



**CENTRAL FUND FOR INFLUENZA ACTION**  
**ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2010**

<b>Programme Title &amp; Number</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Development and conducting of regional and national simulation exercises to rehearse and assess preparedness plans and uncover shortcomings</li> <li>• Programme Number: A-10</li> <li>• MDTF Office Atlas Number: 55350</li> </ul>

<b>UNCAPAHI Objective(s) covered:</b>
6. Continuity under pandemic Conditions
<b>Programme Coverage/Scope:</b> Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Central America

<b>Participating UN or Non-UN Organization(s)</b>
UNWTO

<b>Implementing Partners</b>
WHO, OCHA, ICAO, UNSIC, UNDP, FAO, UNICEF

<b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b>	
CFIA Contribution:	US\$ 252,000.00
Agency Contribution	-
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>	-
Other Contribution (donor) <i>(if applicable)</i>	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	US\$ 252,000.00

<b>Programme Duration (months)</b>	
Overall Duration	March 2008 – September 2011
Start Date <sup>1</sup>	20 February 2008
End Date or Revised End Date, <i>(if applicable)</i>	30 September 2011
Operational Closure Date <sup>2</sup>	n/a
Expected Financial Closure Date	30 September 2011

<b>Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation</b>
Assessment Completed - if applicable <i>please attach</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____
Mid-Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____

<b>Submitted By</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Name: Márcio Favilla
<input type="checkbox"/> Title: Executive Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Participating Organization (Lead): UNWTO
<input type="checkbox"/> Email address: mfavilla@unwto.org

<sup>1</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).

<sup>2</sup> All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

## **NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT**

### **I. Purpose**

- UNWTO identified as a result of previous simulation exercises in 2007 and the work it had carried out, the need for specific regional and national exercises to uncover shortcomings of the tourism integration into the national plans and of capacity building in pandemic situation. UNWTO's proposed programme is targeted with a regional focus at regions and countries most vulnerable, with significant flows of travellers and where tourism is an important economic activity. The experience gained, lessons learned and final results will be widely disseminated to the travel and tourism sector.
- The UN System Consolidated Action Plan for Avian and Human Influenza (UNCAPAHI) clearly defined the need for maintaining continuity under pandemic conditions as under Objective 6 of the plan to which UNWTO's programme has conformed to build capacity and assess preparedness and planning at regional and national level especially in tourism sectors and was subsequently approved.
- WHO, OCHA, ICAO, UNSIC, UNDP, FAO, UNICEF

### **II. Resources**

#### *Financial Resources:*

- The full scope of the programme's activities and outputs are to be covered by the funds (US\$ 252,000) received from CFIA.
- A cost-neutral extension was requested to finalize the project's implementation for the following reasons:
  - The changing nature of the pandemic requires a constant modification of the approach to stimulate interest of the Member States and to produce the desired impact.
  - The supportive attitude of our Member States and participants which contributed with matching financial and in-kind support, allowed cost efficiency when conducting the exercises in 2010
  - One of our host countries, were only able to provide us with their confirmation for hosting our events only after final approval by their Cabinet of Ministries which took longer than expected.

#### *Human Resources:*

- Support staff financed by UNWTO assisted on logistical issues.
- 1 external expert (on tourism) and 1 external expert (on communications) recruited on temporary basis.

### **III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

- After the pandemic in 2009 and the post-pandemic period declared by WHO in the middle of 2010, UNWTO strengthened the focus of the simulation exercises on review and preparedness exercises to improve the relevance and to ensure good support by stakeholders.
- Findings of previous simulation exercises formed an integral part of the discussion in the meetings with the Tourism Emergency Response network (TERN) and Influenza Focal Points, and in turn have assisted us in further updating and developing the programme design.
- The usual UNWTO standards for procurement and monitoring are applied for this project. Regular internal communication with all other departments, regional representatives, Affiliate Members and senior management ensure that all relevant project information is shared.

