

Inter-Agency Working Group

Disaster Preparedness for Central & East Africa

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iawg-nairobi/>

IAWG Updates

May 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.

IAWG SUBGROUPS

Core Group

The core group is requesting for the nominations for the IAWG vice chair to replace Nik Bredholt of CAFOD who is leaving the region. Nik has also been the security subgroup vice chair. IAWG is grateful to Nik for his dedicated service to the IAWG. The core group is also recruiting for the position of the IAWG Administration Coordinator; this is a local recruitment and is not open for expatriates. The Core Group of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disaster Preparedness serves as a focal point and steering committee for the IAWG as a whole and the four Sub-Working Groups.

Emergency Preparedness and Policy

Following the April 16 meeting, the Emergency Preparedness and Policy subgroup is scheduled to meet on June 3rd. The meeting will discuss the H1N1 (swine flu) preparedness in the region and possible impact on humanitarian programs and preparedness. The latest IASC Early Warning Report notes that increased humanitarian response must be mobilized urgently in response to the large scale humanitarian crisis in the East/Horn of Africa. The regions 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.

Security

The Security subgroup members met on May 12 and shared information on the security situation in Kenya in relation of the safety of the agency staff and programmes. Regarding the swine flu, the group shared a generic contingency plan. The group is looking into organizing security training later this year in response to requests from member agencies for security trainings. The members have been discussing the harmonization of police escort fees among the agencies in the rural areas. The members continue to share security related information through the SMS system.

The group is also taking forward the recommendations of the Humanitarian Policy Group 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. A questionnaire was prepared and circulated to the member agencies to fill it.

Logistics

Logistics subgroup is discussing the commodities in the new framework agreements. Earlier, the subgroup did an online survey and the results showed interest in the framework agreements, and many agencies face transportation problems, so there is the need to find common solutions. The commodities under the current framework agreements with the suppliers are tarpaulins, emergency blankets and mosquito nets. The group is also working on a transport information exchange centre.

ECB Project

Florencio Marerua and Elizabeth Chebet represented the Horn of Africa Consortium during the Emergency Capacity Building Peer Review Workshop in Oxford, England in May 6-8.

The participants reviewed the plans and clustered the activities around common themes. The next step is the finalization and approval of the plans, identification and development of areas for joint action on common themes with other consortia and ECB agencies. WVI is the lead agency of the HoA Consortium, while IAWG (training and capacity building group) has the overall management and guidance role of the consortia.

Sphere Revision Workshop

IAWG is organizing the Sphere Revision Workshop planned for June 30th, 2009 at IFRC. The purpose of the workshop is to provide the humanitarian community based in Nairobi an opportunity to contribute to the revision of the Sphere Handbook process. Information gathered through this consultation will inform the revision of the Sphere Handbook. This workshop will focus on the health chapter only at this stage and will be facilitated by the focal point for the health services. The new edition is planned to be published late 2010. IAWG has an MoU with the Sphere Project and is happy to work with the Sphere Project in the revision process of the Sphere handbook.

HR Subgroup

The Human Resource in Emergencies subgroup continues to share HR-related information through the EPN Online Network as well internally through e-mail. The group is scheduled to meet on June 10 to plan their activities.

REGIONAL THEMATIC GROUPS

Food Security and Nutrition

The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group approved the work plan for 2009 during the meeting of May 7 at FAO. The group identified priority activities, which include development of links with Country Coordination Mechanisms through Information Management and Dissemination and awareness raising and technical support programme for the roll out of the Integrated Phase Classification. The working group also shared information on the latest information on the spread of the H1N1.

Regional Working Group on HIV in Emergencies

The Regional Working Group on HIV/AIDS is conducting a mapping exercise of key regional actors in the field of HIV in emergency activities, scope and mandate within ECA region. This information will help identify opportunities for better coordination among the agencies in the working group. The 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. During the retreat in April in Mombasa, the working group elected IOM as the new chair, assisted by OXFAM GB.

