

Early Recovery Cluster Information Update: April 2006

Key Dates Coming Up

5 April	↔	Meeting of the IASC-UNDG Tsunami Task Force, NY
6 April	↔	Meeting on the humanitarian response to the floods in Bolivia and the early recovery framework, Geneva
6 - 7 April	↔	IASC Task Force Meeting on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance - development of the gender mainstreaming handbook. OCHA, NY.
12 April	↔	IASC WG consultation on the draft operational guidelines on human rights in situations of natural disasters, Geneva
10 - 24 April	↔	Uganda - Early Recovery Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA), led by UNDP
17 - 22 April	↔	Uganda - Kathleen Cravero, Director BCPR/UNDP visits
21 April	↔	Briefing on UNHCR Cluster responsibilities/activities in designated IDP pilot countries, Geneva
24 April	↔	IASC Principals Meeting, Geneva
5 - 7 July	↔	IASC Working Group Meeting, Geneva
13 July	↔	IASC Principals Meeting, Geneva
14 - 19 July	↔	ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment, Geneva

Global Cluster CAP

The [global cluster appeal for 2006](#) has now been launched. It includes the early recovery cluster's requirements, as agreed, of \$2.415 million. No donor funds have so far been pledged for early recovery. Agencies are encouraged to approach donors both individually and collectively as a cluster. UNDP has prepared an [information note on the Early Recovery Cluster](#) for donors (based on the two cluster progress reports - comments welcome if needed). Given that some clusters costs are of a recurring nature, the IASC WG has agreed to keep open the possibility of another global cluster appeal beyond 2006. For country-level needs for the three roll out countries, resources will be mobilized through CAP revisions.

64th IASC Working Group Meeting, Rome, March 2006

The meeting agreed on the need for a better managed roll-out of the cluster approach - a small task team was formed to formulate the "cluster guidance package" to the field by the end of March. Kayo Gotoh, UNDP is participating in the team to ensure adequate reflection of early recovery/transition concerns. Additional roll-out countries were discussed (Somalia, Nepal and Columbia), but no definitive decisions were taken, pending consultations with CTs. While it is likely that Somalia will be recommended to the IASC Principles, the IASC will in due course consider dispatching exploratory missions to Nepal and Columbia. Cross-cutting issues and information management continue to be of concerns to the IASC WG. It was agreed to add 'environment' to the list of cross-cutting issues in the cluster approach. On information management, OCHA has been requested to organize a workshop with broad participation of agencies (UN and non UN), including from the field, to discuss inter-agency information management. They will report back to the IASC WG on progress in July 2006. The official record of this meeting is currently under finalization.

Humanitarian Coordinators Retreat, March 2006

Kathleen Cravero, Director BCPR/UNDP led a session on Transition and Early Recovery as part of the 2006 Humanitarian Coordinators Retreat. Discussions focused on planning and methodologies, funding, staffing, and partnerships & coordination during transition. See [record of meeting](#) for more details.

UNDG-ECHA Workshop on Transition, February/March 2006

A UN workshop on transition took place in Marrakech from 27 February to 2 March, attended by representatives of RCs offices in 17 countries and 13 UN agency representatives. The workshop encouraged participants to share experiences of transition; discuss transition tools and policy guidance; consider what more could be done to support UN Country Teams in transition; and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the major agencies. See the [report of the workshop](#) for more details.

IASC Cluster Real Time Evaluation in Pakistan

The IASC evaluation was conducted from 10-20 February, to look at the way the cluster approach was applied and functioned in Pakistan in response to the South Asia Earthquake. The evaluation report was discussed at the March IASC WG Meeting in Rome. Key issues for the recovery cluster include: 1) the appropriateness of the cluster's focus on strategic planning and foreseen work was validated; 2)

the need for clearer definition and advocacy of what early recovery is and entails, including especially the programmatic elaboration; 3) the need for an early recovery support package/toolkit to provide pragmatic guidance to the field; 4) the difficulty in promoting early recovery efforts while faced with overwhelming life-saving demands and the need for advocacy of early recovery; and 5) the need for a standard “cluster exit” strategy. See the [full evaluation report](#) for details.

Bolivia Flooding: Early Recovery Framework

The current flooding in Bolivia has had severe impacts on the Bolivian population, physical infrastructure and production activities. An intensive governmental and inter-agency needs assessment has resulted in a comprehensive recovery framework to provide emergency relief, transitional development assistance and reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. The [framework](#) is available in both Spanish and English.

