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| **INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP** | | | |
| **IASC OVERARCHING GOAL** | **STRENGTHEN THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION** | | |
| **IASC FUNCTIONS** | **POLICY:** Produces system-wide policies, guidelines and tools to harmonize and achieve a better overall response.  **OPERATIONAL:** Ensure a coherent and timely response to complex emergencies.  **ADVOCACY:** Agree on common messages, to jointly advocate for respect for humanitarian principles and ensure support for humanitarian work. | | |
| **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2016-2017 OF THE IASC WORKING GROUP** | | | |
| **EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES AND PROTRACTED CRISES** | **ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCLUSIVITY** | **DISPLACEMENT AND PROTECTION OUTCOMES** | **FINANCING** |
| An unprecedented number of people require assistance in highly complex and protracted environments, stretching the international response capacity to its limits. The IASC seeks to support strengthening policy support to advance the effectiveness and relevance of humanitarian response, including through strengthening preparedness and resilience adequately addressing cross-cutting issues and working across sectors. | More can be done to increase collective ownership and promote the implementation of key IASC policy guidelines and response. IASC members are committed to strengthening inclusivity (cooperating with external stakeholders including frontline responders, donors, private sector and national government) and investing in accountability, transparency and local capacity, with particular attention to PSEA. | An unprecedented number of people require assistance and protection.  The IASC has made a strong commitment to place protection central to humanitarian action. In 2016, IASC organizations will address challenges and strengthen response, including through adoption and implementation of a system-wide protection policy. Particular attention will be paid to forced displacement, sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response, child protection, gender mainstreaming and PSEA, addressing drivers of protection risks, and achieving durable solutions to displacement. | Resources are not fit for purpose to adequately respond to the unprecedented number of people requiring assistance and to effectively strengthen preparedness. Working with partners the IASC seeks to promote appropriate, accessible and efficient use of resources to meet the needs for effective humanitarian preparedness and response. |
| **STRATEGIC ENTRY POINTS** | | | |
| In implementing its strategic priorities, the IASC Working Group will engage in following up to global processes including in particular the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain commitments. | | | |
| **OUTPUTS** | | | |
| * Policy support to advance coherent and accountable system wide response to emergencies promoted with a focus on protracted crises and urban contexts * Principled humanitarian action strengthened * Policy support provided to strengthen humanitarian development nexus | * Accountability to affected populations * Enhanced inter-organizational cooperation on PSEA * Inclusion, cooperation, transparency and outreach strengthened | * Operationalise the whole of system approaches to protection in accordance with the Centrality of Protection Statement, through robust implementation of the IASC Protection Policy and actions on the recommendations of the WOSR. * Enhance protection of all vulnerable groups in emergencies | * Adequate, appropriate, accessible and transparent financing for diverse preparedness action and response capacity promoted |

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| **PRIORITY: effective response to emergencies and protracted crises** | | |
| ***Sponsors****: UNICEF and InterAction*  ***Subsidiary bodies:***  Each Task Team/Reference Group will meet on a monthly basis and sponsors will call in quarterly meetings for the full priority to report on the linkages between activities.   * Reference Group Principled Humanitarian Action * Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian/Development Nexus with a focus on protracted contexts * Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness * Reference Group MHCUA | | |
| **OUTPUTS** | **ACTIVITIES** | **LEAD** |
| Policy support provided to advance coherent and accountable system wide response to emergencies promoted with a focus on protracted crises and urban contexts | Monitor key IAHE recommendations to reinforce humanitarian accountabilities | *IASC secretariat* |
| Review TA protocols for utilization in protracted crises, with a focus on simplicity and ensuring inter-agency ownership and accountability, drawing on findings fom STAIT and other relevant inter-agency missions | *Task Team on Strengthening the Hum./Dev. Nexus in cooperation with OCHA* |
| Ensure applicability of developed guidance on urban area- and system-based analysis/profiling to support humanitarian programming and coordination in protracted crises | *Dev. Nexus in cooperation with MHCUA* |
