INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

PRINCIPALS MEETING

Cluster Working Group on
Emergency Telecommunications
Executive Summary

12 December 2005
Hosted by OCHA
Palais des Nations, Geneva

Circulated 8 December 2005

I   Executive Summary

In the context of the structure approved by the IASC Principals, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) has developed strategy elements and Planning & Preparedness measures to provide a more timely and effective Inter-Agency Emergency Telecommunications (IAET) response capability with clearly defined services. This work has been much aided by the experience gained through the IAET common service activation in five recent emergencies.

A plan for 2006 preparedness activities has been prepared, with resource estimates taken into account existing capacities (including non-UN actors, standby partners and the private sector). In addition, estimated funding requirements have been developed for three major (500,000 beneficiaries) emergencies in 2006, two of which could overlap. Inter-Agency service provision will be more predictable, effective timelier than that provided previously by multiple individual agencies. It targets most UN agencies and humanitarian partners and will especially benefit organizations with smaller operations.

The following issues are considered to be of particular importance:

➢ Execution of the 2006 ETC Preparedness Plan is critical for agencies to build the capacity, which currently does not exist, to respond to emergencies in a timely and effective manner. This plan will require funding of $6,680,000 in 2006 and estimated additional funds of $3,507,000 for recurring preparedness costs in 2007 and thereafter.

➢ The estimated ETC funding requirement per emergency, under the IASC planning assumptions, is $3,255,000. This would cover equipment costs and 6 months recurring costs at five separate sites.

➢ Immediate funding for stock replenishment is essential to ensure availability of sufficient equipment stocks to respond to overlapping emergencies.

> ➤ Emergency Telecommunications (ET) infrastructure is capital-intensive and directly related to the number, locations, proximity and distribution of the humanitarian operational areas.

The final report of Emergency Telecommunications Cluster submitted to the IASC WG Meeting covers additional aspects such as the detailed preparedness plan, existing capacities and gaps as well as cross-cutting issues.

Prepared by Cluster Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications – December 2005