

Toward a Coordinated IASC Approach to Avian and Human Influenza

Brainstorming

Geneva, 16 December 2005
IFRC Auditorium, 9:00-17:00

Background

The IASC Working Group of 21-22 November 2005 agreed on “the need for a coordinated IASC approach to prepare for the pandemic, in support of the Office of the UN System Coordinator of Avian and Human Influenza and noted that the comparative advantage of the IASC mechanism in addressing the preparedness for the pandemic is the involvement of key non-UN humanitarian agencies”.

It also agreed on a two-step formula that includes (a) a small Technical Consultation for scenario development (to be held in the week of 9 January) and (b) a subsequent, broader – and more representational – meeting on issues relating to humanitarian preparedness.

Objectives

The brainstorming session is being held to kick-start this process. Its specific objectives are to:

- (a) Take stock of the AHI preparedness measures taken so far by IASC members
- (b) Review and share insights on potential scenarios, taking into account what is known and already available elsewhere
- (c) Identify the issues to be addressed at the Technical Consultation.

Expected outcome

On the basis of the discussions held during the brainstorming session and of the materials submitted by participants, OCHA will draft three papers – to be submitted to the Technical Consultation – on the following subjects:

1. AHI preparedness measures taken so far by IASC members
2. Potential scenarios; pertinent issues
3. Issues to be addressed at the Technical Consultation.

Tentative agenda

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| 9:00 – 9:15 | Opening and presentation of the agenda (OCHA) |
| 9:15 – 9:45 | Short briefing by FAO and WHO on issues of direct interest to the humanitarian community within the context of AHI containment and preparedness measures to-date |
| 9:45 – 11:00 | Short briefings by agencies on the AHI preparedness measures that they have taken so far |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | Coffee break |
| 11:20 – 13:00 | Discussion on potential scenarios |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Discussion, cont.d |
| 15:00 – 15:20 | Coffee break |
| 15:20 – 17:00 | Discussion on issues to be addressed at the Technical Consultation |