

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE  
66<sup>TH</sup> WORKING GROUP MEETING

**Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance  
Progress Report 2006**

15-17 November, 2006

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New York

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## **Report on Activities Undertaken in 2006**

The Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance presents the status of implementation of its 2006 work plan.

### ***1.1 Achievements of the Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance in line with the 2006 objectives as per the Work Plans endorsed by the IASC.***

It was a very active year for gender issues in humanitarian action. Progress was made in the development of gender standards in the form of a Gender Handbook, which will be presented to the IASC Working Group for endorsement by the end of 2006. Due to this time consuming collaborative effort, other elements of the Task Force’s work plan (see obstacles below) were addressed through the development of a strategic plan which will form the basis of the work plan in 2007.

The Task Force on Gender met for the first time in a face-to-face meeting for 2-days in New York, as well as held eight meetings by audio and videoconference. The main outcomes of the Task Force in 2006 were:

1. Made considerable progress in the field-testing, roll out and training of field-based humanitarian actors on the IASC Guidelines fore Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies.
2. Drafted and will shortly submit for endorsement the “*Women, Girls, Boys and Men: Different Needs – Equal Opportunities: A Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action*”, a draft for field-testing. The Gender Handbook was developed in close coordination with cluster working groups
3. Developed a 5 point strategic plan for a coordinated response to strengthening gender mainstreaming and gender equality programming in humanitarian action and launched an appeal for its funding. This new strategic plan will form the basis of the 2007 work plan.

### ***1.2 Opportunities and constraints faced by the Gender Task Force***

The Task Force invested much of its energies to the establishment of gender standards and produced the Gender Handbook in 2006. This effort afforded a good opportunity to work with cluster working groups to develop interagency standards for one of the cross-cutting issues

included in the IASC Cluster Approach system. However, while undertaking the development of standards it was recognised that the work to ensure gender mainstreaming would only be achieved if a concerted, strategic and interagency effort was developed based on recognised gaps. The Task Force realised that more resources, both financial and human, are needed to accelerate and provide support to gender mainstreaming in emergencies. To this end a strategic plan “*5 Ways to Strengthen Gender Equality Programming in Humanitarian Action*” was prepared and an appeal for its funding was launched in October 2006. In addition the Task Force is proposing to transform into a Sub-Working Group as gender equality programming is a standing issue and more attention and support is needed to reach its goals.

## Work Plan for 2006 – Progress Report

Objectives	Activities	Lead/Actors	Status / Update
<p>1. Field-test, roll out and train field-based humanitarian actors on the IASC gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distribute the guidelines to all countries</li> <li>▪ Field-testing/train/roll out in 6 sites (td)</li> <li>▪ Revise and reissue guidelines by end 2006</li> </ul>	<p>UNFPA with Task Force sub-working group</p>	<p>From early in 2006 10,000 copies of the IASC GBV Guidelines were distributed in Arabic, English, French and Spanish along with advocacy materials and wide posting of the Guidelines on the Web. A field-test strategy was fully developed in early 2006 but was delayed due to the of lack funds. By mid October field visits to Uganda, Columbia and Pakistan earthquake are being planned for field-test roll out. Based on the field-testing, it is planned to revise and reissue the GBV Guidelines by the end 2007. More funding it needed to produce more copies of the Guidelines.</p>
<p>2. Finalise the field-test version of a handbook on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian actions in close coordination with clusters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare field-test draft, peer review and finalise for distributions with cluster groups</li> <li>▪ Field-test the handbook in 3 sites</li> <li>▪ Train staff in the use of the handbook in x sites</li> </ul>	<p>OCHA facilitating the Task Force and Cluster groups to draft chapters</p>	<p>The IASC Gender Task Force held a 2-day planning meeting on the draft Handbook in April 2006 in New York. Subsequently in from August-October the Handbook underwent a field-consultation process and the final version of the Gender Handbook for field-testing is expected will be submitted to the IASC Working Group for endorsement in November 2006. The guidance in the Handbook is being produced with the Clusters therefore assisting sectors to define norms and standards of gender equality in their respective sectors. The draft Handbook for field testing is posted on the IASC, OCHA and WHO websites. The draft Handbooks has also been posted on the Virtual HIC for Lebanon.</p>

