

# Briefing Session HIV/AIDS Interventions in Emergency Settings

## Presenter's Guide



**First Draft Version**



## Purpose and Scope

There are three principal objectives for this briefing session.

First, it aims to introduce HIV/AIDS as a **strategic consideration** in emergency situations.

Second, it intends to present a clear rationale for a **multi-sectoral approach** to the inclusion of HIV/AIDS in emergencies.

Third, it introduces the **IASC HIV/AIDS in Emergency Settings Guidelines and Matrix**.

This briefing session aims at generating awareness among policy makers of the critical importance of HIV/AIDS as a strategic priority in emergencies. It then introduces additional IASC resources for strategic capacity-building.

## Target Audience

The briefing is intended for high-level policy makers within national governments, Heads of Agency, Resident Representatives and other influential people. It is not intended as an in-depth technical presentation for programming or field personnel.

It explicitly draws links between global policy commitments to the Millennium Development Goals, which include HIV/AIDS as a key priority – and efforts to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS in all contexts, including emergencies.

## Organisation of the Briefing Session

The briefing session stresses the policy and strategic importance of addressing HIV/AIDS in emergencies.

The briefing session can be presented in a range of contexts. These include routine meetings of heads of agency, as well as discussions that strategically focus on HIV/AIDS.

The briefing session may be incorporated into an existing interagency or other high-level meeting agenda.

Strategic emergency planning consultations also provide an excellent opportunity for profiling the issues of HIV/AIDS in emergency settings.

Moreover, the briefing is ideally placed to be presented in the event of an actual emergency, as this provides a relevant and meaningful platform to introduce the issue of HIV/AIDS in emergencies.

## Preferred Expertise for Briefing Presenters

It is preferred that the presenter is an HIV/AIDS subject specialist, ideally with experience in complex or other types of emergency settings.

Such specialists may be identified from within United Nations agencies, nongovernmental organizations or national departments of health. Wherever possible, the specialist identified should also be familiar with the HIV/AIDS profile of the country, region or constituency concerned –

including trends and infection rates in particular at-risk groups.

S/he should be aware of the emergency context for the country, region or constituency concerned. This includes past as well as current emergencies, patterns of internal and cross-border displacement and issues of chronic and acute food insecurity.

Lastly, it is recommended that the preferred presenter is aware of and able to respond appropriately to cultural sensitivities related to this discussion of HIV/AIDS. It is also important that s/he is viewed as a credible authority on this subject by those attending the session.

In some situations, this may require consideration of the presenter's gender, age and qualifications. This is because different audiences will respond more favourably to presenters they perceive to have greater credibility and expertise.

### Adaptation Considerations and Suggestions

It is important that the presentation is relevant to those attending. This means adapting the presentation to the priorities and emergency realities of the country, region or constituency concerned.

The presentation provides scope, for instance, to place proportionate emphasis on complex emergencies or natural disasters – depending on what is more meaningful to the audience.

The presentation also provides scope to explore the possible links between HIV/AIDS and other emergency

situations, for instance, in countries with increasing HIV infection and a high frequency of 'natural disasters'. This is particularly relevant to parts of Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Presentation Style, Methods and Timing

This presenter's guide is accompanied by the powerpoint presentation *The need for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings*.

This is accompanied by notes to facilitate discussion.

The slideshow is designed to allow both:

- a more formal presentation with data projector and screen
- a less formal collegial 'round table' discussion of the key issues around HIV/AIDS in emergencies based on the powerpoint handouts.

We suggest that the presenter consult the meeting chair in advance to determine the most effective approach for a particular audience.

The presentation itself is an interactive opportunity for the presenter to provide input, then invite reaction and discussion, drawing extensively on the experience of those attending.

It has been developed to be delivered in approximately 45 minutes – 1 hour. However, there is scope to extend this with additional discussion and clarification.

### Beyond the Presentation: Additional Questions

If time permits, group discussion can be extended around issues such as:

- What steps would be needed to begin a process of incorporating HIV/AIDS considerations into existing emergency plans or responses?
- What constraints exist to this (organizationally, financially, culturally)?
- What opportunities/resources exist that could be harnessed to take these priorities forward?

### Preparation of Equipment and Handouts

#### Equipment

Data projector, laptop computer, pointer and screen if formal presentation.

CD-ROM containing briefing session  
*The need for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings.*

#### Handouts

Photocopy sufficient powerpoint slides for distribution to those attending the session.

Take several copies of the *IASC Guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings* to display.

Take promotional brochures for the *IASC Guidelines for HIV/AIDS interventions in emergency settings* to distribute.

### Supplemental Resource Material

As part of the preparation process, we suggest the presenter consult the following supplemental materials for additional information:

- UNAIDS, 2004, *Report on the global AIDS epidemic.*
- Humanitarian Policy Group, 2003, *Research Briefing: HIV/AIDS and implications for humanitarian action.*
- Spiegel, Paul, 2004, UNAIDS, UNHCR, *HIV/AIDS among conflict-affected and displaced populations: dispelling myths and taking action.*

These materials may be highlighted as particularly relevant as additional references for those interested at the briefing.