

GCCG Meeting
16 January 2024, 14:00 – 16:00 GVA time

Participant/Global Cluster: Linda Doull (GHC); Samuel Cheung (GPC) ; Monica Ramos (GWC) ; Jennifer Chase (GBV); Mailin Fauchon (GLC); Michelle Brown and Friedrich Affolter (GEC); Brent Carbno (GETC); Briony Stevens (GNC); Christelle Loupforest and Lisa Anouk Müller-Dormann (MA AoR); Jim Robinson (HLP AoR); Joyce Mutiso (CP AoR); Marie-Helene Kyprianou (GFSC); Mary Jelliti (GLC); Ruxandra Bujor and Brian McDonald (CCCM); Nisar Syed (UNICEF-led Global Clusters Rep); Stephanie Loose (GSC); Roberto Paganini (GCER); Erik Kastlander (IMWG); Marina Skuric Prodanovic (Co-Chair); Randa Hassan, Annarita Marcantonio, Mari Sawai and Elizabeth Carpentier-Baugh (GCCG secretariat).

Invitees: Jamie McGoldrick (RC/HC OPT); Kimberly Lietz (OCHA OPT); David Goetghebuer (Chair of IAMG).

Welcome and agenda overview

1. Ms. Marina Skuric Prodanovic, GCCG Co-Chair, welcomed participants and noted that Ms. Pack, the other GCCG Co-Chair was unavailable to join the meeting. She provided a brief overview of the agenda, which was adopted without any changes.

Updates and follow-up on GCCG action points

2. Ms. Skuric provided an update on recent IASC meetings and pending action points from previous GCCG meetings.
 - The IASC Task Force 1 on Centrality of Protection met on 13 December. GPC reported that work was ongoing on the IASC benchmarks on Centrality of Protection and a draft measurement tool. The IASC Principals will meet in the coming weeks to discuss the GPC proposal on the simplification of the protection cluster architecture, which emanated from the Review.
 - The IASC Task Force 4 on Humanitarian Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace Advances met last week. A dissemination plan is being developed for the Advisory Note on *Advancing the HDP Nexus Approach through IASC Global Clusters*. A check list will also be re-circulated.
 - The HPC Steering Group met on 30 November. The Co-Chair reminded GCCS that a draft statement on data disaggregation had been circulated for their comments and that none had been received to date. The HPC SG will hold its next meeting in February.
 - A hybrid joint IASC OPAG/EDG meeting on the Inter-agency Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE) in northern Ethiopia and Afghanistan will take place on 24 January. Ms. Skuric and Ms. Sophonpanich will represent the GCCG in observer capacity.
 - An EDG annual review of operations is tentatively scheduled for 28 to 29 February.
 - A Peer-2-Peer support mission to Mozambique is planned from 31 January to 14 February. The mission will look at the direction of humanitarian response and ways to improve the delivery of assistance, as well as options to strengthen advocacy. A new P2P strategy will be circulated to GCCs. Ms. Skuric invited GCCs to express interest in attending a pre-mission briefing on Mozambique next week.
3. Regarding pending action points, Ms. Skuric noted that Ms. Gemma Connell would attend the GCCG retreat on the first day, which would be an opportunity for GCCs to discuss experiences from HPC 2024. GCCs were reminded to provide inputs to the session in preparation for the retreat.

Action points

- i. GCCG-s: Contact Co-Chairs of the IASC TF 4 to discuss the rollout of the Advisory Note on *Advancing the HDP Nexus Approach through IASC Global Clusters*, and potentially invite them to a future GCCG meeting.
- ii. GCCG-s: Send out a reminder email with pending GCC action points.

