Designated Global Cluster Lead

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Main Partners at the Global Level

The Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER) is comprised of 31 UN agencies and non-UN organisations. The main partners at the global level are engaged in a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), which is currently an informal arrangement until approved at the IASC Principals level.

The SAG members are OCHA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council, Action Aid, and Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB).

Support and tools provided by the Early Recovery Cluster to the field

The IASC Guidance Note on Early Recovery (April 2008) is the predominant tool that is disseminated to the field, and provides the basic guidance for Early Recovery Advisors. The Guidance Note is complemented by several other papers, the most notable listed below:

- UNDP Policy on Early Recovery (April 2008) and numerous other guides, including
  - Joint Lessons Learned and Good Practice Toolkit: Transitioning humanitarian coordination mechanisms to support longer term recovery and development (UNDP, OCHA, DOCO, June 2012), awaiting finalisation and publication.
  - Early Recovery Inter-Cluster Action Plan (CWGER, October 2010)
  - Mainstreaming Early Recovery in Clusters: Implementing the Early Recovery Agenda (Report from the IASC Standing Committee 75th Working Group Meeting, November 2009)

Priorities and Activities

The CWGER continues to raise awareness as to the role of early recovery in humanitarian response. It is widely recognised that early recovery is a vital element in an effective humanitarian response, and it is becoming more commonly understood to be a concept that all humanitarian actors should try to include into their interventions, to capitalise on the gains of humanitarian work for longer term objectives. In short, early recovery is an approach that encourages essential humanitarian response (life-saving) to include communities, local and national actors to the extent possible, benefit from the presence of long-term development actors (and vice-versa), and contribute to longer-term objectives of a community that will also reduce their vulnerability to future crises. This approach is becoming to be well understood, but the CWGER continues to promote this interpretation for a common understanding across the humanitarian and development communities.

Early recovery, as described, is the responsibility of all humanitarian actors and the process for integrating it into humanitarian response is through the inter-cluster mechanisms. This is done by supporting the humanitarian system. The CWGER (supported by UNDP) deploys Early Recovery Advisors (ERAs) to countries affected by crises to support the Humanitarian Coordinator (HCs) to integrate the early recovery approach into the work of all clusters. One of the CWGER’s priorities is to strengthen the deployable expertise available to HCs. This includes improving the training opportunities available to deployable ERAs, and strengthening the roster.

The CWGER Secretariat in Geneva is closely engaged with the IASC sub-working groups and all other clusters to ensure the Geneva-based country support provides accurate and informative remote guidance (and in-country when necessary) for the ERAs that are deployed.