

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE  
WORKING GROUP  
XX<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
29 November 1995 UNDP, New York**

**JIU REPORT**

**"THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN PROVIDING AND  
COORDINATING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE"**

Further to discussions between DHA and the JIU Secretariat concerning the above Report prepared by Inspector Daes, it appears that this is a system-wide report. According to established procedure, the formal comments on the Report should be processed through the ACC machinery. Specifically, the JIU advises that the Report is of primary concern to the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly. It is within this context that the IASC is requested to provide comments so that these may be submitted via the ACC to the concerned inter-governmental bodies.

Since UN bodies concerned with humanitarian activities have been involved in the preparation of this Report, it is proposed that the Working Group review those Recommendations which relate directly to the work of the IASC.

Recommendations which relate specifically to the work of the IASC, as listed under the executive summary of the JIU Report, include:

**Global Policy Agreement**

*Recommendation 1:* The Department of Humanitarian Affairs, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee arrangements, and executive heads and governing bodies of the concerned United Nations agencies, should adopt a global policy agreement with common strategies and clearly defined objectives for humanitarian assistance programmes . . . . . "

**Participation of Civilian Component**

**Recommendation 3:** The Inter-Agency Standing Committee should accelerate procedures to increase the participation of the organized civilian component in complex emergencies . . . . ."

### **Lateral Cooperation with other Coordination Mechanisms of the System**

**Recommendation 4:** The Inter-Agency Standing Committee should increase lateral cooperation with other coordination mechanisms of the System, including the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Joint Consultative Group on Policy . . . . ."

### **Preparedness for Relief Operations for both Natural and Complex Emergencies**

**Recommendation 5:** The Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in its coordination role, should increase its efforts to establish planning frameworks for relief operations for both natural and complex emergencies before an emergency in the field occurs . . . . ."

### **Tightening of Field Coordination**

**Recommendation 6:** The organizations of the United Nations system should increase efforts to tighten field coordination . . . . ."

### **Improvement of the CAP Guidelines**

**Recommendation 7:** The Department of Humanitarian Affairs should improve its guidelines for the Consolidated Appeal Process . . . . . Agencies which do not participate in the Consolidated Appeal Process should be discouraged from receiving access to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and should be held responsible for projections made as to their requirements . . . . ."

### **Assessment of Humanitarian Assistance Operations**

**Recommendation 8:** The Inter-Agency Standing Committee should create a workshop composed of experts from all the participating relief agencies and non-

governmental agencies. It should be convened at least twice a year to assess the status and progress of all humanitarian assistance operations under way . . . . . "

### **Inter-Agency early warning centre**

**Recommendation 10:** The Secretary-General should establish an Inter-Agency early warning centre, which would have access to all early warning information available throughout the United Nations system as a means to alert decision makers and to mobilize an early response. The Humanitarian Early Warning System or HEWS, is an important step in that direction which should be a central element of such an early warning centre . . . . . "

### **Field Coordination**

**Recommendation 11:** Coordination is essential, particularly where multiple partners and peace-keeping operations are involved in the field, and should be administered by consensus. This coordination should provide support role and back-stopping to the operations agencies as they perform their functions according to an identified and agreed-upon distribution of labour. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs should retain and strengthen its coordination role, but not overlap with operational agencies despite lacunae in mandates."

### **CERF**

**Recommendation 12:** Member Governments might wish to reconsider increasing the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) by an additional US\$ 30 million, for rehabilitation and transitional phases of relief operations . . . . . "