

ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2017

OVERVIEW OF THE INTER AGENCY WORKING GROUP (IAWG)

The IAWG is a leading regional forum for networking, technical information sharing and coordination. Membership is open to all not for profit International voluntary agencies or non-governmental organizations (INGOs), with a regional presence involved in humanitarian and development work in the wider East and Central Africa Region.

Vision - An active regional network which promotes effective humanitarian and development outcomes in complex environments across East and Central Africa.

Mission - Convening, networking and challenging the aid community in East and Central Africa to support effective delivery of sustainable solutions that positively impact individuals and communities across the region.

Strategic goals

1. **Voice and Action** - The IAWG is a recognized voice on issues related to humanitarian and development (H&D) context, challenging members and others to improve the overall Humanitarian and Development system in the region
2. **Quality and Accountability** - IAWG members demonstrate high standards of professionalism and respect, and actively contribute to the development and dissemination of best practices
3. **Networking and collaboration** - The IAWG is a relevant and up to date source of information and connection for regional actors.

The IAWG as a coordination and information sharing platform has functioned through the creation of various sub-groups that have propelled the vision and mission of the working group. In 2017, the following sub-groups remained active and carried out various activities with the support of IAWG funds: Quality and Accountability (Q&A), Humanitarian Human Resources (HR), Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change (DRR & CC), Policy and Advocacy, Information Communication and Technology (ICT forum), Regional Logistics, Regional Safety Advisors Forum, Inclusion & Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team.

The IAWG continued to grow in terms of membership in 2017, with greater participation within the working

Groups. Members agreed to reflect on the current and future role of the IAWG, prompting a strategic review meeting in early 2017. The outcome was a revised vision, mission & strategic goals.

The IAWG has a strong membership of 30 agencies comprising of national, international NGOs as well as one UN body (UNOCHA) operating in the wider East and Central Africa. The IAWG is co-chaired by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Plan International and the secretariat is hosted by DRC since 1 April 2015.

2017 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Horn of Africa is both the host and the source of significant population displacement and mixed migration movements, and this is expected to continue in 2018. Over 5.1 million people were displaced across the Horn of Africa by the end of December 2017, including over 3.7 million¹ internally displaced and 1.4 million living in the region as refugees. Food insecurity and malnutrition in the region escalated dramatically in 2017. By the end of the year, some 14.6 million people were severely food insecure and nearly 5.2 million children and women were projected to be acutely malnourished². The region is expected to remain an epicentre of food insecurity and malnutrition in the first six months of 2018, with displaced people particularly affected. Despite the attendant humanitarian situation that these events caused, the IAWG and its members were able to engage with these issues through the following activities and initiatives:
- Key advocacy initiatives by the membership contributed to advancing a strong NGO voice on important developments impacting NGO interventions in the region, including; UNDP and the Inter Agency Working Group (IAWG) joint paper that explored how the situation and response to drought has evolved since the inception of IDDRSI in the Horn of Africa. The paper highlights best/promising practices, looking at what has worked well and the lessons that can be learned from these interventions and was used to inform part of the discussion during the IGAD Heads of State and resilience summit in October 2017. The paper also aims at of raising awareness of the current need to redouble resilience and economic development focused investment in the region in light of the recurrent drought situation.
- The IAWG collaborated with OSACO Group in delivering an advanced workshop on effective workplace investigation in the humanitarian sector. The workshop was attended by 18 senior-level humanitarian practitioners drawn from 5 countries in the region. The participants were trained on conducting investigations into

¹ Regional Outlook for the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region: April - June 2017 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/regional-outlook-horn-africa-and-great-lakes-region-april-june-2017>

² Regional Outlook for the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region: April - June 2017 - <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/regional-outlook-horn-africa-and-great-lakes-region-april-june-2017>

staff misconduct of all kinds including; theft & fraud, mismanagement & abuse of resources, harassment, bribery & corruption and sexual exploitation & abuse.

