**Task Team on strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus with a focus on protracted crises**

**Terms of Reference**

**1. Background/Expected Results**

**Background to Preparedness and Resilience, as reaffirmed by the WHS**

Currently 125 million people require humanitarian assistance and displacement has reached record levels – many of them affected by violent conflict. Between 2002 and 2013, 86 percent of resources requested through United Nations humanitarian appeals were destined to humanitarian action in conflict situations. Such complex humanitarian emergencies have been intractable and protracted with an average length of displacement due to war and persecution of 17 years. Moreover, the funding requirements of inter-agency humanitarian appeals have increased six-fold from $3.4 billion in 2004 to $19.5 billion in 2015.

The report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit: “One Humanity: Shared Responsibility” builds on some of the key themes and objectives highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It proposes five core responsibilities for all actors, including humanitarian and development organizations, to advance the vision enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in humanitarian contexts. One of the principal calls is to shift the focus from delivering aid to ending need more effectively and sustainably by working together collectively and coherently, so that humanitarian action reinforces development gains while development assistance is directed, first and foremost, at addressing vulnerabilities and reaching those furthest left behind.

In retrospect, it has also been argued that much of the policy and practice applied in humanitarian settings (as reflected in currently agreed TA protocols) have been developed on the notion of quick on-set emergency work, requiring humanitarian action for limited periods of time, are increasingly inadequate and a challenge in today’s more urbanised and protracted humanitarian crisis. A novel way of working is needed that will require shifts in both policy and practice: to act early and preventively without waiting for crises to occur; to reinforce rather than replace national and local systems; to strengthen coherence and collaboration among humanitarian and development and peacebuilding actors; and to underpin these efforts with flexible and innovative financing arrangements and partnerships.

The recent World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, 23-24 May 2016, brought to attention the scale of the changes required if the magnitude of challenges are to be address and calls were made for a new and coherent approach based on addressing root causes, increasing political diplomacy for prevention and conflict resolution and context-specific approaches that reinforce local systems and builds community resilience to shocks in a manner that transcends institutional boundaries bringing humanitarian, development and peace-building efforts together.

The Summit achieved significant commitments to **transcend the humanitarian-development divide through context-specific approaches,** whilst reinforcing the importance of respecting humanitarian principles and space. In recognizing the need to change, the UN Secretary-General, eight United Nations agencies and endorsed by the World Bank and IOM – signed a breakthrough ‘Commitment to Action’ on collaborating in a ‘New Way of Working’. This Commitment to Action represents an important effort of key operational parts of the UN system to speak with a common voice and to jointly advance a new way of operating that will lead to strengthening the United Nations to meet needs, reducing vulnerabilities and managing risk better by working together **towards collective out comes**, over **multi-year timeframes** and based **on comparative advantage** in each context.

Additionally, in collective commitments, donors and humanitarian partners announced agreement on a **Grand Bargain** that will help increase efficiency savings to humanitarian action over the next five years. Included was a commitment to channel 25 per cent of **financing to national and local responders as directly as possible** by 2020. This was embodied by an ambitious set of commitments signed by 27 international and 37 international NGOs in the Charter4Change as well as others coming from the newly-established Network for Empowered Aid Response, and existing NGO networks such as ICVA, InterAction, and ACT Alliance.

The Commitment to Action underlines that there will always be situations where humanitarian responses will be necessary to save lives with the utmost sense of urgency and based on rapid and unimpeded access and the humanitarian principles. In politically contested and violent conditions of armed conflict, nothing should undermine the commitment to principled humanitarian action. However, wherever conditions permit, the Commitment to Action also argues that better joined up humanitarian-development planning and programming processes will deliver better outcomes for people by moving beyond meeting their needs in the short term to reducing them over time, especially in protracted crises.

In order to deliver on this New Way of Working, the Commitment to Action includes how to operationalize the Secretary- General’s call, including by:

* Conceptually, developing a shared understanding of sustainability, vulnerability, and resilience;
* Operationally, implementing key changes, where contexts enable the putting in place of:
  + 1. Pooled and combined data, analysis and information;
    2. Better joined up planning and programming processes;
    3. Effective leadership for collective outcomes; and
    4. Financing modalities to support collective outcomes.