| Develop a compendium of good practices (for example on joined up planning cycles including analysis, assessments and monitoring, the building the capacity of frontline national responders, taking into account implementation of the IASC/UNDG/UNISDR Common Framework for Preparedness and other topics such as cross-cutting themes | *Task Team on Strengthening the Hum./Dev. Nexus in cooperation with* other members |
| Principled humanitarian action strengthened | Raise awareness and promote implementation of the key recommendations of the Review of the Impact of UN Integration on Humanitarian Action, in particular implementation of the Integrated Assessment and Planning (IAP) policy | *Reference Group Principled Humanitarian Action*  *in cooperation with OCHA* |
| Publish the collected data on activities and good practices of IASC related to COTER advocacy | *Reference Group Principled Humanitarian Action* |
| Humanitarian development nexus strengthened | Promote and monitor implementation of the IASC/UNDG Principles of Resilience | *Task Team on Strengthening the Hum./Dev. Nexus* |
| Promote and monitor implementation of the IASC/UNDG/ ISDR Common Framework for Preparedness, coordinating with CADRI, UNDG, UNISDR and other groups | *Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness* |
| Support developing core elements of a new business model that could address needs and vulnerabilities in a comprehensive manner, including humanitarian and development actors and other relevant partners also comprising stakeholders addressing cross-cutting themes. Outline key components of HDN in different response scenarios and agree on definitions; ensure that IASC normative and operational frameworks are relevant for enhanced humanitarian-development engagement in Protracted Crises, adapted to different contexts. | *IASC Principals in cooperation with the IASC Working Group and the Task Team on Strengthening the Hum./Dev. Nexus* |
| Undertake horizon scanning and early warning to support increased preparedness and early action, including assessment of emerging and new risks in the IASC’s operational environment, and ensure appropriate linkage with other processes and work streams. This encompasses strengthening IASC forward-looking analysis capacity, including through engagement with development, peacebuilding and other relevant actors also comprising stakeholders addressing cross-cutting themes, as well as advising on appropriate mechanisms to resource preparedness and early action related to early warning. | *Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness* |
| Adapt, monitor, promote coherent implementation of the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) approach, including in relation to preparedness for cash based transfers, early action for slow onset situations and protracted crises as well as advise on resourcing mechanisms | *Reference Group on Early Warning and Preparedness* |
| **PRIORITY: Accountability and inclusivity** | | |
| ***Sponsors****: UNHCR*  *IOM (champion PSEA)*  ***Subsidiary bodies:***   * Task Team on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action * Task Team AAP/PSEA * Reference Group MHPSS * Reference Group GRG | | |
| **OUTPUTS** | **ACTIVITIES** | **LEAD** |
| Accountability to affected populations strengthened and operationalized | Provide support to field operations to ensure that commitments on both accountability and PSEA are understood and being operationalised at collective level with particular emphasis on national actors’ ownership in operations and engagement at the global level | *AAP/PSEA Task Team* |
| Embed IASC guidance in organisations’ policy |  |
| Strengthen disseminating policy guidance to operational levels | *IASC secretariat* |
| Promote and support implementation of the IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support | *MHPSS RG* |
| Promote, support and monitor implementation of the IASC Gender Policy and monitor the accountability framework of the IASC Gender Policy | *GRG* |
| Promote and support implementation of the revised IASC Gender Based Violence Guidelines, | *GBV AoR in cooperation with GRG* |
| Enhanced inter-organizational cooperation on PSEA | Finalize, adopt and promote implementation of the SOPs on inter-agency referral of complaints and the Best Practice guide on CBCM incorporating the lessons learned from the PSEA-CBCM Pilot project | *IOM in cooperation with AAP/PSEA Task Team* |
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| Implement the statement by IASC Principals on PSEA (December 2015): 1) Fully implement the Minimum Operating Standards, 2) Reinforce the responsibilities on PSEA for the HC role, 3) Strengthen investigation and protection responses to SEA allegations | *AAP/PSEA TT and Senior PSEA Focal Points* |
| Inclusion, cooperation, transparency and outreach strengthened | Develop guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action by IASC WG | Task Team on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action |
| Promote participation and influence of regional coordination actors within IASC mechanisms and maintain a dialogue with regional field coordination structures including with NGOS | *Engagement of UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, OCHA, ICVA and others for “promotion of inclusive field level coordination structures”* |
