**Minutes of the IASC AAP PSEA Task Team Meeting, 19th of October 2015**

1. **Update on the IASC Working Group Discussion regarding the future of Task Teams :**

We are still awaiting the conclusions of the IASC Working Group : while Task Teams should finalise their action plans for the end of the year or latest end of February 2016, the Working Group has not yet decided what their priorities for 2016 would be. In the meantime Task Teams could become reference groups. Reference groups are voluntary communities of practice affiliated to but not directly overseen by the IASC. While it is the responsibility of the IASC working group to establish and monitor reference groups, the latter are free to organise their structure and leadership.

In light of the above, the Task Team is waiting for an update from the WG to decide on the most appropriate date for the retreat, hopefully end of November, early December 2015.

1. **Key highlights from the meeting with donors**

Key points raised during the brown bag meeting with donors on 18/09/2015 were shared with Task Team members who had not been able to attend. Some of the questions could constitute areas of further work for our group next year, such as:

* How do we meaningfully include national actors in the global discourse on accountability?
* How do we increase the proportion of women amongst active users of feedback and complaints mechanism?
* How can the Humanitarian Program Cycle and related processes actually support activities to take account, give account and being held to account by communities in their diversity?
* How do we reinforce accountability and PSEA in the preparedness phase?

The Task Team is keen to get regular feedback and input from donors in the coming months especially on developing incentives and sanctions promoting both individual agency and collective accountability.

1. **Review of the Task Team objectives :**

The meeting participants went through each of the Task Team objectives to understand what has been achieved and what remains to be done, focussing on the changes since the last meeting in August.  The highlights below are additions to the content already included in the attached slides.

**Objective 2.1 Support to AAP and PSEA field operations**

The Task Team facilitated a session on AAP and PSEA during the Humanitarian Response Plan workshop in Erbil 6-7 October. 50 participants attended the session, including Heads of agencies, cluster and inter-cluster coordinators as well as donors (USAID, DFID, and ECHO). OCHA had organized a series of meeting ahead of the session to ensure the session would suit the need of participants. Participants mapped out what they were already doing in accountability with the idea to systematize the already existing good practices at collective level. The session on PSEA was a good opportunity to discuss inter-agency complaints mechanism. The Humanitarian Coordinator highlighted that accountability should not be a tick-the-box exercise. Each cluster will demonstrate how it has meaningfully integrated accountability in its strategy for the Humanitarian Response Plan, before defending it in front of the advisory board.

The next mission of the IASC AAP PSEA Task team will take place mid-November, in Niger. Accountability emerged as an important course corrector in the Niger Operational Peer Review carried out by the STAIT team in March 2014 and several actions related to Accountability have been included into the Niger action plan post OPR. The Task team will facilitate a workshop with clusters coordinators and facilitators as well as government counterparts and local NGOs to discuss a roadmap to operationalize accountability at collective level.

**Objective 2.2 Capitalizing on Protection and AAP/PSEA synergies**

The Global Cluster Coordinators workshop on Accountability and Protection was organised in October by OCHA and co-facilitated with the IASC AAP PSEA and Protection mainstreaming Task Teams. The main outcome of the workshop are fiches being drafted for cluster coordinators, inter cluster coordinators and head of agencies, listing suggested actions to operationalise accountability at each phase of the HPC. The actions are derived from the Core Humanitarian Standard, as well as additional best practices. The draft fiches will be circulated to Task Team members for their input. Attached to these minutes is an overview of the links between AAP and Protection Mainstreaming, as presented during the workshop.

**Objective 3.2 Community Based Complaints Mechanisms Pilots**

The IASC AAP PSEA TT is supporting the facilitation of a workshop hosted by IOM on the Community Based Complaints Mechanisms piloted in Ethiopia and DR Congo. Representatives from both pilot sites, along with global experts on PSEA will meet in Kigali on 02-06 Nov to discuss lessons learned, which will feed into the CBCM Best Practice Guide. The fifth day will be open to other interested stakeholders in order to gain a better understanding of issues and challenges faced in addressing SEA in other countries. The Best Practice Guide for establishing interagency CBCMs will be produced and broadly disseminated by 31 Dec 2015.

**Global SOPs:** To date, 14 agencies have committed to participate in an effort to draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on inter-agency cooperation in handling SEA-related complaints. The first meeting is scheduled for 23 Oct.

1. **Update on the WHS :**

Alex Jacobs updated the group on the WHS consultation in Geneva :

1. Overall messages:

-          Re-assert key humanitarian principles

-          International actors need to engage better with local actors, at all levels

-          Build cooperation and trust among all actors

-          Need to change incentives to drive progress

2. Some other big ideas got a push, including:

-          The centrality of protection,

-          A new deal for refugees and funding refugee hosting,

-          Increasing overall funding,

-          Scaling up cash assistance,

-          Enhancing innovation.

3. Community engagement and AAP

-          Engage with local institutions, rather than only with individuals. *(questions were raised on how this point is compatible with the call for increased proximity with communities)*

-          Radically enhance transparency at the operational level.

-          Adopt the Core Humanitarian Standard (at least for capacity assessments & development; monitoring, evaluation & feedback; and potentially going further for a common reporting framework). *(The outcome of the GCC workshop on Accountability is using key actions from the nine CHS commitments to guide cluster and intercluster operationalising accountability throughout the HPC)*

-          Two enabling factors will be required for real change:

o   Ensure consistent leadership & resources. This includes an individual member of each senior management team dedicated to community engagement.

o   Ensure regular review & revision of all strategic and project plans.

Ahead of the WHS summit in May, people and organisations need to focus on developing concrete proposals that can be really transformative when operationalising accountability.

**Save the Dates**

* The next meeting on PSEA related workstreams : November 9th at 3 PM.
* **Proposed dates for next meeting : Monday 7th of December 2015, 3 PM Geneva time.**

*List of Participants*

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| --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Name** |
| ALNAP | Alexandra Warner |
| CDAC  | ? |
| CHS alliance | Genevieve Cyvoct |
| CHS alliance  | Massimo Nicoletti Altimari |
| CWC | Shama Mall |
| FAO | Bruna Bambini |
| GenCap Unicef | Merryn Waterhouse |
| Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Protection Mainstreaming, | Julien Marneffe |
| IASC AAP PSEA  | Astrid de Valon  |
| Interaction | Liz Bloomfield |
| IOM  | Tristan Burnett |
| Plan International | Alex Jacob |
| Save the Children | ? |
| Save the Children | Katie Drew |
|  | Lucy Heaven Taylor |
| UNDP | Rekha Das |
| UNHCR | Annika Sandlund |
| UNHCR | Michelle Ndhlovu |
| UNHCR | Nemia Temporal |
| UNHCR | Preeta Law |
| UNICEF | Maria Luisa Olavarria |
| WFP | Sarah Mace |
| WHO | Alma Lica |
| World Vision International | ? |
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