



INTER-AGENCY PROTECTION AND GENDER STANDBY CAPACITY PROJECTS

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2023

ABOUT THE PROTECTION STANDBY CAPACITY PROJECT (PROCAP) AND THE GENDER STANDBY CAPACITY PROJECT (GENCAP)

1. What are the vision and missions of ProCap and GenCap?

ProCap and GenCap envision a world in which all people who are affected by humanitarian crises are protected and humanitarian action prioritizes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The mission of ProCap is to strengthen inter-agency and local capacity and humanitarian leadership to ensure that protection is central to humanitarian action, through strategic and operational support and expertise. GenCap works to strengthen inter-agency capacity and leadership to deliver on commitments to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action through strategic and operational guidance, tools, mobilizing across themes and expertise.

2. What are the key modalities of ProCap and GenCap?

The projects implement their mission through three modalities that interact seamlessly: (1) strategic and technical support through the deployment of senior advisors; (2) capacity-building in national, regional and global operations; and (3) policy engagement and sharing of influence and practice. These modalities help enhance practices to fulfil collective commitments on protection and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action.

3. What are the ProCap and GenCap methodologies?

In 2020, the projects underwent reforms to strengthen their field-level results and the sustainability of interventions. Central to the new approach is firmly anchoring the projects at the Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Team (field leadership) level. The methodology is anchored in roadmaps. The roadmaps are essentially a results-based management tool for country level leadership that guides programming, coordination, and localization, aims to create an enabling environment for system change. In collaboration with collective field leadership (HCTs), Senior Advisers help identify collective systemic priorities, plan response outputs and related activities, and define expected systemic outcomes. The projects identify responsible field leadership, strengthen capacity and develop advocacy approaches that place protection and gender equality at the heart of humanitarian action. To ensure predictability and continuity and increase the likelihood of sustainable results, the ProCap and/or GenCap Projects support can be provided to individual operations for up to three years.

The ProCap project targets specific systemic objectives, in line with the IASC Centrality of Protection benchmarks, considering specifically leadership, programming, and coordination as core pillars for system change outcomes. ProCap embeds localization, nexus approaches and durable solutions as enablers to protection outcomes.

The GenCap project works with field leadership to lead system change throughout the humanitarian coordination architecture by integrating gender equality across dimensions of 5 pillars (leadership, programming, coordination, localization, AAP). The GenCap project's enablers are the champions and allies in multiple roles in operations in concert with IASC policies and guidelines.

4. What policies and commitments guide the work of ProCap and GenCap?

ProCap is guided by and promotes the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action \(2016\)](#), the [IASC Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action Statement \(2013\)](#), the [Professional Standards for Protection Work \(2018\)](#) and the [IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons \(2010\)](#). GenCap is guided by the [IASC Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action \(2017\)](#), the [IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action \(2018\)](#), [IASC Guidance on Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms \(2021\)](#) and [the Core Humanitarian Standards \(2011\)](#).

5. Who are the key partners of ProCap and GenCap?

ProCap and GenCap work within the IASC humanitarian architecture at the global, regional and national levels, most notably with Humanitarian Country Teams; clusters/sectors; national and local actors, including organizations led by women; and the IASC structures in order to promote synergy, coherence and complementarity.

ProCap works closely with the Global Protection Cluster and its Areas of Responsibility, including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence. Instrumental to its implementation, ProCap engages with IASC structures taking forward recommendations of the [2022 Independent Review of the Implementation of the IASC Protection Policy](#).

GenCap works closely with UN Women and other IASC members and maintains linkages with the Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action, an IASC-associated entity. GenCap also fosters linkages and supports synergy with relevant policies and initiatives, such as the system-wide action to implement recommendations of the [Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls \(2020\)](#), the [IASC Gender with Age Marker](#), and contributed to the [2023 IASC Gender Equality policy update](#).

DEPLOYMENTS

6. Where are ProCap and GenCap currently deployed?

As of August 2023, there are 6 dual deployments of Senior GenCap and ProCap Advisors.

In 2023, ProCap deployed 15 advisors, including 12 country deployments, a regional deployment and one global capacity development deployment. This includes Afghanistan, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, northwest Syria, Ukraine (two parallel deployments), Venezuela and Yemen (ended at end April) at the country level and a regional deployment to northern central America which supports El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The global capacity development deployment will facilitate three training modules on ProCap's Advocacy for Protection Outcomes course during 2023. During 2023, ProCap aims to expand its presence to 20 operations.

GenCap is deployed to 20 operations (all at the country level) in June 2023. This includes Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, northwest Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.

7. Why is ProCap expanding and GenCap "consolidating" its field presence?

In the 2023-24 Appeal, the first 2-year appeal, the GenCap and ProCap projects requested funds to support 20 deployments each. This request was decided based on an analysis of the global financial landscape, a review of the projects' ability to mobilize resources based on the 2021-22 resource mobilization.

