

# Inter-Agency Working Group

## Disaster Preparedness for Central & East Africa

IAWG Updates

February 2009

The Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) for Disaster Preparedness provides a forum for regional organizations - international NGOs, the Red Cross and UN Agencies - to enhance information exchange and regional coordination in order to respond to emergencies in a timely and cost efficient manner. The increased collaboration between partner organizations, fostered by the IAWG, recognizes that the efforts of individual organizations can and should complement each other in emergency response. IAWG is a Secretariat member of the new Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT) that provides a regular forum to which all Interagency Standing Committee humanitarian partners participate at a senior level for decision-making and regional coordination. This is the sixteenth Monthly Report.

### IAWG SUBGROUPS

#### Logistics Sub Group Meeting

The logistics sub group meets bimonthly to share information on the general logistics situation in Kenya and the region. The sub group acts as focal point for sharing logistics information in the region. The group met on February 23, where there were two presentations on the Humanitarian Logistics Association and Advance Aid with the focus on local production and pre-positioning strategies for the region.

The sub group has just concluded an online survey that was designed to collect useful information on how to improve the sub group e.g. topics for discussion, frequency of meetings and commodities for framework agreements. 2009 plan of action is derived from the info collected from the survey. The subgroup plans to expand the list of commodities for the framework agreements and information sessions on logistics related topics for every meeting.

#### Training and Capacity Building

The global launch of the Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) 2 was held in February in Atlanta, Georgia. Florencio Marerua represented the Horn of Africa Consortia, which is the implementer of the ECB Phase 2 Horn of Africa Consortia plan of action. The Training and Capacity Building sub group is organizing the HoA Consortia start up workshop that is scheduled for March 27-30 at the Jacaranda Hotel in Nairobi. The sub group is in the process of recruiting the ECB Coordinator, who will be based at World Vision.

#### Emergency Preparedness and Policy

The EPP sub group is scheduled to meet on March 9 to discuss the outcomes of Somalia and DRC joint planning as well as the status of contingency planning in concerned countries. The sub group has been proactive in sharing the situation updates of the regional overview and learning from past experiences of refugee outflows in the Great Lakes Region.

The group is keen to take forward action points on food security in the Horn of Africa that emerged from the upcoming meeting on the Horn of Africa Crisis of February 10-11. It is also planning joint advocacy on the humanitarian conditions in Dadaab and the closure of the Kenya/Somalia border.

#### Security

The security sub group meets monthly to share a variety of issues concerning the security of member agencies staff and programmes. The sub group members also share information through the SMS system that was established last year with the help of IOM.

During the previous meeting, a guest speaker presented some of the findings from the HPG study on "The use of private security providers and services in humanitarian operations". The main finding is lack of policy and agreements among the NGOs on the use of Private Security Providers. The subgroup plans to take forward the recommendations of the study. The sub has also been discussing harmonization of police escort fees in the rural areas among the UN and the NGOs.

### IAWG/ Red R Security Management Training

In collaboration with Red R UK, the Security sub group organized a successful Security Management Training on February 18-20 at the International Livestock Research Institute. Twenty one participants from Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and DRC participated at the training. They were led through a comprehensive understanding of key security management skills. Evaluation forms indicated that the participants' expectations were met and the training was a learning encounter.

### Human Resource in Emergencies

The Human Resource subgroup is organizing for the workshop on Successful Change Facilitation: Strategies and Tools for the Humanitarian Sector, in collaboration with the Emergency Personnel Network (EPN) of UK planned for March 25-27 in Nairobi. A steering committee comprising of five members was appointed to oversee the preparations for the workshops. The members continue to share information through the global EPN Online Network.

## REGIONAL THEMATIC GROUPS

### HIV in Emergencies

The working group Steering Committee has organized a retreat at the end of April in Mombasa. The subgroup plan of action for 2009 includes mapping out HIV in emergencies related programmes and partners in the region by ensuring strategic and active membership of the working group. A regional strategy and operation plan will be developed for AIDS in emergency in ECA region.

The group also plans a series of workshops in several countries on an induction manual for humanitarian workers on HIV in humanitarian action, developed by UNAIDS and OCHA. This toolkit relates to the IASC guidelines on HIV in emergencies that have been revised and is expected to be out this year.

### Food Security and Nutrition

The working group met on Thursday March 5 at the FAO REOA and shared the regional overview of the food security situation in the region. The meeting was informed of the critical levels of malnutrition. There are seasonal improvements as new harvest become available; however, this will be short lived in the GHA.

The working group is finalizing the 2009 action plan. On the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) roll out, analytical reviews were conducted in Burundi and Kenya. The IPC is set to begin the rollout process in Ethiopia. The team will come to Nairobi to get lessons learned and insights.

## OTHER UPDATES

### High-Level Meeting on the Horn of Africa Crisis

Large areas of the Horn of Africa are facing a state of humanitarian emergency with more than 18 million people requiring sustained humanitarian assistance over the coming months. High food prices combined with conflict and drought are crippling local agricultural production, disrupting market mechanisms and seriously jeopardizing the livelihood of millions of people who already live on the margins of survival due to chronic poverty, conflict and displacement.

