

**Challenges for Gender Equality Programming in Humanitarian Action:  
Operating in High Risk Environments, Lessons from Haiti and  
Introduction to New Gender Tools**

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**Jemliah Mahmood from UNFPA** noted that today actors in armed conflict are not typically soldiers. Many conflicts are rooted in economic disparities. She stressed the necessity of looking at the gender perspective because different roles and dimensions are socially constructed. Gender analysis is important for peace building because conflict affects men, women, boy, and girls differently. She also stressed the need to look at the gender perspective in humanitarian action in terms of access.

**Martin Mogwanja, Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan**, discussed the gender related challenges faced in complex security environments. He used Pakistan as an example of a context where there are cultural, psychological, and traditional constraints in access. He also pointed to the limited availability of sex disaggregated data and gender related capacities among humanitarian staff as some of these challenges.

**Caroline Blag, GenCap Adviser to Haiti**, highlighted the gender-related concerns that emerged in the humanitarian response in Haiti after the devastating earthquake at the start of the year. Deployed just six weeks after the shock, she gave examples, such as the use of latrines, where gender-related issues also affected cost efficiency. In Haiti, only 50% of the population used the latrines occasionally. Residents pointed to insufficient privacy and the lack of separate spaces for men and women for the reasoning behind the lack of their use. Blag also noted gender based violence as a security concerns in a number of the camps.

In the discussion, the delegate from Pakistan mentioned the linkages between traditions and modernity and emphasized the fact that over 80% of IDPs were hosted by the communities, not in camps. Blag also emphasized the need to integrate the gender dimension in humanitarian response right away and utilize the NGOs that have worked in the specific region for long periods of time as resources in organizing humanitarian response.