| **Meeting Summary** **Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness**<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness> **Date:** 13 October 2016 (15:00-17:00am)**Venue:**  UNDP, MIE1, Geneva, Room A214 + Bridge**Co-Chairs:** UNDP (Patrick Grémillet) – WFP (Anthony Craig)[Click here to access the webpage for the meeting](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/meetings/rg-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness) |
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| **Agenda:*** Review and endorsement of the draft work plan 2016-17 for the group, and validation of the proposed lead entities for activities.
* Status update on individual work streams
	+ Risk Analysis, Early Warning, Early Action
		- EWEAR Report, InfoRM, and slow onset SOP
	+ Preparedness Approaches, in particular the ERP
	+ Simulation
	+ The Case for Preparedness
		- Return on Investment (RoI) Study
	+ Technology
		- ALERT project and proposed workshop
	+ Operational Lessons
	+ AOB
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| **Participating Agencies / Organizations:**CARE International, Christian Aid, FAO, HelpAge, UNDP, UNHCR, UNOCHA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNITAR, UNWomen, WFP, WHO  |
| **Supporting Documentation (online)*** [Draft: Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness Work Plan](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/news/draft-rg-rewp-work-plan-2016-2017) 2016-17
* [Global Preparedness Partnership - Update - October 2016](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-early-warning-and-preparedness/meetings/global-preparedness-partnership-update)
* [Index for Risk Management - INFORM - Briefing Note](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/documents/index-risk-management-briefing-note)
* [ALERT Project - Flyer](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/documents/alert-flyer)

See also links to presentations and background papers in this document |
| **Decisions*** The Reference Group endorsed the draft Work Plan 2016-2017, provided the incorporation of inputs and comments submitted by agencies (see details under discussion points below).
* Co-Chairs will share the Work Plan on line for finalization to the group by end of October, so that partners could amend the version directly.
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| **Key discussion points:****Review and endorsement of the draft Work Plan**The draft work plan is endorsed by the group, pending several modifications suggested by email and during the meeting, in particular:* Reflect and further integrate the work streams, and related sub-group activities into the work plan.
* Add more tangible and measurable targets for activities
* Activities shall remain broad in scope, and can be further detailed by adding more specific deliverables.
* Output 2 Activity 3: Change the wording slightly, possibly incorporating ERP and predictable slow on-set events for wider early warning and early action.
* Suggestion to remove activity 2.3 related to cash transfer and incorporate in review of ERP using experience of operational agencies.
* Suggestion to add new activity on SOP for future El Nino/El Nina events under Output 2, and, where possible incorporate in review of ERP.
* GPP activity to be moved from Output 2 to output 3
* Output 3 Activity 1: Focal points and partners to be added, and possibly define what would be delivered.
* Make reference to Words Into Action

**Status update on individual work streams as per TOR** * **Risk Analysis, Early Warning, Early Action Work stream**
	+ **Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness Report (Sub-group)**
		- Inter-agency sub-group group of early warning analysts who produce the 6-monthly EWEAR Report for the EDG on behalf of the Reference Group (mandated requirement).
		- The EDG use the report to prioritize their activities through the 6-month outlook period.
		- June 2016 EWEAR Report [available on the IASC website](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/content/iasc-early-warning-early-action-and)
		- November report in progress and on track.
		- For more information on lessons learned and challenges, please refer to the [update for the subgroup on the website](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-early-warning-and-preparedness/documents/ew-workstream-update-risk-ew-and-ea-sub).
	+ **INFORM – Index for Risk Management** <http://www.inform-index.org>
		- **Global Index**: INFORM has released the results of its 2017 Global Risk Index. INFORM is an open-source risk assessment tool designed to support decisions about crisis and disaster prevention, preparedness and response. For the 2017 INFORM, several improvements have been made.
* A measure of reliability is now displayed for each country. It is presented as a Reliability Index on a scale from 0-10 and takes into account missing data, out of date data, and conflict status.
* “Maternal mortality ratio” has been added as a new indicator.
* The Global Conflict Risk Index, which is used in the "Projected Conflict Risk" component of INFORM, has been significantly improved.
* The exposure layer used for Natural Hazards has been changed.
* Later in 2016, INFORM will release its Annual Report with further analysis. The results are released in advance so that they can be used to support annual planning processes.
	+ - **INFORM Subnational – Roll-out in 5 selected countries**: The INFORM Subnational Acceleration project is intended to improve shared analysis and decision-making in humanitarian and development sectors through the accelerated implementation and use of INFORM models at country level. The project is a joint collaboration effort between UNDP and UNOCHA, and is co-financed by EC-ECHO for a duration of two years starting September 2016.

