

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE-WORKING GROUP
50th MEETING**

18-19 September 2002

Conference Room 9, United Nations Headquarters New York

CAP: Plan of Action for Strengthening the CAP

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Summary

In May 2001, the IASC Working Group initiated a Review of the CAP with the aim of increasing senior-level involvement in the CAP and setting an agenda for strengthening the CAP. The Review culminated in a set of 19 Recommendations, otherwise known as the Plan of Action for Strengthening the CAP (PoA). The recommendations are divided into three categories:

1. Strengthening senior level involvement in the CAP,
2. Strengthening advocacy through the CAP, and
3. Strengthening the CAP as a tool for strategic planning and coordination.

The PoA was endorsed by the IASC at the meeting in April 2002.

Since April, the CAP SWG has monitored progress towards implementation of the PoA. Concrete progress to date includes:

- A. UNICEF and WHO, Recommendation 17 on Joint Assessment Guidelines. UNICEF and WHO have met to review existing guidelines, including those for Common Country Assessments (CCA) and are in the process of identifying two consultants to define gaps and, drawing on existing material, draft preliminary guidelines for IASC WG review by December 2002.
- B. WFP, Recommendation 18 on Multi-year Strategies in CAP. The recommendation was discussed at two recent WFP in-house CAP workshops. Based on these discussions, an information paper is being prepared and will be shared.
- C. Implementation of Part I (Strengthening Senior Level Involvement) and II (Advocacy).
 - UNICEF, as an organisation, has recognised that CAP is a key tool for inter-agency strategic planning.
 - WFP workshops developing a “corporate approach” to the CAP through two recent in-house workshops
 - WHO induction course briefed CAP Focal Points and Country Directors on CAP
 - OCHA developed internal action plan for PoA recommendations specific to OCHA management
 - The Directors of Emergency Programmes Meeting was organised on 19 June to discuss which countries should have a CAP for 2002 (recommendation 6 of PoA).

Third background Document: CAP

- SCHR is visiting four CAP countries (Burundi, Afghanistan, Angola, Indonesia) and will contribute to defining criteria and mechanisms for NGO inclusion in the CAP (recommendation 13 of the PoA).
- Second annual Directors Review of select CAPs is being organised for 10 October (recommendation 5 of PoA)

Agencies have been requested to provide an update on any further steps taken to implement the PoA.

Proposed Actions/Decisions by the IASC-WG:

The CAP SWG requests feedback and guidance from the WG on implementation of the PoA.