

Movement Disaster and Crisis Working Group (DCWG)

Terms of Reference

Background

The Movement Disaster and Crisis Working Group (DCWG) is a group of experienced disaster managers from a range of National Societies, the Federation Secretariat and the ICRC, who meet together to promote the coordination and strengthening of our collective international disaster management.

The DCWG is an informal group and is not exclusive but seeks to bring together members with relevant international disaster management experience in recent operations. The group meets to share disaster management learning and analysis, through the lens of recent operational experience, and to advance DM approaches, ideas and solutions relating to operational coordination and delivery and discuss and contribute to DM policies. The meetings and follow up are supported by a selected organising committee.

Purpose

The DCWG's purpose is to provide a forum for National Societies and the Federation Secretariat and the ICRC, to discuss and recommend ways of strengthening our international disaster management capabilities and to encourage and facilitate collective compliance to agreed DM practices and policies. For these purposes, Disaster Management comprises operational preparedness, response and recovery.

The DCWG is neither a policy making nor a decision-making body, and as such represents those attending the meetings; it has no official mandate or authority. Instead, it is a network of like-minded DM experts, who meet to liaise, share knowledge and advance issues relating to operations and DM within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and beyond.

Objectives

- To provide operational and disaster management inputs and recommendations to the IFRC Secretariat – at HQ, Regional or Country levels – the partner National Societies and the ICRC, in order to strengthen our operational preparedness, response and recovery capabilities.
- To discuss and share good DM practice and experience, including lessons identified from recent operations and encourage participants to seek to learn and apply such lessons
- To initiate, encourage and report on any innovative DM mechanisms or approaches that may be replicable elsewhere by other partners.
- To discuss and agree ways to improve the quality, accountability and impact of our disaster management interventions and to ensure compliance with existing Movement policies, procedures and standards, including through peer pressure.
- To build consensus on priorities and good practice

Membership

The aim of the DCWG is to bring together senior Disaster Managers (International) with decision-making power and with relevant experience in recent operations, plus the relevant Federation Secretariat and ICRC representatives as full and essential members (Federation Director of Disasters, Climate and Crises department and a senior operational manager of the ICRC). Enlarged participation from the Federation Secretariat or the ICRC will be according to the agenda. The members all have equal status and share responsibility to identify, prepare, discuss and resolve issues of relevance to the DMWG.

The DCWG is not an exclusive group and seeks to include new members matching the professional profile, willing to commit to the group long-term and able to cover their own expenses for participation.

According to the agreed agenda of a particular meeting, representatives from National Societies affected by disasters as appropriate and feasible will be invited. Generally, all participants cover their costs to attend the

meeting, however, in the case of the affected NS, the OC would either agree to share costs of participation, or seek contributions from other members. If participation is sought for specific agenda items only, video conferencing or other tools can be used to bring other relevant stakeholders in.

Organisation

The DCWG meets once per year; ad hoc meetings can be initiated, through the Organising Committee (OC). Meetings can be co-located with other fora if relevant.

Attendance from each member will normally be 1 or 2 persons, but can be open to other specialists in agreement with the OC, and if relevant to the agenda. Similarly, guests from outside the group can be invited by the OC.

At the end of each meeting, it will be agreed that one of the DCWG members will host the next meeting and a representative of that NS will be co-opted onto the OC for the next year to support the preparation of the meeting.

Members can agree to follow up on concrete action points or projects, either individually or collectively; in this case, these members will organise the process for delivering the outputs according to agreed timelines and objectives.

To ensure continued engagement and information sharing between meetings, conference calls, emails, sharepoint and other means can be used. This exchange will be facilitated by the OC.

The DCWG will select an OC to support its function. The OC will be made up of six persons (including the host of the next meeting), four from NSs and one focal point each from the ICRC and the IFRC Secretariat. The membership of the OC will be run on a rotating basis, with two new members co-opted each year for a two year period, to ensure a level of continuity in each OC.

The role of the OC is to:

- Work with the hosting NS to prepare and facilitate the next meeting, including preparation of the agenda, background papers, administration and communication with members, etc. Ensure effective minutes are taken and action points are recorded from meetings.
- Disseminate information to members from the meetings, as well as other relevant updates
- Provide updates on progress against action points from previous meetings
- Scan the operational humanitarian environment for issues relevant to the DCWG, including follow up from other groups on recommendations or subjects of relevance.
- Ensure continuity of the OC functions

Links with other groups

The DCWG will maintain active links with other related groups to ensure information sharing and appropriate engagement, but does not have a formal relation. These groups may make suggestions or recommendations to the DMWG and vice versa. These links include (but not limited to) with the ICG, the DPRR WG, the Surge WG, technical and sectoral WGs.

**Updated for the February 2020 Virtual DCWG meeting
Agreed, 07 October 2020 Virtual DCWG meeting**