The **Task Team (TT) on strengthening the humanitarian and development nexus with a focus on protracted crises** was created as a result of the recognition by IASC Principals, now reaffirmed by the WHS that, in line with the findings of UN system reviews indicating that in order to reduce humanitarian need, a significant shift will need to take place in the way that the two communities work with one another and with other partners – especially in the most complex protracted crisis settings and fragile contexts and their associated planning cycles, specific policies and systems should be developed to improve collective engagement. In particular, focusing on the nexus the following fundamental issues should be addressed:

* impacts of protracted displacement and short-term humanitarian delivery, including increased levels of vulnerability and aid dependency among those affected,
* the need for development-oriented/principled crisis response in protracted settings as a core part of the SDGs commitment to ‘leave no-one behind’,
* the need to adopt ‘resilience-building’ and self-reliance as key principles to guide a more effective and efficient response, while building capacity for emergency risk management, to be prepared for escalation of a conflict as well as ‘acute upon chronic’ emergencies
* the need for humanitarian and development actors to work in partnership with host governments and local actors, as well as host communities.

To ensure synergies and complementarity and avoid duplication the TT will apply an inclusive approach and maintain close collaboration with other processes and coordination bodies working on related issues such as disaster risk reduction, peacebuilding, preparedness and financing. To this end, the TT will interact with, *inter alia*, the **UNDG WG on Transitions** – WGT (particularly around joint planning and programming), the **High Level Advisory Group on Post Conflict Needs Assessment** (around conflict analysis and planning for recovery and transition, linked with peacebuilding objectives), the **Global Cluster for Early Recovery**, the **Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas – MHCUA**, and the **Early-Warning and Preparedness – EWP** Reference Groups and the IASC Task Team on **Humanitarian Financing** (multi-year financing modalities), and other relevant specialist groups to contribute to, or ensure the appropriate division and follow up of work, including but not limited to, the promotion and monitoring of the implementation of the IASC/UNDG Principles of Resilience, and the potential further development on the IASC policy on the use of conditional or unconditional cash transfers in emergencies pending the outcome of **IASC Principals’ cash Working Group**. Other relevant processes and coordination bodies include but are not limited to:

* **INCAF** - **I**nternational **N**etwork on **C**onflict **a**nd **F**ragility
* **HLF Busan ‘New deal’** for engagement with countries with fragile situations
* **Sendai** Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030
* **Habitat** III
* **World Humanitarian Summit**
* The **2030 Development Agenda** ‘leaving no one behind’ and its High Level Political reviews

**Expected Results**

The TT will enable more effective IASC response in protracted crisis settings and fragile contexts and their associated planning cycles, where longer-term planning is necessary, advancing a jointly operationalized agenda as called for by the Commitment to Action, towards **collective outcomes** over **multi-year timeframes** with development partners recognizing the reality of protracted crises and aiming to contribute to reduction and humanitarian need and achievement of longer-term development gains in the logic of the SDGs, building on **joint principles and the comparative advantages** of both. It will also enhance reliable humanitarian delivery capacities and reliable humanitarian and development support to local structures embedded in the strategic planning and operational modalities.

**Work streams and Objectives**

Following discussions of the 90th IASC Working Group Meeting, as a starting point, the TT **will map out development, peacebuilding and economic investment processes, and their relevance and implication** for the IASC’s attempt to strengthen the Humanitarian/Development nexus, including the progress made thus far and the gaps and shortcomings in current policies, guidance and tools and identify relevant key parameters of the ‘New Way of Working’. Building on this, the TT will have three work streams and related objectives in

1. **adapting the Transformative Agenda – TA protocols for better application to protracted emergencies**: Review the current TA protocols and identify which are adapted and which are not, develop new frameworks where relevant, work with UNDG to ensure such adapted protocols are adopted as an IASC-UNDG “joint venture”.
2. **building on the joint principles with the UNDG on resilience, expand around joint planning cycles** (including analysis, assessments and regular monitoring, where contexts enable the putting in place of), and multi-year programming, including effective division of work towards collective results in protracted crisis contexts.
3. **implementing development-principled responses in protracted crisis contexts** linking efforts with that of the UNDG WGT and the IASC TT on Humanitarian Financing. Linkages with social protection will be an important issue to work on regarding this work stream whilst **developing operational guidance for area-based programming** incl. in cooperation with the RG on MHCUA for urban areas, that addresses gender and age sensitive a) programme prioritization and b) practice on operating in the most difficult conflict-affected areas, including guidance on remote programming, in coordination with the Global Cluster Coordinators Group. Building on existing work, the work should include developing a compendium of good/best practices based on context and relevance and guidance on building the capacity of frontline national responders.

