

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
AD HOC IASC WORKING GROUP MEETING

Summary Record and Action Points

7 JULY 2016

1. IASC Protection Policy and Whole-of-System Review Management Response

IASC Protection Policy

Louise Aubin, Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Coordinator presented the draft Protection Policy, which was developed by the “the hybrid” protection task team hosted by the GPC for this purpose. The policy should send a strong message throughout the entire humanitarian system, positioning protection as a central purpose of humanitarian action. It emphasizes collective ownership and leadership for protection across the system. It approaches protection in a cross-cutting manner, making it clear what we should understand from each other and shaping complementary roles. It emphasizes the need for upstream comprehensive and timely analysis; assessment of vulnerability and capacities of affected persons and duty bearers; and a whole-of-system approach that transcends protection communities. It recognises that different people are impacted differently and this must be captured in the analysis. It also speaks to the roles of actors beyond the humanitarian community to achieve protection outcomes. Roll out and implementation should stress engagement with local actors. The draft policy builds on the IASC Principals’ statement on the centrality of protection and provides for the development of an HCT protection strategy to address serious protection risks and violations.

The draft policy was broadly welcomed by the Working Group members, who also commented positively on the policy development process. There are, however, some proposed changes:

- the text of footnote 13. This is currently being discussed based on proposals by OCHA and UNHCR regarding the relationship between HCT protection strategies and refugee protection strategies;
- changes in references to the applicability of HR law requested by OHCHR, as well as changes to some of the language on page 14 related to informed consent, especially with regard to children.

There were two requests to extend the consultation period to allow for final suggestions to be submitted to the Working Group through email and secure buy-in from Principals ahead of the formal endorsement. One IASC WG member noted that implementation may need to be supported with additional tools. It was noted that the annexes to the draft policy, particularly the list of examples of protection outcomes, could be expanded during formulation of the rollout plan, as they would serve as operational guidance for field colleagues.

Working Group members raised the issue of roll out and implementation of the policy, underscoring the urgency to kick-start the process with clear guidance to the field.

It was reiterated that implementation of the policy should be clearly linked to the field and make use of existing mechanisms and fora, such as the Emergency Directors Group, STAIT, OPRs, GPC, etc. The GPC Coordinator committed to support the implementation process and be at the disposal of the WG. Two members of the hybrid task team proposed that the hybrid task team be turned into a formal IASC task team under the displacement and protection work stream. The Chair supported this proposal, underscoring the need for the WG to have a standing capacity to undertake time bound tasks (yet to be identified) to advance the protection agenda, aside from the roll-out and implementation of the new policy, with a clear reporting line to the IASC WG. Others expressed reservations, warning against creating more work streams under the WG. The Chair asked the co-chairs of the hybrid task team to draft a TOR and workplan for the possible new task team, for consideration by the WG.

Action Points

1. Review the proposed final revisions from OCHA and OHCHR to the draft Protection policy electronically. **Action by Working Group by 22 July 2016).**
2. Explore options for securing the endorsement of the Protection Policy by the IASC Principals in consultation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator. **Action by Chair of the Working Group by 14 August 2016**
3. Develop roll-out and implementation plan for the Protection Policy for consideration by the WG. **Action by hybrid task team by 15 September**
4. Develop draft TORs and a work-plan for the would-be protection Task Team for review and decision by the Working Group. **Action by the co-chairs of the hybrid task team by 15 September**

Whole-of-System (WoS) Review Management Response

Brian Lander, WFP and Co-Chair of the Sub-working Group on the WoS Review Management Response provided an update on the process of consolidating the recommendations, as well as updated on the overview of the implementation status and proposals for consideration by the Working Group, including a request for volunteers to lead on the implementation process.

The incoming GPC Coordinator informed that the GPC had developed a four-year strategic framework, which was endorsed by the ERC, and noted that a number of recommendations addressed to the GPC were currently underway and linked to the strategic framework.

Working Group members requested additional time to review the response plan internally and present feedback electronically. Members underscored the relevance of the recommendation on deepening partnerships with the Global South; highlighted the need to reflect the language on the World Humanitarian Summit; proposed more effective engagement with development actors; noted difficulty on developing information sharing protocols and establishing a system wide information management system on IHL violations; and supported consideration for expanding accountability at the country level beyond the Humanitarian Coordinator.

