

## CENTRAL FUND FOR INFLUENZA ACTION PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE

*(for posting on the CFIA web site)*

June 30, 2010

<b>Participating UN or Non-UN Organization:</b>	UNWTO	<b>UNCAPAHI Objective(s) covered:</b>	6. Continuity under pandemic conditions		
<b>Implementing Partner(s):</b>	OCHA				
<b>Programme Number:</b>	CFIA/A-10				
<b>Programme Title:</b>	Development and conducting regional and national simulation exercises to rehearse and assess preparedness plans and uncover shortcomings				
<b>Total Approved Programme Budget:</b>	US\$ 252,000				
<b>Location:</b>	Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Central America				
<b>MC Approval Date:</b>	20 February 2008				
<b>Programme Duration:</b>	12 months	<b>Starting Date:</b>	6 March 2008	<b>Completion Date:</b>	Extended to 31 December 2010
<b>Funds Committed:</b>	US\$ 1,160.25			<b>Percentage of Approved:</b>	0.46%
<b>Funds Disbursed:</b>	US\$ 176,242.80			<b>Percentage of Approved:</b>	69.94%
<b>Expected Programme Duration:</b>	33 months	<b>Forecast Final Date:</b>	31 December 2010	<b>Delay (Months):</b>	21 months

<b>Outcomes:</b>	<b>Achievements/Results:</b>	<b>Percentage of planned:</b>
Organizational set-up	Recruitment of staff completed and operational by October 2008.	100%
Defining partner links	<p><u>Asia:</u> Simulation exercise that took place on 19-20 September of 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand, was carried out successfully in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of Thailand, UNSIC office in Bangkok and ASEAN.</p> <p>A regional UNWTO Review and Preparation Exercise on Travel and Tourism under</p>	95%

<sup>1</sup> The term "programme" is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.

Challenging Circumstances took place on 3-4 May of 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop, carried out jointly with the Ministry of Tourism of Malaysia, focused on communication and coordination systems used and lessons learned from the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. Two guidelines advising Member States and industry stakeholders were reviewed by the participants.

Europe:

Within the framework of UNWTO Practicum on Risk and Crisis Management for which Member States were invited to headquarters in Madrid, Spain (10-23 May 2009), an extensive training and simulation exercise was carried out with special focus on pandemic (H1N1) 2009. Through interactive communications during the workshop, the participants discussed the systematic approach and necessary steps to manage pandemic in the context of the current (H1N1) virus. The objectives of the workshop to correct assumptions, advance planning, and strengthen capacity building of the Member States in face of the influenza pandemic, and to minimize its negative impacts on the travel and tourism sector were met.

Considering the evolving situation of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009 and the potential impacts it brings to the travel and tourism sector, UNWTO held a Review and Preparation Exercise on Travel and Tourism under Pandemic Conditions at headquarters in Madrid on 26-27 August, 2009 to anticipate and prepare for upcoming issues and share relevant experiences. This exercise, primarily aimed at the European, African and Middle Eastern region, brought together representatives of UNWTO Member States, key stakeholders from the travel and tourism sector, Influenza Focal Points, members of Tourism Emergency Response Network (TERN) and International Organizations. Drawing from the rich discussion of this workshop, a number of recommendations and conclusions were reached.

The Americas:

In the region of the Americas and with the collaboration of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, UNWTO convened a Review and Preparation Exercise on Travel and Tourism under Pandemic Conditions in Nassau, The Bahamas on 16-17 September

	<p>2009. The purpose of this exercise, which took place only three weeks after the regional exercise for Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, was to reassess, re-envision and reinvigorate the sector's response to the challenges presented by the pandemic (H1N1) 2009. Representatives from UNWTO Member States, Key stakeholders from the travel and tourism sector, TERN members and international organizations joined the event and discussed the current challenges as well as upcoming ones in view of the developing pandemic, and how to best adjust the preparations of the travel and tourism sector. The discussions during this workshop built on the recommendations from the Madrid workshop, developed them further and identified for a region with very high dependence on travel and tourism additional recommendations.</p> <p>UNWTO is in close contact with the Ministry of Tourism of Brazil to look into the possibility of a 2-day planning and preparedness exercise for the MERCOSUR countries to be held in Brasilia, Brazil for the 28<sup>th</sup> calendar week of 2010.</p>	
Capacity building of local staff	<p>Training of local staff prior to the simulation exercises in Bangkok, Madrid, and Nassau on tourism and health and UN procedures as part of the events.</p> <p>Joint work with UNDP was undertaken in Mexico to support the recovery efforts of the country and share the lessons learned.</p> <p>The concept of reviewing and engaging directly with the relevant stakeholders while undertaking the workshops improves the relevance practicability and sets a framework of "engaged consultation".</p>	80%
Preparation for simulation exercises	<p>Since the outbreak of pandemic (H1N1) 2009, the format and content of simulation exercises have been developed and adapted to the evolvement of the situation to cover pertaining issues and broader perspectives. Situational updates and documents of sister UN agencies were consulted in the process of content development. Findings and feedbacks from previous and recent exercises were reflected in the programme design. Findings of previous simulation exercises formed an integral part of discussion in the</p>	70%

	meetings with TERN and Influenza Focal Points and assisted our activities to support Mexico.	
Development of distance learning training modules	<p>Publication based on the discussion and results of the workshop in Bangkok was finalized and disseminated to the participants. Lessons learned were shared with participants of the workshops in Madrid and Nassau.</p> <p>Publication based on the Madrid workshop was finalized and widely disseminated to especially the travel and tourism and health sectors.</p> <p>Publication based on the Bahamas workshop was finalized and widely disseminated to especially the travel and tourism and health sectors.</p> <p>Feedbacks on the publications are and will continue to be implemented for the preparation and planning of upcoming simulation exercises.</p> <p>The publications will serve as basis for distance learning tool kit.</p>	80%

**Qualitative achievements against outcomes and results:**

The travel and tourism sector is currently one of the first and most affected economic activities by the outbreak of the pandemic (H1N1) 2009. The original objective of the project to improve capacity building and preparedness assessment for a possible pandemic has been adjusted to focus on identifying real needs of the travel and tourism sector under the currently developing pandemic situation, especially to anticipate and better prepare for the months to come.

The travel and tourism sector has benefited from the experiences gained from previous simulation exercises in our response to the challenges of the pandemic since the outbreak of the virus.

During this reporting period, a two-day workshop on Travel and Tourism under Challenging Circumstances: the Role of Coordination, Market Intelligence and Communications during the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 3-4 May 2010. It focused on 3 main subject areas: crisis coordination, crisis communications and market intelligence and reviewed the draft guidelines currently under preparation.

In addition, holding exercises as part of the continued effort of UNWTO to help Member States and the global travel and tourism sector to adjust assumptions and improve crisis response procedures still remain a priority. This project is particularly relevant and important to facilitate tourism risk and crisis management in the event of the current pandemic situation and to ensure that the lessons learned from the Pandemic will lead to a multi-hazard and whole nation approach.