

**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 Natural Disasters  
Workplan 2004**

**Circulated: 28 January 2004**

**Phase I : January – February 2004**

- 1. Review of conclusions and recommendations of the IASC Reference Group on Natural Disasters of May 2000. Identification of achievements and remaining as well as new/additional priorities. Elaboration of Terms of Reference for the Pilot Project, including a questionnaire which will form the basis of the Project.**

**Partly implemented/ongoing**

Review achieved at a Workshop conducted by the TFND in January 2004. The remaining (and new) priorities from the 2000 recommendations will be used as the basis for Terms of Reference and a questionnaire, which is being developed for the implementation of the Pilot Project, to serve as an initial framework for evaluating the state of preparedness to natural disaster situations (see Review Note – Attachment I).

- 2. Identify Priority Countries. Based on mutually agreed upon criteria and sources, compose a list of countries most vulnerable to sudden onset natural disasters.**

**Implemented**

A provisional list of ten disaster-prone countries has been agreed upon (Attachment II). In addition to being disaster prone, other criteria for the selection of countries included social vulnerability, the absence of a complex emergency, value added in terms of enhanced emergency response capacity of UN/international assistance. From the list, a final group of 5-6 will be selected for the purpose of the Pilot Project, based on feasibility as well as commitment of DMTs.

**3. Elaborate TORs and the methodology for the Pilot Project.**

**Ongoing/Implemented**

Partly achieved at a Workshop conducted by the TFND in January 2004. Semi-structured interviews have been adopted as the working method for the Pilot Project. TORs under development. The TFND will work on developing a list of all individual IASC agencies' capacities, mechanisms and tools for readiness in the area of disaster response/preparedness, relevant to their ability to support the national emergency management authorities and civil society. The TFND will draw on the IASC work in areas such as Preparedness and Contingency Planning, Information Management, Common IASC Tools and Services and Telecommunications and will liaise with subsidiary bodies as appropriate.

**4. Engage selected countries in the Pilot Project.**

**To be accomplished**

**Action:** The Chair, IASC WG, to write to selected countries' RCs inviting them to participate in the Pilot Project. Final selection to be confirmed by end February 2004.

**5. Identify resources/opportunities within individual agencies, for the implementation of the Pilot Project.**

**Ongoing**

The Task Force is in the process of defining the exact approach to the Pilot Project in terms of implementation. To this end, agencies are in the process of identifying human resources as well as opportunities for implementation of the project in selected countries back-to-back with already planned events (i.e. Iran Bam Workshop in April 2004, DMTP course in Nepal in March/April 2004) and other missions. In addition, existing networks such as the Regional Advisors (UNDP, ISDR, OCHA) and Preparedness Regional Advisors (WFP) will be approached and other possibilities explored for the implementation of the Pilot Project, without the need for mobilizing additional resources.

**Phase II: February – October 2004**

**6. Conduct Pilot Project to review IASC members' capacities and tools for disaster response and response preparedness. Conduct a survey of disaster preparedness and response measures in selected disaster prone countries. Critically evaluate existing response and response preparedness mechanisms within the IASC, and recommend measures of support necessary to further develop/enhance capacities of IASC mechanisms to respond to sudden-onset natural disasters, at headquarters, regional and national levels. Suggest concrete methods of implementation of recommended actions, with clearly defined areas of responsibility and corresponding timeframes.**

**Final Outcome: November 2004**

7. Presentation of the Pilot Project's findings to the IASC WG meeting in November 2004.

**Proposed Action Points/Decisions by IASC-WG:**

- \* To review and endorse the proposed Workplan for 2004.

Prepared by: IASC TF on Natural Disasters