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, men, girls and boys 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 the same gender marker by several UN agencies.

2. What is the gender marker?

The IASC Gender Marker is a tool that codes, on a 0-3 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.

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<tr>
<th>Gender Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Project Examples</th>
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| 0 | There are 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. | • 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.  
• Training that is blind to the different needs and realities of both women and men. |
| 1 | The project is designed to contribute in some limited way to gender equality. The design could be stronger and advance gender equality more. 
  a) The project needs assessment includes a gender analysis that is not meaningfully reflected in activities and outcomes OR 
  b) At least one activity and outcome aim to advance gender equality but this is not supported by the needs assessment. | • 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. |
| 2 | It is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality. The different needs of women/girls and men/boys have been analyzed and integrated well in the activities and outcomes.  

Gender Mainstreaming | • Using vouchers, designed with inputs from male and female farmers, to provide agricultural training equally to women and men.  
• Providing demand-driven psycho-social services to girl and boy ex-combatants based on their different needs. |
| 3 | The principal purpose of the project is to advance gender equality. The entire project either:  
  a) assists women or men, girls or boys who suffer from discrimination creating a more level playing field OR  
  b) focuses all activities on building gender-specific services or more equal relations between women and men.  

Targeted Action | • Providing reproductive health services to men where there is documented unmet need (e.g. where existing services only target women).  
• Promoting girls’ education or increasing the number of female teachers.  
• Preventing and/or responding to gender-based violence or to sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers. |

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.

Not all projects proposed for funding succeed in securing the requested funds. The gender codes in the Financial Tracking System will produce country-comparative data on what percentage of projects designed to advance gender equality have been funded. In addition, it will be possible to identify what percentage of projects were coded 0, 1, 2 or 3 in each cluster. The gender marker will also be used in cluster-response plans to indicate each cluster’s achievement in gender-responsive programming.

A Guidance Note has been developed to help clusters consistently assign a gender marker to their projects. The Guidance Note identifies the five key entry points for addressing gender on a project sheet. A project that integrates gender equality well will be grounded with 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-related 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 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 be used 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 to ensure that the marker is 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 the project vetting process, clusters code their cluster projects. In doing so, they explore and gain an appreciation of how to integrate gender issues well in their projects. As a result, new information can be incorporated in the project design to improve it. Information or consultation gaps may be identified and addressed at a later stage during project implementation and monitoring. Using the marker in the project design phase, and double-checking in the project closing phase to see if the coding was correct, can provide useful input for partner agencies and NGOs in 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 gender toolkit to effectively mainstream gender and promote targeted action when needed. Wherever possible, the involvement of gender specialists is encouraged.

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. A number of selected countries will be assisted in implementing the marker by IASC GenCap advisers. All humanitarian appeals and funding mechanisms are expected to use the marker to code and improve the gender dimensions of projects.

**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, several actions are underway to support effective implementation. They include: integrating the gender marker into the training of HCs, cluster leads, CAP and CERF training 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.

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

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](http://gender.oneresponse.info) or the CAP page [www.humanitarianappeal.net](http://www.humanitarianappeal.net)

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