

- The issue of "humanware" must be considered in addition to software. HEWS has only three people on staff, which is too few for proper analysis to be done. What is being done to address the "humanware" problem?

It was noted by Dr. Dedring that there are many crises worldwide and that lack of human resources will always be a problem. HEWS is able to draw upon the DHA's Complex Emergency Division as well as the three staff assigned to it to undertake analysis and develop responses. It is important to note the DHA and other UN departments have been discussing the issue of a unified system and a common database. However, for now there exists only a comparative approach, not a combined one.

In closing the session, one participant asked to what extent the incorporation, within HEWS, of information derived from media sources affected the credibility of the resulting early warning information. Mr. Carlson responded that this depended on the credibility of the media sources used. The participant noted that the Joint Evaluation of Emergency Response to Rwanda had concluded that in most cases, media analysis had been wrong. Both agreed that there is a difference between describing information and analyzing it.