

# Inter-Agency Working Group

## Disaster Preparedness for Central & East Africa

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

**IAWG Updates**

**June 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 met on 5th of June 2009 and finalized the recruitment process of the new IAWG Administration Coordinator. The core group bid Nik Bredholt farewell in an informal dinner that took place on 15th of June 09. Nona Zicherman will replace Nik Bredholt as the interim vice chair of the IAWG. Nik has been the vice chair of the Gore Group and Vice Chair of Security Subgroup for the last two years. On behalf of IAWG we thank Nik for his services and wish him well in his future endeavours.

#### **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 met on June 10 whereby they discussed how to make the group more pro-active. The next meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2009.

#### **Emergency Preparedness and Policy**

Emergency Preparedness and Policy subgroup met on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and discussed the H1N1 flu update and the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) Early warning report. The IASC early warning report enhances preparedness and early humanitarian response with particular attention to potentially new crises and to changes in existing emergencies.

#### **Sphere Revision Workshop**

IAWG assisted in organizing the just ended Sphere Revision Workshop which was held on June 30<sup>th</sup>, at IFRC in Nairobi. A total of 18 participants attended the workshop, mostly health advisors, emergency focal points and nutrition advisors. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the humanitarian community based in Nairobi an opportunity to contribute to the revision of the Sphere Handbook process.



Participation of the Sphere Review Workshop, June 30, 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

Information gathered through the consultation meeting will inform the revision of the Sphere Handbook. The workshop focused on the health chapter only and was facilitated by Mesfin Teklu and Florencio Marerua. The new edition is planned to be published late 2010. IAWG has a MoU with the Sphere Project, and will support the Sphere Project revision process accordingly.

#### **Security**

The security subgroup team met on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and shared information on the security situation in Kenya in relation to the staff and programmes. The group continues to share the security updates through the SMS alert system. As Nik Bredhot is leaving the region, Holger Leipe (IFRC) is the interim chair of the subgroup.

#### **Logistics**

The Logistics subgroup continues to meet faithfully every two months. The group recently developed a webpage for sharing logistics-related information. The team met on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and shared a report on transportation by MSF. The members agreed to

share databases of qualified suppliers which will be compiled and posted on the Google group.

### ECB Project

The Horn of Africa Consortium has finalized the Consortium Engagement Plan. The Consortium has appointed Chele DeGruccio of WVI to act as the interim Field Coordinator after the resignation of

Elizabeth Chebet. The Consortium has organized the Sphere Training of Trainers (July 6-10) and Sphere training (July 8-9) at the Panafric Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

## OTHER UPDATES

### Workshop on Legislative Issues in Disaster Management, 29-30th 2009, Nairobi Kenya

IFRC recently organized a workshop in Nairobi on International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL). The theme was "Putting legal preparedness into practice", which was based on practical case studies in groups, plenary discussions etc. The workshop targeted Disaster Management people and legal advisors. It was attended by 13 Red Cross and Red Crescent societies among other agencies.

### Humanitarian Development Summit, 29-30 September 2009 at the Safari Park Resort Nairobi, Kenya

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> annual summit organized to bring together key decision makers in the aid and development community, including UN agencies, NGOs, multilaterals and donors, local government, foreign investors and partnering contractors, all of whom are looking to work more closely together to fulfil stated objectives. All IAWG members have been invited to attend.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Group	Activity
July 3	RHPT	<b>Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team</b> Venue: UN OCHA Time: 1000 hrs
July 6-10	ECB/ TCBG	<b>Sphere Training of Trainers(ToT)</b> Venue: Panafric Hotel  The ToT targets representatives from agencies who have undergone basic training on the Sphere standards. The people who will undergo the TOT will be expected to train a group as part of the training and will also be expected to conduct trainings over the next 12 months in their respective agencies. In addition, the trained persons will form a core team of the Quality and Accountability that will work in partnership to promote accountability in emergencies in the region.
July 8-9		<b>Sphere Training</b> Venue: Panafric Hotel Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by a group of humanitarian NGOs and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. Sphere is based on two core beliefs: first, that all possible steps should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising out of calamity and conflict, and second, that those affected by disaster have a right to life with dignity and therefore a right to assistance. The project has developed several tools, the key one being the handbook.

July 8	Emergency Preparedness and Policy	<b>Emergency Preparedness and Policy Subgroup Meeting</b> Venue: OXFAM GB Time: 9:30 am
July 20	Logistics	<b>Logistics Subgroup Meeting</b> Venue: CRS Offices Time: 1500 hrs
July 21	ODI/ CARE	<b>Managing Risk and Enhancing Security for aid workers Workshop</b> By Overseas Development Institute in cooperation with CARE International Location: Fairview Hotel, Bishops Road, Nairobi Time: 8:30AM - 5:00PM  The purpose of the workshop is to bring practitioners together to discuss and document good security practices in humanitarian operations in their region, and other thematic issues relevant to changing field security policies. The outcomes of these discussions will feed into a revision of the Good Practice Review 8 on Good Practice Review 8: Operational Security Management in Violent Environments (GPR8).  The workshop seeks participants with knowledge and experience in the challenges of field security for aid operations who are willing to share their perspectives and specific lessons learned in order to enhance the relevance and usefulness of GPR8 for the benefit of the entire aid community.  A detailed agenda will be provided in advance of the meeting. Note: Capacity in the workshop is limited. Please RSVP by 13th July 2009 by emailing: <a href="mailto:d.white@odi.org.uk">d.white@odi.org.uk</a>
July 30	Security	<b>Security Subgroup Meeting</b> Venue: UN Office Date: 1000 hrs
July 30	Human Resources in Emergencies	<b>HR Subgroup Meeting</b> Venue: IFRC Time: 2:00  There will be a Guest Speaker from the NGO Coordination Board.