

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP
XXTH MEETING**

29 November 1995 UNDP, New York

**FOLLOW-UP ON IASC DECISIONS:
SIERRA LEONE, RWANDA AND BURUNDI, SOMALIA and SUDAN**

SIERRA LEONE

1. As recommended by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the UN Resident Coordinator has been appointed as UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sierra Leone. Also, recruitment of personnel to staff the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit is underway and are expected to be deployment in early December.

RWANDA and BURUNDI (GREAT LAKES REGION)

1. Contingency Planning: The IASC at its meeting of 4 June 1995 requested that DHA review the level of planning of UN agencies to address various contingencies. System-wide contingency planning exercises in both Burundi and Rwanda are being elaborated. UN Agencies in Burundi have requested the UN Humanitarian Coordinator's office in Bujumbura to assist them in finalizing a system-wide plan, with which NGO efforts are being combined. In Rwanda, UNICEF has taken the lead in elaborating a methodology for contingency planning, and Agency efforts are to be combined into an overall plan.
2. With regard to the 1996 Consolidated Appeal, the newly established Regional Integrated Network (IRIN) has assumed overall responsibility for the preparation of the Consolidated Appeal.
 - the compilation of information and proposals from all concerned agencies on the ground in being undertaken by the office of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Rwanda and Burundi and the process is near finalization. As some questions have been raised by the Government on the whole process efforts are therefore underway both to explain to the GOR that the appeal is supportive of GOR's plans, and to clarify that funds requested for humanitarian purposes are not sourced from development budgets.

- the draft appeal document will be sent from agencies in-country to their headquarters for review by the end of November 1995. The final draft is to be distributed by DHA at the beginning of December 1995. An Inter-Agency meeting in Nairobi, to be held at the beginning of December, is also being considered.

3. DHA field structures: The UN Humanitarian Coordinators in Rwanda and Burundi are being supported by small DHA teams of three to four persons. Essential positions, to ensure an effective coordination structure, are those of Senior Humanitarian Advisor, Field Officer and Information Officer.

- in Burundi, two positions have been filled. Funding has also been secured until March 1996. A suitable candidate for the position of Senior Humanitarian Advisor is currently being considered.
- in Rwanda, the current needs of the coordination structure are specific and reflect a reduced DHA role in coordination of humanitarian activities. A proposal from the Humanitarian Coordinator has included an additional NGO Liaison Officer and one officer for coordination support. As agreed between the Humanitarian Coordinator and USG Hansen, a proposal for coordination assistance (for Rwanda and Burundi) is to be incorporated in the Special Appeal.

SOMALIA

1. In light of the concern expressed about the security situation in Somalia, the IASC agreed that DHA should receive input directly from the agencies on their perceptions about future operations in Somalia and issues to be addressed.
2. On 7 November 1995, USG Hansen requested IASC members instruct their representatives in Somalia to provide DHA, through the Humanitarian Coordinator, with an analysis of humanitarian needs, access, and security conditions - with a view to formulating recommendations on these three issues. The letter also stated that on the basis of the recommendations presented, Mr. Hansen would decide whether an inter-agency mission should be sent to Somalia to discuss with the Humanitarian Coordinator issues arising from this assessment.
3. Aside from contributions from InterAction, no inputs have been received from the IASC members since the request went out from Mr. Hansen to provide DHA with feedback on agency perceptions regarding future activities in Somalia. The UN agencies have all indicated that these are forthcoming. InterAction's contributions have indicated that the

agencies feel that needs are growing in Somalia and that humanitarian relief agencies can continue to undertake activities in the country on a region by region basis.

4. The Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia has also sent a statement which reiterates the view that humanitarian needs are increasing, and that the continuation of preventative humanitarian and development intervene.

SUDAN

1. The UN Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan, Amb. Traxler, his mission to the Sudan on 22 November to attempt to secure the agreement of parties to the conflict on modalities for a resumption of talks on humanitarian access to areas of southern Sudan. An earlier mission this year, July/August was inconclusive in this regard. Amb. Traxler will proceed from Khartoum to Chukudum, a principal base of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, and then to Nairobi for talks with other rebel movement leaders.
2. Concerning the OLS Review, agreement was finally reached with the Government on the composition of the Review team. This will now consist of a Team Leader (Amb. A.H.S. Ataul Karim) and Technical Advisor (Dr. Mark Duffield), under which a six-person technical team will function.
3. Following consultations with DHA, 31 Oct. - 3 Nov., Amb. Karim and Dr. Duffield are undertaking a first mission to Khartoum in order to meet with Government, relief agency and donor officials. The Review will be a phased exercise that is expected to be completed within a six-month period. The first phase will run from late November to mid-December 1995, when pertinent aspects of the Review will be discussed with Government authorities, as well as with representatives of relief agencies and the donor community in Khartoum. Also during this period, substantive aspects will focus on preliminary information gathering and data collection. The collected information will be made available to the Team Economist and Senior Programme Officer (Food Security Analyst) for them to begin their work from late January to late March 1996 (effectively phase two of the Review). By the fourth week of March 1996, the beginning of phase three, the entire technical component of the Review Team should be in the "field". There will be briefing on the Team's preliminary findings and conclusions in late April - early May 1996. A final report is expected by early June 1996.