The critical findings of the Rwanda joint evaluation in 1994 lead to the creation of ALNAP and Sphere in 1997 and the Humanitarian Ombudsman Project in 1998 later to several initiatives.

Since the start of the ECB project, IWG agencies have seen improvements in quality and accountability that can be attributed to the sustained commitment of several initiatives.

10.2 Why do we believe in working with them?

ECB has made concerted efforts at an early stage to work with other quality and accountability initiatives. These bilateral efforts have strengthened relationships, provided mutual guidance and critique, and led to some joint work.

10.3 Avoiding Duplication

When we don’t work collaboratively, we reinvent the wheel and do things that have already been done, creating confusion among the program staff that dilutes the quality of work and demands accountability.

The ECB initiative has greatly benefited from the collaboration of various quality and accountability initiatives. Starting this initiative is a first meeting in a series of meetings to listen to field staff on how to improve work and accountability at the project level and at the program level. It was also a first step in identifying and solving common issues in the ECB initiative.

The more the merrier...

Most of the ECB agencies are also involved in other quality and accountability initiatives.

• IWG agencies participate and have informed the development of these quality and accountability initiatives.

• Most IWG agencies are members of ALNAP and a World Vision staff member chairs ALNAP.

• CARE, Oxfam, Save-UK and World Vision are members of HAP and a CARE staff person chairs HAP.

• All IWG agencies carry out Sphere learning and care. Sphere and VIF members are on the board of.

With more initiatives there is more complexity. But collaborative work means that we all make faster progress to becoming more accountability agencies that can implement high quality work and track its results. More and more, agencies are recognizing the need to build professional communities that promote good practices and critique of each other’s work.

Recommendations for IWG Agencies

At a conference in December 2006, staff from various quality and accountability initiatives, as well as their donor institutions, the U.N., and international and national NGOs, met to establish a mechanism on quality and accountability. The conference involved key stakeholders and collaboration for the IWG agencies. We believe that the community of these stakeholders and initiatives has been strengthened because they were formed from such a large number of agencies that can now support each other.

• Provide systematic training and disaster affected personnel on how to improve work and accountability.

• Encourage professionalizing and disaster affected personnel on how to improve work and accountability.

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