During the previous appeal (July 2021-December 2022), the GenCap project deployed 24 Senior Advisors, compared with 22 in 2021 and 16 in 2020. This is also reflected in the number of deployment months, a

measure that points to the consistent support provided by longer-term deployments, that more than tripled from 90 GenCap deployments months in 2020 to 280 months in 2022. This expansion surpassed expectations and resulted in a growth in the GenCap pool of experts and an extension of GenCap's reach across multiple new operations. In 2023, the project will review its operational footprint and strengthen the prioritization criteria, particularly in operations that have received longer term support. Additionally, the project will redouble efforts to increase the national pool of experts and to strengthen collaboration with thematic advisors and other priority workstreams.

During the period, the ProCap footprint was 18 Senior Advisors to country operations compared with 19 in 2021 and 20 in 2020. Over the same timeframe the number of deployment months, a measure that points to the longer-term deployments, has steadily increased from 120 months in 2020 to 215 months in 2022. The Project focused its efforts on increasing the flexibility of the roadmap tool, developing a generic tool around the IASC Benchmarks for Centrality of Protection and consolidated its operational footprint. As of early 2023, the ProCap project is prepared to expand its operational presence again, in line with the Appeal, to support the evolving humanitarian and protection needs.

8. How is the investment of ProCap and GenCap prioritized?

Deployments are prioritized based on systemic priorities and humanitarian response parameters. These focus on potential results, including at the strategic level; the projects' ability to sustain support to country operations and its outcomes; the scale and severity of the crisis; and the existing response capacity in the field.

Against the backdrop of an increase in needs and building on the results of 2022, priority areas of work for ProCap and GenCap in 2023–2024 will include emerging crises, protracted conflicts, natural disaster settings, as well as transitional contexts. These areas will be revised according to the evolution of the humanitarian landscape and priorities as defined by dedicated inter-agency mechanisms.

9. What is the added value of the ProCap and GenCap projects?

As inter-agency projects operating at the strategic and operational levels, ProCap and GenCap provide direct support to Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs) in delivering on systemwide commitments related to Centrality of Protection and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The lack of organizational affiliation allows the Senior Advisors to be independent and neutral. This is considered the main added value of the projects, as highlighted in various external reviews.

Several RC/HCs who have first-hand experience with project support have called for continued investment in the projects to strengthen system-wide capacities to meet commitments and support accountability on these priority workstreams, especially in light of the current humanitarian landscape where protection risks are increasingly politicized and gender inequality is growing.

10. What does sustainability mean for ProCap and GenCap?

Following the reforms of 2020, ProCap and GenCap provide sustained, sequenced and tailored support for up to three years. With continued leadership buy-in, a review of the context informs decisions regarding continuing support beyond three years. This is done in part to ensure adequate capacity development in support of protection and gender equality related priorities.

ProCap and GenCap advisers work in collaboration with and in support of other humanitarian actors, with whom they impart technical knowledge throughout their deployment. Advisers promote sustainable approaches, improve system capacities and develop tools and roadmaps to address protection risks and gender inequality over-time. Strengthening capacities on the Centrality of Protection and empowering national and local actors to prioritise protection risks in their efforts promotes protection-sensitive practices that are long-lasting beyond the deployment.

In Haiti, ProCap will support the Protection Cluster by delivering a community-based protection training for civil society groups that promotes working with communities to find ways that are effective and sustainable to reduce risks and strengthen coping strategies.

An Operational Peer Review (OPR) report on Ukraine (March 2023) noted that “to bolster capacities will be a vital component to underpinning the HCT’s future strategy”. A dedicated ProCap adviser was consequently deployed to develop and roll-out a capacity development strategy that aims to build the technical and operational skills of different target groups in protection.

Through further consolidation of the planning, monitoring, and learning frameworks, the projects will continue to gather good practices to build qualitative evidence and lessons to share with partners and further ensure sustainability. During deployment, project management engages regularly with receiving entities.

11. How do ProCap and GenCap contribute to the localization agenda?

The ProCap and GenCap projects recognize the important role of national and local actors as frontline responders and their added-value in decision-making processes. Advisers meaningfully engage with local actors and affected communities, who have a better understanding of priorities and how to respond, and will continue the support after international humanitarians leave.

Following the reforms of 2020, the projects now provide longer term support for up to three years to facilitate in-country capacity development. ProCap and GenCap conduct field-level capacity-building activities with national and local authorities and other actors to strengthen their role in the coordinated humanitarian response.

For example, in Ukraine, Senior Advisers from ProCap and GenCap are working together on making the humanitarian response architecture more accessible to local organizations. Working in tandem from the outset, the Senior Advisers supported national organizations’ access to humanitarian funding and clusters access to the national gender and protection networks. The Senior Advisers were thus able to facilitate analysis and insight around operational and strategic localization efforts, particularly through organizations led by women, youth and people with disabilities.