The Regional Directors' Team for Eastern and Southern Africa endorsed the recommendations of the Emergency Director Meeting and the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team to convene a meeting on the impact of the crisis affecting the countries in the Horn of Africa, namely Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda. The meeting, held in February 10-11 in Nairobi had the following objectives:

- Ascertain the humanitarian course of action in 2009 based on the latest findings on the status of the drought, high food prices and dynamics of conflicts or tensions affecting several countries in the region
- Lessons learned and their application to the current crisis, including the outcomes of the 2007 Bondevik's report

- Discuss the humanitarian response and early recovery interventions and their linkages
- Determine the role of governance and its impact in the current situation

The RHPT (including IAWG) will follow-up the outcomes of this meeting and will ensure that the required linkages with interagency working groups and other partners are effective.

### Horn of Africa Pastoral Network

The HoA Pastoral Network is a collective of NGOs, UN agencies and Donors who work with and on pastoralists' issues. It is a partnership between USAID, FAO, DFID, ECHO, OXFAM and OCHA. It was created to provide a space and process for exploring the long term impact of interventions in pastoral areas. This was based on the reflection of the urgency to come up with workable policies and development initiatives that will reverse the deteriorating trends in the livelihoods of the pastoralists in the Horn. The threats to these livelihoods have not gone away even with the increase in the number of partners focusing on the pastoral areas.

### Sphere Project

The Sphere Project has launched the revision process of the 2004 Sphere Handbook. Initial information is available in <http://www.sphereproject.org/content/view/476/278/> In this regards, the Sphere Project is seeking two consultants to participate in the revision process. Deadline for the applications is March 11, 2009.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Group	Activity
March 9	Emergency Preparedness and Policy	<p><b>Regional Emergency Preparedness and Policy sub group meeting</b>            Venue: OCHA Regional Office, Gigiri            Time: 14.30 hrs</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Outcomes of Somalia +3 joint WFP-HCR planning,</li> <li>○ Outcomes of DRC +4 joint HCR-WFP planning</li> <li>○ Status of contingency planning in concerned countries</li> </ul>
March 12	RHPT	<p><b>RHPT Team Leaders Meeting</b>            Venue: OCHA Regional Office            Time: 10.30 hrs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The meeting will review the working groups' activities in 2008 and priorities for 2009 in the context of the RHPT.</li> </ul>
March 12	Training and Capacity Building	<p><b>ECB Kenya and Somalia Partners Meeting</b>            Venue: CRS, Westlands            Time: 09.30 am</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inform about the HoA Consortium</li> <li>○ Inform about the ECB Start Up Workshop</li> <li>○ Select participants that will participate at workshop in Nbi.</li> <li>○ Any other issues that may arise in relation to the ECB HoA Consortium.</li> </ul>
March 18	Core Group	<p><b>IAWG Annual Meeting</b>            Venue: IFRC Zone Office for East Africa, Woodlands Road, Nairobi            Time: 09-12 hrs</p> <p>The meeting will provide an opportunity for IAWG members to discuss challenges and opportunities in humanitarian sector within the Central and Eastern Africa region, as well as inform participants of previous and future IAWG activities.</p>

March 19	Security	<p><b>Security Sub Group Meeting</b> Venue: CRS, Westlands Time: 10.00 hrs</p>
March 24	Training and Capacity Building	<p><b>ECB Uganda Partners Meeting</b> Venue: Oxfam GB, Kampala Time: 14.00 hrs</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inform about the HoA Consortium</li> <li>○ Inform about the ECB Start Up Workshop</li> <li>○ Select participants that will participate at workshop in Nbi.</li> <li>○ Any other issues that may arise in relation to the ECB HoA Consortium.</li> </ul>
March 27-30	Human Resource in Emergencies	<p><b>EPN/ IAWG Conference on Successful Change Facilitation: Strategies and Tools for the Humanitarian Sector</b> Venue: Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The purpose of the conference is to help the participants become better change agents, so as to successfully facilitate the change and be able to come up with a strategy for the same. Participants will learn from the experience of their peers, hear case studies and learn of practical tools to help them.</li> <li>○ The cost of the 3 day conference is KShs 10,000. Deadline for applications in Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.</li> </ul>
March 30-April 4	Training and Capacity Building	<p><b>ECB Phase 2 Horn of Africa Start-up Workshop</b> Venue: Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The purpose of the workshop is to discuss with the different countries the three themes of the ECB 2 with: Staff Capacity, Accountability, Disaster Risk Reduction; as well as the areas the country teams will focus over the next six months.</li> <li>○ 30 participants from the ECB secretariat in USA, Horn of Africa countries, ECB and IAWG agencies are expected to participants at the workshop.</li> </ul>
April 27-29	Training and Capacity Building	<p><b>IFRC/ IAWG Inter-Agency Training on Cash Transfer Programming in Humanitarian Assistance</b> Venue: Lenana House Conference Centre, Nairobi</p> <p>The aim of the training is to raise awareness of the issues associated with cash transfer programmes and build the relevant skills and knowledge of emergency managers who will be responsible for running cash transfer programmes in emergencies.</p> <p>The broad objectives of the training are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To introduce cash programming as one of the possible responses to humanitarian need, and describe different types of cash projects;</li> <li>○ To describe how to assess and analyse data in order to decide whether cash is appropriate;</li> <li>○ To explain the full range of operational elements &amp; delivery mechanisms to be considered and planned for in a cash programme;</li> <li>○ Consider how to monitor and measure the processes and impact of a cash programme; and</li> <li>○ To share experiences and learn from each other.</li> </ul> <p>The training is free. Participants (except those from the Red Cross movements) will only cater for transport and accommodation costs.</p>