The IASC WG has endorsed the “Guidance Note on using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen Humanitarian Response” as a living document. The revised version includes substantial changes following consultations with both headquarters and the field. The meeting, which took place in New York (15-19 November 2006), discussed the Note in light of the outcomes of the “IASC Interim Self-Assessment of Implementation of the Cluster Approach in the Field”. The Interim Self-Assessment is a progress report highlighting main trends, themes and lessons from field experience. Despite constraints in time and methodology, there was a remarkable consistency of issues raised. A comprehensive evaluation of the cluster approach is expected in late 2007.

The combination of the endorsement of the “Guidance Note” and the agreement to address the outcomes of the “IASC Interim Self-Assessment” provides the momentum for real change and active learning for 2007.

Next Steps

1. The cluster approach should eventually be applied in all countries with Humanitarian Coordinators. The IASC WG has requested that a Task Team be established to support the process of introduction of the cluster approach to countries with Humanitarian Coordinators in 2007. This will be a field driven process where Humanitarian Country Teams take the lead in determining the support they require to gradually use the approach.
2. The Task Team will help implement the recommendations of the Self Assessment, including:
   a. Operationalize the Guidance Note through the development of a practical toolkit with standard operating procedures and appropriate training.
   b. Develop benchmarks against which the 2007 evaluation of implementation of the cluster approach will measure progress.
   c. Address and prioritise requests for support from the field.

The cluster approach should eventually be applied in all countries with Humanitarian Coordinators.
d. Ensure the development of additional practical guidance for outstanding issues that came up strongly in the Self-Assessment, such as:
- roles of clusters in resource mobilization;
- role of clusters in mainstreaming early recovery;
- operational mechanics of using the approach in countries with integrated missions.
- Identification of tools to promote greater system-wide accountability to affected populations.

To address these issues, two “sub” groups were formed to focus on (a) Ensuring and Supporting a Field-Driven Process for Use of the Cluster Approach; and (b) Preparing for the Evaluation of the Cluster Approach.

Operationalization and Field Implementation Sub-Group: The Sub Group met on 15 December and agreed on a process to develop a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to operationalize the Guidance Note and provide support for field implementation. In addition, the Sub Group is developing a ‘Diagnostic Tool’ to a) assist HCs and humanitarian country teams to determine their state of readiness to use the cluster approach and identify the external support they may need to do so, and b) assist in developing targets for rolling out the cluster approach in country in the coming year, against which progress can be measured. The tool is based on lessons identified in the Self Assessment regarding the guidance and coordination structures necessary to support the cluster approach at the field level and is intended to ensure that the use of the cluster approach is field driven.

Evaluation Sub-Group: The Sub Group met on 15 December and developed a proposed plan of work for the first quarter of 2007, which includes defining key concepts (e.g. “impact”), agreeing on a timeframe for the evaluation, developing a participatory process to define benchmarks, and developing a ToR for the evaluation team. The group proposed that a draft of the evaluation report should be submitted to the IASC WG meeting in November 2007.

Global Cluster Appeal 2006/2007

Pledges and contributions totaling 69% of requirements against the Cluster Appeal for Improving Humanitarian Response Capacity as at mid-December. Four clusters are fully funded and ten donors have contributed to the Appeal, with individual donations ranging from USD 1.2 million to USD 6.8 million.

At a workshop on 12 December, it was agreed that a Report on Implementation of Global-Level Cluster Capacity-Building would be released by 28 February, and that a second and final global-level Cluster Appeal would be launched in mid-April 2007. Activities/projects to be included in the Cluster Appeal should cover global-level efforts to address response ca-
capacity gaps of the following type: (a) Trained, deployable staff/surge capacity, (b) Adequate commonly-accessible stockpiles, and (c) Agreed standards, guidelines, frameworks, systems and tools. It is expected that the second and final Cluster Appeal will include more partners. Donors have strongly voiced their preference for simple funding modalities for the Appeal (e.g. through cluster-specific pooled funding mechanisms, managed by cluster leads in consultation with partners) and have emphasised the importance of clear benchmarks and effective intra- and inter-cluster prioritisation.