- Participated in the global SPHERE focal point meeting in Bangkok co-hosted with support of Community World Service Asia in August.
- The IAWG collaborated with HELP Logistics in rolling out a training on fraud detection in humanitarian supply chain management in Kenya and Rwanda.
- Convened a Media Briefing meeting in collaboration with the Somalia NGO Consortium on Pre-famine situation in Somalia and severe drought in the Horn of Africa on 24th May 2017. The media briefing aimed at increasing visibility of the efforts by I/NGOs and the international community in responding to the drought situation in Somalia and the region.
- Strengthened collaboration with the OCHA Regional Office for East and Southern Africa and other regional stakeholders (UN agencies, INGOs, NGO, IGAD, and donors) through the Regional IASC Humanitarian Partnership Team (RHPT), a senior level fora whose main objective is to identify, help address, and advocate on key operational and strategic issues that are critical to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance in the region.
- The IAWG hosted the inaugural Africa NetHope Chapter meeting in collaboration with the ICT sub-group a forum that brought together senior humanitarian ICT professionals under the theme - "leave no one behind - connect, communicate, collaborate". The conference was attended by 150 participants drawn from across the globe.

2018 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The IAWG strategically plans to continue influencing regional developments through its various sub-groups to enhance its coordination and information sharing mandate among its members. Given the current humanitarian situation characterized by; an upswing in conflict especially in the Great Lakes region, climatic shocks, economic shocks, record levels of displacement and food insecurity, serious constraints in meeting humanitarian needs - including obstacles to humanitarian access and inadequate funding. The IAWG has planned the following activities:

- Continue advocacy work around the issues of displacement, conflict and food security in the wider East and Horn of Africa region.
- Host a regional workshop on Sendai framework on disaster risk reduction in collaboration with the disaster risk reduction and climate change sub-group.

- Host a regional workshop in May 2018 on Communication and Community Engagement dubbed 'From Words to Action' through the Quality and Accountability sub-group, in collaboration with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), UNICEF and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- Rolling out trainings on SPHERE following the launch of the revised Sphere 2018 handbook in the region.
- Host a series of trainings and workshops including: fraud detection in humanitarian supply chain management, the annual Africa Logistics Conference and training on supply chain mapping, design & improvement in collaboration with HELP Logistics and the logistics sub-group.
- Engage with existing NGO forums in the countries within the region to increase collaboration and relevance of the IAWG outside of Nairobi.
- Enhance the effectiveness of the sub-working groups.

IAWG SUB-GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Coordination of various initiatives and activities for the various sub-groups improved during the year with one new sub-groups being created namely the Inclusion focusing on Age, Gender & Disability in Humanitarian Action. The secretariat strived to facilitate and create a platform for sub-group members to meet, share information and feedback on various thematic issues. The main forums of coordination were through the nine sub-working groups through their regular meetings, capacity building initiatives and other regional forums organized by various humanitarian stakeholders.

These meetings have been avenues for enriching members with information and networking opportunities with external actors. The increased collaboration between partner organizations fostered by the IAWG recognizes that the efforts of individual organizations can complement each other in their work for the greater benefit of affected communities.

Regional Security Advisors Forum

This sub-group was established due to recognition of a significantly changing security environment in this region. The group aims at empowering members through information sharing and capacity Building to enable them fulfil their mandate.

Achievements

- The group met regularly in the quarterly meetings to discuss the security context of the region.
- Held a consultative workshop on Kenya Election preparedness in the month of May where 45 participants attended drawn from the IAWG member organizations.
- Held an end of year security review meeting where members analyzed the security landscape during the year with an aim of predicting likely security scenarios in the region for 2018 and the likely impact on programming.

Quality and Accountability & Communicating with Communities (CwC)

The group was formed with the main objective of ensuring that the member organizations have the capacity

to ensure their projects are of the highest quality and accountability to beneficiaries, staff and donors is

Enhanced. The group also works closely with the newly established Communicating with Communities (CwC) Working Group in Kenya which aims at providing a much deeper knowledge base of information as aid, two-way communication and the differential needs of communities – beyond emergency response and recovery.

Achievements

- Participated in the global Sphere focal point meeting in Bangkok Thailand, a forum that focused on creating opportunities for learning from each other, networking and exchanging experiences and explored opportunities for strengthening collaboration and ensuring meaningful support from the Sphere secretariat.
- Conducted a CwC induction training for member organizations namely; SOS Children's Villages and Transparency International Kenya.
- Carried out 4 CwC Regional trainings in Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Kenya with partner organizations.
- Held a successful exchange program with the South Sudan CwC working group where members exchanged ideas and learnt from each other.

Policy and Advocacy

The sub-group aims at identifying and taking forward humanitarian advocacy issues in the region and

Influence policy development by governments and other players.

