IASC Results Group 1 on Operational Response

1st Face to Face Meeting, 16 May, Geneva

Results Group 1 on Operational Response met on 16 May in Geneva to discuss the priority areas of work tasked by the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG). Members noted that the meeting was timely as it was held ahead of the IASC Principals on 29 May. Given the tight timeline to report to OPAG in September, the Results Group agreed, as it modalities, to form small group of members with proposed leads to take forward each of the OPAG-agreed priority areas of work. The proposed leads will call for volunteers to participate in the small groups and share with the Results Group co-Chairs and members progress of concrete activities, timelines and engagement with non-IASC bodies during the second face-to-face meeting planned on 2 July. Each small group must aim to focus on activities that will have the most impact on field effectiveness and have the best return on investment.

Results Group 1 on Operational Response agreed on the following:

Priority Area of Work: 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.

- **[*Leads: OCHA and InterAction*]**: The co-leads will shortly form a small group constituted of, but not necessarily limited to, protection experts. With respect to unpacking the priority of work, members noted that the small group needed to think through how to elevate the centrality of protection to the leadership level, including HCTs, OPAG and Principals, using the Amman Centrality of Protection stock take recommendations as a starting point. Members reiterated the need to build on existing guidance, tools and indicators, including the work of the Global Protection Cluster, when relevant.

Priority Area of Work: 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 on Collective Advocacy].

- **[*Leads: InterAction and ICVA to co-lead; UNICEF to confirm*]:** This priority area of work will be taken forward through two defined activities: (i) Mapping of bureaucratic impediments and restrictive NGO Law provisions as well as best practices in overcoming bureaucratic impediments in major humanitarian crises globally; and (ii) Development of normative guidance for HCs and HCTs to mitigate effects of bureaucratic impediments on humanitarian operations. It was agreed during the meeting that bureaucratic impediments encompass both restrictive national legislations and practices in affected countries, as well as heavy compliance regimes imposed by donor countries. Results Group 1 will need to work with Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy and/or Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing in taking this priority forward. Co-Chairs will discuss this and other issues of complementarity and coordination at the planned co-Chairs meeting on 20 June.

Priority Areas of Work: (i) 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). (ii) Finalize the revision of the ERP guidance, publish and disseminate the revised ERP guidance upon consideration and endorsement by OPAG.

- **[*Leads: WFP - proposed*]**: While the value of the EWEA expert group was widely recognized, EWEA analysis is currently under-utilized and its linkages to preparedness, early actions, climate

change and other normative issues to inform decisions should be strengthened. The Results Group discussed the need to utilize the existing expertise of the group of experts in EWEA on both priorities and to link them together given that the group of experts worked on both issues which were interlinked as one strategic objective in the IASC workplan. The leadership provided by WFP in this regard was recognized and the co-Chairs agreed to liaise with WFP to discuss whether it would be prepared to lead this priority area of work.

Priority Areas of Work: 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.

- **[*Leads: OCHA, ICVA and UNDP*]**: It was noted that OCHA, through its Humanitarian Leadership Support Section, was undertaking various activities linked to this priority area of work and as such it was prepared to lead along with UNDP and ICVA. The small group will define activities and concrete deliverables, some of which are already underway, including the IASC High Potential Pool.

With regard to the two items listed under priority areas of work for Results Group 1, namely the SUSTAIN designation and the light review of coordination structures in IDP settings, it was noted that these activities should not continue to be listed as part of the work of the Results Group while it was being taken forward through other structures. The IASC secretariat and/or Results Group co-Chairs would consult with the OPAG co-Chairs in this regard. The SUSTAIN designation was scheduled to be discussed at the IASC Principals meeting on 29 May while the light review of coordination structures in IDP settings would be undertaken by the IASC secretariat shortly. The IASC secretariat would inform members on the timeline and mechanics of the review.

Members discussed modalities and agreed to face-to-face meetings tentatively in early July and late September with calls between the co-Chairs and the leads of priority action areas as necessary. The co-Chairs will report back to OPAG as expected in September and November. Members also discussed the list of inter-agency bodies within and outside the UN system that the Results Group is expected to consult in taking forward its priority areas of work. Members will review the list of bodies within the small groups while being flexible on the modality of engagement.

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