Training
Following consultations with global and field-based cluster leads and other IASC partners, HRSU/InterWorks presented its training needs analysis (TNA) for cluster/sector leadership to global cluster leads on 4 December. Based on feedback from the meeting, InterWorks is developing a training proposal, which will be reviewed by IASC partners and carried out in early 2007.

Information Management
The IASC Information Management Working Group began a Stocktaking Exercise to identify existing capacities within each cluster and sector to manage and coordinate humanitarian information in complex emergencies and natural disasters. On the basis of the results of this exercise, cluster and sector lead agencies and OCHA will be able to identify gaps and duplication in information sharing and exchange mechanisms and systems, and propose remedial measures. For further information on the exercise, please contact Brendan McDonald in OCHA’s Field Information Services Unit (mcdonaldb@un.org)

Camp Management and Camp Coordination

1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

First Francophone CCCM workshop held in Bamako (Mali), 16-20 October:

The global CCCM cluster facilitated the first camp management training in French for field personnel drawn from the UN and non-UN agencies including IRC, NRC, Interaction (SC-US), IOM, OCHA and UNHCR working in francophone operations. The workshop consisted of a one day training on the Humanitarian Reform and the CCCM concepts; three days on the Camp Management Toolkit Training by NRC, and one day on IDP profiling and protection.
The workshop was well received by the participants and illustrated the need for more trainings as well as guidelines and tools in French to ensure a common understanding of key humanitarian reform and cluster concepts in the francophone regions.

• IDP Profiling workshop organised by UNHCR in Nairobi (Kenya), 2-4 October:
  Technical Officers in the field of registration from various agencies, including UNHCR, OCHA, NRC, IOM and WFP participated in an IDP profiling workshop in Nairobi. A CD-Rom documenting all presentations and deliberations has been issued by UNHCR.

• Information management workshop in northern Uganda IDP operation
  In early October, UNHCR and IOM organized a workshop in Uganda to discuss a cluster information system covering the IDP camps in northern Uganda. The global cluster is supporting initiatives in Uganda in order to develop a global camp information management system.

• CCCM workshop in Islamabad (Pakistan), 28-30 November
  The CCCM cluster held its third validation and ‘best practices’ workshop in Islamabad. The workshop brought together a variety of NGOs (including national NGOs from Timor Leste, Pakistan, Iraq and Zimbabwe), IOM, UNCHR and UNICEF from a range of country missions worldwide to discuss camp issues. The focus was on developing camp tools as well as endorsing previously prepared documents and tools.

2. PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES

The cluster has continued to encourage more participation from NGOs and in addition to the active participation of NRC and IRC, The Lutheran World Federation and the Shelter Centre have joined the global CCCM cluster. The cluster will continue to actively reach out to more NGOs.

A representative from the global CCCM cluster, together with an environment expert, conducted a 2 weeks mission to Uganda to initiate the assessment for organised and systematic camp closure and phase-out for IDP camps across northern Uganda.

The global CCCM cluster has shared the CCCM concepts which outline the roles and responsibilities of camp coordination, camp management and

EVENTS

1 January: - Next CCCM cluster meeting in Geneva
29 January – 1 February: A regional, inter-agency CCCM Training in Panama
8 February (tentatively): Face to Face CCCM Meeting in Geneva
End of February: Cluster Lead CCCM Training in Cairo, Egypt
camp administration with the other global clusters and given presentation of the CCCM cluster and concepts at workshops/meetings of some of the other clusters.

**Early Recovery**

**Key highlights**
The IASC Working Group endorses the Early Recovery Network model

On 15 November 2006, the IASC Working Group:

a) Endorsed the early recovery network at the country level, as an alternative model for organizing the work of this multi-sectoral/dimensional cluster, with the clarifications raised during the discussion to be brought to the attention of the Cluster Working Group.

b) Agreed that the IASC 2007 Work Plan would include, as one of its priority themes, the issue of Recovery and Transition, which should include an effort to ensure greater harmonization between early recovery-related mechanisms at the global level (i.e. IASC Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery and the UNDG/ECHA Working Group on Transition).