OTHER UPDATES

Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance Research Report

Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance report documents perceptions of corruption in humanitarian operations through interviews with staff of several leading international humanitarian NGOs. The study was commissioned by Transparency International (TI) and conducted jointly by the Feinstein International Center, the Humanitarian Policy Group at the Overseas Development Institute in London, and TI. The report finds that humanitarian agencies providing vital relief are aware of corruption risks and have developed a range of policies and practices to prevent it.

The definition of corruption tends to remain narrowly focused on financial fraud, and the humanitarian community at large has not yet addressed this problem in a comprehensive manner. This study is the first attempt to document, from the point of view of humanitarian practitioners, perceptions of the importance of the problem, the constraints to dealing with corruption, and critically, to document best practices for preventing and mitigating corruption.

Launch of New Project on Education in Emergencies at the University of Nairobi

The University of Nairobi and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) launched a new partnership that entails developing a Master's and certificate program for Education in Emergencies within the UoN's School of Education on May 21st at the University of Nairobi. In recognition of the increased demand for and professionalization of education responses in and after emergencies, this unique collaboration will seek to develop human resource capacity among enrolled students and education practitioners working in East Africa in order to prepare them to provide vital education programming in emergency and post-crisis settings in developing countries.

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards

The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) have been published. The hard copy is published and distributed by Practical Action Publishing. It includes a CD-ROM containing the electronic decision-making tool that has been developed to accompany LEGS, together with a pdf of the text and a collection of resources based on the bibliography references. LEGS was formally launched at an event in Addis Ababa in early May and will also be launched in London in early June.

Revision Process of INEE Standards

The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) launched the INEE Minimum Standards Handbook update process. The update process, which is taking place from April 2009 to March 2010, will be consultative and participatory and will rely on INEE members to share inputs and experiences in order to simplify and strengthen the tool that become the resource for practitioners and policy-makers in the field. Since the launch of the INEE standards in December 2004, the handbook has been used in over eighty countries with over 25,000 copies distributed around the world. The online consultation survey of the INEE Minimum Standards is available in www.ineesite.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Group	Activity
June 3	Emergency Preparedness and Policy	<p>Emergency Preparedness and Policy Subgroup Meeting Venue: OCHA Regional Office Time: 8.00 am</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H1N1 ("swine flu") preparedness in the region and possible impact on humanitarian programs ○ Input for the period June-October for the IASC Early Warning/Early Action report ○ Follow-up on action points from the previous meeting
June 5	Core Group	<p>Core Group Meeting Venue: Java, Junction, Ngong Road Time: 8.00 am</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administrative Coordinator Position ○ Update on ECB II progress ○ Nominations for Vice Chair ○ AOBs ○ Next Meeting
June 8	Logistics	<p>Logistics Subgroup Meeting Venue: Oxfam GB Time: 3.00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report on transportation tender by MSF - next steps for efficient info / asset sharing on transportation ○ Framework agreements next steps ○ AOB
June 8-12	ECB	<p>Emergency Capacity Building Project Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Conference Venue: Rockefeller Foundation's Center, Bellagio, Italy</p> <p>Felix Omuu of Oxfam GB Uganda will represent the Horn of Africa Consortium in the Conference.</p>

June 10	Human Resource in Emergencies	<p>HR Subgroup Meeting Venue: IFRC Time: 2.30 pm</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Way Forward of the HR subgroup ○ People in Aid up-coming events ○ ECB Activities ○ AOB ○ Next Meeting
June 25	Security	<p>Security Subgroup Meeting Venue: Save the Children UK Time: 10 am</p>
June 30	Training and Capacity Building	<p>Sphere Review Workshop Venue: IFRC, Woodlands Avenue Time: 9 - 1 pm</p> <p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome and Introduction ○ Agenda, background and objectives of the revision ○ Presentation - health services chapter ○ Group work: updating Sphere (Challenges & Recommendations) ○ Break ○ Plenary ○ Suggestions and recommendations ○ Conclusions