IASC Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian Development Nexus in Protracted Settings

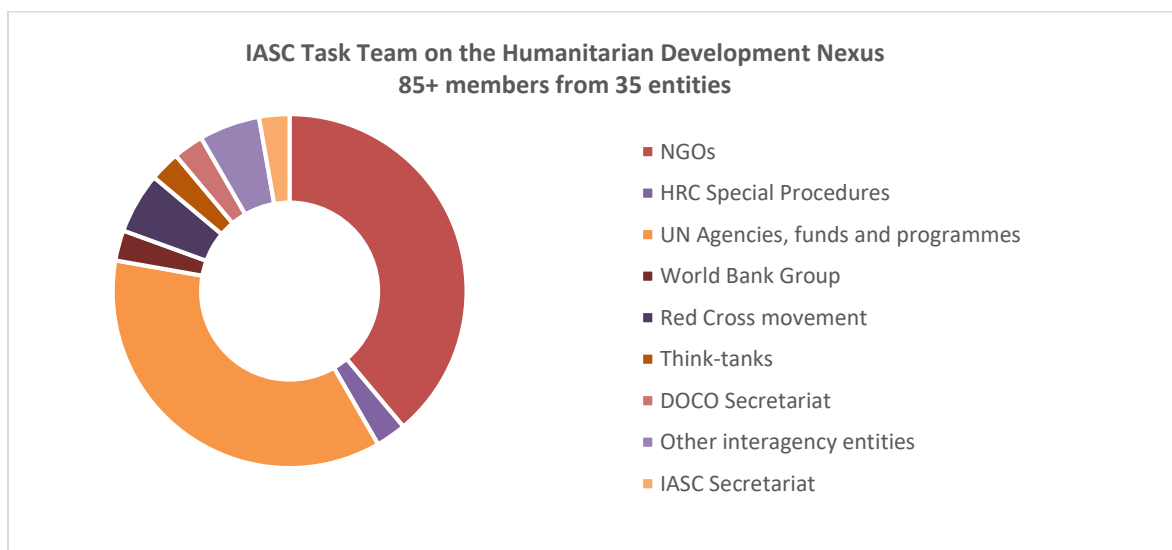## INTERIM[1] - END OF MANDATE REPORT: Q2/2016 – Q4/2018

BACKGROUND:

This document is prepared in response to a request made during the Ad hoc meeting of IASC Working Group (WG) on the IASC Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian Development Nexus in Protracted Settings (HDN TT), 5 Sept 2017. During this meeting, the IASC WG agreed to "undertake an initial review of the endorsed HDN Workplan by 31 December 2017 and establish the timetable for subsequent reviews as necessary".

To this end, this document outlines key achievements and products by the HDN TT since its inception as background for this review. Given this specific request, this document is designed to provide additional granularity and information to the standard IASC subsidiary body progress reports. In the context of the restructuring of the subsidiary bodies below the IASC Principals, this report also serves the dual purpose as a handover document to the successor-body of the IASC HDN Task Team.

MEMBERSHIP:

The workplan and its activities, achievements, and products represent individual organizational efforts made on behalf of, consulted with, and validated by the HDN TT membership. Since its inception, the TT membership has grown steadily, now consisting of over 85 members from 35 UN agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and Crescent Movement as well as not-for-profit think tanks. Since Q2 2016, these members have met 24 times as a group and have held a total of 25 bilateral meetings with the co-chairs.

IASC Task Team on the Humanitarian Development Nexus
85+ members from 35 entities

- NGOs
- HRC Special Procedures
- UN Agencies, funds and programmes
- World Bank Group
- Red Cross movement
- Think-tanks
- DOCO Secretariat
- Other interagency entities
- IASC Secretariat

NGOs (8): Action contre la Faim, Care International, Danish Refugee Council, Impact Initiatives, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, SCHR, Trocaire (Caritas) and World Vision,

NGO Consortia (3): International Council of Voluntary Agencies - ICVA, Interaction and the SCHR - Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, together representing hundreds of international and national/local NGOs worldwide,

Red cross movement (2): International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – IFRC,

Other interagency entities (3): Food Security Cluster, Joint IDP Profiling Service - JIPS, GenCap,

UN Agencies (13): FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN OCHA, UN Women, WFP and WHO,