Achievements

- Led in the development of a joint IAWG & UNDP paper that explored how the situation and response to drought has evolved since the inception of IDDRSI in the Horn of Africa. The paper was used to inform part of the discussion during the IGAD Heads of State and resilience summit in October 2017.
- Issued a Call for Action in the Horn of Africa on Drought. Disseminated the Call for Action to affected member states during IGAD's IDDRSI Platform Steering Committee meeting and also to various donors.
- Convened a Media Briefing meeting in

collaboration with the Somalia NGO Consortium on Pre-famine situation in Somalia and severe drought in the Horn of Africa.

- Strengthened advocacy around regional response to ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa and conflict in the Great Lakes Region.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change (DRR & CC)

The DRR sub-group was revived in mid-2014 and its purpose to share Evidence-based learning and Build consensus through dialogue and networking in order to Influence DRR and Climate Change policy and practice in East and Central Africa while helping to Bridge the Humanitarian – Development divide

Achievements

- The group met regularly in the bi-monthly meetings proving learning forums from peer organizations on DRR & CC initiatives in the region.
- The group launched the Inter Agency Guiding Principles on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change commissioned by the IAWG DRR & CC and supported by IFRC/Norwegian Red Cross, Care International & ADRA.

Regional Logistics

The Logistics subgroup was established with the understanding that in every crisis, there arises a need for the procurement and deployment of logistical resources to support the response. Nairobi represents a key hub for the region for such procurement and deployment, and many regional offices play a role in facilitating and supporting their country counterparts with this capacity.

Achievements

In collaboration with HELP logistics:

- Conducted two trainings on fraud detection in humanitarian supply chain management in Nairobi Kenya and Kigali Rwanda.
- Conducted a training on supply chain mapping, design & improvement in collaboration with HELP Logistics and the logistics sub-group in Nairobi Kenya.
- Held a consultative workshop on customs procedure in collaboration with Shipper Council of East Africa

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

The group vision is to bring about transformative Change in the humanitarian sector through ICT driven solutions. The representatives are specialists in Networking, infrastructure, IT security and network optimization.

Achievements

- In collaboration with NetHope, hosted the inaugural Africa NetHope Chapter meeting a forum that brought together senior humanitarian ICT professionals under the theme - "leave no one behind - connect, communicate, collaborate". Being the first chapter meeting in Africa, the meeting sought to provide a networking opportunity

for the industry specialists to encourage the development of collective solutions to shared humanitarian problems and challenges. The conference brought together 150 participants drawn from across the globe.

Inclusion - Age, Gender & Disability in Humanitarian Action Sub-working Group

The purpose of the group is to advocate, build capacity and provide evidence for the delivery of inclusive, impartial and accountable humanitarian action that promotes inclusion of the older persons and persons with disabilities.

Achievements

- Conducted a two day workshop on disability and age inclusion in humanitarian action where a total of 28 participants drawn from across the region were trained.

Humanitarian Human Resources (HR)

HR in emergencies sub-group was established in 2007 through a partnership between IAWG and People in Aid. The forum was formed to address the needs of the humanitarian community during the process of staff recruitment and retention in emergencies and to address staff issues that arise after emergency response.

Achievements

- Organized a training on HR analytics where a total of 20 participants were trained.

Financial Overview

The IAWG maintained its funding base through annual membership contributions. The secretariat was hosted by Danish Refugee Council, East Africa & Yemen regional office enabling the minimization of the administrative costs. The membership contribution in the year amounted to KSH 5 million from 30 agencies.

The 2017 membership fee rates stood at Ksh 200,000 for large international agencies with an income of over 1 million USD, with 50% discount for smaller international agencies with an annual income of less than one million dollars.

IAWG 2017 MEMBERS

1. ACF - Action Contre La Faim
2. AAHI - Action Africa Help International
3. ADRA - Adventist Development and Relief Agency
4. CAFOD - Catholic Agency For Overseas Development
5. CARE - Cooperative Relief and Assistance Everywhere
6. Caritas - Caritas Switzerland
7. CORDAID
8. CRS - Catholic Relief Services
9. Christian Aid
10. DanChurchAid
11. Diakonia - Diakonia Emergency Aid
12. DRC - Danish Refugee Council
13. Feed the Children-Kenya
14. Help a Child Africa
15. HelpAge International
16. IRW - Islamic Relief Worldwide
17. IMC - International Medical Corps
18. IRC - International Rescue committee
19. Johannitter International Assistance
20. HELP Logistics
21. Mercy Corps
22. NRC - Norwegian Refugee Council
23. Oxfam
24. Plan International
25. RedR UK
26. Samaritan's Purse
27. Save the Children
28. Tearfund
29. TI - Transparency International Kenya
30. WVI - World Vision International

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