Briefing on Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)

4. Ms. Skuric invited RC/HC for OPT, Jamie McGoldrick to brief on recent developments in OPT, coordination arrangements and key messages for the GCCG. RC/HC McGoldrick described the overcrowded and dire situation across Gaza and in particular in hospital wards where patients are unable to receive treatments they need, including persons injured by the war. The humanitarian response is focused on lifesaving activities under the pillars of water and sanitation, food security, health, nutrition and shelter. These will be built on a good foundation of communications and logistics. Deconfliction needs to be improved to avoid any security incidents. More crossing points are needed particularly in the north and other areas. The number of trucks needs to be increased significantly and commercial trucks are essential to allow this to happen. The RC/HC also highlighted the critical need for fuel particularly for hospitals and water and sewage plants.
5. The floor was open for questions. GPC asked for advice or key messages in ensuring that protection programming meets the expectations in fulfilling the priorities outlined by the RC/HC, to which the RC/HC responded by noting the importance of integrating protection into the priority clusters' work. GEC asked about HCT planning assumptions for the next phase of the response, where education programming needs to come in. The RC/HC said that the clusters which were not on the priority list should continue their planning and response through, for example, setting up of temporary schools. GCER asked for an update in terms of early recovery cluster activation and planning for delivery of basic services. The RC/HC recommended the early recovery cluster to embed itself in the work of other clusters and to plan beyond the first 100 days of response. The RC/HC added that it was too early to have planning assumptions on population movements with ongoing military activity and spontaneous camps and shelters appearing across various parts of Gaza.
6. MA AoR said its cluster had been reactivated in Gaza, co-chaired by UNMAS and HI, and offered support with risk education experts and assessments to ensure areas considered as sites are safe. A question was asked whether evacuation was possible for injured persons. The RC/HC responded that he had been in touch with UNMAS colleagues, and possible assessments were being discussed. On evacuations, 55,000 people were on the list of which only one per cent had been given approval. GLC cautioned against competition among humanitarian actors for resources. The RC/HC fully agreed and reiterated the importance of ensuring a solid logistics capacity that helps to expand access to areas such as the north. Ms. Skuric asked about the situation in the West Bank and what clusters should be doing to better support the response in Gaza. The RC/HC commended the resilience of national staff to continue working to serve the populations, and that he planned to visit the West Bank soon where situation was also dire. He asked the clusters to secure longer term staffing to ensure continuity of response.
7. On camp coordination and management, CCCM offered support; the RC/HC said discussions were ongoing with IOM and NRC; UNHCR and donors would also be looped in. GNC made the point that nutrition was under the health cluster in the Flash Appeal since it was a technical working group at the time, and asked that it be separated in future response planning. The RC/HC advised on taking a practical approach to ensure nutrition was part of the priority areas. GETC flagged the challenges of bringing in telecommunications equipment, and the RC/HC reassured that this was on his priority list in terms of follow up with the Israeli authorities. On key messages, the RC/HC highlighted the need to advocate for the commercial sector to be expanded to facilitate a wider response and asked other clusters to be operationally ready as soon as conditions allowed.
8. Ms. Skuric shared reflections from her recent surge to UNRWA until December 2023, noting the multiple challenges faced by UNRWA and the difficult operating environment in Gaza, noting also the critical role that UNRWA plays in the delivery of assistance in Gaza.

Operational updates: Ukraine

9. Ms. Skuric invited GCCs to share reflections on the discussions with the RC/HC for Ukraine, Denise Brown, particularly around area-based coordination and the invitation for a GCCG mission to look at the evolution of the cluster system in Ukraine. GWC noted that more unpacking was needed on area-based coordination and asked the GCCG secretariat to re-circulate the comments from a previous paper on area-based coordination. On a possible mission, it was suggested to review the list of countries requiring GCCG support in 2024. GPC asked if coordination mapping data could contain insights into area-based coordination, to which the secretariat responded that the HCT-ICCG survey could instead be used to analyze the data on this topic. Ms. Skuric proposed that instead of defining area-based coordination which has previously been

attempted, another approach could be to come up with elements of subnational/area-based coordination to guide conversations from other parts of the system. GHC suggested reaching out to P2P support team to define the term. Ms Skuric proposed the below actions: invite P2P support team to define the term and possibly attend the retreat session on area-based coordination; the GCCG retreat session with the EDG could also be an opportunity to ask how the EDG defines the term.