- **Rationalization UNDG-ECHA / CWGER**

Representatives of the UNDG-ECHA and CWGER networks met to identify inconsistencies and overlaps between the UNDG/ECHA and CWGER networks, and options to solve them, including identifying a way forward for defining a clearer distribution of responsibilities at global and country levels and a mapping and rationalization of products, including the soon-to-be completed guidance notes of each group.

**Summary of Progress**

- International Recovery Platform - Participants in the IRP met in a retreat in Turin 20-22 November with the objectives of taking stock of work so far as well as determining strategic direction and key actions in the continued development of the IRP network. An important theme of the retreat was how to expand the IRP membership, particularly to programme countries. As a first step in this direction, government representatives from five programme countries (Bolivia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and South Africa) participated in the retreat.

- Post-disaster needs assessment - A meeting to establish the PDNA Technical Oversight Committee was held on Friday 24 November. The meeting focused on three broad areas:
  - Coherence and the need for the PDNA to take account of already existing methodology and work done by the participants;
  - Inclusiveness; the importance of the IFI for the PDNA and the gradual inclusion of governments in its development
  - Convergence with related work conducted in relation to the HFA and the IASC humanitarian reform agendas.

- Review of existing tools and methodologies – Follow-up on the work already begun within the cluster to gather relevant tools, analyze their potential use in early recovery setting, and identify gaps and requirements for early recovery specific tools and methodologies.

- Review of existing inter-agency agreements – inventory of existing inter-agency agreements between cluster members, at both the global and field level; analysis of possible gaps and adjustments to agreements to reflect changes introduced through the emergence of the CWGER.

- Monitoring and evaluation framework and methodology - development of an M&E framework and methodology for the cluster's global work. This work aims to increase the accountability of the cluster and its responsibility to report to stakeholders on results.

- Local level responses - The CWGER met to discuss the cluster's activities related to early recovery responses at the local level. Discussion focused on the proposal for an integrated approach, a review of the ToRs for the consultancy, and agreement on expected outputs and presentation of the draft outline of the guidance on local level needs assessments.

**Key events/ Meetings / Missions in the next month**

- **Mission to Philippines** - The RC has requested the activation of the global CWGER to access assistance with an interagency needs assessment and strategic planning for early recovery. The RC has also requested the deployment an Early Recovery Advisor with appropriate coordination and recovery experience.

- **Mission to Nairobi and Somalia** - The HC/RC has requested the CWGER to organize an Inter-Agency Mission to Somalia. The need for such an inter-agency plan is due to the deepening humanitarian crises of the Somali people exhausted by conflict and now disaster.

- **Meeting on rationalization UNDG-ECHA / CWGER (date TBC)**

- **Meeting on strategic framework for work planning 2007 (TBC)**
Cross Cutting Issues
The Cross-cutting Review Team met in Geneva in December 2006 to develop a comprehensive approach to integrating crosscutting issues into the work of the clusters at both global and country levels. The different models proposed include: Inter-cluster coordination meetings to address one cross-cutting issue at a time; Experts go to individual cluster meetings; Groups of experts on a range of cross-cutting issues go to individual cluster meetings; A Review Team representing all cross-cutting issues; Focal points in each cluster. The Team also made recommendations on the question of funding cross-cutting issues. These recommendations will be discussed very soon with Cluster Leads.

Emergency Shelter

Key Highlights for the reporting period
New Cluster convener: IFRC formally signed an MoU with OCHA taking on the role as convener for the cluster in natural disasters. IFRC and UNHCR plan to co-chair the work of the global cluster.

2. Summary of Progress during the reporting period
• Further efforts have been made to accrue NGO participation in cluster activities. Two new NGOs: Community Financing Housing (CHF) International and Shelter Centre, joined the Working Group.
• A technical expert from UNHCR was deployed to Jordan to support the development of a shelter strategy for IDPs in Iraq.

