IASC In-Country Team Self-Assessment Tool for Natural Disaster Response Preparedness

The term IASC In-Country Team is used throughout this paper to represent the IASC-type structure at field level. As at headquarters, this should be composed of the representatives of all fourteen leading UN and non-UN humanitarian agencies and three NGO consortia. [1]

Area of Preparedness	Questions-checklist	Selected resources
1. **National Capacity Inventory**	**What resources does the Government have?** ▪ Institutional "architecture" for risk management (government, private sector, NGOs, civil society groups, National Plan) ▪ Participation of stakeholders ▪ Legal framework clear ▪ National budget allocations ▪ Sub-regional bodies in existence ▪ Government's readiness level (stockpiles, logistics/communications) ▪ Government's willingness & capacity to receive assistance or to respond alone ▪ Modalities for requesting international assistance	▪ Risk Map and Capacity Inventory in Central America, 1999 (Oxfam) ▪ UN/ISDR National platforms and Country Profiles for "Disaster Risk Reduction" 1994/2004: http://www.unisdr.org/eng/country-inform/introduction.htm ▪ UNDAC national disaster response preparedness assessment missions (i.e. Guatemala, Mongolia, Georgia, Philippines etc.) ▪ UNDP and UNEP disaster risk index analysis tool: http://gridca.grid.unep.ch/undp/

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[1] FAO, ICRC, ICVA, IFRC, Inter-Action, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, Office of the RSG-HR/IDPs, SCHR. UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and the World Bank

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2. IASC In-Country Team awareness	**Do all IASC In-Country Team members share a common vision and awareness about disasters?** ▪ Shared understanding of risk management in the context of the country's current situation, links between development practices and vulnerabilities ▪ Mandate and vision of each agency defined ▪ Acceptance by each member of real possibility of emergency on their watch	▪ Executive Guide for UN RCs in relation to Natural Disaster Situations (OCHA) ▪ "Disaster Risk Reduction", Humanitarian Practice Network, ODI ▪ "At risk", Wisner, Ben, Cannon , Terry et al. , Routledge, ▪ "Disaster and Development", Cuny, Fred, 1983, Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK ▪ "Living With Risk, A global review of disaster reduction initiatives" (UN/ISDR) ▪ "Reducing disaster risk: a challenge for development", UNDP
3. Hazard Identification, Monitoring and Early Warning	**Is the IASC In-Country Team informed about risk levels?** ▪ Natural risks identified & prioritized ▪ Disaster prone areas mapped ▪ History, incidence & scale researched ▪ Scientific experts & institutions contacted ▪ Links with early warning systems (local, regional, global) established ▪ Monitoring mechanism within the IASC In-Country Team established and updated regularly	▪ UNEP/DEWA/GRID-Europe, UN/ISDR (on-line hazards maps and vulnerability information): http://www.grid.unep.ch/activities/earlywarning/preview/ ▪ Promotion of EW (Early Warning) systems: www.unisdr.org/ppew ▪ Tsunami EW and mitigation system for the Indian Ocean: http://www.cred.be/sitemap.htm ▪ Regional forecast of El Niño phenomenon: ▪ http://www.ciifen-int.org/ ▪ Global portal on environment and disaster data: http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/ ▪ Information and data on disasters: ▪ http://www.cred.be/sitemap.htm, www.reliefweb.int, www.hewsweb.org, www.noaa.gov, www.usgs.gov, www.fews.net, www.fao.org/giews, www.fao.org/news/global/locusts ▪ "Reducing disaster risk: a challenge for development", UNDP

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4. Vulnerability Assessment	**Is the IASC In-Country Team aware of vulnerabilities?** ▪ Data on poverty levels gathered ▪ Most vulnerable groups mapped geographically (including minorities) ▪ Socio-economic & cultural practices that raise vulnerability identified ▪ Risks and vulnerabilities triangulated to identify geographic "hot spots"	▪ Human Development Report ▪ Government census ▪ VAM (Vulnerability Risk Assessment), WFP ▪ EpiMap (Expanded Programme on Immunization), EpiInfo: http://www.who.int/vaccines-surveillance/tools.htm, WHO ▪ DevInfo (Development Information System), UNICEF ▪ VCA (Vulnerability Capacity Assessment), IFRC ▪ CRA (Comparative Risk Assessment), www.proventionconsortium.org ▪ EIA (Environnemental Impact Assessment), Joint OCHA/UNEP Environment Unit
5. Contingency Planning	**Is the IASC In-Country Team prepared for contingencies?** ▪ Does the UNCT have an inter-agency Contingency Plan for natural disasters? ▪ National counterpart(s) involved in risk planning ▪ Regular meetings held with partners ▪ Risk map updated ▪ Scenarios built, probabilities assigned ▪ Triggering factors to implement emergency response established ▪ Human resource, logistics and funding needs for most likely scenarios developed	▪ IASC Contingency Planning guidelines ▪ DMTP module on disaster preparedness ▪ IASC Sub-Working Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning ▪ WFP guidelines

