WHAT IS GENCAP? The Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) is a joint initiative from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) for Humanitarian Response and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). GenCap seeks to build capacity of humanitarians actors at country level to mainstream gender in all sectors of humanitarian response. Gender Capacity (GenCap) Advisors facilitate, coordinate and advocate for the implementation of sector-by-sector gender equality programming in humanitarian emergency settings. The generic terms of reference (TORs) for GenCap Advisors outline five main areas of work: information and analysis, program and monitoring support, coordination, capacity strengthening and advocacy.

FUNDING UPDATE The GenCap Appeal for 2016 asks for a total contribution of $3.9 million. This corresponds to the deployment of approximately 20 Senior Gender Advisors and the design and roll-out of 4 Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) training events. As of September, contributions for 2016 have been indicated from Sweden, the United States, Australia, Norway, Switzerland and a two-year funding agreement with European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) runs until the end of the year.

Devanna de la Puente, GenCap Advisor, Colombia (February 2016-on-going)

More than five decades of conflict has negatively affected Colombia, impacting on the life of millions of civilians, with more than seven million people still displaced across the country. Women, girls, men and boys have been affected differently; with women and girls being among the main victims of abuse and exploitation. This reality is now changing with a peace process that was signed this month between the government and the FARC-EP. However humanitarian support is still required as other armed groups continue to be active and persistent natural disasters also take their toll.

The GenCap advisor in Colombia was deployed by request of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to strengthen its capacity for better inclusion of gender equality across all of its strategic processes and to provide technical support to clusters, gender focal points and senior management. For the past six months the advisor has initiated a series of processes to strengthen national and local capacity. She was instrumental in developing a series of tools, for mainstreaming gender and Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and mitigation measures in the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessments (MIRAs) process. These have been institutionalized by the HCT and are used as part of all MIRAs. In addition local coordination teams have been trained on the tool and they have provided positive feedback on its use and how it creates better understanding and, as a result, better response to the different needs of the affected population, particularly women and girls. GenCap has also developed a strategy for strengthening local capacity in gender equality and GBV prevention and response that is coordinated with humanitarian, peace and development actors. This includes support to the fifteen exiting local coordination teams in each hub across the country. The strategy was endorsed by the Resident Coordinator (RC) office, HCT and United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and it includes identification of gender/GBV focal points in each hub, who will receive training and support. On the same note humanitarians have agreed to a non-negotiable agreement that Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD) will be included in all information and analysis products. The initiative is coordinated with other key actors such as UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, NRC and Plan International. The GenCap deployment in Colombia, is

For more information contact nalule@un.org or visit www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/gencap
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Gender Mainstreaming in Humanitarian Action for Syrian Refugees in Jordan
Simon Peter Opolot, Senior GenCap Adviser, Jordan (January 2016-on-going)

The protracted Syrian crisis, now in its fifth year, continues to force millions of Syrians to seek refuge in the neighboring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and beyond. Jordan, like other host countries is bearing the brunt of the crisis. Since 2011 approximately 656,198 (as at August, 2016) Syrians have crossed the border into Jordan, disrupting these refugees livelihoods, challenging their food security, and impacting on the education of their children and their health, to mention but a few major issues. Interventions in all sectors above and other matters related to people’s wellbeing should continue to be designed to address very serious gender dimensions and incorporate sustainable solutions.

Building upon the foundation established by earlier GenCaps (Merrin and Sarah) deployed in Jordan, my role as Senior GenCap Adviser to the UN and Partners in the humanitarian response, is to provide technical support and expertise in Gender Analysis; Program Planning & Monitoring and Gender Capacity Strengthening. Some results to date include the consolidation and capacitation of both IATF1 and CBTF2 Sector Gender Focal Points Networks (SGFPN), established to support their respective sectors in mainstreaming gender into humanitarian response. All IATF sectors are currently conducting gender analyses – Education, Health and WASH sectors have completed the process. Gender analysis of all dimensions of each sector’s needs and challenges will provide solutions to redress inequality and will inform the strategic planning process of the Jordan Response Plan (for 2017-2019) which begins this October.

The GenCap’s role in supporting the SGFPN has also facilitated activities in Jordan in the review process of IASC Gender in Humanitarian Response Handbook. Similarly, Jordan is currently participating in the piloting of the new IASC Gender and Age Marker (Design and Monitoring phases). Lastly, it is important to underscore that gender mainstreaming work in the UN and with Partners organizations who are part of the humanitarian response for Syrian refugees has been greatly facilitated by the supportive leadership at the HCT, IATF, CBTF, Sector and SGFPN levels.

With thanks to our generous donors:

1 IATF – Inter-Agency Task Force, which oversees humanitarian service delivery to Syrian Refugees in Jordan
2 CBTF – Cross Border Task Force, which oversees cross border humanitarian operations in Southern Syria