

**Summary note of the Reference Group on Principled Humanitarian Action
Meeting of 30 May 2017**

Present: OCHA, NRC, UNHCR, IOM, UNMAS, IASC Secretariat, ICRC

1. Update from the IASC Secretariat:

The Chief of the IASC secretariat, Belinda Holdsworth, briefed the meeting on the latest developments within the IASC, including giving highlights from the recent IASC Principals and IASC Working Group meetings.

2. Update Priority #1: Humanitarian access is facilitated by improved awareness, application and integration of humanitarian principles at field level

There was a discussion about the Community of Practice (CoP), which concluded that the CoP is a valuable platform for the promotion of tools, guidelines, training on humanitarian principles.

Following the RGPFA meeting, IOM sent an email message inviting Priority 1 members to send their suggestions for themes/issues to be covered under Activity “*Raise awareness and promote the value and importance of respecting humanitarian principles by engaging on a number of selected priority themes and/or country specific contexts*”. All suggestions will be compiled and three priority themes will then be selected through an online poll by the end of June. The email communication and poll will also be used to determine what the final specific outcome will look like (length, structure, content, purpose, format, complexity), and to coordinate time for the discussions/ events to be organized. The new community of practice (one of the activities of priority) can be used for this purpose but other formats are also possible.

3. Update Priority #2: Counterterrorism (CT) and Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) agendas remain clearly distinct from PHA, and better take into account the need to minimize impact on PHA

OCHA reported back from the High Level Action Group and CT Strategy. PVE is seen as part of the CT Strategy. OCHA are following up on the strategy and potential intersections with principled humanitarian action.

NRC updated the group on recent CT discussions with humanitarian actors (including the Humanitarian Access Group) and donors in Kabul, Afghanistan and Gaziantep, Turkey. NRC Palestine is also releasing a study on CT Study in June 2017. Finally, NRC is working on a draft CVE two-pager, and will be further discussed further with other members of the Priority #2 group.

There was a suggestion that the PVE Agenda and possible links to the New Way of Working, be added to the agenda for the next RG meeting.

4. Update Priority #3: Improved protection of humanitarian action in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Output 1: “*Following some attacks, the RG prepares guidance on ways to react and the need to seek justice, including possible reactive statements*”: Action Against Hunger was not able to attend the meeting but provided an update by email, as follows: Action Against Hunger has reached out to the Working Group on the Protection of

Humanitarian Action to propose several working sessions relevant to its work, including one on the development of a short guidance note on possible ways to react to attacks against humanitarian action (including in engaging with governments or counterparts, speaking out in public, seeking justice, etc.).

The progress and results of this collective work will be shared with the RG, to support the case by case guidance that will be disseminated by the RG to the IASC WG, Principals, Members and other Member states in case of attacks. Additionally, we would like to encourage RG Members to send alerts by email on the RG's mailing list in case of attacks deliberately targeting humanitarian action, so the RG can react promptly.

Output 2: “*Develop a briefing paper, based on case studies, on the impact of attacks on PHA and access of civilians to basic services*”: To be developed. Co-leads to discuss relevant case studies and countries/situations.