Health

1. KEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Participation: The Health Cluster is building momentum and advancing on specific products that will increase the predictability and effectiveness of the health response; partners are becoming increasingly active in the work of the Health Cluster; new partners are approaching the Global Health Cluster to participate; Health Cluster partners have committed to seeking out more southern based partners for inclusion in the Global Health Cluster.
• Coordination: The Health Cluster has developed a joint work plan, formed subgroups and advanced collaborative work on Health Cluster products.
• Meetings: Partners met in Geneva 10-11 October to detail their work plan and discuss relevant issues; the next global level meeting is scheduled for 6-7 February at WHO in Geneva; a meeting in June is planned in NYC together with the Nutrition and WASH clusters hosted by UNICEF.
• Meeting between Nutrition, WASH and Health Cluster hubs/cells: A first formal meeting was held between the three cluster hubs/cells to discuss common issues and to develop mechanisms for ensuring information sharing and the complementarity of outputs and products; the three agreed to hold similar meetings every two months.

2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS
• At the October meeting, the Health Cluster developed a detailed work plan with goals through February 2007 and beyond. It will be the...
• Implementing the development of the highest priority products for country level clusters.
• Achieving its 2006 goals in a relatively short time frame, without compromising its collaborative management style or the quality of its products, is a current challenge for the cluster due to the late arrival of funding.
• The new leadership role of WHO in Uganda requires additional staff including a coordinator, nutritionist and information officer to enhance WHO’s capacity to effectively function as the cluster lead as well as increased support and tools from the global cluster.

In the DRC, the Health Cluster is challenged to define the limit between emergency response and development programming.

• Developing the mechanisms to ensure that cluster outputs and products will be jointly, and consistently, used at the country level by all partners.

Many of the above issues are common to all clusters.

3. MAJOR CHALLENGES

• Implementation of the cluster approach preceded the development of products from the global cluster, leaving roll out countries without the necessary technical and managerial guidance and tools; meanwhile the global cluster is providing ad hoc support while accelerating the development of the highest priority products for country level clusters.

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS
Next Health Cluster meeting 6-7 February at WHO in Geneva

Logistics

KEY HIGHLIGHTS
The Logistics Cluster and UNJLC meeting, which took place in Rome on 5th/6th October, was well attended with just under 40 participants from 19 different organisations. It was a good opportunity to review the role of the logistics cluster on the eight occasions since September 2005 that logistics clusters have been activated. There was a review of performance in the Lebanon crisis with particu-
lar reference to activation protocols and standard operating procedures. It was originally intended to have a final version of the Logistics Cluster Concept & Guidelines ready for end October. However, given the number of responses there are still finer details to be worked out. It is expected that this document would be finalised early in the New Year.

Since the October 2006 meeting, Logistics Coordination picked up again in the Horn of Africa, in response to the severe floods (readers will recall that a regional logistics cluster coordination cell was activated in June 2006 in response to the drought and deactivated in August 2006). The Somalia Logistics cluster started meeting again in Nairobi on December 5th, 2006 on a weekly basis. For Kenya, logistics coordination meetings are also convened on a weekly basis. The main coordination effort is related to common cargo and passenger flight services into the affected regions in Somalia and Kenya.

KEY UPCOMING EVENTS

Priorities for the New Year are to complete formation of the WFP HQ Rome based Global Logistics Cluster team (6 logistics officers) and the field-based team (a further 6 logistics officers). In line with the priorities set by the cluster members the logistics cluster will also prioritize the finalization of the roster for the logistics response teams.

