



PRO  
CAP

GEN  
CAP

## INTER-AGENCY PROTECTION AND GENDER STANDBY CAPACITY PROJECTS

MARCH 2021

### PROTECTION AND GENDER TRENDS

The [Global Humanitarian Overview \(GHO\) for 2021](#) revealed that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance will increase by 40 per cent compared with 2020, to a record 235 million people.

Protection, gender equality and women's empowerment will remain central areas of concern across humanitarian contexts, where need has been compounded by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Evidence from the [Global Protection Cluster](#) indicates that attacks on civilians, including internally displaced persons, have increased since the pandemic began. Moreover, 80 per cent of protection clusters and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees operations are reporting escalating conflict, stigmatization and increasing cases of violence, including attacks on civilians and humanitarians.

As highlighted by the [United Nations Secretary-General](#), the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women and girls, causing a "parallel epidemic of gender-based violence, from violence in the home and online, to increased child marriage and

sexual exploitation." There are an estimated additional 15 million cases of gender-based violence (GBV) worldwide for every three months of COVID-19 lockdowns, according to the [United Nations Population Fund](#). Meanwhile, the [GHO for 2021](#) indicates that adolescent girls in conflict zones are 90 per cent more likely to be out of school and that 60 per cent of preventable maternal mortalities occur in settings of conflict, displacement and natural disasters.

As current trends in protection and gender are expected to continue in 2021 and beyond, the Protection Standby Capacity Project (ProCap) and the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) merit continued investment to support the global humanitarian response.

### MISSION OF PROCAP AND GENCAP

The mission of ProCap and GenCap is to strengthen inter-agency capacity and leadership to ensure that protection, gender equality and women's empowerment are central to humanitarian action.

Photo: OCHA/  
Gemma Cortes

In line with their system-strengthening mandate, these projects maintain a sharp focus on field impacts, sustainable results and strategic support to align with system-wide response priorities.

The key strengths of ProCap and GenCap are their inter-agency nature and approach, their neutrality and independence, and the quality of expertise offered to field operations.

## HOW WE WORK

ProCap and GenCap are managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council.

The projects implement their mission through three modalities:

1. Deployment of senior experts,
2. Capacity-building at the national, regional and global levels,
3. Sharing of influence and practice.

Photo: OCHA



## DEPLOYMENT

ProCap and GenCap are unique in that they provide direct support at the strategic and operational levels to help solve complex issues related specifically to protection and gender. Senior Protection and Gender Advisers are deployed to humanitarian crises and work closely with Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs), Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) and other coordination mechanisms and stakeholders, including national and local partners.

Deployments are prioritized on the basis of the potential impact on the humanitarian response as a whole, including at the strategic level; the sustainability of the impact; the scale and severity of the crisis here and the existing response capacity in the field.

ProCap and GenCap work across the leadership, programmatic and localization pillars. A key tool is the road map process: in collaboration with field leadership, Senior Advisers establish baselines and help identify collective priorities, plan response activities, define expected outcomes and allocate responsibilities within the operation. ProCap and GenCap match expert skills with needs in the field, supporting field operations in their efforts to achieve the milestones in their road maps. Support is provided for a maximum of two to three years.

## CAPACITY-BUILDING

ProCap and GenCap invest in training at the national and local levels as a means to strengthen knowledge, skills and tools in protection and gender equality programming. These learning initiatives serve as strategic entry points for further institutionalizing protection and gender equality in field response mechanisms and functions.

## SHARING OF INFLUENCE AND PRACTICE

ProCap and GenCap contribute to linking policy and advocacy with practice. They provide a practitioner's perspective in global dialogues, drawing from field-level best practices and lessons learned. The projects



also facilitate the operationalization of global polices and tools into specific contexts.

## 2020: A YEAR OF IMPACT

As a reflection of global trends, the number of field requests for ProCap and GenCap support soared in 2020. This was in part due to the impact of COVID-19, but other compromising factors, such as protracted conflicts and climate change, led to strong demand and reflected confidence in the results-based support offered to operations.

In 2020, ProCap deployed to 20 contexts (15 at country level, 2 at regional level and 3 at global level), compared with 15 in 2019. This amounted to more than 120 deployment months in 2020, up from 71 in 2019. ProCap engaged with 13 out of 25 country operations with Humanitarian Response Plans, signalling the project’s high relevance to system-wide priorities.

GenCap deployed to 16 contexts (15 at country level and 1 at global level) in 2020, compared with 14 in 2019. This amounted to more than 90 deployment months in 2020, up from 55 months in 2019. GenCap engaged with 13 out of 25 country operations with Humanitarian Response Plans.

2020 was a highly successful year for ProCap and GenCap. The projects completed a reform process at the management and operational levels, piloted the road map methodology in the field and committed to providing longer-term protection and gender expertise to a high number of humanitarian operations.

