



# GenCapUpdate

IASC Gender Standby Capacity Project

April 2009

## Overview of GenCap

The Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) is a collaboration between the Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). GenCap seeks to build capacity of humanitarian actors at country level to mainstream gender in all sectors of humanitarian response. Since the first group of GenCap Advisers in Humanitarian Action were recruited and trained in May 2007, the pool has grown to **35 senior gender experts**. Since June 2007, **29 GenCap Advisers have supported 19 Humanitarian Country Teams** in applying gender equality programming in humanitarian action.

## GenCap Adviser to Global Clusters (Geneva)

In order to support Global Cluster Leads in mainstreaming gender into their manuals, guidelines, tools and trainings, GenCap deployed in March 2009 one GenCap Adviser for an initial period of 6 months to Global Clusters in Geneva. IOM is hosting this deployment, and CCCM, Health, Protection and Education Clusters were prioritized for the initial period. The GenCap Adviser will also work closely with the Sphere Revision Project to ensure that gender is mainstreamed throughout the main reference source for humanitarian workers. Should interest from other cluster be expressed, the deployment may be extended. The GenCap Adviser to Global Cluster is Siobhan Foran, former GenCap Adviser to CAR and Iraq. She can be contacted at [sforan@iom.int](mailto:sforan@iom.int).

## GenCap Secretariat with OCHA Geneva

The GenCap Secretariat was established at UNDP/UNFPA in Geneva in August 2008, and staffed by a secondee from NRC. In April 2009, OCHA approved the establishment of the GenCap Secretariat with OCHA Geneva. The GenCap Secretariat will organizationally be hosted by DVPS (Disaster Vulnerability Policy Section) and will work closely with ProCap. A recruitment process is currently ongoing and the GenCap Secretariat Manager is scheduled to be in place by 1 June 2009.



## GenCap Deployments June 2007 – April 2009

GenCaps Deployed To:	Hosting Agency	No.
<b>CURRENT:</b> Afghanistan - Caroline Blay Chad - Victoria Rames Ethiopia – Njoki Kinyunjui Guinea - Beatrix Attinger-Colijn Indonesia - Gurcharan Virdee Kenya - Angela Mackay Myanmar - Elizabeth Pender Namibia - Maude Mugisha oPt - Sinta Dewi Somalia - Alexina Rusere Sri Lanka - Ingrid Quinn South Sudan - Jessica Gorham Yemen - Simon Peter Opolot Global Clusters - Siobhan Foran	OCHA UNFPA UNFPA UNFPA OCHA OCHA UNFPA UNHCR OCHA OCHA OCHA UNFPA UNFPA IOM	14
<b>COMPLETED:</b> CAR, Georgia, Indonesia#1, Iraq#1&2, Liberia #1&2, Nepal, oPt #1, Somalia #1&2, Sri Lanka #1, Sudan #1&2, Uganda	OCHA (9), UNFPA (6), UNDP (1)	15
<b>TOTAL :</b> OCHA (15), UNFPA (13), UNHCR (1), UNDP (1), IOM (1)		29
<b>PENDING REQUESTS:</b> CAR, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Darfur, DRC, Georgia, Iraq, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe		10

## GenCap Advisers in the Field

*GenCap Advisers facilitate, coordinate and advocate for the implementation of sector-by-sector gender equality programming in a humanitarian emergency setting. The generic TOR for GenCap Advisers outlines five main areas of work for GenCap Advisers: information and analysis; program support; coordination; capacity building; and advocacy. Depending on the context and priorities of the Country Teams, each GenCap deployment is different. A snapshot of four GenCap Advisers' deployments is presented below:*

### **Chad: Victoria Rames (hosted by UNFPA)**

***September 2008 – April 2009: Inter-agency technical assistance and coordination support for gender-based violence***

The GenCap Adviser to Chad has served as an inter-agency technical adviser to all UN agencies on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and has contributed to the coordination of the inter-agency work on gender and GBV programming with a particular focus on protection and GBV. She has undertaken a major revision of GBV mapping in Eastern Chad and provided technical assistance to support the GBV sub-cluster in Abeche (Eastern Chad), as well as the creating of a GBV Taskforce there. The GenCap Adviser has worked closely with UNHCR to provide input on GBV for the UNHCR-facilitated IDP Protection Strategy Paper, and has prepared a report with recommendations for all UN agencies to improve GBV prevention and response for the 2009 calendar year. Finally, she has conducted several workshops and trainings for UN agencies, local NGOs and journalists on gender and diversity mainstreaming and addressing GBV.

### **Indonesia: Gurcharan Virdee (hosted by OCHA)**

***February – August 2009: Integration for more gender-responsive humanitarian actions in preparedness for emergencies***

The GenCap Adviser to Indonesia is focusing on integrating more gender-responsive humanitarian actions in preparedness for emergencies with links to early recovery and development programming. She is working on advancing gender equality in disaster preparedness in UN joint programs and clusters, especially on community engagement and women's empowerment. The GenCap Adviser has already facilitated regional PSEA capacity workshops and is working on operationalizing an active SEA Network. Furthermore, she is focusing on strengthening capacity of gender advisers and gender focal points to effectively contribute to "One UN" inter-agency collaboration and activities on gender mainstreaming.

### **Myanmar: Elizabeth Pender (hosted by UNFPA)**

***June 2008 – April 2009: Facilitate integration of gender analysis into broader Cyclone Nargis Response***

Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar in early May 2008 leaving an estimated 1.5 million people severely affected. For the first time GenCap deployed an Adviser to a new emergency within the first weeks of the response. Early on the in disaster response it was clear that very little substantial was being done on gender equality or GBV programming. While there was much work being done on protection of children, little focus was paid to the protection of women. An initial multi-sectoral assessment did not adequately assess gender-specific needs and therefore the GenCap Adviser was deployed to facilitate the integration of a gender analysis into the broader response (especially livelihoods and the Early Recovery strategy) and to ensure the collection of gender data across sectors, as well as Women's Protection/GBV-specific data for stand-alone women's protection and gender programming.

### **Occupied Palestinian Territories: Sinta Dewi (hosted by OCHA)**

***September 2008 – May 2009: Coordinate and support response to gender issues in the Gaza crisis***

The GenCap Adviser to oPt was originally deployed to ensure that gender equality was addressed across all sectors in the preparation for the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2009. Due to Gaza crisis, the GenCap Adviser to oPt has focused on assisting the humanitarian country team, and in particular OCHA and UNIFEM as the chair of the UN Inter-Agency Gender Task Force (GTF), to respond to the humanitarian crisis. The GenCap Adviser assisted in the activation of the GTF in Gaza and building a formal participation of the GTF members in sector coordination to ensure humanitarian actors take into account gender equality, that women, girls, boys and men are equally benefit from humanitarian assistance, equally participate in the relief process and peace building and feel their protection concerns are monitored and addressed. The GenCap Adviser, in collaboration with UNIFEM, initiated a UN Inter-Agency gender needs assessment for Gaza to provide humanitarian actors with information on the specific situation of the affected population. The assessment report will be launched by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) at the end April 2009. In addition, a gender guideline (built on the IASC Gender Handbook and GBV Guidelines) for Gaza crisis response is under development.