Nutrition

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Fourth meeting of the IASC Nutrition Cluster Working Group

Twenty three participants representing UN Agencies, NGOs, bi-laterals, technical institutions and foundations attended the fourth meeting of the IASC Nutrition Cluster Working Group in Rome on October 5th and 6th. The primary objectives of the meeting were as follows:

• Review progress on the work plan implementation, including progress on the development of the Nutrition Cluster Tool Kit
• Briefing on joint WHO/UNICEF/Valid International/Fanta regional integrated training on facility and community-based management of severe acute malnutrition
• Briefing to the Nutrition Cluster Working Group by sub-Working Groups, on achievements and future plans
• Review outcomes of the SCN Nutrition on Emergencies Working Group and discuss implications for the Nutrition Cluster

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The Cluster Working Group agreed on the following:

• Engage InterAction and European NGOs to improve fieldwork by clusters.
• UNICEF will be responsible for developing the TOR for country level cluster coordinator.
• UNICEF will draft a guidance note that will establish support of the global cluster-to-cluster countries. The note should be sent out to country representatives in areas prone to humanitarian crisis.
• Key areas missing in the tool kit were identified. These included food security and livelihood indicators; members of the sub-working group agreed to fill these gaps and reference was made to existing material within SPHERE.
• The experience and key lessons learned from the regional training/orientation on management of severe acute malnutrition held in Tanzania at the end of September were shared. The initiative represented a landmark in bringing together WHO and UNICEF for an integrated training. As such, it offered valuable lessons learnt for the rollout of the approach both regionally and globally.
• A working group has been formed to develop decision-making frameworks, and classification systems for nutrition in emergencies.
• As part of inter-cluster initiative, Nutrition and Health Clusters discussed working on joint projects. One of the proposals is to build a subgroup for public health assessments. Two clusters also discussed a proposal to have meetings in the same place. The importance of collaboration with WASH and Health Clusters towards development of multi-sectoral tool was also underlined and preliminary talks have been conducted.

MAJOR CHALLENGES

Nutrition Cluster Working Group identified several challenges to current implementation:

• There is limited national government ownership. Without buy-in, the government cannot implement the approach. In cases where governments refuse to be involved, the cluster will have to increase advocacy efforts.
• The late arrival of funds in the second half of 2006, has delayed implementation of the work plan. Strategies on how to use these funds by February 2007 and show results need to be identified urgently.
• It is necessary to ensure that lessons are learned before further roll-out.
Protection

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

a) Protection Cluster Working Group Workshop (10 November 2006)

As the Protection Cluster Working Group has met regularly for over a year, a one-day workshop was held on 10 November 2006 at the International Environment House to undertake a review of achievements and develop a work plan for the next 12 months. The main objectives of the review and planning meeting were to:

- Review the work of the PCWG to date and identify key areas for future follow-up.
- Develop a work plan for the next 12 months.
- Discuss implementation and how to improve interface with field.
- Strengthen the capacity of the PCWG.

The workshop was facilitated by UNHCR and NRC/IDMC and attended by 39 participants from 10 UN agencies, NGO Consortia, 11 NGOs and the ICRC. Activities that would improve the interfacing with protection clusters in the field were listed as a priority for 2007. The PCWG will also continue its work on policy development, and the issue of protection in natural disaster was cited as one example that would require further development of policy. It was also strongly recommended to continue development of tools, and in particular needs assessment and monitoring tools. The PCWG will continue its work to mainstream protection into other clusters and sectors, as well to bring cross-cutting issues like age, gender, diversity and SGBV into the work of the protection cluster. In general, activities to strengthen inter-cluster synergies and cross-fertilization were recommended as a priority task for the global cluster next year. The Work plan for 2007 will be adopted by the PCWG in January 2007.

b) Inter-Agency Work planning Consultation on Child Protection in Emergencies (12-13 December 2006)

An Inter-Agency Work planning Consultation on Child Protection in Emergencies was organized by UNICEF and UNHCR for participants of the Protection Cluster in Geneva on 13-14 December 2006. The objectives of the consultation were for the participants at the end of the consultation to have:

- Shared understanding of existing gaps in policies, tools, and standards relating to CP in emergencies;
- Identified set of common CP concerns needing additional data and potential methodologies for addressing them;
- Identified strategies for the effective roll-out of common inter-agency policies, standards and tools;
- Drafted common inter-agency CP input to the cluster work plan for 2007.