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6. Capacity Inventory: Human, Financial and Material Resources	**What resources does the IASC In-Country Team have at hand?** ▪ CCA-UNDAF incorporates disaster risk management ▪ Access to technical support ▪ Natural disasters focal point exists in the country team ▪ Disaster plan for each agency updated and tested ▪ Disaster experience of IASC In-Country Team members identified ▪ Access to emergency funding ▪ Awareness of available services, tools and mechanisms ▪ Information management platforms following disasters	▪ OCHA 24/7 duty system ▪ Rapid deployments: OCHA: UNDAC (UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Teams). IFRC: FACT (Field Assessment and Coordination Team), RDRT (Regional Disaster Response Team), ERU (Emergency Response Units), NDRT (National Disaster Response Team) etc. ▪ IHP (International Humanitarian Partnership), support modules and packages, OCHA ▪ OCHA/UNDP Regional Disaster Response Advisors, IFRC Regional Disaster Management coordinators ▪ INSARAG (International Urban Search and Rescue), OCHA ▪ Civil-Military Coordination – CMCoord Officers, OCHA ▪ UNHAS (UN Humanitarian Air Service), WFP ▪ UNJLC (UN Joint Logistics Centre), WFP ▪ HIC (Humanitarian Information Centre), OCHA ▪ Environmental Expertise, OCHA ▪ Emergency Cash Grants (OCHA, UNDP, etc.), DREF (Disaster Relief Emergency Fund), IFRC. ▪ Reliefweb, IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Networks), OCHA ▪ UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Brindisi (stockpiles of emergency items), OCHA ▪ IFRC regional stockpiles ▪ NGO stockpiles ▪ OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordination Centre), on-site and virtual, OCHA

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7. Logistics/ IT / Communications	**What logistical means and resources are available to the IASC In-Country Team?** ▪ Inventory of transportation means available in country ▪ Inventory of each agency's capacity in radio and satellite communications ▪ Inventory of storage-handling options ▪ Inventory of transport and hubs in neighbouring countries ▪ Awareness of customs procedures for incoming relief workers or in-kind contributions and international agreements governing use of emergency telecommunication in disasters	▪ DMTP module on logistics ▪ UNJLC ▪ WFP ▪ PAHO/SUMA Logistics Support Systems ▪ Inter-Agency Emergency Logistics (IASC) ▪ FITTEST (Fast IT & Telecommunications Emergency & Support Team) ▪ Model Agreement on Customs Facilitation/Tampere Convention, OCHA ▪ HLS (Humanitarian Logistics Systems), IFRC
8. Partnerships	**What partners does the IASC In-Country Team have at hand?** ▪ National emergency management agency & key local contacts identified ▪ MOUs established with implementing NGOs in key emergency sectors ▪ Prior arrangements agreed upon with major private sector actors regarding involvement in disaster relief efforts ▪ Standby agreements in place with suppliers to procure relief items locally ▪ Overview of relief items frame agreements (in case of agreements by one company with more than one agency)	▪ Media (IRIN etc.) ▪ Private sector ▪ Military (see Civil Military Coordination "Oslo Guidelines" under 10) ▪ Regional coordinating bodies with jurisdiction (e.g. CDERA, CEPREDENAC etc.)

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9. Coordinating Arrangements	**How closely will the agencies collaborate in preparation and response?** ▪ Clear lines of authority between HC, IASC In-Country Team and agency technical staff ▪ Breadth of Disaster Management Team established, including the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, NGOs, donors, private sector, government as desired ▪ Lead agency identified in key sectors ▪ Roles and responsibilities determined within each sector (e.g., health) ▪ Minimum standards and key indicators in disaster response agreed upon ▪ Common needs assessment tool for all agencies developed and joint assessments planned for ▪ Information management platform agreed upon ▪ Ground rules established for media contact and advocacy activities ▪ MOSS compliance and common security plan available and updated	▪ IASC Guidelines ▪ SPHERE, Humanitarian Charter and minimum standards ▪ RCRC/NGO Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief ▪ Eastern Caribbean Operations Order for Emergency Response ▪ Ecuadorian UNETE model ▪ OFDA Field Operations Guide ▪ Needs Assessment guidelines (various) ▪ DMTP module on Roles and Responsibilities of the UNDMT ▪ Joint inter-agency appeals (Consolidated, Flash, etc.) ▪ OSOCC (On-Site Operations Coordination Centre) on-site and virtual, OCHA ▪ HIC (Humanitarian Information Centre), Reliefweb, CHA

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10. HR /Training & Surge/Stand-by Capacity	**What are each agency's mechanisms for scaling up personnel?** ▪ Arrangements for borrowing personnel from nearby offices ▪ Role of regional advisors ▪ Rosters of experienced disaster personnel updated ▪ Mechanism for calling in support at the country team level established ▪ Joint disaster preparedness training and simulation activities for agencies and counterparts ▪ IASC In-Country Team members trained in risk management and response mechanisms	▪ DMTP ▪ RDRAs (Regional Disaster Response Advisors): OCHA, UNDP, ISDR, IFRC) ▪ OCHA's surge capacity/stand-by arrangements with partners ▪ IFRC: Disaster Management Training courses (Basic Training Course, FACT, RDRT, NDRT training courses – see 6 above) ▪ UNICEF Emergency Response training ▪ UNHCR training ▪ OCHA: EFCT (Emergency Field Coordination Training), UNDAC, CMCoord etc. training ▪ PAHO Leaders course ▪ WFP VAM (Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping) training ▪ Simulation Exercices (Triplex etc.) ▪ UNV ▪ RedR ▪ UNHCR handbook ▪ UNICEF manual ▪ WHO emergency manual ▪ Guidelines (INSARAG, CMCoord/Oslo, OSOCC etc.), OCHA ▪ "When Disasters Strike. Executive Guide for UN Resident Coordinators in Relation to Natural Disasters Situation", OCHA