IASC Task Team on The Humanitarian Development Nexus (HDN TT)

with a focus on protracted emergencies

**Summary Record and Action Points**

19th September 2016: 15.30-17.00

Venue: UNDP, Environment House

**In Geneva**: UNDP/Early Recovery Cluster, WHO, WFP, IASC Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness, IOM, OHCHR, ICVA, UNHCR, FAO, OCHA, OHCHR, IASC Secretariat

**On the phone**: UNICEF, OCHA

**Co-chairs:** UNDP and WHO

**Agenda Item 1: Approval of Summary Report from 3rd Meeting:** While no comments were received in writing following the dissemination of the summary report of the TT’s first meet, the co-chairs opened a final round of comments on the content and structure of the summary report. No further comments were made and the report was approved as distributed.

**Agenda Item 2: Draft Task Team Terms of Reference (ToRs)**

**Introduction (Co-chairs):**  During a constructive discussion with OCHA, called for by the co-chairs, the co-chairs clarified the purpose and intent of the Task Team as agreed by the members so far. It was conveyed that in no way is a reopening of the Transformative Agenda Protocols envisaged, given that there is no appetite for such an endeavour. The aim of the TT, as a group community of practice on the subject, will be to review existing guidance with the view of ensuring that current response protocols that are currently well suited for sudden-onset, can be reviewed and perhaps adjusted if deemed necessary so that they are applicable to protracted crises, as well as incorporate the new thinking on strengthening the humanitarian development nexus (HDN) coming out of WHS and the Grand Bargain process. As a first step, this may entail recommendations for incorporating amendments into existing guidance and the development of more specific guidance as necessary. And should indeed such guidance be found to be insufficient, new protocols may eventually need to be developed.

It was suggested that there needs to be greater attention to language and how we call the products that come out of the TT, taking into account a hierarchy between protocols, policy, and guidance – the main difference being the degree to which actors may feel compelled to apply them. It was agreed, that as long as the work of the TT is sequenced, by which, the TT will first look at existing guidance, identify and document from a normative perspective the gaps we find, and then propose/recommend ways to either adapt or amend those gaps; and then finally produce that guidance where needed. With this process in mind, it was suggested that sequencing these activities in this way, would contribute to increasing the comfort zone of participants as we go along.

**OCHA:** Fully agreeing on the co-chair summary of the meeting, OCHA expressed appreciation for a constructive meeting and looked forward to the conclusion on the ToRs.

**WFP:** The work of the TT will be very relevant to the review of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) reference module, which is slated for 2017: How will that process influence the work of the TT and does the IASC Secretariat have any information on the process.

**IASC Secretariat:**  will seek out more information on that point.

**FAO:** Looking back at the recent Grand Bargain discussions, there seems to be a lot of momentum to move ahead on a few different elements of the HDN. In those discussions the HDN TT and the WGT were touted as the two major poles where this work will be taken forward. The TT will therefore be well placed to inform any revision processes envisaged by the IASC.

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| **ACTION**: Co-chairs to circulate revised ToRs reflecting discussions with OCHA and clarifying the sequencing of activities that the TT will undertake.  **ACTION:** IASC Secretariatwill seek more information on the processes alluded to by WFP on the revision of key TA documents. (**COMPLETED**) |

**Agenda Item 3: Joint Retreat**

**Introduction (Co-chairs):**  In discussions among the co-chairs of the HDN TT and the WGT groups in the run up to the WHS, a joint workshop was proposed as the first of several opportunities to take stock of, and harmonize progress towards achieving some of the elements of the HDN. The suggestion was endorsed by the constituencies of both groups which, in turn, put forward a planning group consisting of DOCO, EOSG’s Analysis and Planning Capacity, FAO, OCHA, PBSO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and WHO to elaborate the framework and suggested agenda for a 1 ½ -2 days joint UNWGT - IASC TT HDN retreat. While, the concept note of this joint retreat was circulated for comments (UNHCR replied). On the basis of the 0 draft of the concept note, an agenda has been drafted but will need to be informed by the full view of both the HDN TT and the WGT through their comments on the concept note, before the agenda is shared. The floor was opened for further comments on the concept note.

**UNCHR:** To better reflect the degree of commitment from each agency it is proposed that the participation could be increased to 2-3 persons per organization.

**Co-chairs:** the concern will be to balance adequate participation from all agencies, and representatives from subsidiary bodies, without compromising the need for concrete and streamlined conversation during the retreat.

**ICVA:** While the constraints on numbers of participants is well taken, ICVA hopes that special accommodation can be made to ensure that NGO voices are well represented in the workshop. On the concept, are we credible and legitimate enough to ensure the ambitious objectives that gave been set out in the concept note are implemented at the field level. And how will this workshop connect to the Principals.

