

**IASC Needs Assessment Task Force: Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday June 14th 2012 10:00-12:00**

**Participants:** Co-Chair, Loretta Hieber Girardet (OCHA), Fawad Hussain (OCHA) Niels Scott (OCHA), Darlene Tymo (WFP), Kate Ogden (WFP), Patrick Dupont (ECHO), Delphine Brun (Gen Cap), Gavin Wood (UNICEF), Tom Delrue (UNDP) Shelly Gornall (UNHCR), Patrice Chataigner/Lars Peter Nissen (ACAPS) Josephine Ippe (Nutrition Cluster), Vincent Annoni (Impact Initiatives), Luca Pupulin (ACTED). **Regrets:** Co-Chair, Joyce Luma (WFP)

**June 18 inter-agency meeting on monitoring**

- OCHA briefed the Task Force on plans for the Pillar 3 meeting on performance monitoring, scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>. Three IASC subsidiary bodies are invited: CAP, NATF and Humanitarian Financing. A final agenda will be sent out by the weekend.
- UNHCR questioned whether the performance monitoring framework was flexible enough as emergencies change.
- UNICEF stressed the importance of continuity from preparedness to assessment indicators and called for a holistic approach to identification of the indicators. This is in support of field operations so that they don't have to build their indicators from start.
- WFP noted that it would be useful early in the meeting to define the users of the monitoring framework, to guide its development; and WFP suggests building the framework based on field experience. WFP suggests starting with the TA countries of South Sudan, Mali and Chad, and reviewing it at the end of the year to inform the further development of the framework.

**Update on progress against revised 2012 work plan**

- An update was provided on preparations for the NATF table-top simulation on the MIRA, scheduled for 25-27 June. The final concept note is attached.
- As a 'transformative agenda' pilot country, South Sudan has requested and agreed to assistance with rolling out the coordinated assessment approach to 10 states. OCHA will field a mission for three weeks in July, with a strategic planning workshop scheduled for July 12-13 in Juba.
- Identified countries where coordinated assessment work is either already underway or which will be approached with the offer of assistance for coordinated assessments include South Sudan, Yemen, Sudan, Mali and Chad. Priority will be given to the countries targeted under the TA, and with emphasis on linking coordinated assessments to the CAP process.
- OCHA also briefed on the forthcoming cluster training on the MIRA and coordinated assessments as a means of ensuring surge capacity in the case of a large-scale emergency. An assessment training specialist has been hired to support this training.
- UNDP underlined the importance of rolling out training in French and English given the shortage of French speakers in the UN.
- UNICEF reiterated its commitment to this work, noting that it is keen to get further involved but regretting UNICEF's limited capacity to engage more.

- UNHCR has incorporated MIRA modules into cluster and emergency management training. A roster sign up list is used with 9 month requirements – 600 staff deployed last year from the roster.
- WFP stressed the importance of the NATF demonstrating concrete results by year end, and emphasized the importance of agencies represented on the NATF to step forward to contribute to implementation (especially agencies with multiple clusters under their watch).
- ECHO noted the ambitious agenda in the upcoming months, and asked if the lessons learned will be made by the end of the year. OCHA responded that the work plan calls for a consultant to carry out lessons learned in country and will have the identified resources.
- GENCAP Asked how to obtain more regular information on the progress of the NATF plan. OCHA advised that the NATF webpage will be live in July and will also be linked to the IASC website and Relief Web.
- Nutrition Cluster noted that many countries already have MIRA-like tools, and asked how much integration is needed to align MIRA with national assessment tools. The importance of engaging with clusters at the country level and not just the cluster leads was also stressed. OCHA responded that it wishes to avoid a top-down approach which is never well received by countries and the starting point for coordinated assessments is always what already exists and has been agreed upon at a country level.

#### **Finalisation of NATF contact list**

OCHA will circulate this in the coming days for agencies to update.

#### **Conclusions and Action Points:**

1. NATF member agencies to identify activities on the 2012 work plan they will actively engage in implementing. In particular, agencies are asked to step forward on the priority roll-out countries (South Sudan, Chad, Mali, Yemen and Sudan). Deadline: June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
2. To help agencies better understand what the field roll-out looks like, OCHA will circulate a concept note. Deadline: June 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. As the donor representative on the NATF, ECHO will consult with other donors on timing for an update on NATF progress (July or later)
4. NATF co-chairs will consult with global cluster cells on how they approach coordinated assessment training/roll-out (by the end of July)