

# IASC Progress Report January - December 2017

## 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.

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 2017:

### 1. Common risk-informed understanding

#### Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness (EWEAR) Analysis

- Bi-Annual analysis submitted to Emergency Directors Group (EDG), Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), and, through ERC, to Regional Quarterly Review (RQR) and [Principals](#).
- [Subgroup continuing](#) and regular network consultations.

#### INFORM – Index for Risk Management

- Global INFORM results + analysis [report](#) produced for 2018.
- The implementation of the [INFORM Subnational Roll-out project](#) in selected at-risk countries is ongoing. 12 countries are completed or underway. Guidance and training package for INFORM Subnational to be completed in 2018. INFORM used to support development of UN Integrated Sahel Strategy.

### 3. Advocacy and advice

- RG serving as community of practice. Members briefed on developments of related initiatives: UNISDR-led “Words into Action”, Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) and 5-10-50 Partnership Initiative for Risk-Informed Development. 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 and follow-up actions recommended, including Emergency Directors missions to help mobilize capacity and resources including donor engagement.
- 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: [II 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.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE END OF 2018:

- Continuing INFORM development, in particular sub-national models in selected at-risk countries (see [INFORM briefing note](#))
- ERP: 17 more countries to start implementation in 2018. Mobilize ERP support as required for those countries recommended. Revise and adjust ERP guidance at a face-to-face workshop in February 2018
- Adjust ERP guidance document, consult with the field and regional level, publish revised ERP guidance within the first half of 2018.
- ROI study to be reviewed by Ref. Group prior to submission by the IASC Secretariat for endorsement
- Roll-out of Common Framework for Preparedness
- Refinement of preparedness tracking tools
- Development of preparedness costing models

### 2. Preparedness to respond

#### Emergency Response Preparedness - [ERP](#)

- Sub-group established in July 2016 to promote implementation of inter-agency preparedness in the field. Lead: OCHA.
- ERP being implemented in 62 countries and 17 countries are planning to start using the ERP approach. This signifies a 26% increase in priority countries using the ERP approach.
- The ERP group provided Early Action recommendations for the countries identified in the EWEAR Analysis (May & Nov. 2017).
- ERP support missions: Somalia, Haiti, Nigeria (Borno State), Ukraine, Palestine, Cote d'Ivoire, Fiji, Morocco and Egypt.
- Technical support for ERP implementation was provided to Humanitarian Country Teams as required, and implementation was tracked via a dedicated ERP platform.

#### ENSO SOPs

- OECD working group briefed on the El Nino Southern Oscillation/La Nino Standard Operation Procedures and the Draft SOPs were shared with them.
- Workshops took place in Panama, Bangkok, Johannesburg and Nairobi and included representation from affected states.
- The final SOPs have been approved.

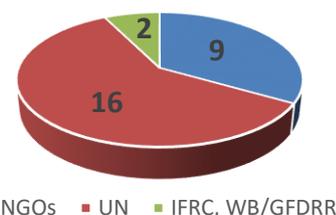
#### The Case for Preparedness

- Return on investment Study (ROI) in Emergency Preparedness – draft finalized for RG review. Part of UN inter-agency project to develop a toolkit for humanitarian community. Funded by DFID

### Challenges to Achieving Expected Objectives/Activities in 2018 and Possible Workplan Alterations

- All tasks on track as per [Ref. Group Work Plan](#).
- The timing of the EWEAR report makes it difficult to plan early actions given the proximity to traditional holiday periods.
- Delayed funding has constrained work of INFORM in the 2nd half of 2017. Need to increase donor base and improve long-term sustainability

RG Composition  
80 members in total



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

**Co-Chairs:** Anthony Craig (WFP) until October 2017 (Sheila Grudem - WFP – Ad interim since November 2017) and Patrick Grémillet (UNDP).

**Secretariat Support:** Reference Group self-supported by Co-Chairs. UNDP consultant providing extra support when required

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