Think tank (1): Development Initiatives,

Other (5): Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ, HRC Special Procedures (Legal Adviser to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons), the Worldbank Group, DOCO Secretariat, IASC Secretariat

STRUCUTRE OF THE WORKPLAN:

As agreed by the WG through the WG Statement of Intent the HDN TT is the interagency forum for convening, presenting and formulating the collective views of the IASC TT members around the issue of strengthening the humanitarian development nexus. . To achieve this, the HDN TT's workplan is organized around three main objectives:

1. **Shape and contribute to common understanding** of what is required to strengthen the humanitarian development and peacebuilding nexus;
2. **Review and assess current policy, guidance and operational tools** based on common understanding to identify gaps and best practices; and
3. **Ensure coherence in field support** towards successful implementation of the New Way of Working

In addition, in line with calls from the WG to **create and maintain functional linkages with development oriented inter-agency mechanism**. The HDN TT also contributes to a joint Plan of Action in collaboration with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSG) Task Team on Recovery and Transitions.

Objective 1: Shape and contribute to common understanding of what is required to strengthen the humanitarian development and peacebuilding nexus

Activity 1.1: Mapping of existing global processes and mechanisms

COMPLETE

One of the first tasks the HDN TT undertook was to establish and maintain an **informational mapping** of existing global processes, initiatives, and mechanisms, operational tools, and field-level activities relevant to the HDP Nexus. The mapping has served as a living resource for field and policy practitioners as well as donors [**HDP Nexus mapping**]. Led by UNICEF and WHO, a more user friendly, web-based iteration of the mapping organized as a timeline provides the opportunity for the TT team to provide some analysis related to 1) engagement and strategic entry point of NGOs; 2) identifying duplications in structures; and 3) identifying opportunities for collaboration beyond the IASC. This online version of the mapping is available at this [**link**] and will be updated early 2019.

Activity 1.2: Develop key messages and a common narrative on Humanitarian Development Nexus

COMPLETE

There is a growing sense of confusion at the multiple sources of information and messaging on the New Way of Working (NWoW) and other similar initiatives. The IASC HDN TT, in collaboration with the UNSDG TT on Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus produced **Key messages on the humanitarian development nexus.** This document is endorsed by the IASC HDN Task Team and has been informally endorsed by the Sherpas of the UNSDG Task Team co-chairs. It is expected that this document should be fully endorsed by the UNSDG HDPN task team and co-chairs early 2019. Click **here** to access the document.

Activity 1.3: Understanding the linkages with Sustaining Peace and Prevention

COMPLETE

This **analysis** was drafted through HDN TT consultations as part of the HDN TT's role in producing strategic analysis in support of policy-setting discussions. As such it was used as a background document for the WG deliberations [Q2 2017] and formed the basis of subsequent work by the IASC Reference Group on Principled Humanitarian Action and the UNDG TT A on Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus [**Analysis Paper**].

ONGOING

Since then, a sub-group of the Task Team consisting of UNDP, IOM, WHO, WFP, OHCHR, with support from PBSO and MSF have convened to develop a draft IASC position paper on "humanitarian development nexus and its linkages to peace". See draft outline here. A first draft has been submitted to the TT for initial consultations and comments, due by mid-Jan 2019.

Activity 1.4: Typologies of response scenarios

COMPLETE

These **typologies** were drafted as an important element and visualisation of how the imperative to protect humanitarian space and principles fit in, particularly in situations of conflict. Different types of settings will require a different blend of planning tools and analysis, as well as to what extent humanitarian actors can and should engage with other actors without compromising humanitarian principles. An orientation to typologies of country and sub-national contexts can offer practical guidance to field colleagues on how to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach [**Typologies Paper**]. Since their release, the paper has influenced internal HDN planning in agencies such as UNHCR, WHO, and OCHA as well as Save the Children and served as an important background document for HDN implementation in

Ukraine. It served a similar function in inter-agency policy discussions related to adapting the Humanitarian Programme Cycle guidance in conflict settings. Lastly, the typologies approach was annexed to the guidance on the IASC's perspective to articulating Collective Outcomes.