**Task Team deliverables** will include:

1. **adapted TA protocols** that apply better to protracted emergencies,
2. **agreed principles** between IASC and UNDG on **joint planning cycles**, and multi-year programming, with adapted funding mechanisms,
3. **compendium of best practices** (for example on capacity building of frontline responders and other topics),
4. **guidance for operationalizing the approach in protracted emergencies (for example** gender and age sensitive area-based programming, urban areas, remote programming, resilience and emergency risk management).

**2. Working Methods**

**Chairs/Co-chairs**

The two Task Team Co-Chairs, WHO and UNDP will provide a balance between near term emergency response and linkages to longer-term development action. Represented at senior level in both Geneva and New York, it is envisaged that chairing arrangements will be reviewed in December 2016. Tasks undertaken by the Co-Charis include drafting the annual work plan based on the information provided by TT participants for discussion and agreement by the Task Team.

**Secretariat**

The tasks undertaken by the Secretariat include support to the Co-Chairs in:

* maintaining an e-mail distribution list of participants;
* convening meetings of the Task Team at the request of the Co-Chairs;
* drafting and distribution of the agenda and minutes and keeping a participants’ list for each meeting;
* preparing materials for distribution to the Task Team and facilitating communication; and in
* working closely with the IASC Secretariat to ensure that the IASC website and calendar are updated with information relevant to the Task Team.
* Secretariat functions will be provided by UNDP

**Participation**

* The Task Team is open to representation by IASC members. Representation should be of sufficient seniority and professional background such that they can commit their organisation to undertake action associated with the Work Plan and endorse outputs of the Task Team.
* Participants represent their organisations and, where applicable, ensure that their WG or EDG representatives or Principals are regularly briefed on the Task Team’s work and progress.
* With the concurrence of the Co-Chairs the Task Team may broaden participation beyond IASC members and invite experts, donors, the World Bank, governments or other institutions to provide technical input or to discuss relevant issues, when needed.

Recognizing the need to better reflect the multilateral composition of the IASC, the Task Team will make special effort to include NGOs, private sector, academia, and other non-UN member agencies of the IASC in its work, and especially in its missions to field-test and operationalize guidance on preparedness and resilience*.*

**Meeting schedule and frequency**

For 2016 the Task Team will meet monthly. Frequency of meetings will be reviewed in December 2016. Teleconference access will be available for these meetings. Individuals involved in specific work streams may need to meet more often.

**Funding and Resources**

Participation in the Task Team is on an organisation self-funded basis. If funding of studies and field testing is required for the Task Team Work Plan, this will be identified in the workplan and undertaken as in-kind activity by member organisations or additional resources will be mobilised by the Task Team.

**Special Considerations**

In its activities, the Task Team will be informed by the need to consider humanitarian action through the use of various analytical tools that reflect unequal access to resources and protection, including ethnicity, language, minority status, disability, etc.

**3. Reporting**

**Accountability**

The IASC Working Group agreed that Task Teams are to be “accountable to the Working Group.” In order to support Task Teams, IASC Working Group Champions will work closely with the Task Team to meet its objectives and ensure links with the IASC Working Group. The Task Team Co-Chairs and Priority 1 Sponsors are responsible for ensuring their Task Team’s accountability to the Working Group.

The Task Team will liaise, as required, with the other IASC Subsidiary Bodies (Task Teams, Reference Groups etc) to ensure that its output is consistent and compliant with the thematic priorities and established policies of the IASC.

**Reporting to the Working Group**

The Working Group will be required to endorse content injected to iterations of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle Reference Module, normally as part wider updates to the Module. Progress updates, when requested by the Working Group, can be provided in writing, for information.

**Reporting to the Emergency Directors Group**

The Co-Chairs will share all documents with an operational focus with the Emergency Directors Group.

**Monitoring implementation**

The Task Team Working Group Co-Chairs are responsible for monitoring implementation of the Task Team’s objectives and work plan, with the support of the IASC Secretariat.