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A TEST OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE CAPACITY

IAES



Inter Agency Emergency Simulation

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Working together to

Planning for emergencies using the Inter-Agency Contingency approach is increasingly being used in West and Central Africa. Experience has shown that these processes are implemented more effectively when simulation training is also conducted to give real time experience. As rapid and effective responses to emergencies is a priority the UN Regional Emergency Offices of OCHA, UNICEF and WFP propose an Inter-Agency Emergency Simulation (IAES).

The simulation represents the best tool currently available to test the strengths and identify the response gaps if an emergency should hit. Senior personnel will handle a relevant scenario in real time as if lives were at risk, giving invaluable experience for when for a real emergency happens.

Objectives of the exercise

The IAES provides a framework for testing the implementation of the four pillars of the humanitarian reform :

- Leadership– steer action and response based on humanitarian principles
- Financing– ensure sufficient funds are available in time while allowing for flexibility
- Cluster approach– adequate capacity in all sectors
- Partnership– ensuring that UN and non-UN actors work together effectively.

Who can participate?

Selected senior humanitarian personnel with emergency planning and/or response functions.

Generally, the UN Resident Coordinator (and/or Humanitarian Coordinator), UN and partner agency representatives, their deputies, and senior programme or senior emergency staff take part in these inter-agency meetings. Inviting government counterparts can enhance the exercise.

Additional staff from the participating agencies may be called for by simulation participants to carry out certain tasks as needed.

IAES Approaches

Preparation:

One or two months and involves contacting and agreeing with host country officials (usually the UN Resident Coordinator or Humanitarian Coordinator) on the dates, purpose, learning objectives, disaster scenario, and likely participants of the IAES event.

The Scenario

The scenario will be devised in consultation with the RC/HC and reflect the clear and urgent threats to populations and what needs are most likely to be addressed.

The simulation approach is designed to include all types of scenarios: conflict, major flooding, pandemic, or any other natural disaster situation.

The Exercise

The actual simulation requires a full working day. It involves senior personnel from humanitarian country team agencies and, in some cases, includes host country government agency counterparts.

The country team is expected to produce deliverables by the end of the day, which will help to also test their emergency preparedness.

The Debriefing Workshop:

The IAES exercise is followed by a full day of debriefing, analysis, and action planning. At the debriefing workshop, participants analyse quality of exercise output. Furthermore, cluster or sector groups **identify** key preparedness and response gaps or challenges **identified** during the exercise while recommending solutions and prepare action plans. Generally speaking, the overall objective is to enhance preparedness and response capacity before a real disaster event occurs.

Expected Outputs

By the end of the exercise, participants are expected to produce a number of key outputs, which also serve as the means to review and analyse their performance. The simulation exercise should result in an empowered process that gives confidence and should provide strategic approaches to preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Train for emergencies, its coming to you!

