



IASC Sub-Working Group on Preparedness

IASC Weekly Meeting

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ToR of the SWG



- Created in 2001, meets three times per year.
- Promotes collaboration in emergency preparedness among humanitarian actors, in aid of effective and timely humanitarian response.
- Normative rather than an operational role focused on:
 - Development of inter-agency guidance on preparedness
 - Identification and sharing of best practices in preparedness activities
 - Promulgation of early warning/early action information and advisories
 - Promotion of inter-agency contingency planning and preparedness measures
 - Strengthening inter-agency initiatives in emergency preparedness
- UN agencies, NGOs (including ECB), IFRC/ICRC.
- Co-Chaired by WFP and UNICEF, Secretariat by OCHA.

Main Achievements



- Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Guidelines (revised in 2007)
- IASC Early Warning Early Action Report (3x per year)
- New version of Humanitarian Early Warning Service (HEWS)
- Inter-agency preparedness tracker (to be launched in 2012)
- Inter-Agency Emergency Simulation package and training
- Publication ‘Preparedness: Saves Time, Money and Lives’ and side-event at Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction
- The Framework Project & facilitation of IASC Working Group session (July 2010) on Strengthening Emergency Preparedness
- ‘Five Country Initiative’
- ‘Building National Capacity for Preparedness’ (IASC Principals meeting, December 2011)

Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Guidelines



- Provide practical guidance for HCTs to increase their level of preparedness and ability to respond to emergencies, and be ready to manage future uncertainty.
- New developments and elements missing in the 2007 revision:
 - Cluster contingency planning and the role of cluster leads
 - Business continuity planning
 - Increased focus on support to national contingency planning
 - Thematic and cross-cutting issues
- Sufficient dissemination and actual usage and utility of the 2007 edition?
- Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Planning: Practical tool encouraging HCTs to engage in a continuous preparedness process leading to a living document supporting response to *all types of emergencies* (includes checklists and minimum preparedness actions).
- CP for *imminent* and/or *specific* threats/hazards.

Early Warning Early Action Report



- Flagship report of the SWG, published three times per year.
- Highlights potential new and deteriorating crises that may occur in the next four months.
- Based on inter-agency consensus and collective analysis.
 - Humanitarian agencies solicit and share early warning information, jointly analyze country contexts, and recommend country-specific early action (based on colour coding)
- Ongoing overhaul of the Report and overall process.

Inter-Agency Emergency Simulations



- Guidance on IAES
- Training of a cadre of IAES facilitators (field emphasis, including NGOs) in methodology
- 3rd generation of emergency simulations (joint IASC-government exercises)
 - Package under development, to be piloted.
 - Training curriculum
 - Will complement the IAES package.
 - Increased SWG and cadre support to 3rd generation simulations
- Regional trainings – Cairo in April 2012.
- Close collaboration and cross-pollination with ECB emergency simulation work

Five Country Initiative



- Framework Project: Joint understanding of preparedness? IASC role in national/local capacity development?
- 77th IASC WG (July 2010) requested IASC organizations to work together to support all stages of the *development and implementation of national contingency plans* in five countries by the end of 2011, in support of national and/or local authorities, as appropriate, ensuring linkages with relevant inter-agency, cluster and agency-specific preparedness activities.
- Though initial focus was on national contingency planning, the identified entry points vary between countries. No standard package.
 - Coherent, coordinated multi-year plans of action and identify funding.
- Decision to select countries with existing/emerging coordinated and coherent approach to emergency preparedness - Ghana, Uganda, Nepal, Haiti, Philippines (additional countries tbc).
- Lessons will influence the development of new inter-agency tools/guidance.
- Next steps: strengthen inter-agency preparedness in conflict settings.

Success in Ghana



- Why Ghana? Emergency preparedness capacity assessment under OCHA Strategic Partnership for Preparedness project (IASC regional preparedness network in the lead), resulting in an UNDAF strategic outcome on DRR.
- National contingency planning updated in the end of 2010, nationally lead simulation with IASC and West Africa regional offices' support in 2011.
- CADRI support to the development of a five-year plan of action to build national and local preparedness capacities based on results of simulation and capacity assessment.
- Secondment of a National Disaster Reduction Adviser to support the country team and government in the implementation of the plan of action.
- Nascent collaboration with the country team and Task Team on Funding for Preparedness in identifying preparedness financing options.
- Overall lessons learned: Necessary to have strong commitment of government, country/regional teams/networks, leadership of RC/HC.

Five Country Initiative – Partnerships and Linkages



- Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) as initial co-lead
- Task Team on Funding for Preparedness (lead by FAO)
 - Support strategic fundraising for country-level capacity development.
- Reference Group on Humanitarian Action in Urban Areas (lead by UN Habitat)
 - Urban risk elements
- Inter-agency initiative on DRR (lead by UNDP/BCPR)
- World Bank/Global Facility on Disaster Risk and Recovery
 - Technical and financial assistance to disaster preparedness and risk reduction action plans at country level
- ECB (e.g. Uganda as focus country)

Building National Capacity for Preparedness



1. Strengthen global inter-agency coordination to provide better support to country efforts for preparedness capacity development
 - a) Collaborate with RC/HC to establish a comprehensive mapping of (a) existing/planned in-country work of IASC organizations on capacity development for emergency preparedness, and (b) in-country coordination mechanisms related to emergency preparedness.
 - b) Compile lessons learned/gap analysis from first phase of pilot and propose a model framework for capacity development in emergency preparedness.
 - c) Prepare a resourcing advocacy strategy to support country pilots (with individual pilot country strategies, in collaboration with the Task Team on Funding for Preparedness).
2. Support country leadership and activities
 - a) Guide IASC organizations' offices in pilot countries and support RC/HC on strategic approaches to strengthening preparedness in accordance with country priorities on emergency preparedness (country-led).

Building National Capacity for Preparedness



3. Establish flexible and inclusive inter-agency coordination methods at the country level
 - a) Collaborate with country teams to strengthen capacity development for preparedness in CCA/UNDAFs and CHAP/CAPs
 - b) Ensure that RC/HC and country offices of IASC agencies advocate and practice multi-stakeholder approaches, with specific emphasis on civil society inclusion, in supporting country-level emergency preparedness capacity development.
4. Advocate for resourcing of preparedness
 - a) Advocate for predictable, flexible, timely and risk-tolerant financing architecture, utilizing evidence from the analysis to be drawn from the pilot countries.