

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE-WORKING GROUP
51st MEETING**

25-26 November 2002

**WHO Headquarters, Geneva
Room M505**

Agenda Item: Middle East

Circulated: 20 November 2002

IASC PREPAREDNESS MEETING

7-8 October 2002, Versoix, Switzerland

SUMMARY OF MEETING OUTPUTS

AGREEMENTS AND OUTPUTS

- Agreement on indicative planning figures at the regional level
- Principle agreement on humanitarian coordination framework at the regional level, including agreement on follow up coordination measures for the interim linking UNCTs, Regional Directors, and a Crisis Support Group (OCHA / IASC RG - GVA)
- As part of a common UN strategy of UNCTs in bordering countries, agreement was reached on UNHCR's lead role in responding to potential refugee crises and advocating in favour of asylum seekers at the border;
- It was also agreed that such an approach should be complemented and balanced with the humanitarian imperative to extend protection and assistance to other persons in need. The latter would allow for the UN humanitarian agencies and UNHCR to commence cross-border support operations in the event there is a failure to successfully negotiate freedom of movement between countries with the governments involved
- Principle agreement for the Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq to advocate on behalf of IDPs and that emergency response would be organized on the basis of collaborative arrangements among UN humanitarian agencies and partners.
- Agreement on the initial activation of common inter-agency services (JLC, telecommunications and HIC) taking into account the need to build on and complement initiatives underway at the country level, as well as existing networks
- Agreement on the definition of the region of concern (immediate and broader)
- Preliminary agreement on the possible location of a regional UN operational centre (Cairo, Amman or Geneva)
- Agreement on possible co-location of UN agencies in newly established locations
- Agreement on closer consultation on security and contingency measures with UNSECOORD
- Agreement on joint advocacy
- Agreement on developing a coordinated PI strategy
- Agreement on joint follow up action and outputs (including framework document, details of agency standing operational capacity and projected costs of the main operational agencies based on the one-month preparedness and five-month follow up plan).

- Agreement on close monitoring of broader region
- Agreement on the creation of a task force on Mine Awareness led by UNMAS
- Agreement on a meeting to be undertaken between UNHCR / OCHA / ICRC and other interested agencies on IHL and International Refugee Law
- Initial outline of UN Agencies' presence in the region (Regional Operations Map)

PENDING ISSUES AND MAJOR CONSTRAINTS

- Establishment of greater interaction and coordination with OIP and UNOCHI is essential to enhancing preparedness and to forge a comprehensive framework and
- Absence of preparedness funding is the main single constraint for enhancing agencies' capacity and readiness to respond in the event of a major crisis
- strategy
- Issue of CBW is an area where further guidance is urgently required as it may impact on staff safety and security, as well as on commodities (contamination). No entity has a global mandate for providing normative and security guidance on this matter
- Clarification of the use of 2.2 % funds from OIP, as well as of the possible use of commodities and stocks;
- Clarification regarding the use of CERF for preparedness activities

FOLLOW UP

By 18 October, the following information to be received by the CG from the Agencies' RBs and the UNCTs in the region:

- Regional capacity and existing stocks (current preparedness level) from regional and country teams
- Planned operational costs based on one month preparedness and five months operations (caseloads as per the agreed figures)
- Sector coordination chart at the UNCT level to be channel through the Regional Director

To be implemented asap:

- Follow up missions to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia (OCHA/IASC RG)
- Proposed technical humanitarian preparedness support capacity to country teams in Iran and Turkey (for coordination activity support OCHA / UNDP)
- Revise HIC proposal to layout rapid commencement of a virtual HIC and identification of staff (to be located in GVA) (OCHA/Agencies)
- Activation of initial UNJLC (WFP/Interagency)
- Activation of Emergency telecom activities (WFP/Interagency)
- Identification of funding mechanisms and sources for the above (OCHA)
- Development of Joint advocacy strategy
- Development of Joint PI strategy (Interagency Task Force, led by UNHCR)