IASC Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG)
Priority Areas of Work for the IASC Results Groups

This note lays out the agreed **Priority Areas of Work** for the **IASC Results Groups** covering the period **May-December 2019.**

Results Groups are requested to consider the following parameters as they commence working on their priorities:

    (a) be **concrete** in your deliverables,

    (b) aim to focus on activities that will have the **most impact on field effectiveness** and/or will support IASC Principals' with their **decisions and/or advocacy efforts**,

    (c) be **inclusive** and ensure systematic engagement with key non-IASC members, including with those indicated in the "*Mapping of Non-IASC Inter-Agency Bodies for engagement of Results Groups[1]*" document.

A critical next step would be for the Results Group to immediately agree on the following:

    1. where required, a **breakdown of the activities/ steps** to be taken to achieve the deliverable,

    2. **sequencing of the work** in order of priority,

    3. **assigning owners** for each of the activities and/or priorities.

As laid out in the OPAG working methods documents, Results Groups will **report** on the progress of the implementation of these Priority Areas of Work to the OPAG on a **quarterly basis** as well as during the 2nd OPAG meeting, tentatively planned in November 2019.

RESULTS GROUP 1 - OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

Co-Chairs: OCHA, InterAction

- Ensure that **protection** is mainstreamed throughout the humanitarian response, beyond the actions taken by the protection cluster. Agreed, specific and measurable indicators are included within the cluster response and are reviewed within the midterm review process.

- Address **bureaucratic impediments imposed on NGOs** to curtail their access and their ability to carry out humanitarian activities [to *be done in collaboration with Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy*].

- Pursue activities to **strengthen humanitarian leadership** for a more effective and inclusive humanitarian response, while fostering synergies and complementarity with the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system.

- Finalize the **revision of the ERP guidance**, publish and disseminate the revised ERP guidance upon consideration and endorsement by OPAG.

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[1] This document will be further refined during the first face-to-face meetings of the Results Groups taking place in May 2019.

- Determine how to strengthen the **IASC Early Warning and Early Action Analysis** and ensure that the "early action" aspect is prioritized by the various IASC structures (including the IASC and the EDG).

- Review the **Humanitarian Programme Cycle tools** and monitor field compliance.

[Note: the following two areas are also priority activities. Discussions are underway to determine the best forum/method to ensure the completion of these two activities.

- *Complete the development of the **SUSTAIN** protocol of the humanitarian system-wide emergency activation system for signaling the need for continuing major responses and high levels of financing for the biggest protracted crises.[2]*

- *IASC secretariat to facilitate a **light review of coordination structures in IDP settings** and ensure a swift implementation of the recommendations[3].*

RESULTS GROUP 2 - ACCOUNTABLITY AND INCLUSION

Co-Chairs: UNICEF, UNHCR

Work in progress; Results Group 2 is working on sharing further details regarding their concrete deliverables.

- **Humanitarian responses informed and adapted by feedback from affected populations**. Responses to be informed by the perceptions, views and priorities of all affected people (taking into account gender, age, disability and diversity) through HNOs, HRPs; establishing collective approaches to community engagement and accountability and providing surge capacity through a common service approach; ensuring all people feel they are able to participate in decision making processes and can feedback/complain on any issues including SEA.

- **Regional networks established** to ensure that regional and national voices inform global decisions, sharing of good practices across regional contexts, and encouraging regional communities of practice with a particular focus on strengthening linkages between AAP and PSEA.

- **SEA and SH prevention improved** for (a) communities (considering gender, mental health, age, disability and diversity), and (b) personnel and partners, through developing and disseminating language appropriate communications materials; awareness raising; training - including on PSEA and to drive organizational culture change; piloting of CHS PSEA Index by HCTs to determine collective ability to deal with SEA and establishing links to vetting and reference checking initiatives.

