

Fact Sheet on the IASC Gender Marker

1. 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 men, women, girls and boys to generate positive and sustainable outcomes. However, evaluations of humanitarian aid effectiveness show gender equality results are weak. Recent reports of the UN Secretary General call for tracking of gender-related allocations. Security Council resolutions require it. The reality: advancing gender equality requires focused funded action. UN agencies and their partners, spanning emergency response to development, are starting to track expenditures for gender equality programming. The IASC Gender Marker anchors this collaborative pioneering work in humanitarian action. It was launched by the Sub Working Groups on Gender and on the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).

2. What is the gender marker?

The IASC Gender Marker is a tool that measures, on a 0-3 scale, whether or not a humanitarian project is designed well enough to ensure women/girls and men/boys will benefit equally or it will advance gender equality. If the project has potential to generate gender equality results, the marker predicts whether the gender results are likely to be limited or significant.

Gender Code	Description	Project Examples
0	There are <i>no signs</i> that gender issues were considered in project design. There is risk that the project will unknowingly nurture existing gender inequalities or deepen them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing rubble, repairing roads, installing water systems or providing non-food items with no indication of gender differences in male and female needs, skills, abilities or protection concerns etc. Training that is blind to the different needs and realities of both women and men.
1	The project is designed to contribute in <i>some limited way</i> to gender equality. The design could be stronger and advance gender equality more. a) The project's needs assessment includes a gender analysis that is <i>not</i> meaningfully reflected in activities and outcomes OR b) At least one activity and outcome aim to advance gender equality but this is <i>not</i> supported by the needs assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing the nutritional needs of men, women, girls and boys, local food preparation, cooking & sharing practices, then not reflecting these local gender realities in activities or outcomes. Constructing separate male/female toilets and bath areas for IDPs but with no indication that beneficiary men and women have a voice in ensuring the facilities are culturally appropriate or meet their respective needs.
2	The project is designed to <i>contribute significantly</i> to gender equality. The different needs of women/girls and men/boys have been analyzed and integrated well in the activities and outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using vouchers, designed with input from men and women farmers, to provide agricultural training and inputs equally to women and men. Providing demand-driven psycho-social services to girl and boy ex-combatants based on their different needs.
3	The <i>principal purpose</i> of the project is to advance gender equality. The entire project either: a) targets women or men, girls or boys that suffers discrimination or disadvantage, creating a more level playing field, or b) focuses all activities on building gender-related services or more equal relations between women and men.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing reproductive health services to men where there is documented unmet need. Existing services only target women. Preventing and/or responding to gender-based violence or to sexual exploitation or abuse by humanitarian workers. Promoting girls educations or increasing the number of female teachers

The marker can be used by project design teams to assess the gender equality potential of projects in any humanitarian appeal or funding mechanism including CAPs, CERFs and pooled funds. Not all projects proposed for funding succeed in being funded.

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The gender marker codes in the Financial Tracking System will allow country-comparative data on what percentage of projects designed to advance gender equality were prioritized and funded. Data can also identify what percentage of projects in each cluster coded 0-3.

To help cluster teams consistently assign a gender marker to their project, a Guidance Note has been developed. The Guidance Note identifies the five key entry points for addressing gender on the project design sheet. A project that integrates gender equality well will be grounded by a **needs assessment** that provides relevant sex and age disaggregated data and gives insight into local gender issues. The needs assessment will be used to identify **activities** and gender **outcomes**. An essential first step is to identify the number of men, women, boys and girls who are target **beneficiaries**. A project that aims to advance gender equality should also reflect this in its project **objective**.

3. Who will use the gender marker?

The IASC Gender Marker is a hands-on tool for cluster/sector leads and teams to use in designing their humanitarian projects. Gender advisers and gender focal points will assist the clusters in using the marker.

Cluster leads and heads of agencies are responsible for the marker being used. Humanitarian Coordinators champion and monitor the process: they are to appoint a focal point to oversee the roll out of the marker.

4. When is the gender marker used?

During project design, cluster teams are supported by gender specialists to code their cluster's projects. In doing so, they explore and gain an appreciation of how to integrate gender issues well in their projects. The first benefit of this analysis is information that can be used to improve the project's *design*. Information or consultation gaps may be identified that can be addressed later in *implementation*, then feed into *monitoring*. Using the marker in the design phase, then double checking at project end to see if the scoring was 'on', can provide useful input into the next project design cycle.

The marker is a new and additional tool that can be used year-round, throughout the project cycle, as part of the cluster's gender toolkit to effectively mainstream gender.

5. Where will the gender marker be used?

The IASC Gender Marker was piloted in 2009 in four countries. Lessons learned are informing the 2010 roll out which is global. A number of selected countries will be assisted in implementing the marker by IASC GenCap Advisers.

Country Level. The hands-on use of the marker is by clusters/sectors at a country level. Country Humanitarian Action Plans will be encouraged to create a fertile environment for advancing gender equality. They will be asked to integrate gender equality into their needs assessments, strategic priorities, sector-specific response plans and monitoring frameworks.

Global Level. At the global level, several actions are underway to support effective implementation. They include: integrating the gender marker into the training of HCs, cluster leads, CAP and CERF trainer of trainers; revising CAP and CERF guidance notes and templates to include the marker; incorporating the gender marker code into its On-line Project System.

For more information on the IASC Gender Marker including the *Guidance Note for Establishing a Tracking System for Gender-related Allocations in CAPs* visit the One Response website at <http://gender.oneresponse.info>

