

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
8 September 1997

Item 3.4. Training: CETI

This report is submitted in accordance with the request by the IASC-WG meeting of 20 June 1997 that "another paper be produced that would put forward a more detailed proposal for CETI functions, institutional arrangements (i.e. structure and administrative arrangements) and financing options." This paper has been derived from dialogues with most of the members of CETI (visits to WFP, FAO and the UN Staff College were not possible).

The "IASC Approved Recommendations" as requested by ECOSOC Resolution 1995/56 stated in paragraph 58:

The Complex Emergency Training Initiative (CETI) should continue to facilitate and coordinate the preparation of training materials and identify additional training resources for field staff including orientation to the UN, preparation for mission assignment, including briefings for family members, and job specific training.

This paper attempts to clarify some of these concepts, to make recommendations and to request further advice from the IASC/WG.

I Functions

1: Information Exchange

The generation and sharing of information is seen by all persons interviewed as central to CETI's purpose, and perhaps its most important function. CETI is seen as "the main inter-agency forum in which training on general issues of humanitarian assistance is discussed." (E/1997/98, para. 70) The ReliefWeb training site, currently under joint management with DMTP, is slated for expansion. Several organizations outside of current membership have requested inclusion. A "list serve", which will function as an email newsletter for the broader humanitarian community, is currently under testing. It is expected to be operable by mid-September.

2: Training Materials Development

The *raison d'être* for CETI work in this area is to develop high quality materials which meet the approval of members, and to make these materials freely available. CETI can serve as a "centre of excellence-type capacity" by searching widely for sources of expertise in order

to produce the best quality materials and by continually reviewing these materials in the light of lessons learned and critiques of training events and programmes. Several training modules are nearing final draft, though no procedure is established for reaching final approval. This procedural issue must be addressed to provide authorization for the CETI secretariat to produce and distribute materials. (please refer to section V.2 below)

3: Catalyst for Training Activities

The IASC/WG at its meeting of 20 June decided that CETI should not build a delivery mechanism of its own, but should seek to "provide a catalytic role" for other institutions, in particular the UN Staff College. In this regard, the CETI secretariat has circulated a Staff College proposal for orientation training and has forwarded several requests to the Staff College from other CETI member and partner organizations. This role could be usefully expanded in accordance with the "IASC Approved Recommendations" quoted above.

II Membership and Participation

CETI membership parallels that of the IASC, and there has been no suggestion to expand this category. However, many have supported increased participation in CETI activities to include experts and institutions active in training for humanitarian assistance. Current non-member participation has been primarily by consultants for specific topics. Broadened participation from the humanitarian community could include regional bodies (such as ECHO), academic and training institutions, bi-lateral organizations and NGOs not currently represented by the three coalition members of the IASC but with substantial training programmes. Their participation could include attendance of meetings, participation in the web site, contributions to training materials development and participation in training events catalysed by CETI.

III Institutional Relationships

CETI is an inter-agency mechanism in support to response to humanitarian crises. It is multi-sectoral, relating to the wide variety of issues addressed by humanitarian affairs, and provides common services to the humanitarian community. As such, its institutional relationships are multiple. Its governance is from the IASC/WG and ownership of its activities by IASC members is seen as essential. Its geographic and institutional location will effect its functioning and should be carefully considered.

IV Personnel, Financial Requirements and Source of Funding

The CETI secretariat is currently staffed by one full-time professional with direction from the Chief of the DMTP/CETI Unit and part-time secretarial support. The Swiss Government

currently funds the entire CETI budget through its contributions to DHA for "DMTP/CETI activities". The Swiss Government has expressed interest in continuing to fund CETI if it remains in Geneva. To remain effective, ensured funding for essential CETI functions, including salaries, office expenses, etc., should be provided either from core budget or from Donor funding. Projects could be funded by donor or agency contributions.

V Recommendations from the CETI Secretariat

IASC/WG guidance is sought on the following:

- 1:** Capacity building for training in support to the inter-agency response to humanitarian crises should be seen as the primary function of CETI. CETI should not build a delivery mechanism of its own but should continue to catalyse others, in particular the UN Staff College, to fill critical training needs. In line with the concern expressed in the "IASC Approved Recommendations", emphasis should be on identifying and finding ways to meet the most glaring needs of field personnel.
- 2:** It is recommended that the IASC/WG decide that CETI training materials be agreed upon by consensus at CETI meetings, and then recommended to the IASC/WG for final approval. Further, that the UN Staff College be the privileged partner in publishing CETI training materials. These materials will then be made widely available to the humanitarian community.
- 3:** In line with an increased emphasis on information exchange and service to the humanitarian community as a whole, participation in CETI activities should be expanded to include the experts and institutions most active in training for humanitarian assistance who are not currently affiliated with an IASC member institution.
- 4:** It is likely that the Office of the ERC will retain responsibility for ensuring the facilitation of inter-agency training activities. CETI would naturally fall within this remit, and it is recommended that the CETI Secretariat be included within this structure. This option would maintain a neutral stance within the system and clearly separate its catalytic and information roles from the training delivery mechanisms of its members. It should maintain internal links to OERC Divisions: Information Management (for the ReliefWeb training site and list serve); IASC/ECHA Secretariat (for governance questions); and Policy and Analysis (training materials development and revision). Further, it should strengthen links to the UN Staff College as its primary partner for training materials development and inter-agency training delivery.