INTER–AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
55th MEETING

12-13 November 2003

IFRC Headquarters, Geneva
Auditorium (Basement)

IASC TF on HIV/AIDS in Emergency Settings: Background Note

Circulated: 3 November 2003

1 - Achievements of the TF in 2003

A Development of the Guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings

The Guidelines are now finished after having gone through the following process:

- agreement on the content of the Matrix that includes 10 sectors
- development of the Action Sheets by respective agencies in their field of expertise
- circulation of the document a first time between all the members of the IASC Task Force on HIV/AIDS in emergency settings (TF) for their comments
- once everyone agreed on the content, the document was edited and a draft version was published in July, together with a CD ROM.
- the field peer-review took place in August- September.
 - all comments received from the peer-review were then collated and integrated in the final text.
- the Guidelines are now published together with a CD ROM

B Advocacy

During the last IASC WG meeting, in Rome, UNAIDS was asked to get more involved in the TF. As a result, UNAIDS took the leadership in the field of advocacy. A sub-working group was set-up and the following results were achieved:

- **e-Workspace created**
  81 documents and 12 links have been posted to the e-workspace. All materials were supplied by UNAIDS with the exception of one document from IFRC. Supporting documents relating to the advocacy sub working group have also been posted.
- **Key messages drafted**
  Interim key messages were produced and circulated to all members.
- **4 fact sheets were drafted:**
  Initial round of comments is being incorporated and final fact sheets are expected to be finalized before end 2003.

  i)   HIV/AIDS in emergency settings: Overview
  ii)   HIV/AIDS in emergency settings Children
  iii)   HIV/AIDS in emergency settings Women
  iv)   HIV/AIDS in emergency settings Food

C Training module

The members of the TF have identified training as one of their main joint strategic planning activity for 2003. While it is recognized that a number of training programmes and tools have been developed by the member agencies and others, most of them are agency or sectorally-specific, highly technical and not designed for the use of general humanitarian and development actors.

The UN Disaster Management Training Programme (DMTP) was approached to explore the possibilities of using the DMTP platform to develop a training module to address response to the HIV/AIDS problem in a crisis setting, with a multi-sectoral perspective, both for humanitarian and development actors. The DMTP Secretariat agreed to provide this platform to coordinate the formulation of the module. It will be designed for a wide audience of humanitarian and development workers from UN Country Teams, national authorities, NGO's and other stakeholders who are not necessarily skilled in the technical aspects of HIV/AIDS. Its language, therefore, will be simple and straightforward in order to become a user-friendly tool to include HIV/AIDS concerns in the response and recovery to crises.

The module will be a stand-alone type and can be added to other training. A CD ROM for self teaching will also be developed for those who cannot go to a training session. The consultant has been identified and will soon be contracted.

2 - Opportunities

The TF has participated in the ICASA Conference to present the Guidelines in a roundtable on HIV in conflicts situations and a satellite meeting on the crisis in Southern Africa. It has linked with RIACSO for this issue. It is also member of a working group lead by IOM and UNHCR to prepare presentations on Population Mobility and HIV/AIDS at the International AIDS Conference on HIV/AIDS in Bangkok. Presentation to ECHO on the Guidelines and the minimum response to emergency situations will be done in December.

3 - Constraints

Financial resources needed for the development of the different parts has not been forthcoming. In the present state, it is impossible to finalize the work. It is hoped that next year will see a stronger financial support from the partners. The total sum needed to complete the task was 178.000 $. Only 92.000 were pledged or donated. That has certainly limited and slow down the development of the advocacy and training part. A clear mechanism for funding the TF activities is not in place and repeated requests to the agencies have not improved the situation.

4 - **Work plan 2004**

Objectives

1- Distribute widely and use the Guidelines to perform the field testing
2 -Integrate a core training module on HIV/AIDS in emergency settings into existing packages and materials
3 – Mobilise political will and commitment at national and global levels to respond to HIV/AIDS in emergency settings
4 – Build support, capacity and responsibility for HIV/AIDS in emergency settings amongst the humanitarian community

First background document on the agenda item of TF on HIV/AIDS in Emergency Settings

1- Distribute widely and use the Guidelines to perform the field testing

Expected output	Activity	Benchmarks	Timeframe	Lead agency	Resources
All field humanitarian actors receive the Guidelines	All TF members distribute the guidelines on their constituency	Guidelines available in regional and field offices	First trimester 2004	All TF members	3000 $
HIV Activities are integrated in relevant components of humanitarian interventions	TF members ensure that guidelines are used in emergency settings	Reports from the TF members of their activities in Emergency	End 2004	All TF members	
E-workspace active and three countries are selected to participate in the field testing	Field testing materials developed and shared through e-workspace and field visits	E-workspace used for preparing questions etc… Field visits in three countries to follow-up field testing	September 2004	Chair of TF (?)	20000 $
Final version of the guidelines produced and translated	Revision of the guidelines following the field testing	Questionnaires and field workshops	Third quarter 2005	Chair of TF (?)	30000 $

2 – Mobilise political will and commitment at national and global levels to respond to HIV/AIDS in emergency settings

The page is hosted on the UNAIDS website. It can be linked to the IASC website and to all partner websites.	Web page		First trimester 2004		10000 $
A presentation highlighting the links between AIDS and emergencies mostly for advocacy use with donor governments	PowerPoint presentation	Presentation shared between all TF available either as a stand-alone or to be used in conjunction with other, broader presentations, for example on the guidelines or on the corporate missions of partners.	First trimester 2004	UNAIDS	5000 $
A brochure produced with a focus on raising funds for AIDS and emergencies from donor governments and distributed.	Brochure/flyer	Brochure adapted to needs of different agencies	Second trimester 2004	UNAIDS	10000 $
If requested	Translation of materials			UNAIDS	6000 $
SWG is field posted with all agencies involved within	Transfer of activities for South Africa	Discussion with sub group advocacy on possibility to transfer activities	First part 2004	UNAIDS and all agencies of the SWA	?

RIACSO to devise advocacy strategy and develop materials that work in the context of AIDS emergencies					

3 –Develop / Integrate a core training module on HIV/AIDS in emergency settings into existing training courses and materials

	Hiring of a consultant		End November 2003	UNDP (DMTP)	
All documents relevant to the training modules are identified and selected	An inventory of existing training initiatives on HIV/AIDS will be conducted in the framework of the TF, to facilitate the production of the new module		March 2004		30000$
Training module and CD ROM available	Desktop production		June 2004		15000$

4 – Build support, capacity and responsibility for HIV/AIDS in emergency settings amongst the humanitarian community

Amended TOR of humanitarian personnel that includes responsibility on prevention and response to HIV/AIDS in ES	Recommend inclusion of the responsibility on response to HIV in emergency in the TOR and job descriptions of HC, RC and humanitarian workers	Detailed elements on prevention and response to HIV/AIDS in emergency settings are drafted for inclusion in the TOR of RC, HC and humanitarian workers, etc. showing responsibilities and inter-relationships between RC & HC	On going Finalised mid 2004	IASC Secretariat/ OCHA/UN DP	?

Proposed actions/decisions by the IASC WG:

- **Support and facilitate dissemination of the guidelines amongst members and other partners (especially donors in the humanitarian field)**
- **Decide upon the continuation of the mandate of the Task force**
- **Link with 3 by 5 WHO Initiative to explore ARV provision in emergency settings**
- **Commit for enhanced financial support for the work of the Taskforce**