Country Roll-out

Uganda:

- The OCHA/IDD mission to Uganda from 6 - 17 March looked at the cluster approach and agency involvement. It concluded that whilst the cluster approach is now being taken seriously by agencies in Uganda, implementation is still lacking. UNDP in particular was encouraged to establish a stronger presence in northern Uganda; and UNDP & UNHCR should work together to promote return/recovery.
- UN-HABITAT conducted a mission to Uganda from 11 - 18 March in the context of their role as focal point for ‘Housing, Land and Property’. The mission report will be made available soon.
- A revised 2006 CAP for Uganda is currently being prepared which will include costs for the cluster approach. A [draft](#) is now available for comment.
- UNDP will lead an inter-agency, multi-sectoral Early Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA) in the Lira district of Uganda from 10 to 24 April. Once the needs assessment has been tested in Lira, the idea is to roll out the methodology to other districts in a coordinated fashion. See [strategy](#) and [TORs](#) for more details.
- UNDP is working on setting up an Early Recovery Trust Fund to provide a vehicle for donors to pool resources and coordinate their support to recovery programmes that will be developed by the UN and guided by the National IDP policy. See [TORs](#) for more details.
- UNHCR has opened a joint return/recovery unit in Kampala and plan to open a joint office in Lira on 1 May 2006.
- A March 2006 update on implementation of the recommendations made by the UN SG’s Representative on IDPs, ‘Only Peace can Restore the Confidence of the Displaced’, has been published by the NRC/IDMC and the Refugee Law Project in Uganda. See [full report](#) for details.

Liberia

- An OCHA/IDD mission visited Liberia from 19 to 24 February to explore ways of supporting implementation of the cluster approach. The mission recommended that UNDP should rapidly strengthen its capacity to fulfill its lead agency role in early recovery; UNHCR accelerate IDP returns and work closely with UNDP to ensure sustainability of return by strengthening linkages between the protection and early recovery clusters; WFP and FAO focus on immediate agricultural needs and assistance in areas of return; and the IASC Country Team ensure synchronization and complementarity between emerging government structures and planning processes, UNIMIL and the Country Team. See [mission report](#) for details.
- Early Recovery cluster in Liberia members include UNDP (chair), UNHCR, WFP, UNIFEM, UNMIL/RRR World Bank, plus INGOs. So far, one cluster meeting has taken place in November 2005. UNDP is currently drafting a proposal to mobilize resources for strengthening the coordination of the Early Recovery cluster.
- At the first meeting of the Early Recovery Cluster in November 2005, it was agreed that the Joint Action Plan for Community Based Recovery and Restoration of Social Services in Liberia (CBR-JAcP) would provide the basis for implementation of Early Recovery interventions. The CBR-JAcP provides an integrated framework for collaboration between UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP to implement reintegration and rehabilitation programmes for war-affected populations in Liberia. This collective undertaking recognizes the need for a shift of focus from emergency and humanitarian interventions, towards more community-based projects with a development orientation. See the [Joint Action Plan](#) for details.

- The implementation of the ER cluster at sub-national level will also involve a review of the profiles and competencies of UNMIL RRR section (Return, Reintegration, and Repatriation) staff to be deployed at county and district level.

DRC

- An OCHA/ICVA mission to Katanga, DRC took place from 15 to 18 March. The mission urged UN agencies and all humanitarian organizations to respond urgently to the humanitarian crisis in central Katanga, and particularly in Mitwaba and Dubie. In particular, the mission recommended that the newly designated Cluster Leads in the DRC assume their responsibilities in this regard - particularly WFP/FAO for Food Security and UNHCR for Protection. In the words of ICVA, “Even though the new “cluster” approach is to be applied in DRC, the approach has not yet reached Katanga”. See [OCHA](#) and [ICVA](#) mission reports for details.
- MSF conducted an assessment of the food, nutrition and mortality situation in Dubie, Katanga from 23 - 25 March 2006. The assessment indicates that the crude and under 5 mortality rates indicate a catastrophic situation, and the prevalence of malnutrition reveals a crisis in food security. See [report](#) for details.

Early Recovery Cluster: Global Level Activities

In 2005, UNDP/BCPR’s Transition Recovery Unit initiated the development of a **tool for conducting baseline and impact assessments at the community level**. This tool guides the systematic collection and analysis of secondary and primary data throughout the programme cycle, in order to identify the issues affecting people’s lives and changes that take place in selected areas as a result (direct and/or indirect) of interventions. One of the tools’ components (baseline assessments) was piloted in Sri Lanka in November 2005. A technical peer review is now underway, and will also involve the members of the IASC CWGER. **This tool could potentially be applied for needs and impact assessment for a wide range of community-based interventions in the early recovery context.** The potential and further piloting and adaptation of this tool will be discussed at future meetings of the Early Recovery Cluster focal points (contact: Gaëla Roudy gaela.roudy@undp.org).

UN-HABITAT is currently developing its **methodology for land and property situational assessment and analysis**. The purpose of the tool is to prepare a framework for action with a strategic action plan for addressing gaps in current responses to shelter, land and property for IDPs and the affected population. The analysis tool is being developed and piloted in Uganda over the next 2 to 3 months. The assessment and action plan will provide a framework for supporting the Government of Uganda, local authorities and affected populations in Northern Uganda as part of the overall humanitarian response to the displacement situation. It is intended to address issues related to sustainable settlements recovery, integrated land administration and management, assertion of citizen’s rights to land and property, and mechanisms for land and property disputes. It will provide recommendations for addressing gaps, deficiencies and systems ensuring equitable and transparent management, development and administration of housing, and land and property for host communities and IDPs. (contact: Gert Ludeking ludeking@un.org).

The Early Recovery Cluster Information Update is prepared by the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), UNDP with the support of active members of the Early Recovery Cluster. To submit information points or articles for the next Information Update, or to send comments or questions, please contact: charlotte.lattimer@undp.org.