

**IASC In-Country Team Self-Assessment Tool
for Natural Disaster Response Preparedness**

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The term IASC In-Country Team is used throughout this paper to represent the IASC-type structure at field level. As at headquarters, this should be composed of the representatives of all fourteen leading UN and non-UN humanitarian agencies and three NGO consortia.¹

Area of Preparedness	Questions-checklist	Selected resources
1. National Capacity Inventory	<p>What resources does Government have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional “architecture” for risk management (government, private sector, NGOs, civil society groups, National Plan) • Participation of stakeholders • Legal framework clear • National budget allocations • Sub-regional bodies in existence • Government’s readiness level (stockpiles, logistics/communications) • Government’s willingness & capacity to receive assistance or to respond alone • Modalities for requesting international assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Map and Capacity Inventory in Central America, 1999 (Oxfam) • UN/ISDR National platforms and Country Profiles for “Disaster Risk Reduction” 1994/2004: http://www.unisdr.org/eng/country-inform/introduction.htm • UNDAC national disaster response preparedness assessment missions (i.e. Guatemala, Mongolia, Georgia, Philippines etc.) • UNDP and UNEP disaster risk index analysis tool: http://gridca.grid.unep.ch/undp/

¹ FAO, ICRC, ICVA, IFRC, Inter-Action, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, Office of the RSG-HR/IDPs, SCHR. UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and the World Bank.

<p>2. IASC In-Country Team awareness</p>	<p>Do all IASC In-Country Team members share a common vision and awareness about disasters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared understanding of risk management in the context of the country’s current situation, links between development practices and vulnerabilities • Mandate and vision of each agency defined • Acceptance by each member of real possibility of emergency on their watch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Guide for UN RCs in relation to Natural Disaster Situations (OCHA) • “Disaster Risk Reduction”, Humanitarian Practice Network, ODI • “At risk”, Wisner, Ben, Cannon , Terry et al. , Routledge, • “Disaster and Development”, Cuny, Fred, 1983, Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK • “Living With Risk, A global review of disaster reduction initiatives” (UN/ISDR) • “Reducing disaster risk: a challenge for development”, UNDP
<p>3. Hazard Identification, Monitoring and Early Warning</p>	<p>Is the IASC In-Country Team informed about risk levels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural risks identified & prioritized • Disaster prone areas mapped • History, incidence & scale researched • Scientific experts & institutions contacted • Links with early warning systems (local, regional, global) established • Monitoring mechanism within the IASC In-Country Team established and updated regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP/DEWA/GRID-Europe, UN/ISDR (on-line hazards maps and vulnerability information): http://www.grid.unep.ch/activities/earlywarning/preview/ • Promotion of EW (Early Warning) systems: www.unisdr.org/ppew • Tsunami EW and mitigation system for the Indian Ocean: http://www.cred.be/sitemap.htm • Regional forecast of El Niño phenomenon: http://www.ciifen-int.org/ • Global portal on environment and disaster data: http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/ • Information and data on disasters: http://www.cred.be/sitemap.htm • www.reliefweb.int • www.hewsweb.org • www.noaa.gov • www.usgs.gov • www.fews.net • www.fao.org/giews • www.fao.org/news/global/locusts • “Reducing disaster risk: a challenge for development”, UNDP

<p>4. Vulnerability Assessment</p>	<p>Is the IASC In-Country Team aware of vulnerabilities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on poverty levels gathered • Most vulnerable groups mapped geographically (including minorities) • Socio-economic & cultural practices that raise vulnerability identified • Risks and vulnerabilities triangulated to identify geographic “hot spots” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Development Report • Government census • VAM (Vulnerability Risk Assessment), WFP • EpiMap (Expanded Programme on Immunization), EpiInfo: http://www.who.int/vaccines-surveillance/tools.htm, WHO • DevInfo (Development Information System), UNICEF • VCA (Vulnerability Capacity Assessment), IFRC • CRA (Comparative Risk Assessment), www.proventionconsortium.org • EIA (Environnemental Impact Assessment), Joint OCHA/UNEP Environment Unit
<p>5. Contingency Planning</p>	<p>Is the IASC In-Country Team prepared for contingencies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the UNCT have an inter-agency Contingency Plan for natural disasters? • National counterpart(s) involved in risk planning • Regular meetings held with partners • Risk map updated • Scenarios built, probabilities assigned • Triggering factors to implement emergency response established • Human resource, logistics and funding needs for most likely scenarios developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IASC Contingency Planning guidelines • DMTP module on disaster preparedness • IASC Sub-Working Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning • WFP guidelines

