IASC Subsidiary Bodies

IASC Task Force on Information Management

Work Plan for 2010

I Narrative Summary

Introduction

To address deficiencies in managing information in emergencies that were identified by humanitarian partners in early 2006, OCHA and the IASC membership were requested by the IASC-WG at its 65th meeting to implement ten recommendations to address the identified weaknesses. By December 2007 all ten recommendations were substantively implemented by the members of the IASC through the IA IM WG. One of the most important outputs of the IA IM WG was the development of an inter-agency agreement on the responsibilities of Cluster/Sector leads and OCHA in managing information emergencies: the Operational Guidance on Responsibilities of Cluster/Sector Leads & OCHA in Information Management (hereafter referred to as Operational Guidance on IM). This Operational Guidance was endorsed by the IASC Task Team on the Cluster Approach in 2007 and by the IASC Working Group in 2008.

At the 71st IASC WG meeting in June 2008, OCHA provided an overview of progress made in 2006-2008 by the IA IM WG, presented the Operational Guidance on IM, and recommended that an IASC Task Force on Information Management (IASC TF on IM) be established to strengthen inter-agency information exchange before and during emergencies. After clarifying the main focus of the group through a concept note, the IASC WG endorsed the establishment of the IASC TF on IM as of 1 January 2009 for an 18 month period. Throughout 2009, progress against the overall objectives has been made and the Task Force is likely to achieve its main activities as outlined below.

Objectives

The objective of the Task Force is to strengthen the management of information in humanitarian emergencies by building on and improving existing inter-agency processes and tools for the collection, processing and dissemination of information to support improved decision making in emergencies.

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1 In June 2006, at the request of the IASC-WG, OCHA hosted an Information Management Workshop in Geneva where 29 representatives from the IASC participated (FAO, ICVA, IFRC, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNJLC, WFP, WHO, VVAF, and World Vision International) and came to this agreement on the role of humanitarian information management

2 See Background Note, Implementation of Inter-Agency Framework for Information Management in Emergencies, presented at the 71st meeting of the IASC-WG.
**Main Activities**

In order to provide the members of the IASC, including global and field Cluster/Sector leads, with improved information management guidance and tools, the primary activities of the IASC TF on IM are to:

- Review of current Inter-Agency IM and implementation of the Operational Guidance Note on IM to identify best practices;
- Update the Operational Guidance Note on IM (based on the Inter-Agency review);
- Produce agreed guidance and tools to implement the revised Operational Guidance on IM; and
- Develop a framework for monitoring the effectiveness of the Operational Guidance Note on IM.

**II Work Plan for 2010**

[See attached]

**III Key Expected Outcomes 2010**

The IASC Task Force on Information Management (IASC TF on IM) will have the following expected outcomes in 2010:

1. Update of the *Operational Guidance on Responsibilities of Cluster/Sector Leads & OCHA in Information Management*.
2. Roll-out of the inter-agency web platform – provisionally called OneResponse - to support and manage the exchange of operational information in emergencies.
3. Cluster/Sector IM distance learning course developed for national, international and external personnel involved in strategic, operational, technical, or managerial side of collecting, analyzing and using data. This will allow for a common standard, understanding and expertise of how IM supports humanitarian response.
5. Framework for monitoring effectiveness of the Operational Guidance Note on IM.

**Deadline of the Report for 2009 and draft Work Plan 2010 to be received by the IASC Secretariat: 11 December 2009** (addressed to silva12@un.org)