IASC Subsidiary Bodies

Report on the
IASC Task Force on Information Management
Activities in 2009

I Report on Activities Undertaken in 2009

1.1 Achievements of the Task Forces (TF) / Sub-Working Groups (SWG) in line with the 2009 Work Plans endorsed by the IASC.

• Needs assessments efforts are supported from an IM perspective
The IASC TF on IM has provided the Task Force on Needs Assessment with the technical support needed in order to finalize their work plan, as well as identifying linkages between the Task Forces.

• Review of current Inter-Agency IM and implementation of the Operational Guidance Note
A consultant, Dr. Bartel van de Walle, has been recruited and will be conducting field missions to countries subject to the phase II Cluster Evaluation. The Task Force is also considering a remote review of information management in the November 2009 response to the floods and landslides in the Philippines. The consultant will conduct key informant interviews with Cluster/Sector Leads at the national level with a focus on identifying constraints and opportunities to improving information management within the cluster approach in the field.
The travel schedule is the following:
DRC: 11 - 17 January 2010
Chad: 18 - 23 January 2010
oPt: 10 - 15 February 2010
[Dates subject to change]

• Update the Operational Guidance Note on IM
This will be undertaken once the review is finalized.

• Produce agreed guidance and tools to implement the revised Operational Guidance on IM
The development of an online “toolkit” for field practitioners on implementation of the Operational Guidance Note on IM will be commencing after the review is finalized.

The development of an inter-agency web-platform to support and manage the exchange of operational information in emergencies is progressing with the first field pilot of “OneResponse” (provisional name of web platform) at the country level took place in Pakistan in early December. Another one is planned for the Philippines in January 2010. Five global clusters (Camp Coordination/Management, Early Recovery, ETC, Logistics1 and Nutrition) and cross-cutting issues / thematic working groups have populated their web sites and are currently live on OneResponse: Age, GenCap, ProCap, Environment, Mental Health and Psycho- Social Support. The Humanitarian Reform website is planned for decommissioning in mid December with the existing content being archived.

The design and delivery of an inter-cluster information management training to Cluster/Sector members to allow for a common standard of understanding and expertise is progressing with the chapters identified and being formed. Delivery to the distance learning counterpart (UNITAR) expected 1st quarter of 2010.

Define the minimum set of data and information that will be consistently shared between Cluster/Sectors and OCHA in emergencies is also progressing according to schedule with a policy paper being formed. Completion date of policy paper will be before the end of 2nd quarter of 2010.

• Framework developed for monitoring effectiveness of the Operational Guidance Note on IM

The sustainability of Inter-Agency policy for Information Management will be elaborated on and presented to the IASC WG as part of the final report of the IASC TF on IM.

1.2 Opportunities and constraints faced by the TFs / SWGs

The TF has had some difficulty sustaining engagement of representatives from the breadth of the IASC membership, as well as the Global Cluster Sector Leads. Stronger engagement in the TF from the IASC membership would also promote linkages with the Task Force on Needs Assessment, as well as ensuring that the proposed solutions of the TF meet the needs of the IASC membership and their constituents.

II Status Update with Reference to Objectives Set in the 2009 Work Plan