

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
60th MEETING**

**21-22 March 2005
WFP Rome**

**CAP:
Needs Analysis Framework**

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Background

In line with the IASC Work Plan for Strengthening the CAP (2002), the IASC CAP SWG has placed particular emphasis on strengthening the analysis of needs. In 2003 a Needs Assessment Framework and Matrix (NAFM) was developed, with a three-fold purpose: a) to organise existing needs assessment information in a consistent way;¹ b) to provide a platform to discuss needs and identify priorities, in particular for the CAP; and c) to help program in accordance with priorities. In 2004, the Matrix was piloted in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, and the DRC. Thereafter, the Matrix was revised on the basis of lessons learned and comments received from participating agencies. Further to this pilot, the IASC CAP Sub-Working Group and colleagues in the field proposed to extend this initiative in 2005 to the occupied Palestinian territories and Uganda.

Workshop

On 21 and 22 February 2005 a workshop on strengthening the analysis of needs was held in Geneva. Participants included representatives of a variety of organisations (UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross Movement), as well as of donor governments. Most participants came from the field, and particularly Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Uganda. The workshop aimed to draw lessons from the pilot testing of the NAFM in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, and DRC; ensure that IASC country teams understood and were familiar with the NAFM, its purpose, process and tools; and map out how to improve the analysis of needs in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, the occupied Palestinian territories, and Uganda in 2005.

Workshop Conclusions

Participants agreed on why this work is important (i.e. to help HCs/CTs reach a common understanding of humanitarian need and thereby better set priorities). Given that the work relies on a framework to organise and analyse information on needs, it would, henceforth, be called Needs Analysis Framework (NAF).

¹ It is understood that needs assessments carried out by aid agencies rely on thorough consultation with local populations and aim to boost local and national capacities.

Participants expressed their commitment to improving the analysis of needs in their respective countries, stated that the NAF was straightforward, and drafted implementation plans which would be discussed and refined at the country level.

Donors, in particular ECHO and USAID, stressed that this process is a major opportunity for the humanitarian community to increase its credibility and visibility. Donors considered the work done very important, and expressed the hope that the process would motivate the donor community to live up to the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles to fund according to need.

Proposed Actions by the IASC WG members:

- Give full support to the Needs Analysis Framework and work with their representatives in the field to ensure NAF's successful application in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, oPt and Uganda during 2005
- Require a status report on the NAF's application at the next WG meeting

Prepared by: OCHA, March 2005