

IASC GENDER MARKER - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do we need a Gender Marker in CAPs, CERFs and pooled funds?

There is universal acceptance that humanitarian assistance must meet the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men to generate positive and sustainable outcomes. However, evaluations of humanitarian effectiveness show that gender equality results are weak. Reports of the UN Secretary-General call for tracking of gender-related allocations. Security Council resolutions require it. The reality is that advancing gender equality requires focused action. The Gender Marker was launched by the Sub-working Groups on Gender and on the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) to improve humanitarian programming and make humanitarian response more efficient. It builds on the roll-out of a Gender Marker by several UN agencies.

The IASC Gender Marker (GM) is required in all Consolidated Appeals Processes (CAPs) and other humanitarian appeals and funding mechanisms. Cluster Leads should support their partners in the use of the GM so that all projects in an appeal routinely ensure that ALL segments of the affected population have equal access to protection and assistance and that targeted support to advance gender equality is based on a gender analysis. This makes humanitarian activities more effective.

By uploading gender codes onto the global Online Project System (OPS) and Financial Tracking System (FTS), donors are better placed to identify and fund high quality, gender-informed projects.

What is the Gender Marker?

The IASC Gender Marker is a tool that codes, on a 0-2 scale, whether or not a humanitarian project is designed well enough to ensure that women/girls and men/boys will benefit equally from it or that it will advance gender equality in another way. If the project has the potential to contribute to gender equality, the marker predicts whether the results are likely to be limited or significant.

GENDER MARKER	DESCRIPTION
GENDER CODE 0 <i>No visible potential to contribute to gender equality</i>	Gender is not reflected anywhere in the project sheet or only appears in the outcomes. There is risk that the project will unintentionally fail to meet the needs of some population groups and possibly even do some harm. These projects are considered gender-blind.
GENDER CODE 1 <i>Potential to contribute in some limited way to gender equality</i>	<i>There are gender dimensions in only one or two components of the project sheet: i.e. in needs assessment, activities and outcomes*</i> . The project does <i>not</i> have all three: i.e. 1) gender analysis in the needs assessment, which leads to 2) gender-responsive activities and 3) related gender outcomes <i>*Where the gender dimension appears in outcomes only, the project is still considered gender-blind.</i>
GENDER CODE 2A – GENDER MAINSTREAMING <i>Potential to contribute significantly to gender equality (Equivalent to Code 2 for UNDP and UNICEF projects)</i>	GENDER CODE 2B – TARGETED ACTION <i>Project's principal purpose is to advance gender equality (Equivalent to Code 3 for UNDP and UNICEF projects)</i>
<p>A gender analysis is included in the project's needs assessment and is reflected in one or more of the project's activities and one or more of the project outcomes.</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming in project design is about making the concerns and experiences of women, girls, boys and men an integral dimension of the core elements of the project: 1) gender analysis in the needs assessment which leads to 2) gender-responsive activities and 3) related gender outcomes. Gender mainstreaming in project design promotes the flow of gender equality into implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p><i>Most humanitarian projects should aim to code 2a.</i></p>	<p>The gender analysis in the needs assessment justifies this project in which all activities and all outcomes advance gender equality.</p> <p>All targeted actions are based on gender analysis. Targeted actions are projects that assists women, girls, boys or men who have special needs or suffer discrimination. Most targeted actions are single-sex interventions responding to the disadvantage, discrimination or special needs of one sex or a sub-group of one sex. Other targeted actions can specifically aim to advance gender equality, such as projects that are designed exclusively to provide a gender assessment/baseline for the sector response or a project where all activities contribute to women having equal participation as men in particular sector activities.</p> <p><i>A gender analysis will identify how many 2b projects are warranted. It is anticipated that 2b projects would make up approximately 10-15% of projects but, in some contexts, this could be more or less.</i></p>

Who will use the Gender Marker?

The key users of the Gender Marker are the clusters and their project teams. Clusters should make gender equality a priority in their Cluster Response Plans, which will guide project partners in designing projects that meet the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men equally. Clusters should orient and support project partners in the implementation of the Gender Marker.

Project teams will be encouraged to strive for a good code. Cluster vetting teams will have the final say on the gender code for each project. The gender code will be inserted in the project sheet on the online project system (OPS). The gender codes will then appear in the Financial Tracking System (FTS) and donors that are interested in investing in gender-responsive projects can use the OPS/FTS to identify which projects are designed well enough to advance gender equality.

Who is responsible for implementing the Gender Marker?

Cluster Leads and Heads of Agencies are responsible for ensuring that all cluster partners engage proactively in the Gender Marker. While not delegating responsibility, it might be useful for Cluster Leads to appoint a Focal Point to support cluster partners in implementing the Gender Marker. Whenever possible, the participation of gender specialists – including interagency GenCap Advisors - is encouraged. In addition, experience from implementation of the Gender Marker in 2009 and 2010 shows clearly that the active support of the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Head of OCHA is vital in engaging humanitarian actors to engage in the process and, accordingly, on the results.

Where will the Gender Marker be used in 2012?

The IASC Gender Marker was piloted in four countries in 2009 (2010 appeals' processes) and then implemented in 12 CAP, ERF and Pooled Fund country appeals in 2010 (2011 appeal). Lessons learnt from the 2009 and 2010 rollouts will inform the implementation of the Gender Marker in 2012 when the IASC Gender Marker (GM) is required in all Consolidated Appeals Processes (CAPs) and other humanitarian appeals and funding mechanisms.

Country Level: The Gender Marker is used by clusters/sectors at the country level. Humanitarian Country Teams are encouraged to create a fertile environment for advancing gender equality in the Common Humanitarian Action Plans (CHAPs); to integrate gender equality into their needs assessments, strategic priorities, sector-specific response plans and monitoring frameworks.

Global Level: At the global level, the Gender Marker is being integrated into; training programmes for Humanitarian Coordinators, Cluster Leads, CAP and CERF training of trainers; the CAP and CERF guidance notes; and a special field for the gender code on the OPS.

Donors: Donors are encouraged to track use of the marker in the FTS and integrate the implementation of their own gender equality policies into monitoring.

Are there tools available to assist Clusters in implementing the Gender Marker?

The Gender Marker Toolkit provides cluster-specific Tip Sheets that clusters can use to help their partners integrate gender issues into their projects. Using these Tip Sheets will assist project teams to identify and respond better to the distinct needs of male and female beneficiaries. In so doing, their projects will have the best chance of integrating gender issues well and achieving a good code. The majority of all humanitarian projects should mainstream gender (code 2a). There should also be a selected number of targeted actions (code 2b) that address discrimination and/or special needs.

Tip Sheets for the CCCM, Child Protection, Coordination, Education, Food Security, Health, GBV, Mine Action, Nutrition, Shelter & NFIs and WASH sectors and a Vetting Form to assist project vetting teams to code projects are available at <http://gencap.onereponse.info>. All of the Tip Sheets are currently available in English only but will be available in French and Arabic before the launch of the 2012 CAP season.

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