The consultation was attended by around 40 participants from UN agencies, NGOs, the ICRC and research institutions (Columbia University).

c) Deployment of protection staff to IDP operations/training

During 2006, ProCap has deployed nine Senior Protection Officers on twelve assignments, most of six months duration, to six countries: DR Congo, Uganda, Lebanon, Somalia, Georgia, Pakistan, and Sudan. At the end of December, Senior Protection Officers remain in DR Congo, supporting UNHCR in the East in managing provincial protection working groups, leading an inter-agency mapping exercise of protection activities and working with Protection cluster officers to develop and implementing regional protection strategies; in Georgia, with UNHCR, supporting the Government in the development of a National IDP Strategy and initiating its implementation; in Sudan, one SPO who has worked with UNMIS, OCHA, UNHCR and UNICEF to provide technical expertise on protection to the Darfur Early Recovery Team, is now assisting the same agencies with the identification of protection risks in Southern Sudan, the consolidation of existing strategies to confront these and the development of a comprehensive inter-agency plan of action, while a second SPO is based in Blue Nile with UNHCR where he leads the Protection Unit and works to build capacity with both humanitarian organisations and local Government on human rights and the Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement; in Uganda, an SPO deployed to OHCHR in Gulu is tasked with integrating a human rights approach into the protection cluster, supporting human rights monitoring and representing OHCHR in Return Assessment Teams; in Lebanon, an SPO - deployed to UNHCR - is working to develop a strategic protection network and mechanism to address the situation of the internally displaced, returnees and other affected populations, to establish - within the protection strategy - priorities and a work plan, and enhance and support protection capacity building in the Gov-
In early January, an SPO will be assigned to UNHCR in Cote d'Ivoire and will be working with the protection cluster in refining and implementing the protection strategy for the country in relation to the protection of IDPs, in building protection capacity and seeking durable solutions.

The ProCap Support Unit (procap@un.org) is able to advise on the procedure and criteria for requests for the deployment of Senior Protection Officers, as well as any other aspects of the project. Information is also available on http://ocha.unog.ch/ProCapOnline.

In November, ProCap held its third training for members of Standby Rosters in Nairobi, Kenya. Eighteen participants, from the rosters of Save the Children, Norway, Save the Children Denmark, Save the Children Sweden, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council and Austcare, took part in this intensive 5-day training, bringing the total of Standby Experts trained by ProCap in 2006 to 57. The training curriculum provides participants with the skills to undertake context-specific protection analysis, establish priorities, design and plan inter-agency responses and conduct protection advocacy. It complements issue- and agency-specific protection training. The next ProCap training events are scheduled for Copenhagen, 25-30 March 2007, and Dookie, Australia, 29 April to 5 May 2007.

The Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Ms. Margareta Wahlström, presented the draft background paper at the November IASC WG meeting. Based on discussions in the WG meeting, the paper will be finalized by the end of 2006. In 2007, the HC Group has been asked by the IASC WG to identify what consultative mechanism would both allow for an adequate level of transparency, while ensuring an expeditious decision-making process, in determining situations where the separated RC/HC role and DHC role would be appropriate and what role the IASC should play in advising the ERC in such circumstances. The HC Group will also focus on establishing more comprehensive procedures for RC/HC performance assessment.

HC Pool: As agreed in the July 2006 IASC Working Group meeting, a second round for HC nominations was initiated to improve the gender and geographical balance of the HC Pool. The second round of nominations for the HC Pool was completed in October 2006, with two female candidates being added to the HC Pool list. In early December Ms. Elisabeth Rasmusson, who was one of the two female candidates, was appointed as Humanitarian Coordinator for Uganda. This was the first Non-UN appointment of an HC from the cur-
Training for HC Pool: The IASC has developed a learning and briefing system to support the HC Pool list members in improving coordination of humanitarian activities at the field level. This initiative, implemented under the direct guidance of the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator by the IASC and HC Core Training Group, has been designed as a four-phase briefing and learning system to span over a one-year period.