For more details on INFORM, and the INFORM Subnational Acceleration project please refer to the [INFORM Briefing Note](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/documents/index-risk-management-briefing-note)* + **Slow Onset Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)**
		- The 2015/16 El Niño event severely affected over 60 million people worldwide, causing 23 countries to appeal for international humanitarian assistance totaling US$5 billion. El Niño and La Niña episodes, and other slow-onset weather events, do not need to lead to humanitarian disasters**.** With sufficient early warning and a commitment to early action, their consequences *can* be mitigated.  In the case of slow-onset crises, an effective response requires collective early action by both humanitarian and development partners. It requires more constructive engagement with national governments, regional organizations, academia and the private sector. There is currently no agreed inter-agency guide for humanitarian and development actors on this type of approach.
		- In response to this call, IASC partners are currently developing a set of **El Nino/La Nina Early Action** **Standard Operating Procedures** (SOPs) to help catalyze and guide future responses. The SOPs outline early action that should be taken once there is a medium to high risk of an El Niño or La Niña episode developing. It clarifies who will undertake the actions and associated timings. The SOPs focus on action in four main inter-agency areas: (1) Risk analysis and Early Warning; (2) Coordination and Information Management; (3) Programming (4) Financing.
* A first draft of the SOPs will be developed by the end of 2016.
* Possible use of the SOP approach for wider situations
* **Preparedness Approaches, in particular the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP)**
	+ ERP Sub-group established in July 2016 to promote implementation of inter-agency preparedness in the field. Lead agency: OCHA
	+ ERP being implemented in 43 countries
	+ 25 more countries to start implementation in next 3 months
	+ Online ERP Tool being tested. Launch planned in November
	+ More than 270 people trained on ERP approach in 7 locations
	+ Upcoming support missions and training: Kenya, Morocco, Chad

For more information, please refer to the [presentation](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/documents/presentation-emergency-response) posted on the IASC website. See also the [ERP webpage](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/preparedness) * **Simulation**
	+ Led by WHO
	+ Health Emergency Exercises to strengthen and assess IHR core capacities
	+ Health Emergency Response Plans in vulnerable countries
		- Development of risk assessed multi-sectoral response plans
		- Testing of operational readiness (MS, Partners and WHO)
		- Developing and testing internal WHO plans
	+ Future activities
		- IASC standardization of exercise methodologies
		- Maintenance of a IASC exercise events calendar
		- Establishment of exercise facilitation capacity

For more details, please refer to the [presentation](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/documents/simulations-workstream-update-13-oct) on the IASC website.* **The Case for Preparedness**No firm lead volunteer for this work stream. However, a brief update on the Return on Investment Study was provided by UNICEF.
	+ **Return on Investment Study (RoI)**
		- **The ROI** study was launched in 2013 with funding from DFID. The study started under a joint UNICEF & WFP project. The focus of the project was to improve Emergency readiness in more than 25 high risk countries. The project also made the wider case for Preparedness, proving the time and cost savings derived from such investment.
		- **What is the ROI**: A model to calculate the exact financial returns and time savings from specific preparedness efforts at CO level, including emergency supply prepositioning, infrastructure development, staff training, and contingency arrangements. This tool will guide on investment decision and how much money we are saving when we invest in preparedness.
		- The model is being used in a second phase, which is underway and involves now 4 agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP & UNOCHA). The approach is similar but with a wider field of analysis.
		- For more information, [download the flyer about the study](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/documents/return-investment-emergency)
* **Technology**
	+ **ALERT Project**

ALERT is an innovative information management system that improves disaster preparedness, helping humanitarian agencies to respond with greater speed, efficiency and effectiveness, before and immediately after a disaster strikes. It aims to streamline the emergency preparedness and response process and enhance coordination and learning across humanitarian agencies and donors. ALERT is one of the key innovation projects under the START Network, and is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as part of its Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Programme (DEPP) Portfolio. See [ALERT Flyer for more information](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness/documents/alert-flyer).**ALERT workshop mid-November in Geneva**Purpose: Review the ALERT prototype (UN version) with a view of designing how the software could be used for developing a national emergency preparedness plans with the humanitarian country team (not individual agency). The software is designed to be modular and some of the modules might not be appropriate or could be designed to collate information from other preparedness software e.g. ALERT (NGO), WFP, UNCEF, UNHCR's PPRE and OCHA ERP etc. * **AOB**

Awareness opportunities include* + International Day for Disaster Reduction 13 October
	+ World Tsunami Awareness Day 5 November
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| **Action points** | **Responsibility** | **Timeline** |
| 1 | Provide revised IASC WG work plan, including comments made at the meeting and by email  | Co-Chairs WFP & UNDP | Early November 2016  |
| 2 | Workshop on ALERT Tool – Need to identify UN agency in Geneva to assist for the hosting.  | HelpAge | Mid November (TBC)  |
| 3 | Identify lead agency for the following work streams: The Case for Preparedness, Technology and Operational Lessons | Co-chairs | November |