**Minutes - IASC Task Team on revitalizing principled humanitarian action**

**27 May 2014, Geneva-New York-Washington DC-London-Rome**

**Participants:** ACF, Geneva Call, Harvard University, IASC Secretariat, ICRC, EISF, IOM, Interaction, IRC, NRC, OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, VOICE, WHO, World Vision, WFP

1. **Counter-terrorism**

Participants were briefed on the on-going dialogue with the US Government since the introduction of the *Humanitarian Assistance Facilitation Act*, including the aid agencies (OFDA, BPRM), Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury and Bureau of counterterrorism*.* Participants noted that the high-level event on counter-terrorism organised in Washington DC on October 2013 had created a momentum; the US administration had become more open to discuss the impact of counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action. The constructive dialogue initiated with the Department of treasury on the issue of NGO licensing was noted as an important first step; if successful, it could constitute an important precedent.

Harvard researchers shared the conclusions of their analysis counterterrorism-related clauses in humanitarian grant and partnership agreement contracts. They stressed that the study raised several questions for humanitarian organisations: 1) is there a need for system-wide COTER standards? 2) What is the right balance between clarity and constructive ambiguity? 3) Should red lines be defined? 4) Should a Headquarter-based and/or a field based-approach be pursued?

Participants were briefed on the preparation of the COTER tool kit, including the draft of ToRs for the consultant, the establishment of the advisory group, and outcomes of a teleconference between the COTER and Risk Management workstreams. The call’s objective was to compare and decide how best to utilise results of complementary research (the above Harvard research and the Task Team’s risk management workstream) in the toolkit and potentially other Task Team products. A feedback was also provided on the finalisation of the host state study.

Action points

* Task Team members to provide to Interaction concrete examples of the impact of NGO licensing on humanitarian action in support of dialogue with US administration;
* Task Team members wishing to be part of the advisory group should approach NRC;

1. **Risk management**

Participants were briefed on the revision of the risk management work plan. The importance of liaising with the Task Team’s other work streams and other relevant IASC Task Teams (including the Humanitarian Task Team) and Sub-Working Groups was stressed.

Action points

* WFP to organise teleconference with Civil-military and UN integration work streams, and liaise with the Humanitarian Financing Task Team and the and with SRP IASC sub-working group;

1. **UN integration**

Participants were informed that the revised work plan would focus on three areas: 1) engagement with and targeted technical support to HCs and HCTs during planning exercises, with the aim of fully implementing existing integration guidance/IAP; 2) systematic collection of information and best practices; 3) follow up to IASC Principals’ decision to evaluate the impact of UN integration on principled humanitarian action. It was suggested that a calendar of ‘critical moments’ in integrated mission cycles (e.g. mandate renewal periods) be prepared to allow the Task Team to anticipate opportunities for input and maximise/leverage input.

Action point

* Interaction to circulate revised work plan once finalised;

1. **Civil-military coordination**

Participants were briefed on the progress made in the implementation of the work plan. The need to reach out to UN DSS in order to finalise the guidelines on the use of armed escorts was noted. Participants were informed that case studies on interaction with national security forces in Pakistan and the Philippines were almost finalised. Participants were invited to share information on planned civil-military coordination events to give an indication as to what coverage civil-military issues are currently receiving in the humanitarian community.

Action points

* Task Team members to provide OCHA / World Vision with information on planned civil-military coordination events.

1. **A.O.B**

* The next meeting of the Task Team will take place on Tuesday 1 July 2014.