## PROCAP SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

In 2020, ProCap deployed in support of humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe. ProCap also supported regional-level priorities and processes through deployments to the African Union Commission and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. At the global level, ProCap supported the Global Protection Cluster as well as the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and the United Nations Mine Action Service with sequenced expert deployments.

Photo: UN/  
MINUSTAH/  
Logan Abassi



Photo: UN/  
Christopher  
Reardon



## GENCAP SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

In 2020, GenCap deployed in support of humanitarian operations in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Haiti, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey (Whole of Syria operation), Yemen and Zimbabwe. At the global level, GenCap supported the continued roll-out of the IASC’s Gender with Age Marker (GAM), which helps focus attention on gender and age in humanitarian projects and programmes. As a result of increased uptake, GAM is now well established in more than 30 countries, up from 15 in 2019. As of 1 December 2020, more than 11,000 projects had applied GAM globally.

## 2021 PRIORITIES

Building on the results of 2020, priority areas of work for ProCap and GenCap in 2021 will include emerging crises, protracted conflicts, natural disaster settings, as well as transitional or ‘triple nexus’ (humanitarian, development and peacekeeping) contexts. In addressing concerns, the projects will leverage the wide range of experience and expertise among Senior Advisers, including in gender programming, GBV, protection

from sexual exploitation and abuse, internal displacement and durable solutions. ProCap and GenCap will continue to engage non-traditional actors, women-led organizations and other groups to ensure a more inclusive response.

ProCap and GenCap will also continue to work in synergy with the existing humanitarian architecture at the global, regional and national levels, notably HCTs, United Nations Country Teams, clusters/sectors, working groups and task teams, as well as Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) structures.

Strong demand from the field and longer-term commitments to providing support to field operations will necessitate adequate investment and predictable financing in 2021. Building on the achievements of 2020, some of the current priorities are outlined below.

## STRENGTHEN IMPACT

On the operational front, ProCap and GenCap will work to consolidate the road map model and ensure quality inter-agency support to RC/HCs, HCTs, the wider humanitarian operations and other stakeholders. Trends in the humanitarian

landscape, such as the increase in overall needs compared with 2020, the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and prevailing gender inequality, highlight the importance of continuing to deliver timely and effective ProCap and GenCap support.

### ENGAGE EARLY IN CRISES

The projects will strive to facilitate access to relevant expert support in the early phases of crises, helping the response operationalize IASC protection and gender policies and guidance. GenCap will provide support to the leadership, programming and localization pillars in line with recommendations of the recent Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls.

### WORK WITH STRATEGIC ADVOCATES

The projects will continue to foster coherence and collaboration within the humanitarian system, as well as with partners in development and peacebuilding. This will include renewed efforts to strengthen relations and partnerships with strategic advocates among stakeholders, end-users and partners and ensure complementarity with other parts of the system.

### INCREASE VISIBILITY OF RESULTS

To ensure predictability of support to operations, project management will continue to engage with partners to broaden the donor base, building on the success of ProCap and GenCap in translating their unique mandates and niche work into results at a time when greater attention to protection and gender in global humanitarian operations is clearly needed.

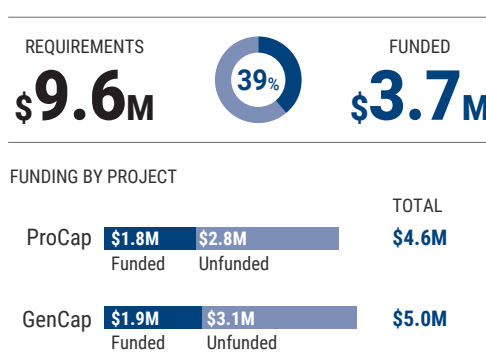
## PROCAP AND GENCAP APPEAL: JANUARY 2020–JUNE 2021

Under the current appeal (January 2020–June 2021), ProCap and GenCap are requesting a total of US\$ 9,622,273 to address growing protection and gender capacity requirements within the humanitarian system.

The time line of the appeal considers adaptations made in light of the COVID-19 response. Furthermore, it allows the projects to secure more predictable and sustained support to the field, which is critical to effecting change in mainstreaming and prioritizing protection and gender.

In 2020, ProCap and GenCap were supported by generous contributions from Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America. The United Arab Emirates has pledged to support the projects in 2021.

### PROCAP AND GENCAP FUNDING STATUS (AS OF DECEMBER 2020, IN US\$)



*Note: ProCap and GenCap operations will continue beyond June 2021, with a new appeal expected to be launched later in 2021. Any contribution under the current appeal can be adapted to subsequent budget cycles. Contributions to OCHA are earmarked for ProCap or GenCap.*

## PROCAP AND GENCAP FIELD PRESENCE IN 2020

- ProCap deployment
- GenCap deployment

