

IASC TASK TEAM ON THE HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT NEXUS (HDN TT)

WITH A FOCUS ON PROTRACTED EMERGENCIES

## Summary Record and Action Points

18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016: 15.30-17.00

VENUE: ROOM XXIII, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

**In Geneva:** WHO, WFP, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, IASC Secretariat, WB, FAO, UNDP

**On the phone:** IFRC, WFP, OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF

**Co-chairs:** UNDP and WHO

**SUMMARY:** the co-chairs recognized comments from team members on the draft revised ToR and the need expressed to ensure synergies and complementarities with other groups and processes, making clear references to the outcomes of WHS and Grand Bargain discussions, with the view of avoiding duplication when further developing the activities included in the IASC Working Group Work Plan in reference to the output of a coherent and accountable system wide response to emergencies promoted with a focus on protracted crises and urban contexts. There is also a need to work closely with those initiatives and develop functional linkages working through the Secretariat.

### **Agenda Item 1: The Name of the Task Team:**

Given the lengthy and cumbersome name of the task team, a brief conversation was held to simplify the Task Team's Name. Participants all agreed that HDN would capture the purpose of the task team on the Humanitarian Development Nexus, with a focus on protracted emergencies.

### **Agenda Item 2: Discussion on the revised Terms of Reference:**

**Introduction:** Following a first round of comments on the draft Terms of Reference, the co-chairs presented to the group a revised draft version consolidating the main issues raised by these organizations (circulated prior to the meeting). A discussion was then held to discuss to what extent participants felt their comments had been addressed and how best to reflect other ongoing processes and fora while ensuring that the ToR speak to the clear mandate extended by the IASC Working Group Work Plan<sup>1</sup>.

**IFRC:** suggested inclusion of references into the adapted protocols around the provision of basic health care services, in line with the discussions to be held in the European Emergency Medical Services Congress in Copenhagen, and the WHS. To which, the co-chairs expressed

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<sup>1</sup> 1) Adapt TA protocols for utilization in protracted crises, with a focus on simplicity and ensuring inter-agency ownership and accountability; 2) Develop guidance on urban area- and system-based analysis/profiling to support humanitarian programming and coordination; and 3) Develop a compendium of best practices and an operational guidance on building the capacity of frontline national responders, taking into account implementation of the IASC/UNDG/UNISDR Common Framework for Preparedness

that this level of technical granularity fell beyond the scope of the TT's mandate, and might be better taken forward in separate processes that have started discussions on defining a minimum package for health service delivery in protracted emergencies.

**OCHA:** noted that there are quite a number of alternate processes, such as the Grand Bargain discussions, and the WHS, which intersect with or could limit the parameters of the Task Team. For instance, the latest version of the Grand Bargain commitments, as agreed by both agencies and donors, may contain language that is different or not aligned with the current ToR. The TT should therefore be mindful of these processes, as in principle their outcomes will have an impact on the TT's work.

**UNCHR:** seconded the points made by OCHA above, noting with concern that the timing of the TT's drafting and approval of the ToR might be premature, given the WHS in May, the outcome of the Grand Bargain discussions expected at the WHS, the IASC principals meeting in early June, as well as the UNDG Working Group on Transitions (WGT) who are discussing how to operationalize the humanitarian development nexus, together with the WB.

**UNFPA:** commended the co-chairs for the initial efforts at consolidating the comments made on the ToRs. However, a true attempt to bridge the divide and to develop an adapted set of TA protocols will need to involve many other groups at the outset (namely the peace building community (PBSO); the development actors (UNDG) and the humanitarian actors (IASC) in order to align the various work processes contained within these, visualising the complementarity and value added of each, and generate the necessary buy-in. To this end, UNFPA proposes to organize post-WHS consultation workshop, where all these networks and UN working groups can gather with the aim of defining, agreeing, and delineating workstreams.

**WHO:** Responding to the comments made by OCHA. WHO's understanding of the language in the Grand Bargain does not preclude the Task Team from adapting the TA protocols for protracted emergencies that will also take into account the HDN, as mandated by the IASC workplan. Regardless of what comes out of the Grand Bargain and the work of the WGT, the team has a specific task on how the L3 protocols may be adapted after the deactivation of an L3; and how we can be more predictable and accountable in protracted contexts. Undoubtedly, to achieve this work, some elements will speak to the humanitarian development nexus, which will require the TT to naturally draw on these other processes. In the meantime, the ToR can have an explicit reference resting the responsibility of the TT to the co-chairs to follow up after WHS on aspects relevant to the HDN in protracted emergencies with relevant stakeholders.

**OCHA:** reiterated the need to develop the TT's workplan after WHS. On the UNDG WGT, it noted that the membership of that group also includes OCHA among other humanitarian agencies (and many of whom are present in this meeting), and is not a development group. It is therefore essential that the two groups align their work.

**WFP:** In addition to the groups and processes referenced by other agencies, it will also be important to be informed by the HDAG, the informal discussion group based in NY that discusses humanitarian and development nexus issues. Likewise, the TT should create formal linkages with the UNDG Sustainable Development Working Group, who have been working with RC's and UNCT's on mainstreaming, accelerating, and supporting (MAPS) a future common approach for effective and coherence UN implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

**UNDP:** echoes and supports the proposal made by UNFPA to convene a meeting or consultative workshop with these working groups, after WHS.

**FAO:** At the level of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) under the Chief Executive Board (CEB), work is currently underway to create a task team (to be led by WFP) to conceptualize joint elements and principles around risk, resilience, and perhaps prevention and preparedness. The work of the HDN TT will touch on the conversations in that forum.

