

Terms of Reference

of the Crisis Environments Training Initiative

Background

The Crisis Environments Training Initiative (CETI) was created in May, 1995 through a decision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group (IASC-WG), which derives its mandate from UNGA Resolution 46/182. Governance of all CETI matters is through the IASC mechanism, and in particular its Working Group.

CETI was recognized in ECOSOC 1997/98, para 70, which states:

On a system-wide basis the Complex Emergencies Training Initiative (CETI) is the main inter-agency forum in which training on general issues of humanitarian assistance is discussed; policy questions that arise are referred to the IASC Working Group. CETI focuses on fostering teamwork and a culture of cooperation and coordination. IASC has identified several areas in which CETI should continue to prepare training materials and identify additional training resources for field staff.

CETI, as the IASC mechanism for discussion of training issues, serves the broader humanitarian community as a network for sharing information, lessons learned, best practices, methodologies and curricula for humanitarian assistance training and staff development.

Purpose

The overall purpose of the Crisis Environments Training Initiative is to improve the professional standards, and therefore effectiveness, of the staff of humanitarian organizations. CETI also promotes a sustainable and consistent United Nations approach in crisis environments which conforms to international human rights standards and International Humanitarian Law. CETI's specific functions are three fold:

- (1) To provide a Forum for Information Exchange through an Internet site and electronic newsletter on training for humanitarian assistance;
- (2) To provide a Forum for Dialogue in which training needs can be identified and agreements developed on filling gaps in currently available offerings of training, through periodic meetings of trainers and emergency operations specialists from humanitarian organizations; and
- (3) To develop, produce and disseminate training materials at the request of the IASC/WG.

Organization and Functions

CETI's membership is constituted of organizations participating in the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Decisions within CETI's purview are taken by formal consensus by representatives of IASC member organizations at CETI meetings. Broader participation in non-decision making sections of CETI meetings is encouraged in order to ensure that the highest quality of technical and substantive expertise is brought to bear on common issues and to foster a professional association of persons concerned with humanitarian assistance training.

Representatives to CETI meet on a regular basis to:

- Promote and ensure substantive communication on issues related to humanitarian assistance training and staff development by information gathering and dissemination;
- Identify needs and form agreements for common action to fill gaps in humanitarian

- assistance training and staff development;
- Develop strategies which ensure the implementation of training at headquarters and field locations in order to strengthen the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance;
- Formulate recommendations on training issues for consideration by the IASC/WG;
 - Respond to requests from the IASC/WG for training materials conforming to IASC policy to be produced by subject area experts through an inter-agency process;
- Consider issues and tasks within its mandate proposed by the IASC-WG or one of its members.

The CETI Secretariat is administered by the International Peace and Security Training Cluster of the United Nations Staff College Project and is funded by voluntary contributions from Donors. The CETI Secretariat serves the inter-agency process by:

- Managing the Internet based Humanitarian Assistance Training Inventory and the electronic newsletter;
- Organizing fora in which discussions and decisions on topics relevant to humanitarian assistance training can take place;
- Recording the substantive dialogues and, as appropriate, following-up on decisions taken at IASC/WG and CETI meetings;
- Monitoring the implementation of tasks designated by the IASC/WG and CETI decisions as a facilitator of a successful inter-agency process.