| Promote adherence to Principles of Partnership and identify recommendations on how to translate Principles into best practice |
| Maintain a dialogue with key stakeholders including NGOs (with a special focus on National and Southern NGOs), member states and the private sector |
| Promote inclusive field level coordination structures, including HCTs , with a special focus on National NGOs, Southern NGOs and emerging actors |
| **PRIORITY: RESPONDING TO DISPLACEMENT AND ENHANCING PROTECTION OUTCOMES** | | |
| ***Sponsors****: UNHCR, UNDP*  ***Subsidiary bodies:***   * GPC Task Team to Implement IASC Protection Priority Tasks (time bound - until protection policy is completed) * Reference Group on protracted displacements (UNDP/UNHCR) | | |
| **OUTPUTS** | **ACTIVITIES** | **LEAD** |
| Operationalise whole of system approaches to protection in accordance with the Centrality of Protection Statement through robust implementation of the IASC Protection Policy and actions on the recommendations of the WOSR | Promote and support implementation of the key findings of the Whole of System Protection Review | *IASC protection agencies in collaboration with other IASC members (this is pending agreement at the WG meeting, ideally we would want to ensure ownership and accountability sits with the broader system, beyond UN protection actors (OCHA and WFP).* |
| Roll out the IASC Protection Policy and support and promote its implementation | *GPC and IASC protection agencies (see above)* |
| Enhance protection of the most vulnerable groups in emergencies | Review and promote implementation of the IASC framework on durable solutions for IDPs | *UNHCR, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDP, UNDP* |
| Agree and strengthen the response to the humanitarian needs of migrants | *IOM in cooperation with UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA* |
| In support of the implementation of the IASC framework on durable solutions for IDPS in protracted displacement:  - Promote and support rule of law in response to displaced population needs including: a) community security; support strengthening law enforcement for the service of host and displaced communities; b) access to justice c) violence reduction.  - Support livelihoods in communities affected by displacement.  - Support early recovery, including livelihoods recovery for IDPs, out-of-camp refugees and host communities, while setting a longer-term vision for economic recovery and development.  - Promote and develop sustainable frameworks for the (re-)integration of returnees and local integration of displaced people in host communities. | *Reference Group on protracted displacements* |
| **PRIORITY: FINANCING** | | |
| ***Sponsors****: ICVA and WFP*  **Subsidiary bodies:**   * Task Team Humanitarian Financing | | |
| **OUTPUTS** | **ACTIVITIES** | **LEAD** |
| Adequate, appropriate, accessible and transparent financing for diverse response capacity promoted | Advise on the development of new funding mechanisms and more accessible funding (including for local actors), with a focus on more effective response to protracted emergencies and investment in results-driven, multi-year programmes that bridge the humanitarian-development divide and consider added value of diversity amongst actors. | *Humanitarian Financing Task Team* |
| Supporting the operationalization of key recommendations around hum/dev financing, including stemming from the HLPHF’s report and WHS. |
| Building on the analysis of donor conditions, 1) Make recommendations for increasing the transparency of financial flows through stronger reporting on pass-through funding; and 2) Strengthen awareness of and advocate for the application of the principles of the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative |
| Contribute financing-related technical inputs toward operationalizing the Grand Bargain |

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| **COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENED WORKING MODALITIES**  **IASC WORKING GROUP** |
| 1. Strengthen accountability and effectiveness by strengthening the ownership of and promoting the implementation of key collective policy guidelines and response. |
| 1. Promote diversity and effective collaboration with diverse actors, based on complementarity and localizing response as appropriate, and strengthening accountability to affected populations. |
| 1. Uphold closer working relationships between Principals, WG and subsidiary bodies’ chairs. |
| 1. Proactive dissemination of decisions and guidelines among IASC members, stakeholders, and field coordination structures including HCTs, regional IAWGs and NGO fora. Work with partners to provide platforms for people to discuss new policies to promote understanding on how they are relevant to them. |
| 1. Maintain a dialogue with key donors on IASC reform products and deliverables. |
| 1. Bring to the attention of the Principals key issues impacting affected people with a view of promoting stronger advocacy. |
| 1. Commit to quick decision making on topical issues making processes more efficient. |
| 1. Better utilize flexible working structures to enable speedier action and decision making, including sub-working groups, strategic use of ad hoc meetings, use of innovative technologies (in light of capacity constraints). |