**ACTION:** Through the IASC Secretariat, co-chairs will seek to convene a joint consultative workshop with key interlocutors such as the undg working group on transitions, and the undg Sustainable Development Working Group, after the WHS.

**ACTION:** Task Team members are asked to contribute to a second round of comments, using the current revised draft ToR as a basis for further validation.

**DECISION:** Co-chairs will maintain the tasks that have been extended to the TT by the IASC Working Group until otherwise instructed, and add to the ToR the responsibility for follow up of any aspects coming out of WHS and Grand Bargain as relevant to the scope of work under the HDN TT.

### **Agenda Item 3: Mapping of Agencies projects and commitments**

**Introduction:** A request was sent out to agencies for their inputs into a mapping exercise, with the aim of capturing existing workstreams, projects/documents and commitments that are relevant to these issues. After a brief overview of the inputs received thus far, the floor was open for other participants to highlight further workstreams.

**FAO:** shared a paper by the committee on world food security on addressing food insecurity and malnutrition and related issues in protracted crisis; FAO is in the process of operationalizing the framework; recently finalized policy on social protection in fragile contexts.

**WHO:** In addition to the WHO framework for protracted emergencies that follows through on performance standards for the acute response, and the guidance WHO developed to transition out of an L3 response with proposed benchmarks, there is a whole array of IASC documents that provide guidance on emergency operations in protracted settings, but very few of these give explicit guidance on how to bridge the humanitarian development divide. What is generally lacking is guidance on assessing national and local capacity, as a means to inform programme implementation. There are some workstreams that are attempting to do this (such as in cash programming on how to assess markets). Bringing this kind of thinking to other areas will be crucial to strengthening the humanitarian development nexus.

**UNFPA:** has formulated clear commitments to bridging the humanitarian development divide, especially related to the WHS roundtable 3 and 5. Throughout these processes, and by extension through the work of this TT, UNFPA wants to have a strong gender focus in addressing these issues. In direct relation to the Sendai outcomes, it is incumbent on us

to better outline guidelines on how to manage risks in a more sustainable way, by emphasize community engagement particularly of women and girls.

**UNHCR:** will share the refugee coordination module as well as internal documents on an approach to multi-year, multi- partner protection and solutions strategy with an emphasis on durable solutions, and the need to start thinking of development from the outset of an emergency.

**World Bank:** is currently going through a period of internal reflection where these and many other issues are being formulated into what is hoped to become a cohesive strategy on how the WB approaches situations of conflict, fragility, and of protracted crises. For now WB will share individual elements of this coherent vision and will keep the TT updated as this overarching process progresses.

**UNICEF:** will share documents around commitments to the WHS.; a document on practical case studies linking humanitarian to development programmes; a paper issued by the UNICEF Executive Director on resilience and development; operational guidance to country offices on better linking humanitarian programming to development around the issues of risk and resilience.

**UNDP:** will share a policy under development on Recovery and Resilience; a draft think piece being produced by the HDAG; current guidance on PCNA and PDNA. In addition UNDP will contribute through its work in the New Deal facility; disaster risk reduction; early recovery Global Cluster lead, in which the Global Cluster for Early Recovery (GCER) has identified working on the humanitarian and development nexus as one of its top priorities for its 2015-2017 Strategic Plan. In particular, the first Goal of the plan states” Integration of Early Recovery into all the phases of the current Humanitarian Program Cycle and into the operational programming of all the clusters”. (Joint multi-year post-crisis transition planning and programming linking humanitarian and development frameworks and financing addressing preparedness, relief, early recovery, recovery and reconstruction is one of the expected outcomes under this goal.) In addition, the GCER has recently finalized the Durable Solutions Preliminary Operational Guide, which addresses a specific area of work under the Hum/Dev Nexus. As of now, Durable Solutions Strategies are under elaboration in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Sudan. The GCER is also developing an integrated needs and vulnerability framework that brings together humanitarian, development and national actors.

**IOM:** will share ongoing work on a draft operational framework on addressing displacement situations in protracted context, this builds on IOMs framework on risk and resilience of IDPs and focuses on the building self-reliance and taking a progressive approach to solving displacement situations not only for IDPs and refugees but other populations such as host communities and migrants caught in crisis.

**ACTION:** Partners to send relevant documents to Kwame Poku ([pokuk@who.int](mailto:pokuk@who.int)) by the **17<sup>th</sup> of June.**

#### **Agenda Item 4: Workplan and Assignment of Activity Leads**

Given discussions on the second agenda item on the revised Terms of Reference, the co-chairs proposed to defer this agenda item to the next meeting, with the understanding that the TT will connect with other Reference and Working Groups within and outside the IASC. This will be done with the objective of delineating the deliverables of the HDN TT against the backdrop of the outcomes of the WHS.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Periodicity of the group**

In line with the IASC Workplan and the substantial task ahead of the team, co-chairs proposed that the periodicity of the group will be set at monthly, which was accepted by the group. A tentative date of 21<sup>st</sup> June was proposed for the next meeting and accepted.

The co-chairs also proposed that a joint retreat first be proposed to and convened with the UNDG Working Group on Transitions, followed by other key interlocutors such as the UNDG Sustainable Development Working Group, perhaps having a joint retreat (with each group having a retreat in the first half of the day and having a joint session in the afternoon).

**DECISIONS:** Periodicity of TT meeting to remain monthly.  
Next meeting tentatively set for 21<sup>st</sup> of June.  
The co-chairs will approach the WGT and the WGSD to discuss the desirability of a joint workshop.