## IV. Results

- The changing nature of the pandemic required constant modification of the approach to stimulate interest of the Member States and to produce the desired impact. After the pandemic of 2009 and the post pandemic declared by WHO in the middle of 2010, UNWTO strengthen the focus of the simulation exercises on review and preparedness exercises to improve the relevance and to ensure good support by the stakeholders.
- The travel and tourism sector is 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 had been adjusted to focus on identifying the real needs of the travel and tourism sector under the pandemic. The travel and tourism sector has benefited from the experiences gained from the previous simulation exercises in our response to the challenges of the pandemic since the outbreak of the virus. UNWTO focused on capturing the key achievements, gaps and lessons learned from the pandemic (H1N1) from the travel and tourism sector whose findings will be to their benefit for better handling general crisis situation in the future.
- During this reporting period, the focus remained on holding exercises as part of the continued effort to help Member States and the global travel and tourism sector to improve crisis response procedures:
  - Regional UNWTO Review and Preparation Exercise on Travel and Tourism under Challenging Circumstances took place on 3-4 May of 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Primarily aimed at the region of Asia and the Pacific, the objective of this review and preparation exercise was to address the challenges and opportunities that the ongoing pandemic had brought so far onto the tourism industry, with special emphasis on coordination, market intelligence and communications. The analysis of the unfolding pandemic (H1N1) 2009 situation will be also used to better prepare for other crises situations whether of global or regional importance.
  - Joint work with UNDP was undertaken in Mexico to support the recovery efforts of the country and share the lessons learned.
  - With the collaboration of the Ministry of Tourism of Brazil, and with the participation of PAHO and OCHA from the region, UNWTO undertook a regional workshop on 23-24 September 2010, where national and international participants shared their lessons learned on crisis situations, amongst others, the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.
  - In view of the upcoming major mass gathering events scheduled to take place in Brazil on 2014 and 2016, and using the occasion of the MERCOSUR presidency held by Brazil, an inter-ministerial training exercise took place prior to the regional seminar establishing links between the Crisis Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, Ministry of National Integration, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Tourism, as well as the council of Secretaries of the Regional Tourist Authorities
  - UNWTO convened a workshop on Travel, Tourism and the Pandemic: *Lessons Learned for Building a Safer World* that took place last 9-10 December 2010 at the UNWTO headquarters in Madrid. UNWTO was able to gather the participation from a wide spectrum of the travel, tourism and aviation sectors which included the public and private sector stakeholders, with local, national, regional and international representation, which in turn, were able to be divided into the following representative clusters of the travel and tourism sector:
    - Inbound destinations
    - Outbound destinations
    - Tour operators
    - Cruise lines and harbors
    - Hotels and restaurants
    - Airlines
    - Airports and ground transportation
    - Attractions and entertainment

- The good cooperation with WHO, ICAO, UNSIC, UNDP and the TERN has allowed UNWTO to better identify the problems and the needs of the sector in a timely and relevant manner.

## V. Future Work Plan

- After the pandemic in 2009 and the post-pandemic period declared by WHO in the middle of 2010, UNWTO strengthened the focus of the simulation exercises on review and preparedness exercises to improve the relevance and to ensure good support by stakeholders.
- Holding exercises as part of the continued efforts of UNWTO to help its Member States and the global travel and tourism community to adjust assumptions and improve crisis response procedures still remain a priority. This programme is particularly relevant and important to facilitate tourism risk and crisis management in the event of pandemic situation and to ensure that the lessons learned from the Pandemic will lead to a multi-hazard and whole nation approach.
- The supportive attitude of our Member States and participants which contributed with matching financial and in-kind support, allowed cost efficiency when conducting the exercises in 2010. The remaining funds shall be used in 2011 to conduct an additional preparedness exercise to support the lessons learned and to promote the findings to the travel and tourism sector.
- The remaining funds shall be used to conduct an additional preparedness exercise to support the lessons learned and to promote the findings to the travel and tourism sector.

## Annexes

- Annex I: Conclusions of UNWTO Workshop on Travel and Tourism under Challenging Circumstances: the Role of Coordination, Market Intelligence and Communications during the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.
- Annex II: Toward a Safer World: the Travel, Tourism and Aviation Sector.

## Abbreviations

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
MERCOSUR	Common Market of the South
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
TERN	Tourism Emergency Response System
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPI	United Nations Department of Public Information
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSIC	United Nations System Influenza Coordination
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
WHO	World Health Organization