

IASC Results Group 1 on Operational Response - 2nd Face to Face Meeting

2 July, Geneva

Results Group 1 on Operational Response met on 2 July in Geneva to share updates on their deliverables and engagement with relevant IASC and non-IASC bodies. Co-Chairs shared key results of the 1st IASC Results Groups All Co-Chairs meeting on 20 June, where key opportunities for complementarity across various Results Groups were identified and co-Chairs agreed to convene regularly to ensure synergies and share lessons learned. The Results Group's 3rd face-to-face meeting is planned during the week of 16 September and the IASC secretariat will circulate an invitation with proposed agendas. 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 presented three deliverables: i) Provide relevant CoP inputs for the IASC Principals meetings [*Action Point: identify protection issues or share key messages on some concrete agenda items for the Principals' consideration*]; ii) Encourage reflection and exchange of lessons learned on core requirements of the IASC Protection Policy by HCs and HCTs [*Action point: draft the proposed guidance for HCs for further RG1 discussion by beginning of September*]; and iii) Commission an independent review on the IASC Policy on Protection Policy, five years after its adoption [*Action Point: start on a ToR and propose key milestones and timeline – would be valuable to lay out a process early to preserve integrity and independence of the exercise and ensure we are able to raise funds for this*]. The informal CoP subgroup also agreed to seek synergies with the EDG, Results Group 3, GPC and ProCap.

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]:** The first draft matrix on bureaucratic impediments and restrictive NGO law provisions was shared with members for comments and the second draft will be soon circulated for further feedback. Members are encouraged to share this further, including with relevant field teams for their comments. Members suggested incorporating positive examples, consulting the relevant IFRC study and thinking beyond NGOs as bureaucratic impediments affects UN agencies likewise. The co-leads will present a more comprehensive document during the next face-to-face meeting in September to move on to the next phase, which is “providing normative guidance for HCs and HCTs to mitigate effects of bureaucratic impediments on humanitarian operations”. The co-leads added that the matrix aimed to scan major contractual clauses imposed by donors and host countries, while Results Group 3 would focus on analyzing the impacts of such restrictive measures on humanitarian operations and broader research on these issues. The two Results Groups will continue working together, including through a monthly call, to avoid possible duplications and harness synergies. The co-leads will also consider collaborating with Results Group 5.

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]:** OCHA recently appointed Ms. Sofie Garde Thomle, new chief of the Humanitarian Leadership Strengthening Section, as its representative for the Group. This is expected to speed up the process and ensure that OCHA's ongoing relevant work is capitalized, including the Talent Pool, HC assessments, the RC/HC retreat and others. The co-leads will convene during the course of July to define concrete deliverables, including identifying gaps of humanitarian aspects in the RC assessment. The co-leads also agreed to collaborate with the EDG P2P, Results Groups 3 and 4, among others.

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]:** During the recent EDG face-to-face meeting on 26 June, the EDG agreed to leave it to the OPAG/Results Group to discuss how to enhance the use and inclusivity of the Early Warning and Early Action analysis. The EWEA expert group, led by the WFP, is planning a retreat early fall to discuss the report's methodologies, membership and possible inclusion of other sectors. Mr. Luc Chauvin, representative of UNICEF, volunteered to be the focal point to liaise the Results Group with the EWEA expert group. In regard to the revision of the ERP guidance, co-Chairs will follow up with the WFP with support from the IASC secretariat.

Co-Chairs will seek ways to reach out to the EDG to discuss the identified linkages around protection, humanitarian leadership and EWEA analysis.

While the reporting dates to the OPAG had been tentatively announced as 9 September and 11 November, members proposed 10 October for their first reporting, given the tight timeframes. The IASC secretariat will consult the OPAG co-Chairs on this and share the results as well as the reporting template in due course. Possible reporting items include: i) impact of concrete deliverables made on the ground; ii) complementarity pursued with various Results Groups and IASC-associated entities; iii) inclusivity pursued with non-IASC bodies, including local actors; and iv) partnership pursued with donors and HC/HCTs, where relevant.

Next OPAG meeting is scheduled to take place on 7-8 November in Geneva and co-Chairs of each Results Group will be invited to brief on the progress to the OPAG.
