

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
56th MEETING**

**11-12 February 2004
Auditorium
WFP Headquarters, Rome**

**Update on the work of the IASC subsidiary bodies: TF on Strengthening
Field Information Management-Workplan for 2004**

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In line with its Terms of Reference, the TF plans to provide the IASC WG with the following products in 2004 to facilitate the prioritization, selection and classification of data and improve field information management in emergency settings.

- By the *end of December 2003*, the TF will provide the IASC WG with a list of relevant focal points within each agency for information management in humanitarian crises.
- In *February 2004*, the TF will present to the IASC WG the results and recommendations from the *Desk Survey on Humanitarian Information Management in recent crises*, which looks at if and how information needs were met (or not met), main constraints faced and solutions implemented. The Survey will cover countries where HIC operated and others where it didn't, such as Kosovo, Afghanistan, Liberia, Iraq, DRC, Sudan, Burundi, Horn of Africa, Southern Africa and Mozambique (floods) and target for each of these emergency settings 2 to 4 persons in each agency, including senior managers, programme staff, logisticians and vulnerability assessment staff. The Survey will also include individual NGOs: Save the Children, MSF, IRC and Oxfam, the Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and donors: OFDA, DFID and ECHO.
- In *November 2004*, the TF will make recommendations to the IASC WG on good practice, use and applicability of common field information sharing mechanisms based on a TF review of the results of the *OCHA Symposium on Best Practices in Humanitarian Information Exchange*, Geneva, 5-8 February 2002 and the *Survey on Humanitarian Information Management in recent Crises*.
- By *November 2004*, the TF will share with the IASC agreed inter-agency standards on metadata as the simplest and most achievable way to improve the inter-operability and sharing of information.

Proposed Action Points/Decisions by IASC-WG:

- * To review and endorse the proposed workplan for 2004.