IASC Subsidiary Bodies

[Sub-Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications]
Work Plan for 2010

Narrative Summary

The mandate of the IASC sub Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET) includes the facilitation of operational activities and the pro-active representation of the interests of all users of telecommunications in humanitarian assistance in the international regulatory and policy environment, as well as vis-à-vis the private sector. WGET also represents the humanitarian community at other fora such as IASMN (Inter Agency Security Management Network), GDIN (Global Disaster Information Network) and ITAG (UN Inter-Agency Telecommunications Advisory Group).

WGET is an important body responsible for ensuring emergency telecommunications interoperability and adopting standards for the humanitarian community. WGET is also responsible for developing and disseminating issues related to regulatory, operational and technical aspects of telecommunications for disaster relief. WGET is instrumental in facilitating the work of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) through its collaborative and normative responsibilities.

Activity Area / Activities	Expected Outputs	Focal point(s)	Timeframe	Status / Update
I. WGET Governance				
Representing the humanitarian community in improving today's emergency telecommunications and shaping tomorrow's technology for improved communications and security.				
1.1 Develop a long-term WGET vision	a. 5 year vision. New approaches to address existing technical gaps	Technical Advisory Board (Steven Fazio, Brian Carlson, Hugh Peterken and Rolf Solberg)	Q4	
1.2 Develop a WGET communication and advocacy strategy (2010-2011)	b. WGET communication and advocacy strategy published on the WGET Collaboration platform.		2010-2011	
1.3 Attract and involve additional ICT expertise (example: Academia, national emergency response centers...) in WGET activities.	c. New WGET members / Experts from humanitarian agencies, academia and governmental institutions.		On-going	
1.4 Strengthen existing partnerships and facilitate potential agreements with the Private Sector for emergency preparedness and response (see 5.1)	d. New global agreements with the Private Sector	TAB / OCHA	Q4	

Activity Area / Activities	Expected Outputs	Focal point(s)	Timeframe	Status / Update
II. Shaping the Future of Emergency Telecommunications				
Working group to put forward the requirements that will enable the future humanitarian workers to efficiently, effectively and safely conduct their work in an emergency.				
2.1 Long-term strategy and implementation plan to ensure full interoperability of IP based radio infrastructure.	a. Evaluate and recommend future telecommunication standards and Architecture b. Recommendations for future telecommunications standards and architecture developed and published on the WGET Collaboration platform.	Working Group on Digital Radio Systems: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP	2010-2011 Q3	
2.2 Develop and publish on-line training modules and Inter-Agency standard documentation kits to implement, operate and maintain common emergency telecommunications services (2010-2011)	c. Best practices document on the Radio Telecommunication implementations in the field published on the WGET Collaboration platform. d. Guidelines and recommendations for the use of the Emergency Satellite services for GIS / Localization systems. e. Architecture of the emergency telecommunications on-line training modules developed.	Working Group on Radio Systems: ICRC, IFRC, SHA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, OCHA	2010-2011 Q2-2011 Q3	

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II. Shaping the Future of Emergency Telecommunications				
Working group to put forward the requirements that will enable the future humanitarian workers to efficiently, effectively and safely conduct their work in an emergency.				
2.3 Application of the Tampere Convention for the un-hindered use of all appropriate technologies from the earliest stage of emergency situations and related Resolutions and Recommendations, training in the utilization of these regulatory tools, ratification of the Convention by Member States, Continuation of the cooperation with the ITU and other regulatory and policy entities, including the European Union, and the administrations of their Member States towards full compliance of national regulations with the stipulations of the Convention and ratification of the latter.	a. Promote the application and further ratification of the Tampere Convention and establish related operational procedures.	OCHA	Year-round	
	b. Maintain/update the central register of the Tampere Convention focal points as well as technical and regulatory contacts in the different countries.	OCHA	Year-round	
	c. Enhance coordination of frequency spectrum management and related issues for UN, NGO and civil-military actors in humanitarian response under Tampere Convention, including the establishing and dissemination of standard operating procedures (SOPs) among civil-military actors.	OCHA	Year-round	

Activity Area / Activities	Expected Outputs	Focal point(s)	Timeframe	Status / Update
III. Emerging Technologies and Trends				
Presentation, discussion and potential testing of new technologies that could benefit the humanitarian worker.				
3.1 Define business case to include requirements, design, implementation and sustainability of a Humanitarian ISP. Study last mile connectivity issues. Initiative to review strategies around using existing and prepositioned broadband solutions to deliver VoIP and data connectivity for Humanitarian practitioners	a. Business case and feasibility study developed in cooperation with the Private Sector.	WVI	Q3	

Activity Area / Activities	Expected Outputs	Focal point(s)	Timeframe	Status / Update
IV. Addressing the Emergency Response Challenge				
Identifying the major challenges to the humanitarian worker and addressing them with current technology, tools and procedures.				
4.1 Represent the interests of all IASC-WGET partners in major events such as ITU Study Groups and similar fora. Maintain and develop contacts with implementing partners by conferring with them to identify telecommunications issues, which can be studied / resolved through consultation within the IASC-WGET framework.	a. WGET activities presented during international events for safeguarding the interests of the users of telecommunications in the service of humanitarian response.	OCHA	Year-round	
4.2 Initiate a project (including necessary funding) toward the implementation of the UN country code (888) for disaster relief that was assigned to OCHA by ITU in 2007.	b. Project plan established including implementation timeframe and required resources.	OCHA / Ericsson Response /DFS	Q3	
4.3 Facilitation of the use of telecommunications during emergency humanitarian operations.	c. Number of ET-related cases (e.g. regulatory, customs, etc…) solved and documented.	OCHA	Year-round	
4.4 Strengthen WGET Information Management in developing collaboration tools.	d. Launch of the WGET Collaboration Platform	OCHA / Jolera	Q1	
4.5 Development of the Governance Plan for the WGET Collaboration Platform	e. Governance Plan draft document developed.	Working Group members: UNHCR, IFRC, UNDP, UNICEF, OCHA	Q1	

Activity Area / Activities	Expected Outputs	Focal point(s)	Timeframe	Status / Update
V. Cooperation with Private Sector / Telecommunications Industry				
5.1 Cooperate with the Private Sector and NGOs to support humanitarian operations and develop new technologies; extend the cooperation to additional partners in the telecommunications and IT industry, and work towards acceptance of common standards by equipment manufacturers for use in humanitarian operations. Raise concerns to the notice of service providers and industry experts in particular to improve services and reduce costs thereof. (see 1.4)	a. Framework to enhance wider cooperation with the private sector to support the humanitarian operations.	OCHA / Private Sector	Year-round	
5.2 Development of an International Telecommunication Charter for the provision of free worldwide Satellite Services by Global Service Providers	b. Draft Telecommunication Charter document.	Working Group members: OCHA, UNHCR, ICRC, CNES, IFRC, UNOSAT	Q4	
5.3 Development of possible partnership agreements among Private Sector companies to support humanitarian operations.	c. Provision of joint multi-vendor integrated solutions agreements involving multiple Private Sector members.	Working Group members: Vizada, CNES, CODAN, Motorola, EMC, Danimex, Hyde & Associates, Thales	Year-round	