Activity 1.5: Articulating Collective Outcomes

COMPLETE

The notion of collective outcomes, in addition to joint analysis and assessments, is considered a central aspect of *what is new* in the current global policy thrust to improve humanitarian and development collaboration. Since its inception, the HDN TT's agreed approach has been to monitor and learn instead of produce guidance on this aspect of the HDN. After 18 months of trialling, there is now a clear call from field practitioners (see activity 2.2 and 2.3) for clear guidance, which in turn can be adapted to context. In light of the several agency-specific guidance notes and the need for collective buy-in, field colleagues have asked for **inter-agency guidance** to be developed on collective outcomes that is representative of the breadth of sectors and endorsed by a majority of stakeholders including NGOs. In 2018, a study was commissioned by the HDN TT to gather evidence specifically on this topic.

COMPLETE

To support this workplan activity. WHO commissioned a report to help clarify the divergence in views and perceptions on the definition of Collective Outcomes. Click here for the report.

COMPLETE

As a contribution to this work, WFP convened a 3-day workshop in order to come up with a technical level humanitarian perspective on Collective Outcomes. The technical group, acknowledged that in the absence of inter-agency guidance many country offices are struggling to interpret the WHS commitments into concrete efforts at field level. The group came up with a common table of elements, and process criteria (can be found here), which in turn formed the basis for a humanitarian contribution to an all-encompassing draft guidance. The draft guidance contribution was circulated to the HDN TT for comments in Nov 2018 and the 1.0 document can be found here. This will be a living document to be updated in 2019.

COMPLETE

A mapping of field based collective outcomes generated to date was also produced by the HDN Task Team. Click here.

Objective 2: Review and assess current policy, guidance and operational tools based on common understanding to identify gaps and best practices

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Activity 2.1: Open source platform of operational tools:

ONGOING

The aim of this activity was meant to gather and make accessible the many tools developed to date that can showcase how humanitarian efforts and development work can be brought closer together to better address risks and vulnerabilities when done successfully. However, implementation of joined up planning and programming is currently considered too nascent for a **platform** to be established for the time being. In the meantime, to fill the gap in information sharing a community of practice (2.3) has been established with an interim dropbox **online repository** function. ICVA has taken the lead with support from UNCEF.

Additionally, an information portal was established by the JSC, an internal UN mechanism to promote greater coherence of humanitarian and development action in crises and transitions to long-term sustainable development and in reducing vulnerabilities to build resilience.

Activity 2.2: Global survey of field practitioners

COMPLETE

The HDN TT was tasked by the WG (ref 92nd IASC WG meeting, 5-6 April 2017) to reach out to HC/RCs with the objective of clarifying gaps and required guidance on the operationalization on the NWoW. The findings were clear: despite the strides at policy and field level, the **survey** conducted in July 2017 highlighted that i) understanding in country teams varies; ii) the parameters of NWoW remain unclear; iii) implementation is unequal; and further support and guidance is required. The HDN TT also conducted a **pre-workshop questionnaire** ahead of the Practitioner's support network workshop held in Entebbe, Uganda at the request of field colleagues (2.3) which validated the findings **[Survey Analysis**].

Activity 2.3: Peer-to-Peer engagement and communities of practice

COMPLETE

a. Two practitioners' support network meetings were convened by the HDN TT (Entebbe, Uganda in November 2017 covering East and Western Africa; and Dakar, Senegal in May 2018 covering West and Central Africa). These workshops, held in conjunction with higher level regional multi-stakeholder meetings on the NWoW, each targeted approximately 20-25 peer practitioners including representatives from the UN, the NGO community and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with the mind-set, in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in advancing a strengthened collaboration across sectors in the field. The two workshops build on each other -- with the Dakar workshop report featuring a section that triangulates findings and recommendations from Entebbe. Click for the Dakar and Entebbe workshop reports. Over the course of these two workshops, points of convergence emerged relating to;

   a. the need for clear inter-agency guidance on collective outcomes;
   b. articulating the linkages between the humanitarian - development nexus with other ongoing system wide processes such as that of prevention and sustaining peace, with largely similar asks around integration and policy coherence; and
   c. the need to clarify roles and responsibilities in delivering on collective outcomes vis a vis mandates of agencies and organizations.