- **PSEA/SH supported at field level** including on delivering the IASC framework for accelerated PSEA at country level; establishing trained PSEA field support teams; standardizing tools; strengthening PSEA networks; monitoring of progress through an online PSEA dashboard; linking to GBV providers

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[2] As per decision of the IASC Principals of May 2018, the ERC will carry out bilateral consultations with the Principals. It will be tabled at the upcoming Principals meeting on 29 May for discussion and decision on the way forward. The IASC secretariat, in its role to support the Chair of the IASC, has worked on developing the concept note on severe/sustain for this purpose.
[3] As per decision of the IASC Principals of December 2017, the IASC secretariat will work on facilitating the review of coordination structures in IDP settings. The exact details will be worked out.

for survivor assistance; equipping stakeholders at field level with practical tools for addressing sexual harassment; and steering efforts towards victim/survivor-centred and gender sensitive investigations; ensuring that all frontline responders feed in and are aware of support they can receive.

- **A global platform developed** through which national and international aid organizations can access direct support, guidance and best practice around accountability and inclusion, through a help desk function; and a one-stop shop virtual multi-lingual and inter-active platform for dissemination of tools, resource, best practices on AAP, PSEAH, gender equality including GBV, disability, diversity and MHPSS.

- **IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action** are launched and disseminated; gender policy and accountability framework/tools disseminated and MHPSS tools/resources are disseminated and promoted.

RESULTS GROUP 3 - COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY

Co-Chairs: UNFPA, Save the Children

- **Develop common narratives** on specific issues of concern (*such as enhancing respect for IHL, IHRL, humanitarian principles and core protection framework*) *as well as topics arising in key/global forthcoming events* to support IASC members' efforts in their **collective and/or bilateral advocacy efforts**, including during upcoming key anniversaries and key events (*please see note on "humanitarian diplomacy" developed by the IASC secretariat outlining such events*).

- **Identify 2-3 contexts** and develop a clear humanitarian diplomacy **strategy**, capitalizing on the IASC membership at the various levels, **to address protection and/or access challenges**.

- Determine how best to address the **impact of counter-terrorism measures** and the growing trend for the **criminalization of humanitarian action** in specific contexts [*To be done in close collaboration with Results Group 1 – Operational Response and RG5 Humanitarian Financing*].

- Capture and disseminate lessons learned and best practice with regards to **engagement with Non-State armed actors.**

RESULTS GROUP 4 - HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION

Co-Chairs: OXFAM, UNDP

- Finalize and disseminate **guidance on collective outcomes** in order to ensure a common understanding of analysis, funding and financial strategies, and effective coordination initiatives [*To be done in close collaboration with results from Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing*].

- Capture and disseminate **good practices on humanitarian and development collaboration** within the IASC. This should be done in close collaboration with key entities including the Principal-level Joint Steering Committee to advance humanitarian and development collaboration and the United

Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO) [*To be done in close collaboration with Results Group 5 - Humanitarian Financing*].

- Finalise the development of an inter-agency guidance on the **HDN and its linkages to peace**, while safeguarding humanitarian principles *[taking into account UN development system reform].*

- Upon request, provide **support to country operations** through a system of **pooling capacities**, including by working with the humanitarian-development nexus community of practitioners, the Joint Steering Committee, among others.

- Strengthen the **sharing of data and analysis** and enable the adaptation of planning tools to support better alignment between country-based humanitarian and development plans [*consider doing so for the JSC pilot countries as a starting point. Ensure that this is done in collaboration with Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing*].

RESULTS GROUP 5 - HUMANITARIAN FINANCING

Co-Chairs: OCHA, ICVA

Work in progress; Results Group 5 is working on sharing further details regarding their concrete deliverables.

- Facilitate the development of **innovative approaches** to humanitarian financing that deepen and widen the resource base (with a suggested focus on anticipatory financing).

- **Map and promote financing instruments** supporting humanitarian interventions with **development co-benefits** *[Ensure that this is done in collaboration with Results Group 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration].*

- Facilitate the ongoing process of **simplification and harmonization of UN systems** to reduce burdens and free additional resources for humanitarian operations.

- Produce a business case showing the **contribution of collaboration multi-year humanitarian planning and unearmarked funding to more cost-effective humanitarian assistance**. In this regard, strengthen **engagement with donor countries**, including the OECD and GHD, including on issues of predictable financing.

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