

IASC Priority/Task Team Progress Report 2014-2015: IASC Task Team on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action (RPHA)

KEY OBJECTIVES:

To help create an environment in which humanitarian actors can better access and respond to people in need, the IASC will promote adherence to, and the effective operationalization of, humanitarian principles in humanitarian operations and policies.

Since early 2014, the Task Team undertook a series of research, policy and advocacy initiatives with respect to four priority themes: namely (1) Civil-military relations and coordination (e.g. use of armed escorts); (2) UN integration, (e.g. implementation of the UN Integrated Assessment and Planning Policy); (3) Mitigating the impact of counter-terrorism measures (e.g. COTER toolkit); and (4) Improving risk analysis and management.

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS 2014-2015

Understanding and enhancing UN Integration

- **Options paper** developed to carry out a review of the impact of UN integration on humanitarian action, as requested by Principals.
- Implementation mapping of UN Integrated Assessment Policy (IAP) and IASC integration paper developed. IAP Handbook disseminated to HC/RCS, UNCTs and HCTs, which will support IAP implementation by engaging HCTs and field colleagues at 'critical moments'.
- A **roundtable** was hosted with field colleagues to reflect on NGO experiences with UN integration in light of stabilization, peacekeeping operations and political missions (focus - Mali, Somalia, the DRC and South Sudan.).
- Concluded the Task Team's "**Review of the impact of UN integration on humanitarian action**". Completed key informant interviews and desk research, composed analysis of data (survey, interview, and desk review), solicited feedback from stakeholders outside of the Task Team (HCs, DPKO, DPA, and UNDSS), and finalised the report for submission to the IASC WG.
- For the Review of Peace Operations, Submitted to the HIPPO the **Task Team's observations on the challenges surrounding UN integration**.
- In follow up to the **UN Integration Review report**, the TT developed a **management response plan** to support the IASC WG and Principals in the implementation of the Review recommendations.

Supporting and improving understanding of civil-military coordination practices

- '**Discussion Paper on Humanitarian Interaction with National Militaries**' distributed. Related 'Good Practices' based on in-country and desktop case studies for Colombia, Pakistan and the Philippines developed and annexed to the document.
- Implementation of the **IASC Guidelines on the use of Armed Escorts** was **monitored** over 12 months to evaluate their effectiveness and applicability at the operational level. No substantive concerns with the document received. The Guidelines were **released and translated** into all UN languages.
- '**Guidance on Humanitarian Organizations' Participation in Military Events**' released to promote coordinated engagement and consistent humanitarian messaging with military organizations. Related information sharing and summary documents were developed.

Assisting IASC organizations in understanding and addressing COTER impacts on PHA

- The content of a **statement to the IASC Principals** on "*Principled Humanitarian Action in Relation to Counter-Terrorism Measures*" was endorsed in May 2015. The content of the statement will be used a reference point in negotiations with governments and donors, without releasing it publicly.
- **Study on the impact of host State COTER measures on PHA** commissioned.
- A **workshop** was held with IASC members on the strategy for developing the US Humanitarian Assistance Facilitation Act ('**HAF**A') bill. The lessons learned from the process are relevant for IASC organizations engaged with policy process in other capitals.
- **Comprehensive independent research** commissioned from the Harvard Law School COTER Humanitarian Engagement Project **on the risk management and contractual clauses used by donors/UN/NGOs**. Studies provided the basis for development of the COTER toolkit.

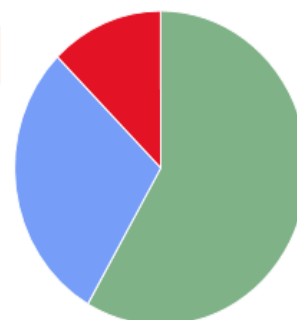
Enhancing understanding and strengthened approaches to risk management

- **Risk management survey** conducted to determine what mechanisms exist among IASC organizations for managing risks relating to specific aspects of PHA. This was done with a view to identifying areas for possible harmonization of risk management practices and joint risk management initiatives/structures across IASC organizations.
- Draft common Enterprise Risk Management principles and standards identified, with the aim of developing a model risk management framework for humanitarian organisations. These will be circulated for final approval within the IASC PHA task team for completion by the end of 2015.
- **Common Enterprise Risk Management Framework draft finalised**

Facilitating inter-agency coordination and operational improvements re counterterrorism

- **CT info note** developed and distributed to IASC organizations updating on work stream and main developments to inform the field/HQ colleagues on COTER impacts, resources and TT activities.
- **Development of a CT risk management and due diligence** toolkit, to facilitate principled humanitarian action, and respond to high levels of demand for guidance from operational actors that can be used at field and HQ levels, as well as with donors concerning dialogue on risk management and due diligence.
- **COTER toolkit on risk management finalised** – NRC published the Risk Management Toolkit in Relation to Counterterrorism Measures in December 2015. The toolkit is part of the PHA Task Team 2015 Workplan and was supported by an Advisory Group of Task Team members. It was disseminated widely across the IASC and was rolled-out in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2016. Regional roll-outs will continue in 2016.
- The Task Team developed a draft **Counterterrorism Advocacy Paper** and shared it with the IASC Working Group in October 2015.
- A research on **foreign terrorist fighter measures** and implications for Principled Humanitarian Action, commissioned by NRC, and published by Harvard PILAC was published in October 2015.

COMPOSITION:



■ NGO: 14 ■ UN Agencies: 7
■ Red Cross / Red Crescent: 3