**Co-chairs**: clarified that the workshop does not and should not have the mandate to develop a road map that will be implemented at the field level. Instead this “Roadmap” is envisaged to be a joint framework, at global level, of how both humanitarian and development actors will collaborate on achieving the commitments made on the HDN. This is the added value of the HDN TT and the WGT. That said, the workshop will be informed by field voices, and the practical realities of ground will feature heavily in the process of the workshop.

**FAO**: agreeing that the roadmap will be more of “how we work together”, we have to keep in mind that the workshop is the first of a series of meetings. The concept note sets out an ambitious task that will be realized over the course of server encounters – not just this one. As it stands, the workshop will look at analysis, and planning; eventually there will be a need to look at programming, financing and other key elements.

**OCHA:** echoing points made during the planning meeting, there is indeed a lot of interest and appetite from the member states on the outcome of this workshop, so on top of reporting to Principals we should explore ways to feedback to member states either formally or informally (perhaps through the Grand Bargain).

**UNICEF:** What we wouldn't want to see, is a big meeting in New York that stay purely at the theoretical level. At all times, the discussions and the outcome of the workshop should be practical and useful for the field. At the same time, we should temper our optimism, and also expect that the workshop seeks to identify bottlenecks and challenges as much as it will look at opportunities and successes.

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| **ACTION**: Agencies to provide comments to co-chairs on concept note of the joint IASC HDN TT – UN WGT.  **ACTION**: Based on conversations with the WGT co-chairs and the planning group, and the inputs from agencies on the concept note, a draft agenda will be developed and shared. An invitation will also be drafted. |

**Agenda Item 4: Discussion on the draft Workplan and assignment of activity leads**

**Introduction (Co-chairs):**  On the basis of discussions during the past TT meetings, and looking at the agreed content in the TT ToRs, the co-chairs aimed to develop a zero draft of the workplan. It was made clear that the document circulated to members prior to the meeting, was an initial attempt to capture (in a practical and realistic way) the workstreams necessary to move the agenda forward, as well as reflect the work task to the team by the IASC working group. At the same time, it reflects bilateral discussions, (that were called for by the TT) with other co-chairs of IASC subsidiary bodies, whose activities might intersect with that of the TT. The floor was opened for comments, changes, and amendments on the content of the workplan. Calls for assignment leads were also made.

**ICVA:** The initial proposal to lead on the task of building a compendium of best practices was done with a different context in mind. It might be necessary to adjust the scope and content of that workstream now that we are post WHS.

**FAO:** Make clearer the links between activities and outputs. Especially in relation to how they related sequentially and which activities contribute to which products. Also, how will the HDN TT workplan be changed in relation to the joint IASC-UNDG workplan?

**IASC Sec:** Point of information: there was an inbuilt understanding at the IASC working group that the workplan will be revised after WHS. The IASC Secretariat has reached out to co-chairs of all the IASC subsidiary bodies to seek amendments to the IASC Working Group Workplan.

**IOM:** Would be interested to contribute to components of objective 1 (establishing a common narrative and common understanding) as part of our current thinking on ending needs and protracted responses.

**WFP/RG REAP:** Following discussions between the co-chairs of the HDN TT and the Reference group for Risk, Early Action and Preparedness, some of the activities task by the workgroup to the reference group (1. The revision of the principles of resilience; and 2; and defining the new business model) have been transferred to the HDN TT. These two workstreams were deemed to more naturally fit in the mandate of the HDN TT.

**OCHA:** Has there been contact with members of the Urban Reference Group?

**WFP:** How does this relate to the risk, prevention and resilience group (led by WFP)?

**FAO:** The group has prepared a paper that has now been tabled at the HLCP. It is more of a conceptual framework, and the core purpose and direction of the group has yet to be defined.

**WHO:** This paper on risk, prevention and resilience, will most likely find its purpose during the next QCPR discussions. At the same time, our colleagues on the WGT side are plugged into this process. It is therefore expected, that that thinking, will be brought to bear during the retreat, when the two sides meet in October.

**UNDP/ER Cluster:** Offer to support/combine workstreams within the Early Recovery Cluster and the HDN TT workstream on Typologies and common understanding of the HDN. This will build on the work that has begun, but that was put on hold pending WHS, on risk analysis profiling,

**UNHCR:** 1.3 and 1.4 [Establish a common understanding of that is required to strengthen the humanitarian development nexus] – UNHCR can contribute into these workstreams.

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| **ACTION**: ICVA to come back to the co-chairs about the scope and content of what is now envisaged under “compendium of best practices” workstream.  **ACTION**: Co-chairs to circulate revised Workplan reflecting  **ACTION**: OCHA to connect co-chairs of the Reference Group on Meeting the Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (RG MHCUA) **(COMPLETED)**. |