

IASC Progress Report January - December 2018

Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness

OBJECTIVES, RESULTS AND OUTPUTS

The overarching result sought by the Group is that the IASC system, as part of wider efforts, is effectively and efficiently prepared to respond to emergencies and protracted crises. Please refer to [Terms of Reference](#) and [Ref. Group Work Plan](#)

The Reference Group work plan has 3 inter-related outputs:

1. Common risk-informed understanding of current and potential operational contexts promoted
2. Better preparedness to respond developed
3. Advocacy and advice on the importance of consideration of risk, EW, and preparedness, including through inclusion in discussions and outcomes of relevant global processes and support to the design and implementation of platforms that link risk with readiness and financing

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE EARLY 2018

1. Common risk-informed understanding

Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness (EWEAR) Analysis

- Bi-Annual analysis highlighting the most serious risks, where a significant increase in humanitarian needs is projected during the next six months and where additional interagency preparedness action may be required. The report is submitted to Emergency Directors Group (EDG), Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), and through ERC, to Regional Quarterly Review (RQR) and [Principals](#), and HCs/RCS.
- A subgroup of agency analysts (incl. UN agencies and NGO networks), hold two face-to-face meetings and regular network consultations to review the most critical risks to support preparedness, early response, advocacy, resource mobilization and, ideally, prevention efforts that seek to mitigate and manage risks.
- EWEAR analysis report highlighted for EDG discussion and action for risks of very high concern, eight risks of high concern and four risks of moderate concern (see map below), while keeping others on watch.

INFORM – Index for Risk Management

- Global INFORM results + analysis [report](#) produced for 2019.
- The implementation of the [INFORM Subnational Roll-out project](#) in selected at-risk countries is ongoing.
- Additional INFORM Subnational models for Niger, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Nepal, Myanmar, Burundi and Chad in development.
- Guidance and online training package for INFORM Subnational to be completed in early 2019.

3. Advocacy and advice

- RG serving as community of practice. Members briefed on developments of related initiatives: Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative ([CADRI](#)), Global Preparedness Partnership ([GPP](#)). Inputs provided to the work of Humanitarian Financing Task Team and Task Team on the Humanitarian Development Nexus.
- Highlighted risks from EWEAR Analysis were discussed by the EDG. with continued appreciation of quality and usefulness of the report, and follow-up actions recommended.
- The EWEAR analysis have also been noted to provide useful entry points for discussions with development and peace-building actors around prevention and risk reduction.
- Work stream updates (e.g. ERP and simulation) a regular feature of [RG meetings](#).
- At least one of the Co-Chairs is part of related initiatives such as: [TT on Hum/Dev Nexus](#), UN Plan of Action on DRR, Global Framework for Climate Services ([GFCS](#)), CADRI, GPP, El Nino\La Nina group.
- Links maintained with UNDAC and INSARAG through OCHA membership of Reference Group.

2. Preparedness to respond

Emergency Response Preparedness - [ERP](#)

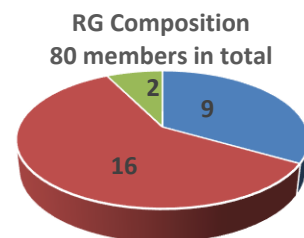
- Sub-group established in July 2016.
- ERP being implemented in 64 countries and 15 countries are planning to start using the ERP approach. Though there are a handful of countries remaining, this signifies the majority of priority countries are now using the ERP approach.
- The ERP group provided Readiness and Early Action recommendations for the countries identified in the EWEAR Analysis (May & Nov. 2018).
- ERP support missions included the Caribbean, Gaza, Turkey and Libya.
- Technical support for ERP implementation provided to Humanitarian Country Teams as required, and implementation was tracked via dedicated ERP platform.

ENSO SOPs

- Inter-agency SOPs for Early Action to El Nino/La Nina Episodes endorsed by IASC and [published](#).
- ENSO Analysis cell activated, and preparedness planning initiated for the forecasted El Nino 2019, particularly in the Southern Africa region

The Case for Preparedness

- [Return on Investment](#) (ROI) study, tool kit and guidance completed.
- Training in the basic methodology provided to IASC EWEAR members.



■ NGOs ■ UN ■ IFRC, WB/GFDRR

* 2 NGO consortia are members of the Task Team: InterAction and the Start Network. Together, they represent hundreds of NGOs around the world.

Group Membership: please see [online contact listing](#)

Co-Chairs: Sheila Grudem (WFP) and Patrick Grémillet (UNDP).

Secretariat Support: Reference Group self-supported by Co-Chairs.

Website: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/reference-group-risk-early-warning-and-preparedness>

PENDING ISSUES, PROJECT OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOLLOUP

- Future of the group (format, scope, activities) under discussion in the context of the new IASC structure to be implemented. It is not clear at present whether the Reference Group will be maintained under the proposed Results Groups.
- Co-Chairs have been requested by IAC Secretariat to continue their functions pending clarifications/decisions on next steps and timeline for transition.
- EWEAR is likely to remain a priority as deliverable for EDG. It is recommended that other activities, such as INFORM, ERP, ENSO SOPs and ROI should be clearly featured as part of the IASC work plan.
- The Group should evolve from a Community of Practice for information sharing to a more proactive forum for strengthening coordination, collaboration and synergies on risk, early warning and preparedness among different agencies.
- The Group in its new form, could initiate a mapping and analysis of activities, projects, programme and partnerships in these areas, with the aim of addressing possible overlaps and explore options for stronger collaboration.

SUGGESTED PRIORITY PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES FOR 2019

INFORM

- Continue Global INFORM development, to improve the quality of the Index
- Pilot phase of INFORM sub-national models in selected at-risk countries coming to completion. Evaluation of this initiative to be finalized by first quarter 2019

ERP

- Maintain and strengthen operational readiness in countries already implementing the ERP with a focus on those identified as high risk or implementing the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC).
- Publish and disseminate revised ERP guidance by mid-2019

ENSO SOPs

- Preparedness planning for forecasted El Nino

The Case for Preparedness

- Training on methodology to IASC members

EWEAR

- Further strengthen the link to readiness and early actions following risk identification, incl. through action-oriented EDG
- Strengthen the usage of the EWEAR report, including to inform funding mechanisms with key donors and linkages to other fora (e.g. Regional Monthly Review - RMRs)

