

IASC Secretariat
18th WG - DMTP Inter-Agency Consultation - Sum Rec (May 95)

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP XVIII MEETING
8 May 1995, IOM, Geneva

SUMMARY RECORD
from the DMTP Inter-Agency Consultation
2 May 1995, Geneva

Item Agenda No. 2

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- 0.1 An informal brainstorming meeting was held on 2 May 95 with UN agencies collaborating with DMTP. The meeting was attended by: FAO, UNHCR, CHR, UNV, UNICEF, IASU-DHA/WFP, UNDP, DHA. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. F. Verhagen of DHA.
- 0.2 It was underscored that DMTP has had to function in an uncertain environment since phase 2 of DMTP was formally approved by donors in November 94. It had not been possible to follow through on all intentions and, with some degree of humility, DMTP management had to accept that it was not able to take all on board as it would have liked. Agencies had meanwhile often progressed with their activities in this area. The importance was stressed of agency participation in DMTP and the openness of management with regard to the ways, whether advisory or more direct, in which agencies could contribute and influence the course of DMTP events. In agreement with comments made on earlier occasions by agencies, it was suggested that there was a need for a separate though connected sphere of activity to focus exclusively on training needs in the coordination of field support in complex emergencies. This activity would be facilitated by DHA with the full involvement of all interested agencies.
- 0.3 UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP expressed support for this approach. The need for DMTP, especially at the country level, remained important but the need to address complex emergency capacity building within the UN itself had still to be dealt with satisfactorily. The new proposal, they felt, could do that.

- 0.4 It was provisionally agreed that 2 Advisory Core Groups would be set up with the participation of interested agencies to serve the 2 different spheres, namely DMTP and complex emergencies. It was agreed that in time one Core Group might suffice for both. It was also agreed that since truly significant interagency coordination takes place at the field level, the HQs responsibility is often to ensure that occurs. The need for DMTP to act as a clearing house on information concerning the activities of participating agencies was emphasised. The meeting was informed that fact sheets would be completed with agencies reflecting those activities. The suggestion was also made that agency personnel participate in each others' training activities.
- 0.5 Regarding the newly proposed sphere of activity in complex emergencies it was agreed that the challenge will be to define the areas in which training is to be offered, even if policy decisions are not all in place. Training activities of this sort can clearly be a bridge between policy makers and field users. It was stated that it is important too to build system-wide with the initiatives that have been taken already by individual agencies, e.g. in stress management training. Finally in this area it was agreed that the best approach may well be to share common practices first in a pragmatic manner, leading possibly in due course to policies being better clarified in the process.
- 0.6 A key to the successful coordination between agencies that all were hoping for would be a flexible approach that will allow the differences of agency structure, needs and programmes to be accommodated. The details of how this will be done will be reviewed at a forthcoming working meeting to be attended both by Emergency Management Focal Points and by agency training specialists. This meeting is currently scheduled for 2 June but may be moved forward by a few days for the convenience of persons attending in Geneva at that time the CCAQ meeting on training. It was requested that a) an agenda be prepared before this meeting , and b) that the Terms of Reference of the Core Groups be circulated beforehand too.