



The Humanitarian Reform Agenda:

**Building a Stronger, More Predictable
Humanitarian Response System**

IDHA 32 GOA

Closing the gap between principles and practice

“Any discussion of accountability must begin and end with this question: as a result of our actions/policies/decisions, have we improved our ability to provide aid – quickly, competently, equitably, and in a dignified manner – to those who most need it?”

- Jan Egeland, UN Emergency Relief
Coordinator

Where are we now?

- Increasing complexity/diversified range of actors.
- Increased contexts and scale of humanitarian response.
- Increased speed of international response (search and rescue, airlifts of goods within hours/days) in some cases
- Increased examination of performance in response



So how have we performed...

A major disaster each year!

Afghanistan?

- Iraq?
- Darfur?
- DRC?
- Indonesia ?
- Tsunami?
- Niger?
- Pakistan?
- Lebanon?
- Philippines?
- Myanmar?
- Haiti?



Where did HRA come from?

March 2005 UN Secretary General's Report In Larger Freedom proposed reform of the UN system by:

- building a more predictable response capacity
- providing for more predictable and more flexible funding.

Objective 1: more predictable response capacity

- Strengthened Role of Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators
 - Strengthened field coordination structures
- Improved technical response capacity:
 - Effective Stand By Arrangements (personnel and equipment)
 - Watsan, shelter, camp management
- Better protection arrangements for IDPs
- Enhanced and more assured access
 - Member states to address blockages to inaccessible vulnerable
 - Strengthened risk management system (UNSECOORD to UNDSS + budget)

Objective 2: more predictable and flexible funding from a greater variety of sources

- More predictable and flexible financing.
- Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) – to enlarge or to replace?
- Invigorated attention to expanding donor base (new govt donors and private sector).

Humanitarian Response Review

August 2005

‘Humanitarian orgs and donors acknowledge that the humanitarian response provided is not good enough and that remedial action is needed and a number of initiatives are currently being taken to address this.’

Humanitarian Response Review

August 2005

Focused on:

- Complex and natural disasters
- Preparedness and response capacities
- Intl response within 'first phase of a crisis'

Humanitarian Response Review

August 2005

Findings:

- System failed to address long standing gaps (particular IDPs)
- Lack of preparedness within system (declared capacity \neq actual capacity)
 - Human resources (calibre and number)
 - Sectoral capacities
 - Watsan, camp management, protection
- Performance of RC/HC is personality dependant.
- Donors
 - Support inconsistent
 - Results in neglected emergencies
 - Need to expand donor base

Humanitarian Response Review

August 2005

Recommendations:

- Cluster System...
- Develop and roll out benchmarks/indicators
- Strengthen role and capacity of RC/HCs
- Strengthen mandate, membership of IASC and roll out to field level.
- Expand current financial support (donor base/CERF)

IASC

- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. It is a unique forum involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners.
- The IASC was established in June 1992 in response to United Nations General Assembly Resolution [46/182](#) on the strengthening of humanitarian assistance

IASC Principles

- As members of the IASC, Principals have the following responsibilities:
- Making strategic policy decisions
- Making major operational decisions
- Arbitrating where no consensus can be reached at the Working Group level
- Advocating common humanitarian principles, collectively or individually, on behalf of the IASC

- Approving the general work programme of the IASC and the Working Group
- Bringing issues to the attention of the Secretary-General and the Security Council through the Emergency Relief Coordinator
- The Emergency Relief Coordinator, supported by the IASC Secretariat, consults IASC member agencies on the agenda for IASC Principals Meetings