

**Name of Event: [Side Event] Success Stories in Inter-Agency Preparedness and the Way Forward**

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**Organizer: Inter-Agency Standing Committee Sub-Working Group on Preparedness**

### **1) Outline**

- Emergency preparedness
- Inter-agency and governments' cooperation
- Capacity building of national and local governments
- Bringing coherence in emergency preparedness and response

### **2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations**

- Members of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) possess expertise in preparedness and are developing response capacity with their partners. However, to become more effective, this engagement needs to adopt common approaches. Furthermore, engagement with national and local actors should be prioritized while stepping up coherent and coordinated investments in developing response capacity.
- Responding to emergencies without endeavoring to support existing local and national capacity can be inefficient. International humanitarian actors should support existing national and local response capacity by empowering national and local actors, such as the work being done in Tajikistan through the REACT secretariat, helping national and local governments to assume leadership and making them subjects of coordination.
- Development of national and local capacities should be a structured, systematic long-term process at national and local level. Governments should be supported in developing long term strategies and multi-year operational plans for preparedness as was the case in Ghana, putting it also into practice through simulations and attaching indicators of progress for monitoring purposes.

Communities and local organizations should be recognized as first responders and national structures as the custodians of response capacity.

- Preparedness is essentially about developing response capacities, a humanitarian activity requiring sustained, longer-term 'developmental' approaches. It necessitates closer collaboration to strengthen response capacities. Therefore strengthening of preparedness needs to be embedded within a broader strategy for more robust disaster risk reduction: "prepare today for a safer tomorrow", but also for a "better today".

### **3) Conclusions**

- Good coordination systems must be put in place to ensure better coherence between various actors.
- A good interaction must be developed to reconcile good long terms and short term approaches: humanitarian and development must work together to ensure that development programmes integrate the preparedness dimension and so that emergency response is efficient and conducive to fast recovery. Priority 4 and 5 of the HFA must be considered together.
- All levels must be aligned (national, provincial, community): so that all work under common priorities, without duplication, and in response to the needs of the people.