Action points

- iii. *GCCG-s: Recirculate previous comments provided to the area-based coordination paper.*
- iv. *GCCG-s: Reach out to P2P team on definitions used for area-based coordination, and possibly invite them to the GCCG retreat session on the topic.*
- v. *GCCG-s: If relevant, include questions on how the EDG sees area-based coordination during GCCG retreat session.*

GCCG retreat: key asks to the EDG

10. Ms. Skuric invited Ms. Hassan from the GCCG secretariat to lead the discussion on the key asks to the EDG during the upcoming retreat. Ms. Hassan noted that two EDG members had been invited to join the EDG session – Gareth Price-Jones from the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and Altaf Musani from WHO – subject to their confirmations. She recalled the discussions with the EDG in the previous retreat: need for more direct and consistent engagement with the EDG; EDG and P2P reports which repeated the same recommendations relating to poor functioning of clusters without attributing accountability to the CLAs; challenges in resourcing clusters, while recognizing the value of the cluster approach to NGOs and the need for more innovative coordination models.
11. GCCs exchanged ideas on this year's session with the EDG, highlighting the need for a structured discussion, prioritizing two to three main issues. Proposals included:
 - Discussion on country contexts where EDG missions are planned in 2024.
 - The EDG's view on the impact of reduced resources on humanitarian operations and coordination.
 - How the EDG sees the humanitarian system in light of different processes and initiatives – the IDP Review, the Flagship Initiative and other changes.
 - The EDG's view on cluster transition and the need to find solutions beyond cluster activation.

Action points

- vi. *GCCG-s and GCCs: Follow up with 3 GCCs identified to prepare this session to refine the EDG session plan during the retreat.*

Inter-agency Monitoring Group (IAWG)

12. Ms. Skuric invited Mr. Affolter and Mr. Goetghebuer to brief on the work of the IMWG. Mr. Affolter, the GCCG representative on the IMWG, said that the group had been created in 2023 and currently had two activities, namely developing a model for monitoring at the outcome level and population data disaggregation.
13. Mr. Goetghebuer presented the two topics in more detail. On outcome-based monitoring, the aim is to develop a model to help countries monitor outcomes against strategic objectives in a customized way. The model proposes four steps: develop questions, gather data and information, conduct joint analysis, and share the findings. He invited interested GCCs to contact their IAWG focal points to contribute to this work. On population data disaggregation, he noted that FCDO had asked all agencies involved in Payment by Results (PBR) to commit to disaggregate population data against all criteria. UNICEF and OCHA did not commit to this, and this issue was then brought to the IAWG. A draft statement was drawn up which essentially states that while data disaggregation was a good practice whenever feasible and relevant; however, when it is not possible to disaggregate, it should not be mandatory to avoid generating inaccurate data.
14. The floor was open for discussion. GHC asked whether it was possible to link the JIAF processes and its data to outcome-based monitoring work, to which Mr. Goetghebuer replied that the current proposal was to gather all data including the JIAF data, and that both JIAF and IMWG were part of the JAWS project. Mr Affolter (GEC) proposed a briefing to the GCCG on the Joint Analysis Workspace (JAWS) project, and Mr.

Kastlander proposed that the briefing could present both DEEP and JAWS and their implications for clusters' work.

Action point

- vii. GCCG-s: Consider organizing a GCCG briefing on JAWS.*

AOB

15. GCCs were reminded of upcoming meetings and events: GCCG annual retreat - 8 to 9 February, ad hoc GCCG meeting on Multi-Purpose Cash on 14 February (14:00-15:30), and the next GCCG regular meeting on 6 March (14:00-16:00).