

# Inter-Agency Working Group

## Disaster Preparedness for Central & East Africa

IAWG Updates

April 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 seventeenth Monthly Report.

### IAWG SUBGROUPS

#### Logistics Sub Group Meeting

In February, the Logistics subgroup did an online survey and the two major findings are that there is interest in the framework agreements. Therefore, there is need to increase the number of commodities. There are three commodities under the current framework agreements: tarpaulins, emergency blankets and mosquito nets. A request was circulated to the agencies enquiring about the list of commodities desired for framework agreements. More NGOs showed will join the framework agreements such as CARE International.

The survey also showed that many agencies face transportation problems of different natures and there is the need to try and find common solutions. The sub group is discussing with the Information Management and Technology sub group on creation of a page within the IAWG website where the logistics sub group members share transport information. The subgroup members met on April 6<sup>th</sup> and shared information on the transport problems faced by all and search for a common solution.

#### Emergency Preparedness and Policy

The food and security situation in Central and Eastern Africa does not seem to be improving. There are also cross border concerns regarding cholera outbreak in the region. During the meeting on April 16, the Emergency Preparedness and Policy sub group shared information on the regional humanitarian overview. As a way forward from the OCHA High Level Meeting on the Horn of Africa, three strategic areas for focus in 2009 are: implementing recommendations of high level meeting held in February; DRR; and Risk and

Capacity mapping. A smaller group was tasked with pulling out action plans from the main report.

The EPP sub group also participated at the meeting called by OCHA on April 30 on the swine flu, whereby the agencies shared their current contingency plans. It was decided to setup a mixed Regional Health Emergency Group and the task force to meet ahead of the RHPT meeting planned for May 8 to identify regional implications of a possible pandemic.

#### Training and Capacity Building

##### *Interagency Training on Cash Transfer Training*



Participants of the Interagency Cash Transfer Training, April 27-29, Nairobi

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in conjunction with the IAWG, organized the Interagency Training on Cash Transfer Programming in Humanitarian Assistance. The large numbers of expressions of interest received showed that there is huge demand for cash transfer training in this region. The aim of the training was 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.

The three days training was held from April 27-29 while the one day training was on April 30<sup>th</sup>. About fifty participants from the UN agencies, NGOs, Red Cross and donors were participated at the three days and one day training. The training was developed for programme managers / field practitioners who make decisions on the appropriateness of cash programmes after an emergency and those who need to plan and design a cash programme.

***ECB Phase 2 Horn of Africa Start-up Workshop, March 30 - April 1, 2009, Nairobi***

The purpose of the workshop was 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. The Horn of Africa Consortium is led by ECB member World Vision, and managed by the East and Central Africa Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Disaster Preparedness.

39 participants from the ECB agencies, local partners and IAWG members and partners attended the workshop. They were drawn from the four countries of the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda). A few participated during the first and the second day only. The workshop employed a variety of participative approaches to learning. The Lead Facilitator used different modes of instruction as well as group and plenary discussion.

The plenary discussions brought out different issues relating to the three themes of the ECB II. The participants drafted the Consortium Engagement Plan of action. The workshop provided the participants an opportunity to deepen their understanding on the ECB as well as plan the activities over the next five years. A number of strengths, opportunities and challenges were identified regarding the three themes in ECB Phase II in this region.

The ECB Peer Review Workshop is planned from May 6-8 in Oxford in England. Representatives from the Horn of Africa Consortium are expected to participate at the workshop.

**Human Resource in Emergencies**

***EPN/ IAWG Conference on Successful Change Facilitation: Strategies and Tools for the Humanitarian Sector***

Twenty nine participants from 16 NGOs, 1 UN agency and 1 consultant were trained from March 25-27, 2009 in Nairobi on how to become change agents in order to successfully facilitate the change and be able to come up with a strategy for the same. The training utilized a mix of tools, case studies, presentations and plenary discussions. It provided the participants opportunity to learn from the experience of their peers, hear case studies and learn of practical tools to help them. IAWG is grateful to People in Aid

**REGIONAL THEMATIC GROUPS**

**Food Security and Nutrition**

The working group met on April 2 and shared information on the implication for nutritional support activities of the use of the new WHO Growth Standards, regional food security and nutrition overview of the region. The work plan was revised based on the survey that was conducted, which showed that the forum is a good place to provide updates on food security situation of the region, share quality information & best practice as well as network and coordinate with other agencies.

The survey showed that the partners are satisfied with the group. They find the forum useful and the quality of the presentations is regarded as high. The survey suggested more time to focus on share project activities and priorities, r Response analysis and the link the affects of food security issues on other sectors such as security and health. The workplan will be finalised during the meeting scheduled for May 7 at FAO. The IPC is set to begin the rollout process in Ethiopia. An IPC workshop is planned for 19-22 May specifically for the Karamoja region of Uganda. The team will come to Nairobi to get lessons learned and insights.

