

GENDER STANDBY CAPACITY

GenCap seeks to build capacity of humanitarian actors at country level to mainstream gender equality programming, including prevention and response to gender-based violence, in all sectors of humanitarian response. A pool of gender advisers ready for deployment to Humanitarian Coordinators' offices on 72 hours notice, GenCap's goal is to ensure that humanitarian action takes into consideration the different needs and capabilities of women, girls, boys and men equally. It is a critical part to building inter-agency capacity on the integration of cross-cutting issues into the cluster approach.



About GenCap

GenCap is a product of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Sub-working Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action. The main GenCap activities include:

- ❖ Deploying senior gender advisers (UN P4/P5 equivalent) to humanitarian emergencies for six months to provide support to information collection and analysis, programme planning, capacity building, coordination, and advocacy on gender equality programming.
- ❖ Assisting country actors to use the *IASC Gender Handbook: Women, Girls, Boys and Men, Different Needs – Equal Opportunities*

Currently, **two Gender Advisers** provide full-time surge capacity and are on permanent rotation in the field on deployments. **15 additional Gender Advisers** are on a standby arrangement, ready to be deployed on 72 hours notice. All gender advisers are deployed in accordance with existing mechanisms between UN agencies and standby partners.

Capacity Building

GenCap builds capacity on gender equality programming through a full week residential training programme and an on-line discussion forum for practitioners. **The first international training workshop for gender advisers in humanitarian action** was held in May 2007 and brought together GenCap advisers, field practitioners and headquarters staff to develop a common understanding of the

normative guidance and standards for gender equality programming. An on-line discussion forum on the ProCap website is has been operational since November 2007 to provide a forum for continued exchange of good practices, lessons learned and useful resources.

Management of the Project

The **Inter-Agency GenCap Steering Committee** meets on a monthly basis, providing project oversight and managing deployments of the gender advisers. It comprises FAO, INEE, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNMAS, WFP and WHO. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has observer status.

OCHA, acts as the **secretariat for the Steering Committee**, liaises on and supports deployment of gender advisers, works on the training programme and tools and manages GenCap Online. The **Norwegian Refugee Council** contractually administers the GenCap pool of experts.

A comprehensive **project monitoring and evaluation system** has been set up in parallel with GenCap. It looks at the effectiveness and relevance of the gender advisers' work at country level, and collects good practices and lessons learned.

Funding

GenCap is currently funded through the generous support of the following donors: Australia, Ireland, Norway, and Switzerland.

For further information:

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