

IASC Secretariat
INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
27&28 November 1997

Item 4: Follow-up on CETI

Paper prepared by DHA

97/iasc-wg/XXX/4

This report is submitted in accordance with the request by the IASC-WG meeting of 9 September 1997 that a paper be produced to describe the institutional arrangements and functioning of the CETI Secretariat were it to be moved to the UN Staff College. The report has been derived from dialogues with the CETI Secretariat and UN Staff College management and staff.

I Background

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

"The Complex Emergency Training Initiative (CETI) CETI has since changed name to Crisis Environments Training Initiative to better encompass what the initiative is actually doing. 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."

The Summary Record of the 20 June 1997 meeting of the IASC-WG stated *inter alia*:

"CETI could usefully provide a catalytic role in capacitating another institution (the UN Staff College was particularly mentioned in this regard) to deliver training when the capacity to do so did not already exist, but CETI should not add a delivery role of its own."

The Summary Record of the 9 September 1997 meeting of the IASC-WG stated *inter alia*:

"It was decided that the CETI Secretariat should prepare a paper outlining where and how CETI could be located within the Staff College structure. It was also decided that a representative from the Staff College in Turin would be invited to the next IASC-WG in order to answer how the project envisioned the structural, geographical and administrative arrangements, if it were to take on responsibilities of CETI. Even if there

were to be a transfer of CETI to Turin, the ownership of CETI would remain with the IASC-WG."

II Current Status and Issues

Information Exchange

The generation and sharing of information has been seen by all persons consulted 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). There are several activities in which CETI is involved:

- 1 The **Inventory of Training Materials and Activities for Humanitarian Assistance** currently on ReliefWeb contains information on training resources from 22 humanitarian organizations. CETI will seek to update and expand the Inventory. The site will be opened to all organizations providing relevant training, include a calendar function and downloadable training materials.
- 2 A "**List Serve**", which will function as an e-mail newsletter on training for the broader humanitarian community, is technically operable and may be launched shortly.
- 3 **CETI Meetings** are currently limited to representatives of IASC member organizations and some technical advisers. Current non-IASC member participation has been primarily by consultants for specific topics. CETI meetings will in the future be of two kinds - the current steering group composed of the IASC membership and a broader forum for substantive exchanges on topics relevant to humanitarian training. Broadened participation from the humanitarian community will include regional bodies, academic and training institutions, bilateral 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 website and contributions to training materials development.

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. Existing training materials and resources are sought and reviewed for possible use in inter-agency contexts. If existing training materials are only partially suitable, agency representatives to CETI may decide to seek their adaptation for common use. Where materials are not in existence on a particular topic, agency representatives to CETI may decide to have new

materials developed. Expertise from both member agencies and external consultants have been used.

Advancing inter-agency training in areas of policy uncertainty has indeed proved to be difficult. Representatives come to CETI meetings with differing expectations in this area. Two modules (Conflict Transformation and Humanitarian Principles) are nearing final draft, others are only in proposal stage. No procedure is established for the production of training materials nor for reaching final approval. CETI will proceed with producing requested training material and seek IASC-WG endorsement on selected modules.

4 Training Modules

Current modules in preparation include:

Contingency Planning - Based on the UNHCR module which was donated to CETI for inter-agency use, this module has had an initial adaptation involving the addition of multi-sectoral and system-wide terminology. There exists currently no inter-agency policy or practice of joint contingency planning. Agencies agreed to appoint focal points for comments on this draft, but no comments have been received. CETI would propose to convene one or more expert group meetings to complete the module.

Consolidated Appeals Process - In outline stage. Inter-agency policy and practice are both in place, so that a standard production of training materials should be possible. The CAP Unit of DHA has committed itself to completing this task in a consultative manner.

Coordination - The current fourth draft, written by an outside consultant, has received only modest support from some CETI members and opposition from others. CETI proposes to restart the process from scratch, building a consensus document through a series of expert meetings.

Internally Displaced Persons - Requested by the IASC as part of the recommendations adopted for the ECOSOC 95/56 process. The UN Staff College has gathered background information for the production of a module.

Management of Personnel in Emergencies - Requested by the IASC as part of the recommendations adopted for the ECOSOC 95/56 process. One CETI member has been asked to lead the process of generating this module and the response is anticipated.

Decision Making

5 **Agency representation at CETI meetings** has been inconsistent, and positions taken, even by the same representative, have sometimes changed dramatically within short periods. Decisions made at CETI meetings have often not been honoured. This increases the difficulty for an also imperfect CETI Secretariat to perform its function. It is essential that members honour decisions and commitments made at CETI meetings.

Institutional Relationships

6 **UN Staff College Project.** In his 21 October 1997 letter, Mr. Hans Geiser, Director, expressed willingness to “accept the general responsibility for the Crisis Environments Training Initiative as of 1 January 1998”. He further stated:

"In general, the Staff College would expect to maintain the CETI Secretariat under our management and to continue the project implementation as currently defined. This would include maintaining the role of the IASC, and in particular, its Working Group as providing overall guidance to the project. In particular, we would be looking to the Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator (OERC) to continue working in close association with the Staff College in the further development of this inter-agency initiative. We would also expect to continue the current practice of running CETI meetings with the full participation of all CETI members in order to ensure the integrity of the inter-agency character of the project."

CETI would become part of the International Peace and Security Training Cluster of the UN Staff College in Turin.

III For IASC-WG decision:

The IASC-WG is asked to endorse the transfer of general responsibility for CETI to the UN Staff College in Turin, as described above.