



WOMEN, GIRLS, BOYS AND MEN
DIFFERENT NEEDS – EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND TRAINING

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND GENDER

Conference open for all: May 5th 2008 at 09:00-12:30
Humanitarian Assistance and Gender training: May 5th and 6th
Venue: NORAD, Ruseipkkveien 26, Oslo

In the rush to provide humanitarian response when a disaster hits or a conflict erupts, the appeal to pay attention to gender issues often falls on deaf ears and may seem irrelevant. It is not. Paying attention to gender issues or putting on a "gender lens" quite simply means recognizing the different needs, capacities and contributions of women, girls, boys and men. Ignoring or being blind to these differences can have serious implications for the protection and survival of people caught up in humanitarian crises. Securing women's influence in all aspects of the humanitarian assistance is vital for the success of the interventions.

There is a national momentum now for putting gender equality issues on the agenda. The Norwegian NGOs behind this event are increasingly concerned with the need of being sensitive to gender issues in humanitarian crises. The Ministry of Foreign affairs is expecting a stronger focus on gender equality in the work of the organizations, and the Norwegian government has shown commitment to gender issues in humanitarian assistance by developing an action plan for implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

The Conference:

We have the pleasure of inviting you to take part in a unique conference on humanitarian assistance and gender. The international key note speakers are among the leading experts in this field. The conference will be an invaluable arena for discussion among the main Norwegian actors in the field. The conference is open for all and free of charge.

The Training:

Following the conference there will be a 1 ½ day training session on humanitarian assistance and gender exclusively for staff working in the following NGOs: Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian people's Aid, Norwegian Church Aid, Caritas Norway, Save the Children Norway and the Norwegian refugee Council.

The event is a collaboration between six Norwegian NGOs providing humanitarian assistance for emergencies, and made possible through kind assistance from Gender Capacity Standby Project (GenCap). It is financially supported by The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNFPA and Norad.





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“Understanding gender differences, inequalities and capacities improves the effectiveness of our humanitarian response. We must work together to promote gender equality — this is a shared responsibility of all humanitarian actors.”

Jan Egeland

Registration:

Please register for the conference and training **no later than Monday April 21** by sending an e-mail to gender@nordsor.no containing the following information:

1. Name
2. Organisation
3. Job title
4. E-mail address
5. Please indicate whether you will attend the conference and/or the training

The key note speakers:

Ms Laila Baker is working as Humanitarian Liaison Specialist for UNFPA in Geneva. She comes from a public health background in the field of family health and gender and has been working in the field for the last 18 years throughout the Middle East and North Africa. She has held various leadership posts with major international agencies including the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the United Nations Development Programme, and OXFAM/UK. She has been with the United Nations Population Fund for the past eight years.

Dr. Madhumita Sarkar is working as Gender Adviser in the Gender Capacity Standby Project (GenCap). She is a social development professional with a very strong background in mainstreaming gender in humanitarian assistance. She has extensive experience with impact assessments and training. Dr. Sarkar has worked for international organisations such as Care India, UNIFEM, DIFID and WHO as well as Indian NGOs.

Ms Kristin Scharffscher is a Research Fellow/PhD Candidate at the University of Stavanger. In her doctoral thesis Ms. Scharffscher is focusing on humanitarian organisations and gender based protection in complex emergency operations. She has studied the humanitarian response after the tsunami in Sri Lanka.



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PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND GENDER

Monday May 5th 2008 at 9:00-12:30

Venue: NORAD, Rusepløkkveien 26, Oslo

08:30-09:00 Coffee and Registration

09:00-09:10 Welcome by Ms. Elisabeth Rasmusson, Secretary General Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

09:10-09:30 Dr. Madhumita Sarkar; Gen-Cap Adviser: The importance of practical issues in humanitarian interventions. Experience from Sri Lanka.

09:30-10:00 Ms. Laila Baker, UNFPA Geneva: UN's official Gender in Emergencies policy and new efforts and actions

10:00-10:20 Mr. Erik Solheim, Minister of Environment and Development, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Gender in Emergencies. From words to action

10:20-10:40 Coffee – fruit

10:40-11:10 Ms. Kristin M. Scharffscher University of Stavanger: Complex emergency operations, women and local capacities

11:10-12:30 **Panel Debate, challenges and how to meet them, chair Ms. Anne Kristin Sydnes, Head of International Department of Norwegian Church Aid**

- Secretary General NRC, Ms. Elisabeth Rasmusson
- Secretary General Norwegian Church Aid, Mr. Atle Sommerfeldt
- Secretary General Norwegian People's Aid, Mr. Petter Eide
- Secretary General Save the Children Norway, Ms. Gro Brækken
- Secretary General Caritas Norway, Ms. Kari-Mette Eidem
- Ass. Secretary General Red Cross, Ms. Ann-Magrit Austenå
- Assistant Director General, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Halvor Sætre,





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PROGRAMME

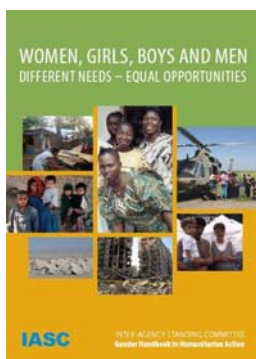
TRAINING ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND GENDER

Time: Monday May 5th at 13:00-16:30 and Tuesday May 6th at 09:00-16:30

Venue: Norad, Rusepløkkveien 26, Oslo

Following the conference on humanitarian assistance and gender on May 5th, there will be a 1 ½ day training session on humanitarian assistance and gender **exclusively for staff working in the following NGOs: Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian people's Aid, Norwegian Church Aid, Caritas Norway, Save the Children Norway and the Norwegian refugee Council.**

Gender Capacity Standby Project (GenCap) Adviser **Dr. Madhumita Sarkar** will be the main facilitator for the training.



The Inter Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action will be a core background document for the training. It is an advantage if the participants are familiar with or have some knowledge about the contents of the handbook.

The handbook presents standards for the integration of gender issues from the outset of a new complex emergency or disaster, so that humanitarian services provided neither exacerbate nor inadvertently put people at risk; reach their target audience; and have maximum positive impact.

The target audience for the handbook is field practitioners responding to humanitarian emergencies that result from conflict or natural hazards. Humanitarian Coordinators and others in leadership positions will also benefit from this tool as it provides guidance on how to analyse the situation from a gender perspective, implement gender-aware activities and measure effectiveness. The handbook will also assist donors to hold humanitarian actors accountable for integrating gender perspectives and promoting equality in all aspects of their work.

