

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
54th MEETING**

17-18 September 2003

**UNFPA Headquarters, New York
Meeting Room: Rafael Salas (19th Floor)**

**AOB: Strengthening Field Information Management Capacities in Support of
Coordination: A Brief Proposal**

Circulated: 4 September 2003

In complex emergencies, the information base is generally weak and fragmented. Information systems are affected and sometimes altogether collapse; their coverage is reduced, access to troubled areas and communication are difficult, data are outdated and incomplete, standardization is poor, and the collection and analysis of data clash with other priorities. The strongest indicator of a crisis is the lack of information, often in spite of the availability of large amounts of unused data. The UN have recognised the role that an improved information management can play to support coordination of humanitarian activities with the establishment of Humanitarian Information Centres. Health can contribute to the joint effort in this area with indicators that are key to the monitoring of any relief intervention.

In this light, an IASC taskforce could be established to review the current status of information management at field level, including the current institutional arrangements and propose ways of improving it for a more effective coordination of humanitarian actors.

Prepared by: WHO, 4 September 2003