The Chair noted that most of the recommendations were linked closely to the outcomes and discussions of the WHS and proposed the need for consultation with the Human Rights Up Front team in the EOSG on related recommendations.

Action Points

1. Review the updated management response plan matrix and list of outstanding recommendations (to be sent out by the co-Chairs of the Sub-Working Group on the WoS Review and IASC secretariat) and provide feedback to the Sub-Working Group on the WoS Review Management Response electronically. **Action by Working Group by 22 July 2016**

2. Post-WHS and IASC Principals Follow-up: WG work-plan revision and review of IASC subsidiary bodies

WG work-plan revision

The proposal to review the work-plan in view of the WHS outcomes was welcomed, but deferred to a later date pending finalization of the WHS commitments analysis currently being spearheaded by OCHA.

In relation to the “new way of working,” it was noted that the TT on Strengthening Humanitarian-Development Nexus would continue consultation with the UNDG Working Group on Transition and propose a way forward at the planned retreat in September 2016. It was also noted that a clear unpacking of the new way of working was needed (which was already an action point from the March WG meeting) and that the HDAG think-piece on humanitarian-development cooperation was an important contribution. It was further noted that close consultation, coordination and information sharing would be required in the process of identification of pilot countries.

Action Points

1. Prepare and circulate one-page progress update on implementation of tasks by subsidiary bodies, including ongoing and emerging work streams (i.e. commitments paper, retreat, SG report) with anticipated completion timelines. **Action by IASC Secretariat by 22 July 2016**
2. In line with consultations on elaboration of the “new way of working,” circulate the HDAG think-piece launched at the ECOSOC HAS. **Action by IASC Secretariat by 15 July 2016**

IASC subsidiary bodies

The Working Group members noted the potential risks and added value of welcoming new bodies into the IASC architecture, and noted that the desire for inclusivity should not compromise the efficiency and effectiveness of the IASC. It was also noted that there was a need to encourage greater horizontal cooperation among existing subsidiary bodies where their work-streams were crosscutting and examine where groups could benefit from merging, rather than only resort to creating new entities. It was noted that the balance to this discussion was the need to also embrace the eco-system approach, and explore what connectivity to the IASC may mean within this framing. The review of the IASC architecture, expected to be undertaken by the Principles, was noted as an opportunity to gain further clarification on how the IASC should work post-WHS.

The proposal to create a time-bound task team to draft the guidelines for the Charter of Inclusion of Disability in humanitarian action, launched at the WHS, was endorsed. Comments on the concept

note would be conveyed to the group for revision. The decision on the proposals to create subsidiary bodies for SAFE and Environment was deferred, with a request for further information on their expectations and proposed deliverables to the IASC for reconsideration in the future.

Action Points

1. Communicate the decision of the Working Group on the proposals for Disability, SAFE and Environment Task Teams with comments of the WG members on the concept note for the new Task Team on inclusion of disability in humanitarian action. **Action by IASC Secretariat by 2 August 2016**

3. AOB and Closing Remarks

The Chair presented a progress update on the IAHE Evaluations as follows:

Central African Republic

The HCT has not yet had a chance to meet and discuss the evaluation recommendations.

The IASC secretariat will continue to follow-up and circulate the revised matrixes as soon as they are submitted.

South Sudan

The HCT has met and discussed the evaluation recommendations. They are working on the management response matrix. This process was delayed due to a recent outbreak of violence, which has delayed the South Sudan's OCHA office capacity to finalize its planning process.

Philippines

All recommendations of the IAHE have been fully addressed and the IAHE process is perceived to have been completed.

Syria evaluation

The IAHE synthesis report introduced at the last WG meeting is currently being finalised by the IAHE Steering Group and will be shared soon. The IAHE Steering Group is also planning a stand-alone webinar following presentation of the findings to the Working Group or Principals.

The Syria synthesis report has just been completed and will be shared soon.

In closing, the Chair thanked the Working Group members for their engaged participation and commitment. Further to the earlier announcement on her planned departure, the Chair announced that she would continue in her current capacity through the end of October 2016.