In 2022, GenCap initiated a pilot recruitment of national GenCap advisors. During the pilot two modalities evolved: 1) national and international GenCap advisors working in tandem and 2) national GenCap advisor working with an international GenCap for a brief handover. The introduction of the national GenCap advisor aims to establish stronger links to national gender networks and strengthen the feedback loops to different gender groups in all their diversities. Learning from the pilot phase is ongoing and will be shared as soon as the pilot phase has been concluded.

12. How are ProCap and GenCap working together with development and peace actors?

Working towards centrality of protection and gender equality requires efforts across different pillars. ProCap and GenCap Senior Advisers support humanitarians in linking with development and peace actors. For example, in **South Sudan**, ProCap developed a joint approach with peace and development actors, including donors, around Access to Justice and Rule of Law as a common (and critical) protection objective. The consultation and strategic coordination process was enabled by a round table that was facilitated by ProCap on behalf of the DSRSG/RC/HC and has been praised as a Good Practice by the GPC Coordinator.

In Mozambique, GenCap supported the connection between humanitarian and development efforts, including through mainstreaming gender in the Common Country Analysis that underpins the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. In South Sudan, GenCap also provided support on addressing gender in the humanitarian-development collaboration context of the country.

13. Rather than continually relying on surge support, shouldn't Humanitarian Country Teams invest in their own gender and protection capacities to mainstream gender and protection in the longer term?

The Global Protection Cluster has indicated that 160 million people are in need of protection in 2023. This is a 42 per cent rise since 2021. The Global Humanitarian Overview for 2023 revealed that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance will increase by 24 per cent compared with 2022, to a record 339 million people. Protection, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will remain central areas of concern across humanitarian contexts, where existing high levels of need have been compounded by conflict and climate change effects, food insecurity and displacement.

Within this increasingly complex landscape, momentum is building to establish dedicated protection and gender equality staff (among other priority workstreams). However, as highlighted by the [Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls](#) (2020), significant gaps in system-wide gender equality and protection capacities remain. Moreover, the [Independent review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy](#) (2022) recognized the need for sustained senior protection capacity to directly support the HC and the HCT to increase leadership, accountability and collective responsibility. These are the primary roles of the Senior Advisors, who deploy to operations to complement existing capacities, roles and mandates in prioritizing gender equality and protection in humanitarian action.

14. How are ProCap and GenCap contributing to addressing intersectionality issues such as disability, age dynamics, ethnicity, indigenous women and girls, LGBTQI+, etc. within their main areas of work and planned deliverables?

Gender inequality is experienced differently across different gender groups. In recognition of this, GenCap considers intersectionality from the early stages of humanitarian intervention to ensure equitable outcomes. For example, the IASC Gender with Age Marker incorporated age and LGBTI in 2016 and disability in 2019. GenCap is a key promoter of the tool to encourage country-level reflection on how gender equality is considered in intersectoral programming. Equally, mainstreaming protection principles in the humanitarian response is at the core of all ProCap deployments. Advisers work with the clusters and sectors to ensure their analysis tools, strategies and approaches pay special attention to individuals and groups who may be particularly vulnerable or have difficulty accessing assistance and services.

ProCap and GenCap take steps to ensure the views and needs of marginalized groups are reflected in the response by including relevant civil society organizations in the drafting of Humanitarian Country Team roadmaps for centrality of protection and gender equality programming in emergencies. The projects integrate the intersection of gender equality and disability in training activities as well. For example in Ukraine, GenCap and ProCap collaborated to highlight the specific vulnerability of elders that were staying in combat zone as a major PoC/Protection concern. This was reflected throughout the HNO/HRP towards mobilizing humanitarian funding to address this specific vulnerability. In South Sudan, a Gender and Inclusion Taskforce Team has been established with the support of the GenCap and others to provide guidance to the HCT and ICCG on including gender, age and disability consideration leveraging AAP principles and practices. In North-West Syria, GenCap collaborated with colleagues focusing on AAP, Disabilities, GBV and PSEA to design and facilitate inclusion training with Syrian focal points. In addition to technical aspects, the training aimed to strengthen ties between isolated workers within Syria as well as support from Gaziantep.

FUNDING

15. Which Member States are currently supporting ProCap and GenCap?

Thus far in 2023, the work of ProCap and GenCap is being made possible thanks to generous contributions from Germany, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America (listed in alphabetical order).

16. What are the financial requirements and targets of the current appeal?

Under the first ever two-year ProCap and GenCap appeal (January 2023-December 2024), the projects are requesting a total of US\$20,504,200 (\$8,964,581 for ProCap and \$11,539,619 for GenCap) to address growing protection and gender equality capacity requirements within the evolving humanitarian system.

During this 24-month period, ProCap and GenCap aim to deliver a total of 40 deployments (20 for ProCap and 20 for GenCap). Overall, this is expected to translate into 800 deployment months (380 for ProCap and 420 for GenCap).

17. How can contributions to ProCap and GenCap be made?

Contributions can be made to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), earmarked for ProCap and/or GenCap. Contributions can be made according to the respective budget cycle of Member States. As the trends of strong field demand and longer-term engagement continue, predictable funding will be key to timely and successful support.