## **Regional Working Group on HIV in Emergencies**

The working group Steering Committee had a retreat in 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 which includes NGOs. A regional strategy and operation plan was developed for AIDS in emergency in ECA region. The group also elected a new chair from IOM and finalized the workplan for 2009.

## **OTHER UPDATES**

### **IASC Early Warning Report on Anticipated Changes in Humanitarian Response Projections for March-June 2009**

According to the IASC Early Warning Report of March-June 2009, increased humanitarian response must be mobilized urgently in response to the large scale humanitarian crisis in the East/Horn of Africa.

Highlights:

- The Horn of Africa will continue to face an alarming humanitarian emergency, with as many as 20 million people requiring emergency assistance in the next four months. Funding for emergency preparedness and response constitutes a major concern for the region.
- Drought, combined with high consumer food prices, threatens the lives, health and livelihoods of millions of vulnerable people in rural areas, with fast-growing urban vulnerability leading to unusually high rates of urban food insecurity. Many affected populations already live on the margins of survival due to chronic poverty and displacement, exacerbated in some places by conflict.
- Regional short rains (October-December) were 25-50% below normal and colder than normal. Indian Ocean waters could indicate less moisture throughout the region in 2009, which would negatively impact crop prospects and pasture in the region.
- Rift Valley Fever outbreaks will affect human populations and livestock throughout the region.
- The deteriorating situation in Somalia will have increasing implications for regional security.
- Political tensions over unsolved land disputes in Kenya may lead to unrest which would seriously affect surrounding countries.

### **Diploma Course in Humanitarian Assistance, July 20<sup>th</sup> – August 28<sup>th</sup> 2009**

This new regional, six-week programme is offered in South Africa by The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, in association with The Graduate School Of Public & Development Management at The University Of The Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and Médecins Sans Frontières. Designed and taught by experts from leading NGOs, International Organisations and Academic Institutions, this intensive, multi-disciplinary programme consists of core modules on key humanitarian issues plus a choice of specialist modules. For more information, please contact Eleanor Carr, email: [e.carr@liv.ac.uk](mailto:e.carr@liv.ac.uk)

### **ICT Humanitarian Emergency Platform**

WFP ICT has entered into a three-year Global Partnership for Emergency Communications with Vodafone Foundation and United Nations Foundation with a strong accent on inter-agency involvement. The aim is to create a groundbreaking ICT Humanitarian Emergency Platform in support of the entire humanitarian community (including UN agencies and NGOs) operating in emergencies. The target is increasing the efficiency and coordination of emergency communications by optimizing and standardizing ICT solutions in emergencies, expanding the pool of trained ICT experts, establishing a network of stand-by partners ready for deployment, and enabling immediate dispatch of ICT emergency responders. For more information about the website and how to join you can visit <http://ictemergency.wfp.org>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Group	Activity
May 5-7		<b>Second Africa Regional Platform on DRR, Consultative Meeting to be held in Nairobi</b> Venue: UN Complex Theme: Accelerating progress in implementing the HFA and the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR
May 6-8	Training and Capacity Building	<b>ECB Peer Review Workshop</b> Venue: Oxford, England Representatives from the Horn of Africa Consortium are expected to participate at the workshop.
May 7	Food Security and Nutrition	<b>Food Security and Nutrition Meeting</b> Venue: FAO Regional Office, Eden Square, Nairobi Time: 2:30 pm  Proposed Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FSNWG Workplan - finalization and priority setting</li> <li>○ Latest information and clarifications on the spread of the H1N1 disease</li> <li>○ Presentation on the results of early warning/response analysis meeting</li> <li>○ AOB</li> </ul>
May 8	Core Group	<b>Core Group Meeting</b> Venue: ABC Java Time: 8.30 am
May 8	Core Group	<b>Regional Humanitarian Partnership Meeting</b> Venue: OCHA Regional Office Time: 10.00 am
May 12	Security	<b>Security Sub Group Meeting</b> Venue: tbc Time: 10.00 am
May 14	Security	<b>Incident Management Workshop</b> The focus for the workshop is management of critical incident, with a focus on kidnap and ransom. This workshop will be dedicated to NGO and similar International organizations.
May 25	Logistics	<b>Logistics Sub Group Meeting</b> Venue: Oxfam GB Time: 3.00 pm
End of May	Emergency Preparedness and Policy	<b>Emergency Preparedness and Policy Sub Group Meeting</b> Venue: tbc Time: tbc
June 3-4		<b>Transparency International Workshop on Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance</b> The two days workshop will involve separate working groups of programme support staff as well as a joint session.