

The Cluster Approach in NBC

An Inter-Agency Humanitarian Experience



UNRC, TRIPOLI SUB-OFFICE

Outline

- Where does the “Cluster Approach” come from?
- Cluster Definition
- Cluster Lead Agencies
- Cluster Approach: Aim and Scope
- Cluster Approach at the Field Level
- The Cluster Approach in NBC

Where does «Cluster Approach» come from?

- Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)/ June 1992;
- IASC Principals Meeting/ September 2005:
 1. Need to build a stronger response capacity for emergencies
 2. Clusters and their leads

IASC provides a good representation of today's humanitarian community

Intergovernmental Organizations:

- IOM
- World Bank

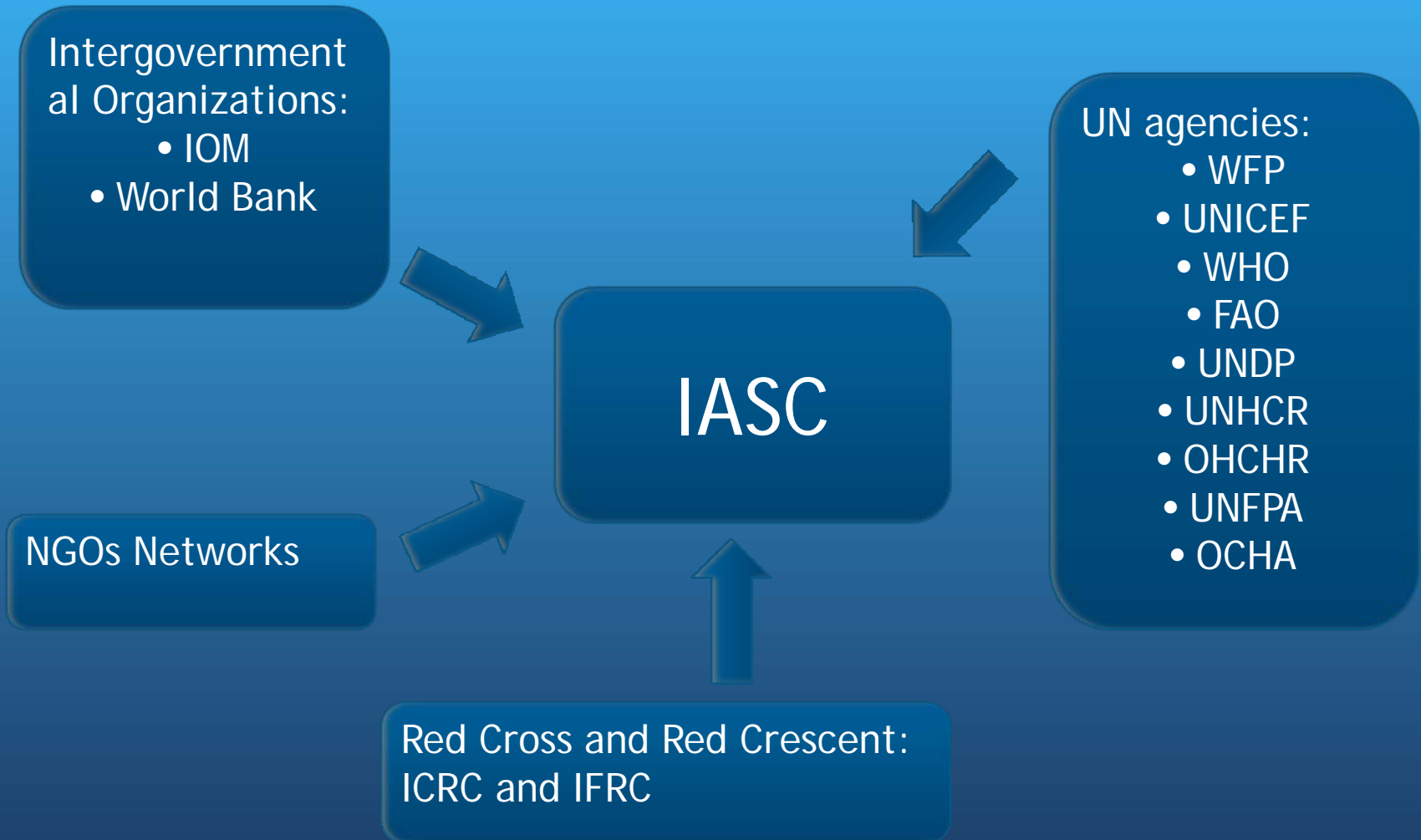
NGOs Networks

IASC

Red Cross and Red Crescent:
ICRC and IFRC

UN agencies:

- WFP
- UNICEF
- WHO
- FAO
- UNDP
- UNHCR
- OHCHR
- UNFPA
- OCHA



Cluster Definition

- A “cluster” is essentially a “sectoral group” ... that aims to fill in the gaps and to ensure adequate preparedness and response in a specific sector of intervention.

i.e. Health Cluster, Shelter Cluster, Education Cluster, Livelihoods Cluster, etc...

- Each cluster has a lead usually an agency/organization formally commits to take on a leadership role within a particular area to ensure adequate response and high standards of predictability, accountability and partnership.

Cluster Lead Agencies at Global Level

Area Of Activity	Cluster Lead Agency
Service Provision: Logistics	WFP
Emergency Telecom	OCHA (Process Owner), UNICEF (Common Data Services) WFP (Common Security Telecom Services)
Relief & Assistance: Emergency Shelter	UNHCR (for conflict-generated IDPs) and IFRC (in natural disasters)
Health	WHO
Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF

