needs assessments and responses.
GENDER IN COORDINATION PROJECT OUTCOMES	
✓	Beneficiary data is routinely collected, analysed and reported by sex and age.
	Sector- or situation-specific SEA risks and threats to women, girls, boys and men have been identified.
✓	Assessment teams are gender-balanced in order to ensure access to all segments of the affected community and the equal and meaningful participation of women, girls, boys and men.
✓	Capacity in sector response and preparedness has been enhanced through gender and Gender Marker training.
✓	Sector- or situation-specific GBV risks and threats to women, girls, boys and men have been identified.

DESIGNING GENDER MINIMUM COMMITMENTS FOR COORDINATION SERVICES:

In order to translate the cluster and organisational commitments to gender-responsive coordination projects into reality, minimum gender commitments can be developed and applied systematically to the field response. The commitments must be articulated in a way that can be understood by all, in terms of value added to current programming and in terms of the concrete actions that need to be taken to meet these commitments. They should constitute a set of core actions and/or approaches (maximum five) to be applied by all cluster partners; they should be practical, realistic and focus on improvement of current approaches rather than on programme reorientation. Finally, they should be measurable for the follow-up and evaluation of their application.

The commitments should be the product of a dialogue with cluster members and/or within the organisation. A first list of commitments should be identified and then discussed, amended and validated by the national cluster and sub-clusters and/or organisation's staff working in the sector. It is important to note that commitments need to reflect key priorities identified in a particular setting. The **ADAPT and ACT-C Gender Equality Framework** (detailed in the Gender Marker Overview Tip Sheet) outlines basic actions that can be used when designing or vetting a gender integrated project, and can be a useful reference in designing minimum gender commitments. *The commitments, activities and indicators below draw on elements of the ADAPT and ACT-C Gender Equality Framework and are provided as samples only:*

1. **ANALYSE** the impact of the crisis on women, men, boys, and girls related to needs, capacities, tasks/labour, work load, protection concerns, and access to services and facilities.

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
<i>The Cluster carries out a detailed gender and age analysis in the needs assessment and Cluster Response Plan (CRP), which is used and built on by cluster partners in the development of their projects and programmes.</i>	<i>The CRP includes a gender and age analysis that describes the distinct needs, concerns and capacities of women, girls, boys and men together with the potential GBV and SEA risks/'flash-points' in the sector</i>

2. In an effort to **DESIGN** services to meet the needs of women, men, boys and girls equally, the Cluster as a whole commits to proactively engaging in and fully implementing the IASC Gender Marker

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
<i>The Cluster seeks the support of a senior GenCap / Gender Advisor to train the Vetting Team on the coding for the Gender Marker</i>	<i>The Cluster Vetting Team is fully conversant and engaged in the Gender Marker coding system</i>

3. The Cluster takes **ACTION** to prevent GBV by identifying specific risks to and forms of gender-based violence – including sexual exploitation and abuse- for women, girls, boys and men in the specific sector and advises on preventative and responsive measures/activities

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
<i>With the support of the interagency GenCap Advisor and/or Cluster Lead Agency Gender Advisor/Focal Point, the cluster identifies the risks, the forms of GBV and the 'flash-points' for SEA in this sector</i>	<i>The cluster has documented and disseminated to all its partners a communication on the risks, the forms of GBV and the 'flash-points' for SEA in this sector</i> <i>% of Cluster Response Plans and projects sheets that are informed by the cluster's GBV/SEA analysis</i>

4. Ensure that assessment teams are gender-balanced and **COLLECT**, analyse and report sex and age-disaggregated data (SADD) on program coverage.

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
<i>Drawing on UN Agency and I/LNGO partners in the Cluster, assessment teams are composed of women and men</i>	<i>% of assessments carried out by gender-balanced teams</i>

5. Ensure **COORDINATION** and gender mainstreaming in all areas of work, including gender considerations as a standing agenda point at cluster coordination meetings.

Sample Activity	Sample Indicator
<i>The cluster coordination meetings include a standing agenda item on mainstreaming gender; progress, outstanding challenges, training needs, etc.</i>	<i>% of coordination meetings that discuss the progress/challenges to gender mainstreaming in this sector.</i>

For more information on the **Gender Marker** go to www.onereponse.info

For the e-learning course on **"Increasing Effectiveness of Humanitarian Action for Women, Girls, Boys and Men"**, see www.iasc-elearning.org

For more information on coordination in emergencies, see **The Core Standards in The Sphere Handbook, 2011**