

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
57th MEETING**

**16-17 June 2004
Room XII
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

CAP: Update on the Work of the CAP Sub-Working Group, June 2004

Circulated: 9 June 2004

Training

CAP policies and guidelines are constantly evolving to reflect good practice from the field, lessons learned, and IASC consensus on key issues. Consequently, the CAP training and facilitation programme also continues to develop to ensure that the field is equipped to make the best use of available tools and guidance. Between March and September 2004, eighteen CAP workshops are scheduled for the field. These will be led by inter-agency facilitators from various agencies. The workshops aim primarily to help country teams establish or strengthen inclusive strategic planning and programming. Major developments in the CAP training and facilitation tools this year are: an introduction to the new needs assessment framework and matrix; increased focus on prioritisation and project peer reviews; and renewed emphasis on strategic monitoring. (For a list of CAP field workshops and to view the revised CAP training and facilitation tools, visit www.reliefweb.int/cap.) Agencies are encouraged to put forward qualified and experienced staff members to become CAP trainers.

Needs Assessment Framework and Matrix (NAFM)

Following critiques about how the humanitarian system assesses need (see, for example, *According to Need?* Overseas Development Institute, 2003) and in particular about the deficit of objective needs assessment data in formats that are comparable across crises, the CAP Sub-working Group developed the Needs Assessment Framework and Matrix (NAFM) which is now being piloted in Burundi and DR Congo. The NAFM is a way in which to organise assessment data consistently and transparently, and combine evidence and judgement about the severity of a situation, thereby providing a platform for analysis and prioritisation. Following this pilot experience, modifications can be expected after which the NAFM will be disseminated more widely. It is planned that the NAFM becomes a standard tool for CAPs and improves the humanitarian community's ability compare need across crises.

Is the CAP Becoming More Inclusive?

Yes. Since 2000 there has been a steady increase in the number of NGOs and donors participating in the CAP each year. Perhaps most importantly, NGOs are increasingly involved in the CAP cycle of: analysing context and building scenarios, assessing needs, setting goals, identifying roles and responsibilities, planning and implementing a coordinated programme, and monitoring and reporting. The extent to which NGOs are including their projects in the CAP has increased, also. In 2000 just two CAPs included NGO projects and this has grown steadily to sixteen, or about 65% of CAPs, this year. As for donors, they are increasingly involved at the field level in CAP workshops and the number of governments

First background document on the agenda item of CAP

contributing to CAPs was: 30 in 1999 and 2000; 43 in 2001; 51 in 2002; 57 in 2003; and 32 so far in 2004. *Non-OECD states represent the bulk of these new donors.*

Prepared by: OCHA CAP Section, June 2004