

1. Background Information

The immediate aftermath of a sudden-onset disaster is a critical period of time when the humanitarian and donor communities need to make key decisions on how to best support the affected country or region and its populations. However, during that brief period, limited comprehensive information on the disaster's impact, scale and severity is typically available to support the identification of strategic humanitarian priorities. In addition, humanitarian actors often begin gathering information independently and with little consolidation, resulting in an incomplete and sometimes conflicting picture of humanitarian needs. The Multi- Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Needs Assessment Task Force (IASC NATF) seeks to address this problem, and to lay down the foundations for a stronger and better coordinated assessment culture during crises.

The MIRA approach was developed based on a review of 10 years of best practice in assessments and was provisionally endorsed by the IASC in November 2011. Disaster Management Team in Iran is organizing training workshop on Coordinated Assessment to strengthen the on-going preparedness activities in the country. In order to enhance coordination between the government and UN actors during an emergency response, and to ensure that international response to the emergencies would complement the national efforts the workshop aims to look at international best practices in Coordinated Assessment and possible adaptation to these practices to Iran context.

2. Objectives

The overall objective for the MIRA training workshop in Iran is to improve coordinated assessments within the country by:

- Raising awareness and orienting in-country decision-makers to the benefits of coordinated assessments, MIRA, and
- Enabling those coordinating and undertaking assessments to improve coordinated assessment practice in the context of Iran, in order to result in evidence-based programming across the humanitarian community.

3. Content of the workshop

The MIRA workshop for Iran will consist of two segments and be conducted in two and a half days.

- **Coordinated Assessment and MIRA Awareness Training** – two and half days in-depth look at the work of the IASC NATF on coordinated assessments including the Operational Guidance and MIRA approach highlighting the key aspects: value of systematic secondary data review; key common operational datasets; the MIRA Framework; the

Community Level Assessment; and MIRA outputs. The sessions will highlight how, in practice, both rapid (community level) and in-depth (household level) assessments should be undertaken in a coordinated manner to facilitate joint analysis and result in a shared or common situational understanding to inform programming. Training will consist of hand on exercises that will help participant understand the need for coordinated assessments during emergencies.

- **Strategic workshop** – Training and group exercises aim to identify how existing assessment practice could be modified to ensure maximum use of secondary data; greater coordination of sectoral analysis; joint inter-sectoral analysis; reporting formats and how assessments inform the Consolidated Appeal Process, Flash Appeal or localised response plan etc. How assessment results are stored and made available during emergencies for future use. This training workshop would strengthen common understanding of key stakeholders in Iran on coordinated assessment with possible agreement on next steps.

Follow-up support will be provided by OCHA HQ for a period up to three weeks after the workshop. OCHA HQ staff will work closely with the workshop focal point in-country to assist the Disaster Management Team providing technical support to accomplish next steps. OCHA MENA will provide continuous support through its National Disaster Response Adviser based in the Resident Coordinator's Office.

4. Participants

- **Coordinated Assessment Training and Strategic Workshop** –Humanitarian Country Team (i.e. UNCT/DMT, NDMO, UN-NDMO Joint Working Group, INGO partners and IRCS), Cluster Coordinators, donors, relevant Government officials and other actors responsible for commissioning or leading assessments.

5. Logistical arrangements

OCHA will undertake all logistical arrangements and cover related costs (including travel arrangements and DSA payment for provincial participants, workshop venue, etc.)