INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP

IASC Subsidiary Bodies

Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas
Work Plan for 2012

Date circulated: 31/10/2011

I   Narrative Summary

Background

The IASC Reference Group for Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (MHCUA RG) has been implementing the endorsed IASC Strategy and Two-year Action Plan for Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas for the past year. The Strategy builds upon six objectives for improving humanitarian response in urban areas: Strengthen partnerships among urban stakeholders for more effective humanitarian response, ii) Strengthen technical surge capacity with urban skills, iii) Develop or adapt humanitarian tools and approaches for urban areas, iv) Protection of vulnerable urban population against gender-based exploitation and violence, v) Restore livelihoods and economic opportunities during initial phase for expedited early recovery in urban areas, vi) and Improve preparedness in urban areas to reduce vulnerabilty and save lives.

The MHCUA Two-year Action Plan includes the 12 highest priority actions identified in the Strategy to be undertaken by IASC member organizations. Although not yet fully implemented, Action Points have been achieved in most strategic objectives during the first year of Action Plan implementation.

IASC MHCUA Reference Group Work Plan Objectives

1.   Track, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the recommended actions in the MHCUA Two-year Action Plan;

2.   Sustain a platform for peer reviews by RG agencies to provide feedback on shared reports and products, when requested, to facilitate implementation of the Action Plan and enhance learning among organizations;

3.   Enhance interface with the IASC Global Clusters, IASC subsidiary bodies and NGOs on strengthening urban preparedness, humanitarian policies, capacities and tools for urban crises responses and provide advice upon request in addressing urban related issues in humanitarian tools and instruments; and

4.   Share knowledge, lessons learned and promote partnerships among humanitarian organizations on urban policies, preparedness, responses and recovery issues in order to build a broader network beyond RG of agencies working on urban humanitarian issues, including by supporting the development and updating online resources.

Methodology and Reporting Timelines

The Reference Group will plan to convene every two months or more often if requested by members.

As requested by the IASC Working Group, a progress report for the second (final) year of RG work will be submitted for its review in December 2012.

II   Work Plan for 2012

[Please see matrix below]

III   Key Expected Outcomes 2012

A.   Pilot initiative for model public-private partnerships for strengthened humanitarian coordination in communities undertaken in two countries and document best practices for broader replicability

B.   Pilot initiative for improved urban disaster preparedness undertaken in one country and document best practices for broader replicability

C. Guidance on strengthening urban food and nutrition security in urban areas developed

D. MHCUA page on Humanitarian.Info.org website created to strengthen RG product dissemination and information sharing in community of urban humanitarian practioners, including HCT/UNCTs

E. Briefing of HCs on MHCUA Strategy and RG Products produced over last two years at annual HC Retreat to raise understanding of resources available within IASC to address urban dimensions of emergencies

F.   Publication of *Handbook for Capacity Development of Displaced and Host Communities for Humanitarian Action in Urban Areas* and systematically disseminated

III   Work Plan for 2012

Goal[*]: **To improve the effectiveness of IASC-led humanitarian responses and save more lives in urban areas**

Objectives[*]	Outputs and Activities[*]	Indicators (with targets)[*]	Assigned Focal Points	Timeframe

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[*]   A goal is a higher level, long-term result or change the group wants to achieve over a longer period of time. (Example: A more effective humanitarian coordination system.)

[*]   Objectives are intermediate results or changes that need to be achieved during the workplan period in order to move closer to achieving the goal. (Example: Strengthened accountability to affected beneficiaries)

[*]   Outputs are the tangible steps, services, and products provided by the group on annual basis to achieve its objectives. (Example: IASC's role on accountability to affected populations clarified.) Activities are actions that need to be undertaken to produce the outputs. (Example: Develop policy on accountability to affected populations for the Working Group's endorsement.)

[*]   Indicators describe how the group intends to measure progress made towards stated outputs. Targets reflect the level of progress the group strives to achieve during the reporting period. (Example IASC policy on accountability to affected populations endorsed by target date. Target date: 30 September 2012)

1. Develop strategies early-on in a crisis that ensure multi-stakeholder partnerships for enhanced coordination, impact and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance in urban areas	▪ Pilot the framework to map stakeholders and to strengthen coordination and partnerships developed in Kenya by OCHA and UN-HABITAT and document best practices	Kenyan partnership model implemented Partnership model from Kenya replicated in one other country	OCHA-Kenya, UN-HABITAT OCHA, UN-HABITAT	Feb-Dec, 2012 Feb-Dec, 2012
	▪ Compile good practices, identify gaps and develop guidance for community-based support and capacity building in urban areas, including host families, to deepen impact of humanitarian assistance	Finalize and disseminate draft Handbook for Capacity Development of Displaced and Host Communities for Humanitarian Acion in Urban Areas	IFRC, UNICEF	April, 2012
	▪ Brief HCs on MHCUA Strategy and RG Products produced over last two years to raise understanding of resources available within IASC to address urban dimensions of emergencies	RG Chairs	UN-HABITAT and UNFPA Chairs of RG	May, 2012-Annual HC Retreat 2012
2. Strengthen technical surge capacity for emergency response in urban-based challenges	▪ TORs for urban technical advisors developed in emergency shelter, urban WASH, land management and local government partnering and submitted to agencies' rosters	4 urban advisor TORs developed	UN-HABITAT	May, 2012

3. Develop or adapt humanitarian approaches and tools for urban areas	▪ Promote improved knowledge management of urban tools and methodologies by creating a repository of useful tools and documentation	MHCUA page created on Humanitarian.Info.org website	UN-HABITAT, IASC Secretariat	March, 2012
	▪ Develop model tool for replication based on best practices from Colombia pilot of combining Early Recovery Cluster tools of Land Guidelines in Disasters and Gender Profile Template to enhance gender-based appropriated emergency responses	Model Gender-sensitive land planning and management tool developed	UN-HABITAT, UNFPA	June, 2012
4. Promote protection of vulnerable urban populations against violence and exploitation	▪ Identify new approaches to identify and assess urban vulnerability, including to exploitation	Expert paper produced on alternative approaches and indicators for urban vulnerability, peer reviewed by RG and approaches for IASC agencies consideration	UN-HABITAT	Feb, 2012
5. Restore livelihoods and economic opportunities in the emergency phase for expedited early recovery	▪ Develop harmonized and cohesive guidance on food and nutrition security in urban areas	Draft guidance produced and peer reviewed by RG	FAO, WFP	June, 2012
6. Build Preparedness into humanitarian assistance policies for more effective emergency responses and save more lives in urban areas	▪ Compile good practices in urban disaster preparedness and develop improved approach to enhance urban preparedness	Paper on good practices in urban disaster preparedness with recommended improved approach	UN-HABITAT	April, 2012
	▪ Pilot improved urban disaster preparedness approach in one country	Pilot project for improved urban disaster preparedness undertaken in one country	UN-HABITAT, SWG on Preparedness	December, 2012