A pilot HC Induction Briefing (HCIB), part of the first phase, took place in Geneva from 7-9 November 2006. The next steps will be to update and streamline the HCIB based on feedback received from participants during the Briefing. Two dedicated posts will be established in OCHA Geneva to ensure continuity of this project.

At the IASC Principals meeting on 12 December 2006 the background paper: Strengthening the Humanitarian Coordination System: Achievements and Next Steps was presented with the aim to solicit IASC Principals views and guidance on substantive issues to be addressed in 2007, building on the existing endorsed IASC Action Plan to Strengthen the Humanitarian Coordinator System. In addition, it called on the Principals to re-affirm their commitment to support and provide resources to the development and implementation of the IASC Humanitarian Coordination Action Plan in 2007.

The Working Level Group met on 08 December to review progress of the various tasks undertaken by participants in preparation for the Steering Committee meeting scheduled for January. This was also the first meeting where UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and IOM participated.

Participants discussed the various drafts presented, namely the Principles of Partnership, an essential aspect of the Global Humanitarian Platform initiative drafted by the ICRC with the input from a broad range of NGOs and UN agencies; a presentation on the objectives of the Global Humanitarian Platform to be used in trainings and for advocacy, drafted by ICVA; a set of criteria for selecting countries to test the Principles of Partnership and establishing the Humanitarian Community Partnership Teams, drafted by SCHR; and a draft consultation strategy on how to fully involve the IASC membership as well as the broader humanitarian community.

All drafts were well received and are currently undergoing the necessary fine-tuning prior to presentation to the Steering Committee in January 2007.

An initiative by the Danish Government to fund a workshop for building the capacity of NGOs from regions currently under-represented in the Global Humanitarian Platform has been postponed until early 2007 in order to have more time for the necessary preparations, including selection of participants. While this workshop will take place in Geneva, it is expected that similar initiatives will be prepared later in the year at the regional and sub-regional levels. The overall objective is to boost the capacity of national NGOs to participate in strategic planning and decision-making at the national levels.

To this end, it is crucial that the NGO consortia, IFCR as well other organisations...
The meeting was very well-attended with 100 Member States represented. A total of USD 345 million was pledged by 51 donors for 2007. 35 donors who had also contributed in 2006 were joined by 16 new donors, many of whom are emerging donor countries, such as Algeria, Andorra, Bahamas, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Hungary, Israel, Jamaica, Lebanon, Malta.

Member states, donors and recipients alike, congratulated the work of the ERC and the CERF Secretariat and called for continued and increased support to the CERF: “We may save, if not the world, then at least its conscience,” the Hungarian permanent representation at the UN noted.

Latest CERF allocations
Since 1 December, the ERC approved a total of USD 61.8 million CERF grants to Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Gaza, Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya), Myanmar, and the Philippines.

Preparations are ongoing for the next allocation of CERF grants to underfunded emergencies, which will take place early next year. This allocation will amount to approximately USD 85 million.

For more details, please visit the updated CERF website at http://cerf.un.org.

General Assembly Resolution on Humanitarian Coordination passed
The General Assembly Resolution on the Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance was formally adopted on 14 December 2006. The final wording relating to the CERF included a paragraph welcoming “the Secretary-General’s efforts to set up appropriate reporting and accountability mechanisms for the Fund, and stresses the importance of ensuring that resources are allocated and used in the most efficient, effective, and transparent manner possible.”

CERF Training of trainers
A “training of trainers’ workshop on how to apply for CERF funding will be conducted in New York on 9-10 January. It is hoped that participants to this training will prove useful as CERF “surge capacity” for Country Teams that require support in the preparation of CERF grant requests (especially for countries without an OCHA presence). It is hoped that follow-up training of trainers sessions will be held in Geneva and the field. The CERF Secretariat is also participating in the HRSU-led workshop in Johannesburg from 18-19 January and Bangkok in late January.