

Summary of the Early Warning Early Action Report Review Process

23 February 2012

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Sub-Working Group (SWG) on Preparedness commissioned a review of the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) Report in August 2011.

Assessment phase

Josie Lianna Kaye, Assistant Director of the Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR) at Columbia University, Staff Associate at Columbia University and an independent consultant with prior experience with UN agencies (UNDP, UN-DPA, OCHA) led the review.

Ms. Kaye interviewed 70 people from all levels of all IASC member organizations and reviewed existing materials. Her review highlights strengths and weaknesses of the report and concludes that while the EWEA process is a valuable information-sharing process it falls short of its potential. The review makes 21 related recommendations.

Ms. Kaye presented her findings and recommendations to the IASC SWG on Preparedness on 08 November 2011 in Geneva.

Implementation phase

At its 08 November meeting the SWG on Preparedness agreed to pursue the objectives described in the report, while noting that implementation of the recommendations must be in harmony with the capabilities and mandates of IASC members.

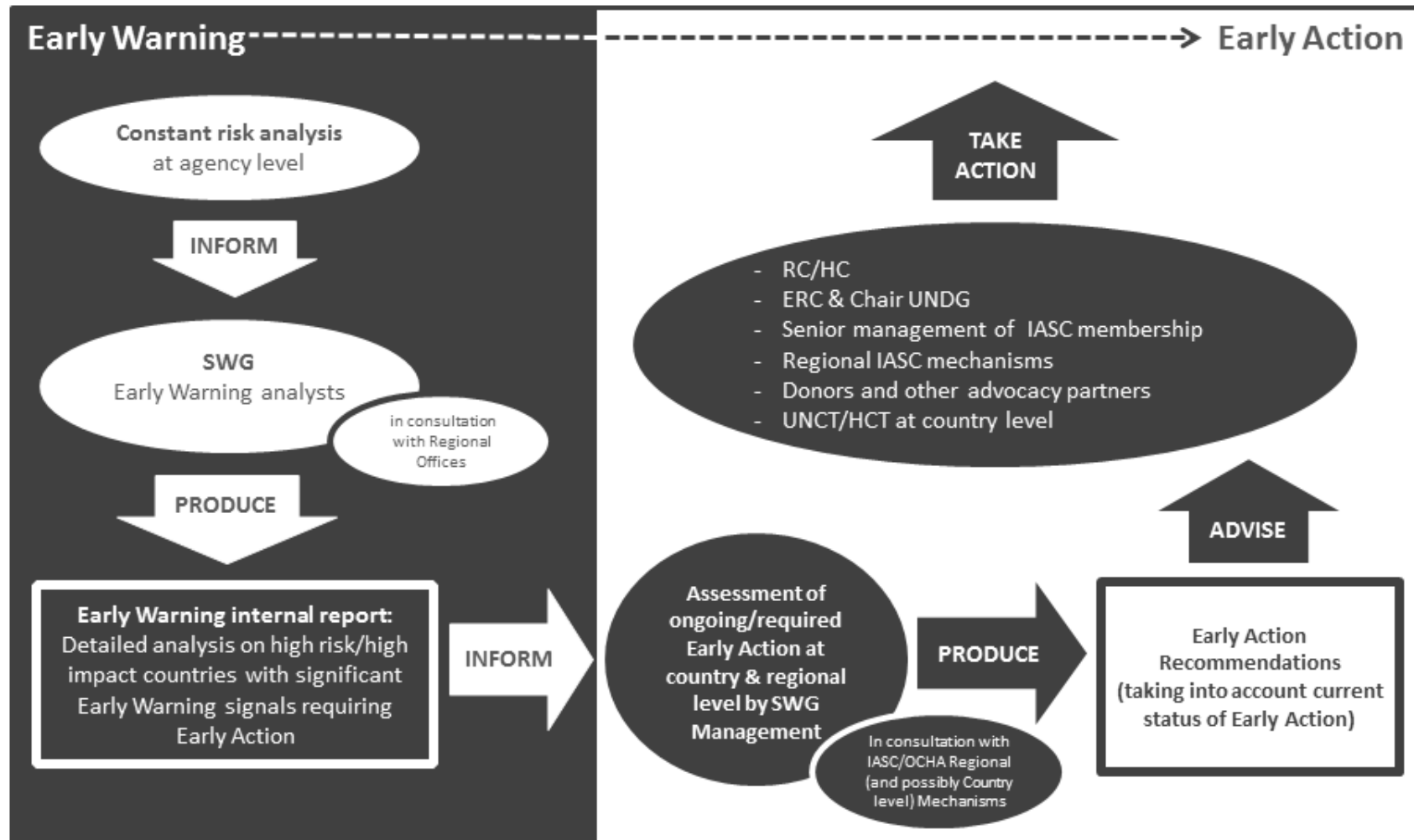
The SWG members agreed to provide feedback on the recommendations by the end of November. Feedback showed consensus in agreement with the recommendation to *"Discontinue the Report in its current format and begin discussions around how to create a lighter process which is consistently linked to inter-agency early action."*

On 20 January SWG members agreed to test a new "EWEA process" before the next SWG meeting in March 2012. This process includes two steps: an early warning report with strong analysis and factual basis; and SWG early action recommendations. Key agreements include:

- Developing a mechanism to translate EW into EA
- Ensuring "situation awareness" is a means to early warning analysis, not an end in itself
- Strengthening early warning analysis to provide a strong base for action
- Targeting audiences that need to take specific preparedness action
- Matching periodicity and participation to SWG member capacity and capability
- Maximising the integration of existing and complementary SWG tools
- Consultation with the regional level and, at least for high risk high impact countries, involvement of the relevant RC/HC.

On 07 February the technical level drafting group discussed concrete change to the Early Warning Report, including triage criteria for country inclusion. The drafting group will test a new EW report methodology to meet the EA decision makers' requirements in the March EWEA round.

Early Warning and Early Action Process Chart



Periodicity: Products are issued every 6 months. Emerging situations will use the same process.

Please direct comments and questions to Michel Le Pechoux (mlepechoux@unicef.org) and Anthony Craig (Anthony.craig@wfp.org), co-chairs of the IASC SWG on Preparedness.