



Responsibilities for gender mainstreaming in the Humanitarian Coordinator's Terms of Reference

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The HC's responsibility with regard to gender mainstreaming is outlined in their Terms of Reference as follows:

Para. 24: The Humanitarian Coordinator is responsible for promoting and monitoring the implementation of relevant policies and guidelines adopted by the IASC, including the IASC's Policy Statement for the Integration of a Gender Perspective in Humanitarian Assistance (1999).

Para. 25: The Humanitarian Coordinator is responsible for promoting gender mainstreaming and women's rights at the policy, planning and implementation levels as part of their strategic coordination and humanitarian accountability functions.

Fulfilling these elements in the TORs means:

- Ensuring that multi-sectoral needs assessments and the identification of humanitarian priorities are based on sex-disaggregated data, as well as solid analysis of gender relations and inequalities.
- Facilitating inter-agency coordination on gender issues through support for a robust inter-agency working group on gender issues in humanitarian response.⁶
- Appointing and supporting a 'gender focal point' within the OCHA office and informing the NY-based gender adviser of this appointment.
- Ensuring that gender issues are taken into account throughout the CAP.
- Actively supporting the implementation of the Secretary-General's Bulletin on Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation and the implementation of the IASC Action Plan on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.
- Highlighting international mandates and agency policies and commitments to analyze humanitarian crises from a gender perspective, respect for women's rights, the protection of women and girls and urging agencies to make use of existing guidelines and tools.
- Carrying out effective advocacy on women's rights
- Promoting consultation with local women's organisations and the active involvement of women in the definition of priorities for humanitarian assistance and the design and delivery of assistance programs.

Support for these initiatives includes:

- OCHA's gender adviser in PDSB and the PDSB Gender Task Force;
- Tools, background information and documents on Relief Web;
- IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance;
- UNIFEM's web portal on women, war and peace: www.womenwarpeace.org



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