Gender Side Event – ECOSOC July 2011

The side event "Making humanitarian action more effective: Calling on greater gender equality programming" was a great success this the last day of ECOSOC with over 60 people participating with roughly 35% men. The panel was ably moderated by Per Byman of Swedish Sida who orchestrated four panel members - 50% male - and a short discussion with participants highlighting the key challenges facing mainstreaming of gender into all aspects of the humanitarian enterprise. It was kicked off by the showing of the short video from South Sudan) on the work of GenCap in support making humanitarian action more effective as well as the trailer of the Gender Elearning. Sid Chatterjee of the Federation of the Red Cross replaced Ms Nancy Jolo from the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society who was unable to get a visa on time and Siobhan Foran, GenCap Advisor, replaced HC Mehta of Yemen. Laurent Thomas from FAO and Angela Raven-Roberts of HAP International completed the panel. The take away message was the following:

1) Gender is not about women only – to understand gender a social analysis on who does what where and what are the specific needs and capacities of women, men, boys and girls must be undertaken by all humanitarian actors to ensure they deliver effectively and are held accountable to beneficiaries.
2) The Gender Marker is a tool to hold actors accountable but all cluster actors must use it to inform effective and responsive programming.
3) Collection, analysis and use of sex and age disaggregated data must be done to inform effective programming.

In summary, the panel concluded that the future hope would be that there would be no need for a gender side event but rather gender would be front and centre in all ECOSOC panels and debates. This day we all look forward to and seek greater commitment from men and women to achieve this goal.

South Sudan video: (http://youtube.com/user/gencap2010
Gender Elearning:(http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-news-newsdetails&newsid=141).
Gender Marker Information: http://gender.oneresponse.info