



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

# **Update on the Work of the IASC SWG on Gender and Humanitarian Action 2011-2012**

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# Why Gender Matters?



*The impacts of crises are not neutral, but are shaped by the vulnerability and/or capacity of the affected groups to respond. This can differ across economic class, ethnicity, gender and other factors.*

*Relatedly, humanitarian response is not neutral, and can increase, reinforce or reduce existing inequalities.*

# Strategic Goal

The IASC Gender SWG works to support the IASC and its members in the **realization of the IASC Gender Policy Statement (2008)**, which outlines the IASC's commitment to:

- achieving gender equality,
- ensuring the human rights of women, girls, boys and men are equally promoted and protected in humanitarian action, and
- ensuring that women, girls, boys and men have equitable and safe access to services provided.

# 2011 Work Plan

## Two-tiered approach:

- refine and build upon existing good practices in gender-responsive humanitarian action, and
- respond to and address existing gaps through a limited number of new initiatives

## Strategic Interventions:

- Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Knowledge management
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Coordination
- Partnership



# 2011 Work Plan

## Strategic Objectives and Results

- 1. Strengthen the evidence base for gender-responsive programming in humanitarian action**
  - SADD Report, Gender Impact Study
- 2. Strengthen the standardisation and consistent application of gender-responsive humanitarian action at global and field levels.**
  - GenCap deployments to support HCTs/cluster coordinators/lead agencies, partners, and CAP teams at field and global levels; gender tool roll out
- 3. Strengthen inter-agency rapid response capacity to address gender in the early stages of rapid onset humanitarian crises.**
  - issuing “Gender ABC” Tip Sheets; roaming GenCap post
- 4. Strengthen the accountability framework for gender-responsive humanitarian action**
  - consistent application of the IASC Gender Marker.

# 2012 Work Plan



**Goal: to strengthen humanitarian outcomes** by increasing gender responsive programming in humanitarian action

## **Areas of focus:**

- Supporting Transformative Agenda including: **Leadership, Accountability, Coordination**
- Strategic engagement with IASC Subsidiary bodies – esp. NATF, SWGs on Cluster Approach, Humanit Coord, Leadership, Preparedness
- Build on ongoing work (GenCap, capacity building, advocacy)

Objective 1. Ensure humanitarian leadership has understanding of gender gaps and how to carry out their responsibilities for gender equality programming.

- Gender reinforced in HC TOR, and mainstreamed into HC Handbook and training materials
- Gender expertise is reflected in rapid response teams (incl. roaming GenCap)
- ABC Gender Tip Sheets drafted and disseminated to HCTs and Clusters in new emergencies

Objective 2. Support coordinated response to humanitarian action by ensuring that the distinct needs and capacities of boys, girls, women and men are addressed.

- Field-level Clusters provided with ongoing technical support and capacity building on gender equality programming
- Global level Clusters are provided with targeted support in line with their priority needs
- IASC Gender tools are rolled out to field based humanitarian actors



Objective 3. Ensure gender dimensions mainstreamed into emerging IASC accountability frameworks for performance.

- Gender mainstreamed into Needs Assessment Tools and training materials (MIRA)
- Real Time Evaluations reflect gender considerations
- IASC Gender Marker Tools and Guidelines are refined and disseminated
- Engagement with donors on use of gender marker

## Objective 4. Outline key gender considerations for emerging IASC preparedness work:

- Prepare and disseminate good practice paper based on experience of 3 Regional GenCaps working on preparedness in Southern Africa, the Pacific and Kenya

5. Raise awareness among stakeholders about how gender equality programming can directly contribute to improved humanitarian outcomes

- SADD report recommendations
- Phase II of Gender Equality Programming on Humanitarian Outcomes
- Document and share evidence of gender good practice

# Discussion Questions

- Challenge of time and accountability?
- Challenge of sustainability?
- Gender as entry point for addressing age, diversity issues?
- Transformative Agenda – an opportunity?