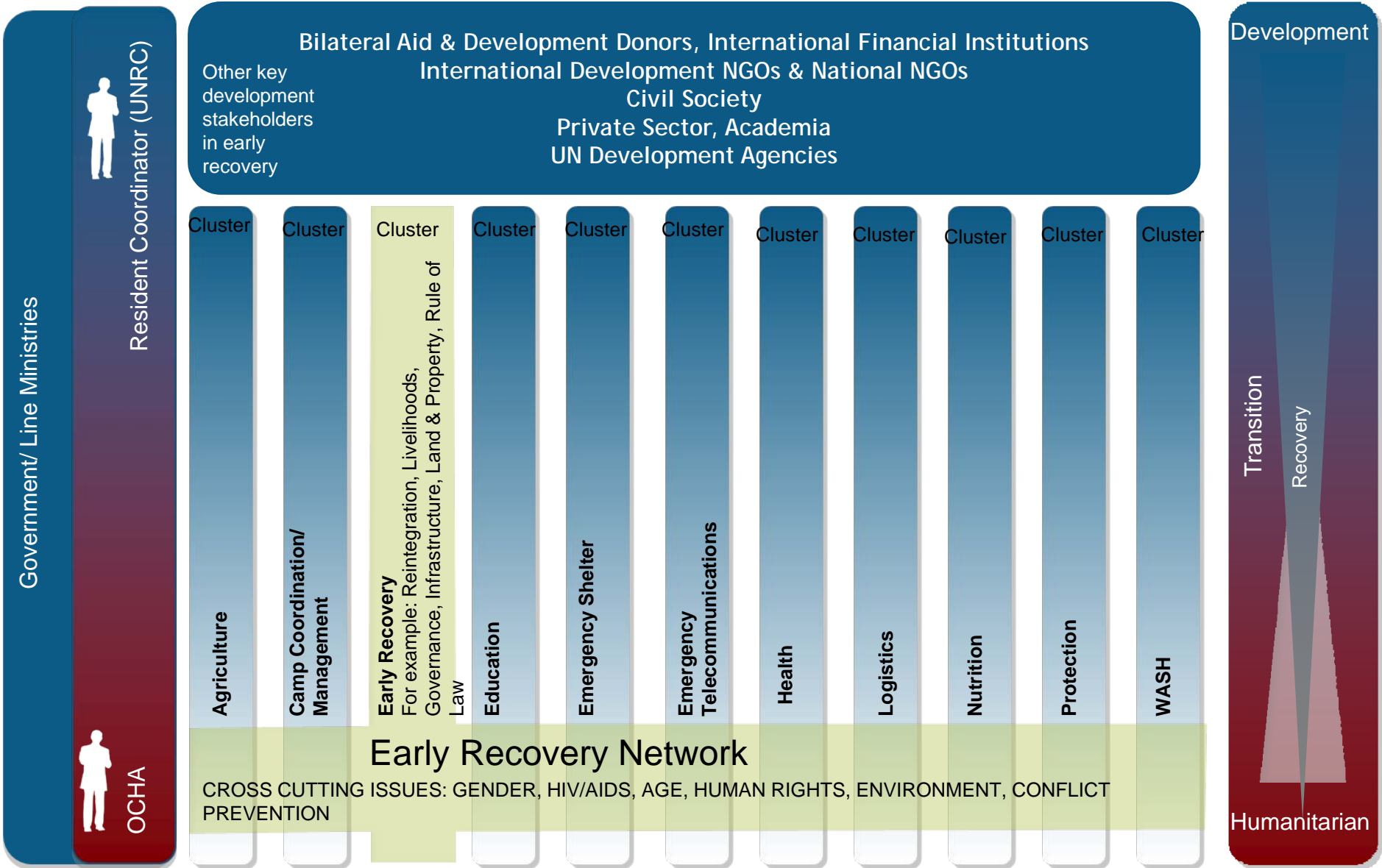
Cluster Lead Agencies at Global Level

Area Of Activity	Cluster Lead Agency
Cross Cutting concerns:	
Early Recovery	UNDP
Protection	UNHCR (for conflict-generated IDPs) UNHCR, UNIEF and OHCHR (in natural disasters)
Camp Coordination	UNHCR (for conflict-generated IDPs) IOM (in natural disasters)

Cluster Approach: Aim & Scope (1)

- Goal: To improve results on the ground by increasing accountabilities of the humanitarian community to the populations affected by humanitarian crisis.
- Scope: CA operates both at global & country level.

