

Frequently Asked Questions

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 women, girls, boys and men to generate positive and sustainable outcomes. However, evaluations of humanitarian 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 action. The 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.

2. 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 Code	Description	Project Examples
0	No signs that gender issues were considered in project design. There is risk that the project will unintentionally 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 that females and males both have the right to benefit or of differences in male and female needs, skills, abilities, protection concerns etc.
1	Project contributes in <i>some limited way</i> to gender equality. The project has gender dimensions in only one or two of these three critical components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> gender analysis in the needs assessment that leads to gender-responsive activities and related gender outcomes. <p>The design can be stronger and advance gender equality more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysing the nutritional needs of men, women, girls and boys; local food preparation; cooking & sharing practices but failing to reflect these local gender realities in activities and/or outcomes. Setting up separate male/female toilets and bath areas for IDPs but providing no indication that male and female beneficiaries have a voice in ensuring the facilities are culturally appropriate and meet their respective needs.
2a	Project contributes significantly to gender equality. The different needs of women/girls and men/boys have been analyzed in the needs assessment and integrated well in the activities and outcomes .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using vouchers, designed with inputs from male and female 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.
2b	Principal purpose of the project is to advance gender equality. The entire project either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> assists women or men, girls or boys who have special needs or who suffer from discrimination / disadvantage OR focuses all activities on building gender-specific 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. The existing services only target women. Promoting girls' education where fewer girls attend school. Preventing and/or responding to gender-based violence or to sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers. Conducting sector-wide research into gender issues.

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The marker can be used by project design teams to assess and strengthen the gender equality potential of projects in any humanitarian appeal or funding mechanism, including CAPs, CERFs and pooled funds. As CERF allocates funds to CAP and Flash Appeal projects, embedding gender equality well in these appeals subsequently brings the double benefit of bringing gender-responsive design to CERF projects.

3. Who will use the gender marker?

The key users of the gender marker are the clusters and their project teams. Clusters will make gender equality a priority in their cluster response plans which will guide project partners in designing projects that meet the needs of women, girls, boys and men. Clusters will orient project partners in 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 to the needs of male and female beneficiaries better. 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 special needs.

Project teams will be encouraged to strive for a good code. Cluster vetting teams will have final say on the gender code for each project. The gender code will be inserted in the project sheet on the on-line project system (OPS). The gender codes will then appear in the Financial Tracking System and produce country-comparative data on what percentage of projects designed to advance gender equality have been funded. Donors interested in investing in gender-responsive projects can quickly use the website to identify which projects are designed well to advance gender equality.

A Guidance Note has been developed to help clusters consistently assign a gender marker to their projects. A gender code is assigned based on three critical components: 1) there is gender analysis in the *needs assessment* that provides relevant sex and age-disaggregated data and gives insight into local gender issues 2) this needs assessment is used to identify *activities* and 3) gender-related *outcomes*.

Clusters will also monitor to see that projects are implemented well to maximize gender outcomes. Tip sheets and other gender marker materials are available at <http://gencap.oneresponse.info>.

4. Who is responsible for implementing the gender marker?

Cluster leads and heads of agencies are responsible to ensure that the marker is being used. Whenever possible, the participation of gender specialists is encouraged. Humanitarian Coordinators champion and monitor the process: they are to appoint a focal point to oversee the roll out of the marker.

5. Where will the gender marker be used in 2010?

The IASC Gender Marker was piloted in 2009 in four countries. Lessons learned are informing the global 2010 Gender Marker roll-out. In 2010, all humanitarian appeals and funding mechanisms are expected to use the marker to code and improve the gender dimensions of projects. Ten selected countries will be assisted in implementing the marker by IASC GenCap advisers.

Country Level. The marker will be used by clusters/sectors at a country level. Humanitarian Country Teams will be encouraged to create a fertile environment for advancing gender equality in the Common Humanitarian Action Plans. 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, the gender marker is being integrated into the training of HCs, cluster leads, CAP and CERF training of trainers; revision of CAP and CERF guidance notes; and a special field for the gender code on the OPS.

Donors. Track use of the marker by FTS and integrate into monitoring the implementation of their gender equality policies.

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For more information on the IASC Gender Marker including the *Guidance Note for Establishing a Tracking System for Gender-related Allocations in CAPs and cluster-specific tip sheets* visit the One Response website at <http://gender.oneresponse.info> or the CAP page www.humanitarianappeal.net