<p>6. Capacity Inventory: Human, Financial and Material Resources</p>	<p>What resources does the IASC In-Country Team have at hand?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCA-UNDAF incorporates disaster risk management • Access to technical support • Natural disasters focal point exists in the country team • Disaster plan for each agency updated and tested • Disaster experience of IASC In-Country Team members identified • Access to emergency funding • Awareness of available services, tools and mechanisms • Information management platforms following disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCHA 24/7 duty system • Rapid deployments: OCHA: UNDAC (UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams). IFRC: FACT (Field Assessment and Coordination Team), RDRT (Regional Disaster Response Team), ERU (Emergency Response Units), NDRT (National Disaster Response Team) etc. • IHP (International Humanitarian Partnership), support modules and packages, OCHA • OCHA/UNDP Regional Disaster Response Advisors, IFRC Regional Disaster Management coordinators • INSARAG (International Urban Search and Rescue), OCHA • Civil-Military Coordination – CMCoord Officers, OCHA • UNHAS (UN Humanitarian Air Service), WFP • UNJLC (UN Joint Logistics Centre), WFP • HIC (Humanitarian Information Centre), OCHA • Environmental Expertise, OCHA • Emergency Cash Grants (OCHA, UNDP, etc.), DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund), IFRC. • Reliefweb, IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Networks), OCHA • UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Brindisi (stockpiles of emergency items), OCHA • IFRC regional stockpiles • NGO stockpiles • OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordination Centre), on-site and virtual, OCHA
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<p>7. Logistics/ IT / Communications</p>	<p>What logistical means and resources are available to the IASC In-Country Team?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of transportation means available in country • Inventory of each agency’s capacity in radio and satellite communications • Inventory of storage-handling options • Inventory of transport and hubs in neighbouring countries • Awareness of customs procedures for incoming relief workers or in-kind contributions and international agreements governing use of emergency telecommunication in disasters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMTP module on logistics • UNJLC • WFP • PAHO/SUMA Logistics Support Systems • Inter-Agency Emergency Logistics (IASC) • FITTEST (Fast IT & Telecommunications Emergency & Support Team) • Model Agreement on Customs Facilitation/Tampere Convention, OCHA • HLS (Humanitarian Logistics Systems), IFRC
<p>8. Partnerships</p>	<p>What partners does the IASC In-Country Team have at hand?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National emergency management agency & key local contacts identified • MOUs established with implementing NGOs in key emergency sectors • Prior arrangements agreed upon with major private sector actors regarding involvement in disaster relief efforts • Standby agreements in place with suppliers to procure relief items locally • Overview of relief items frame agreements (in case of agreements by one company with more than one agency) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media (IRIN etc.) • Private sector • Military (see Civil Military Coordination “Oslo Guidelines” under 10) • Regional coordinating bodies with jurisdiction (e.g. CDERA, CEPREDENAC etc.)

<p>9. Coordinating Arrangements</p>	<p>How closely will the agencies collaborate in preparation and response?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear lines of authority between HC, IASC In-Country Team and agency technical staff • Breadth of Disaster Management Team established, including the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, NGOs, donors, private sector, government as desired • Lead agency identified in key sectors • Roles and responsibilities determined within each sector (e.g., health) • Minimum standards and key indicators in disaster response agreed upon • Common needs assessment tool for all agencies developed and joint assessments planned for • Information management platform agreed upon • Ground rules established for media contact and advocacy activities • MOSS compliance and common security plan available and updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IASC Guidelines • SPHERE, Humanitarian Charter and minimum standards • RCRC/NGO Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief • Eastern Caribbean Operations Order for Emergency Response • Ecuadorian UNETE model • OFDA Field Operations Guide • Needs Assessment guidelines (various) • DMTP module on Roles and Responsibilities of the UNDMT • Joint inter-agency appeals (Consolidated, Flash, etc.) • OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordination Centre) on-site and virtual, OCHA • HIC (Humanitarian Information Centre), Reliefweb, CHA
<p>10. HR /Training & Surge/Stand-by Capacity</p>	<p>What are each agency's mechanisms for scaling up personnel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for borrowing personnel from nearby offices • Role of regional advisors • Rosters of experienced disaster personnel updated • Mechanism for calling in support at the country team level established • Joint disaster preparedness training and simulation activities for agencies and counterparts • IASC In-Country Team members trained in risk management and response mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMTP • RDRAs (Regional Disaster Response Advisors): OCHA, UNDP, ISDR, IFRC) • OCHA's surge capacity/stand-by arrangements with partners • IFRC: Disaster Management Training courses (Basic Training Course, FACT, RDRT, NDRT training courses – see 6 above) • UNICEF Emergency Response training • UNHCR training • OCHA: EFCT (Emergency Field Coordination Training), UNDAC, CMCoord etc. training • PAHO Leaders course • WFP VAM (Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping) training • Simulation Exercises (Triplex etc.) • UNV

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RedR• UNHCR handbook• UNICEF manual• WHO emergency manual• Guidelines (INSARAG, CMCoord/Oslo, OSOCC etc.), OCHA• “When Disasters Strike. Executive Guide for UN Resident Coordinators in Relation to Natural Disasters Situation”, OCHA
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