Cluster Approach at the Global Level



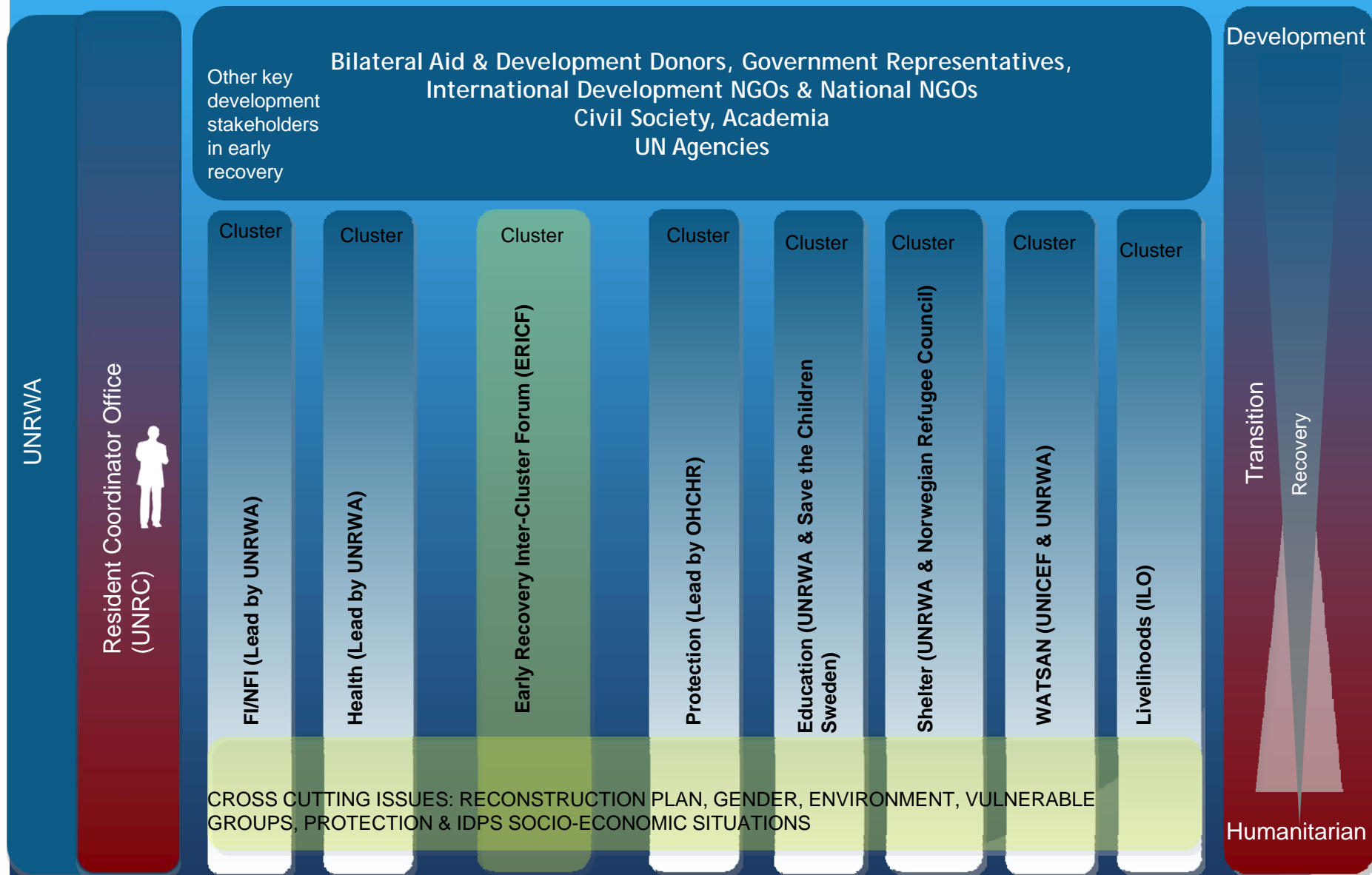
Cluster Approach in NBC

- In response to the NBC crisis, national and international organizations expressed the need to coordinate their activities at the field level by organizing informal meetings in specific sectors of intervention (Education, Health, Shelter, etc.)
- The UNRC Tripoli Sub-Office was entrusted with the coordination of humanitarian and early recovery activities in NBC Adjacent Area.

Cluster Approach in NBC

- 7 clusters were developed in addition to the Early Recovery Inter-cluster Forum that is usually held on a monthly basis to discuss cross-cutting issues such as environment, protection, gender etc.
- Most of the clusters are being lead by UNRWA either in partnership with other UN agencies or INGOs.

Cluster Leads in NBC



Cluster Organizational & Operational Tools

- Terms of reference for cluster and lead
- Up-to-date contact list
- Action Plan
- Agenda & Minutes of Meeting
- Assessments
- Information/Statistics Database
- Regular meetings schedule & Venue

Cluster Meetings in 2008-2009

Cluster	Number of Meetings
FI/NFI	13
Health	15
Protection	11
Shelter	18
WATSAN	16
Livelihoods	10
Education	17
Early Recovery Inter-Cluster Forum	9

- Online system to enhance information sharing

What does each cluster do?

- Information-sharing platform;
- Identifies gaps & minimizes duplication;
- Categorizes needs & aids organizations in deploying the necessary technical resources;
- Enhances collaboration between active actors;
- Ensures collective response to challenges as needed.

Where are we now?

- NBC operation is moving towards the early recovery phase.
- Many agencies/organizations have completed projects and are phasing out.
- Clusters are still in place and currently conducting assessments to plan the way forward.
- Possible shift to a different mechanism such as thematic meetings or the merging of clusters may take place but the outcome will be that a system will continue to be in place.

Thank You