ONGOING

b. Participants established a **community of practice** Network (HDN CoPN) including practitioners from UN, NGOs, ICRC, IFRC and, as relevant, can be expanded to other constituencies (e.g. IFIs). The HDN TT act as a secretariat providing support to the WFP who leads the Practice, in a) establishing a web-based platform, password protected for practitioners' use and information exchange; b) convening periodic teleconferences and webinars, and c) organising geographically spaced workshops with field practitioners working to strengthen the HDN. They outlined the objective of the CoPN to constitute a light roster of deployable staff for short term support upon request from HCT/UNCT and share HCT/UNCTs requests for surge capacity to support the NWoW. This light-touch mechanism was used to support the HDPN multi-stakeholder workshop in CAR in Q4 of 2018. Practitioners also underlined the importance of transparent criteria and inclusiveness in the selection of support and that this arrangement should be revised as and when the People's Pipeline has been established to ensure that synergies be explored with the aim of avoiding duplication [**Community of Practice ToRs**].

Activity 2.4: Evidence Gathering

COMPLETE

Information on country efforts to strengthen humanitarian, development and peacebuilding collaboration will be collected and analysed with a view to use the findings for several purposes, including but not limited to: advocacy materials, a 'catalogue' (or other format) with promising practices, documents to support the establishment of peer networks and peer support structures, and communications on blockages to be addressed at HQ. As part of this process, preliminary HDN Progress Snapshots, were developed by the practitioners at the regional workshops (2.3), using the findings from the HC/RC survey (2.2) and the Pre-workshop questionnaire as starting points. These snapshots serve as baseline documents to track progress against the five key elements of strengthening the humanitarian development and peace nexus i.e. Analysis, Planning, Programming, collective outcomes, and leadership/coordination [HDN Snapshots for: Niger, Nigeria, Mauritania, Mali, DRC, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Chad, CAR, Uganda and Sudan can be found **here**].

Objective 3: Ensure coherence in field support towards successful implementation of the New Way of Working

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COMPLETE / ### Activity 3.1: Field Support:

COMPLETE

a. In 2017, the HDN TT continued to review and assess current policy, guidance and operational tools to identify gaps and good practices in field operations, collate good practices, and provide technical support and guidance on the implementation of the NWoW. To this end a **field support** mission was undertaken to Sudan, at the request of the RC/HC and in collaboration with the then UN Working Group on Transition and the Global Cluster Coordinators [**Sudan Mission Report**].

ONGOING

b. Also, at the request of the HC/RC Mali terms of reference are currently being finalized to provide **short term support** to the UNCT to further current advancements in strengthening collaboration between humanitarian, development, and mission actors. Remote support was provided by the Task Team and a field support mission is planned in Q1 2019 to facilitate a HDN workshop [**draft workshop agenda**].

COMPLETE

c. At the request of the HC/RC CAR **short term support** to the UNCT was provided by UNDP, OCHA and ICVA to further current advancements in strengthening collaboration between humanitarian, development, and mission actors. [**surge request document**]

COMPLETE

d. At the request of the HC/RC and the local HDN coordination group WHO and UNHCR in a first mission and WHO in subsequent follow-up missions supported the development of a HDN programmatic framework in Ukraine, leading to HCT and UNCT prioritizing and agreeing on collective outcomes, including a strategic vision for their implementation, and integration of these collective outcomes as strategic objectives into the 2019-20 HRP. [**HDN collective outcomes vision**]

COMPLETE

e. Based on consolidated learning from both interagency and agency-specific missions. The co-chairs drafted a set of **Generic Terms of Reference** to provide predictability technical support missions to field-colleagues requesting surge from HQ. After a round of consultations and incorporation of comments, the generic ToRs were finalized in Q4 2018.

Objective: System-wide recommendations

ONGOING

Through the completion and development of the various products and processes that have been outlined in the document above, the HDN TT produced several recommendations that have system-wide implications that may go beyond the IASC.

These recommendations are formulated as a contribution to current discussions regarding the restructuring of the IASC subsidiary bodies. As such, these recommendations may also be taken on-board as the basis for further work by the body that succeeds the IASC HDN TT under the new IASC Results Group on "Enhanced Humanitarian Development Collaboration and its linkages to Peace".

The draft recommendations, which were developed during an all-day TT meeting, are under finalisation and will be submitted together with the final version of this report upon the de facto closure of the IASC HDN TT. Meanwhile, a draft can be found here.