

Proposed Terms of Reference
MIRA Preparedness Mission - Afghanistan
IASC Needs Assessment Task Force
13 – 20 January 2012

Background

In November 2011, the 80th IASC Working Group provisionally endorsed the work of the IASC Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF), namely the IASC Operational Guidance on Coordinated Assessments for Humanitarian Crises (Operational Guidance) and the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA). The Operational Guidance serves as the overall policy document guiding how humanitarian actors coordinate on the collection and sharing of needs assessment information throughout the lifespan of an emergency. And, the MIRA is the approach to conducting a joint assessment during the earliest days of an emergency to identify priority needs through shared analysis and collective agreement of the situation.

In March 2011, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) agreed that humanitarian regional teams should be capacitated to undertake multi-sectoral assessments and tasked the ICCT, along with key NGOs¹ to develop an appropriate tool. The ICCT decided to base this work on the MIRA and has requested additional support from the IASC NATF in holding a workshop to familiarize actors with the MIRA approach, provide guidance on how it may be customized to the Afghanistan context, and support the development of Standard Operating Procedures for Afghanistan.

Objectives

The mission will support assessment preparedness for the Afghanistan HCT by:

- 1) Familiarizing the Afghanistan HCT, Cluster Leads and NGOs on the MIRA approach and other components of the IASC Operational Guidance;
- 2) Working with Afghanistan HCT to identify steps and approaches to customizing the MIRA to the Afghanistan context;
- 3) Identifying work to be undertaken to outline Standard Operating Procedures for implementing a MIRA, including roles and responsibilities;
- 3) Identifying optimal surge mechanisms and stand-by capacity for the Afghanistan context, and defining potential follow on training and lesson learning mechanisms;
- 4) Outlining Standard Operating Procedures for implementing a MIRA, including roles and responsibilities;
- 4) Providing specific guidance and review to OCHA-Afghanistan, as the custodian of the MIRA approach for the Afghanistan HCT, on the processes required now and at the onset of an emergency;
- 5) Supporting the development of appropriate systems for handling data capture, data management and to support analysis and output of findings with identification of the secondary data gaps by cluster to frame and shape the MIRA assessments;

Dates

Suggested dates for deployment are 13 – 20 January 2012; while in Kabul from 14-19 January

Team Composition

The mission will be comprised of 2 OCHA staff members from the Assessment and Classification in Emergencies (ACE) Project, a representative from WHO (Geneva,) and a representative from UNICEF (Sri Lanka).

¹ These NGOs include Solidarite, IRC, MedAir, ACF, NRC and Save the Children are funded by ECHO and OFDA. They were identified based on their emergency response capacity.