

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE – WORKING GROUP**

**XXXVII<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**New York, 8 June 1999**

**CAP Update**

**1. CAP Workshops**

A lessons-learnt workshop took place in Geneva in February, to review the experience of the facilitators who helped field offices in formulating the 1999 Consolidated Appeals (CA). The workshop helped in refining the CAP guidelines that had been disseminated during the second half of 1998. The revised guidelines were circulated to the workshop members for comments and subsequently distributed to all field offices, for the attention of the field coordination units and the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators, as well as to all the members of the IASC Working Group.

A Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop was organised in Rome in late May, to create a core group of trainers, drawn from members of the IASC-WG, who will train field staff in the CAP. This core group of staff was largely based on the participants to the February workshop. Thus, after an initial need to “jump start” the process of improving the CAP which led to the deployment of facilitators to help produce the 1999 CAs, we are now moving toward further capacitating the field, not only in producing adequate documents, but also in making the CAP, a real PROCESS, a daily event.

The efforts put into producing the 1999 CAs and circulating them at the same time, the positive feed back from the donor community, together with the above two workshops have been instrumental in substantially raising the level of awareness regarding the CAP, at HQs and field levels, with all the agencies concerned.

**2. Mid-Term Review**

While we focused in 1998 on setting strategic objectives for the CAP, we need to continue improving the substance of the CAs. With improved strategic approaches

and more clearly defined goals, the opportunities for a significant improvement in strategic monitoring and reporting have been enhanced. One of our top priorities is now to carry out a mid-term review of the CAs. The CAP guidelines mentioned above also cover broad principles on how to carry out mid-term reviews, how to develop an effective monitoring system that enables reporting on the implementation of humanitarian programme in accordance with stated strategic objectives. The mid-term review is a key to the success of the CAP as it should analyse, halfway through the year, humanitarian activities included in a CA; progress against strategic objectives; change in objectives; impact of shortage of funds, etc. The ambition of the mid-term review is not to evaluate each single humanitarian activity carried out by humanitarian actors, but to give an analytical review of the success, constraints and shortcomings of the CAP at a macro, rather than micro level. A first mid-term review of all 1999 CAs is underway, and we expect to have the reviews available in the near future. On the basis of these documents, we believe that we should organise a high-level conference with donors and major partners in the CAP to introduce the mid-term review and alert the donor community on constraints, especially related to scarcity of funds. We also committed ourselves to carrying out a review and evaluation of the CAP, this is part of it and we need to meet our commitment vis à vis the international community.

### **3. CAP 2000**

The mid-term review mentioned above will, as already mentioned cover progress made, change in scenarios and, consequently, what can be implemented for the rest of the year, as well as longer term needs and especially the need for a CA for the following year. It will therefore serve as a logical introduction to the CAP 2000, preparation of which are due to start as early as August. In 1998 we already made substantial progress, which were applauded by the international community, by presenting all (except one) CAs at the same time in early December. We now want to move the process earlier in the year, to ensure better synchronisation with the programming cycles of the main partners to the CAP. It will never be an ideal cycle as there are conflicting demands, but by pushing the process earlier, we will ensure that the broad, inter-agency framework of the CAP is included in the programming cycle of the respective partners. We will probably need to push CA preparation activities further forward next year to be even better synchronised with our partners, but this is a process that can only take place gradually.

We are planning to have all the CAs for year 2000 distributed by early November so that a global launch can be done mid/late November.

### **4. Public Information and the CAP**

The global launch by SVdM in December 1998 received strong support from the international community. However, we noted several weaknesses that need to be

addressed to maximise the impact of the global launch for 2000, in particular in relation to media coverage. Generally speaking there is a need to improve the marketing of the CAP. A first meeting was held on 11 May of media/information professionals from the IASC member agencies to advise on preparation for the CAP launch in November 1999. A work plan will be drafted for review by the IASC sub-working on the CAP. This work plan should also cover the mid-term review to take stock of those appeals for which financing has not been forthcoming, and develop a targeted media strategy for these forgotten emergencies. Each agency should indicate what resources might be available for the CAP launch and preceding activities.

#### **5. IASC Sub-Working Group on Improving the CAP**

The SWG has been meeting on a regular basis and has covered a wide range of issues related to the CAP. It was instrumental in the improvement of the CAP in 1998, inter alia by raising awareness within the members of the IASC WG. Further improvement is required regarding flow of information from the SWG to the IASC WG and also from the SWG to and within the respective agencies concerned by the CAP. In spite of the above, after over a year of activity, the SWG has gone a long way towards making the CAP an inter-agency ownership. It needs to broaden its scope and has started to do so, inter alia by inviting one member of the UNDGO to ensure better linkage between the CAP and the CCA/UNDAF. It also needs to improve the interface with other existing IASC SWGs, such as that on gender issues and on IDPs, so that guidelines can be integrated into the CAP, and to ensure a consistent approach at field level. Increased participation of the Red Cross movement and NGOs is also necessary to ensure the development of a consistent and holistic Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP). The SWG will cover this issue in June.