<p>3. Promote gender mainstreaming in the CAP.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review selected CAPs for gender content</li> <li>▪ Work with agencies to submit gender-sensitive projects to the CAP</li> <li>▪ Revise the checklist to mainstreaming gender issues in the CAP</li> </ul>	<p>IASC Task Force</p>	<p>The CAP Gender Checklist was sent out to all CAP countries and during CAP workshops countries were urged to address gender concerns. OCHA is undertaking an analysis of how gender and women's issues are being integrated into the 2007 CAPs. Additional efforts are needed to build partnerships with UN and NGO partners to have greater predictability on mainstreaming gender into all CAP submissions as well as defining specific projects targeted to and for women.</p>
<p>4. Revise the Gender and Humanitarian Resource Kit (in combination with #2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resources placed on-line and as a CD to accompany the gender mainstreaming handbook</li> </ul>	<p>OCHA</p>	<p>The Gender Resource Package was updated and streamlined with the gender resources as part of the developing the Gender Handbook. See <a href="http://ochaonline2.un.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3536">http://ochaonline2.un.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3536</a> This will be posted on the IASC website when the Handbook is endorsed by the WG in November 2006 and the Handbook finalised by end 2007.</p>
<p>5. Ensure gender expertise is available in the early phase of new emergencies through the development of a "stand-by or surge" capacity and other efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review with ProCap deployment strategies and gender</li> <li>▪ Increase the number of IASC members with special arrangements to deploy people with gender expertise.</li> </ul>	<p>OCHA with IASC Members</p>	<p>During 2006, discussions were held with ProCap and NRC to create a gender roster, a standby arrangement and surge capacity for gender advisors. NRC has agreed to develop the roster and standby pool which is part of the 5 Ways to Strengthen Gender Mainstreaming Proposal. The development and deployment of the gender pool will be initiated in 2006 and continued in the work plan for 2007.</p>
<p>6. Develop and implement a strategy for improving the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data at the field level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review selected country or agency data and determine how to strengthen sex and age disaggregated data collection and analysis</li> <li>▪ Work with real-time evaluation processes to ensure the collection and use of age/sex data</li> </ul>	<p>IASC Members</p>	<p>Due to a lack of resources this action point did not take off in 2006 however a clear path for what can be done in 2007 has been defined and is part of the 5 Ways to Strengthen Gender Mainstreaming Proposal.</p>
<p>7. Revise the 1999 IASC policy on "gender" which clearly articulates the issues of gender equality, the role of men and the specific vulnerabilities and needs of men and boys in a humanitarian action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hold consultations on the elements of a revised policy</li> <li>▪ Prepare a background document on masculinities in humanitarian action</li> </ul>	<p>IASC Members</p>	<p>The efforts to draft the Gender Handbook in 2006 consumed the Gender Task Force in 2006. The development of the standards for gender that are now in the Handbook will lay the foundation for a revised policy in 2007.</p>

<p>8. Further strengthen the IASC Task Force on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance through holding face-to-face strategic planning meetings and other joint meetings and workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hold a 2-day strategic planning meeting of the IASC TF in order to flesh out this 2006 work plan (Early 2006)</li> <li>▪ Hold bi-monthly video conferences to review the progress in implementing the work plan</li> </ul>	<p>IASC Members</p>	<p>The 2-day face to face was dedicated to the review and revision of the Gender Handbook. A ½ day meeting of the Gender Task Force began to lay the foundation for the new strategic plan and proposal for action, which will be the work of the IASC efforts on gender in 2007. As of October, the IASC Task Force held 8 meetings in the year = one face-to-face, three by video conference and 4 by teleconferencing.</p> <p>The TF participated in the 8 February 2006 meeting with Chairs of IASC Clusters and IASC Subsidiary Bodies. In order to create greater synergy between Clusters and IASC Subsidiary Bodies on mainstreaming gender in emergencies, the TF organized a meeting on 22 June 2006 with the Protection Cluster and the IASC TF on Human Rights and Humanitarian Action</p>
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Prepared by: IASC TF on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance – November 2006.