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| **Summary of Discussion** | **Action Points** |
| **Agenda, follow-up on past action points:**  The GCCG Chair welcomed the participants and reminded that the Group had agreed to the new format of meetings going forward. The meetings will be held every two weeks, on Wednesdays at 14:00, and are expected to last approximately 1.5 hours. The agenda will include both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19-related items. Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic also reminded the GCCs that an extended session will be held on 2 September (14:00–17:00) to follow up on the discussion “*looking back to step forward*” which took place at the GCCG Mid-year Meeting in July. The next regular GCCG meeting is thus scheduled for Wednesday, 16 September.  Regarding follow-up on past meetings and action points, Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic informed that:  i) the GCCG secretariat will work on scheduling a briefing with the Gender Reference Group;  ii) the GCCG secretariat will also liaise with the Centre for Humanitarian Data in The Hague, to organise a follow-up discussion on data responsibility;  iii) the GCCG secretariat is also following up on a number of different issues related to the workplan (ICC PM, GCCG information platform, etc); and  iv) work is ongoing on reviewing CCPM questions through the localisation lens, as a follow-up to the GCCG Mid-year Retreat.  Lastly, Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic reminded GCCs that the deadline for sharing information regarding the CCPM exercises which took place in 2019 and took or will take place in 2020 had passed. She urged Global Clusters which have not yet contributed to do so as soon as possible. | i) GCCG-S to organise the said briefings;  ii) GCs to provide outstanding CCPM information and files. |
| **COVID-19:**  Update from the OCHA COVID-19 Cell:  Ms. Katch, representing the OCHA COVID-19 Cell, briefed the GCCG on the GHO for 2021, COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), on COVID-19 vaccine, and travel restrictions.  A proposal has been shared with the Emergency Relief Coordinator regarding GHRP countries which would be included in the GHO 2021; with feedback being expected within a week.  An interim call for proposals was sent out for the COVID-19 Response Recovery MPTF. According to the eligibility criteria, any UN Country Team or country included in the GHRP is eligible to apply for USD 1 million (out of the total pot of USD 20 million), for as long as they have developed a socio-economic response framework. In particular, UN RC prioritised programmes and joint programmes will be considered, with a third of the total funds (USD 6 million) assigned for gender equality and women empowerment initiatives. Concept notes are to be submitted by 31 August, after which time, the preselected projects would be requested to provide fully developed proposals.  Ms. Katch also gave a brief update on different ongoing vaccine initiatives.  Lastly, Ms. Katch mentioned that travel has recovered in some regions by up to 50 percent; however, many Member States-specific rules are confusing and frequently changing. She informed that the UN has developed a passenger declaration form which all Member States would be encouraged to adapt and use and a policy to help evaluate the risk of international travel. The latter including reference to “*no limits to be placed on humanitarian and health workers*”. It is expected that travel certification will become an important issue.  In closing, Ms. Katch also drew the Groups attention to many Op-Eds on COVID-19’s impact on education.  Ms. Chase, Global GBV AOR Coordinator, requested that more information regarding the funding available through the COVID-19 Response Recovery MPTF be shared with the Group. The GCCG secretariat will obtain and forward this information.  Update from the Global Health Cluster:  Ms. Doull, Global Health Cluster Coordinator, briefed the Group (see attached powerpoint) on the current status of and trends in the pandemic, the fourth meeting of the International Health Regulations’ Emergency Committee, impact monitoring in humanitarian settings and country-specific epidemiological “deep dives” (e.g. Cox’s Bazaar) , and the work of the two core groups of the Global Health Cluster’s COVID-19 Task Team.  Ms. Doull highlighted the continued upward trend in terms of the total number of cases and new infections. In contrast, the death rates were not escalating at the same pace, which is largely due to younger demographic groups being affected. Ms. Doull also informed the GCCG that most up-to-date information can be found on interactive dashboard [https://covid19.who.int/](https://covid19.who.int) which has now been made public.  With respect to the longer-term strategy and the overall objective of ending the pandemic, all efforts need to be made to protect vulnerable groups around the world, rather than entire populations in just a few countries. The need for strong political leadership and multi-lateral collaboration and cooperation remains in the face of the pandemic, and so does the need for collecting and sharing good practice across contexts. Surveillance, testing and tracking, as well as RCCE remain vital to the response as well.  Ms. Doull also informed of the GHC efforts to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on humanitarian settings, and epidemiological “deep dive” exercises for specific countries – e.g. Bangladesh (Cox’s Bazaar / Rohingya camps). Some areas identified as requiring greater attention are: RCCE, social behaviours, livelihoods-seeking behaviours and health-seeking behaviours. Early results also point out that additional efforts need to be made around inclusion and participation of affected population and localisation of the response, as well as understanding of the multi-dimensional impact of any containment measures and contextualising the response.  Lastly, Ms. Doull informed of an ongoing survey for Health Clusters and Health Cluster partners and six country case studies, with results expected by the end of August, as well as the ongoing work of four peer groups which are focusing on (i) case management in low resource humanitarian settings, (ii) ethics frameworks, (iii) prioritisation of essential health services, and (iv) GBV in health response.  In closing, the GCCG Chair reminded the Group of a request from Afghanistan for guidance on isolation and distancing in large households, pointing out that existing guidance focuses on camps and camp-like settings and that one of the measures proposed for households was to double the amount of NFIs distributed so that these would not need to be shared. The GCCG secretariat will resend the request and GCCs are kindly requested to provide guidance.  In response to a question from the GBV AOR, Ms. Doull clarified that the work on GBV in health response was strictly related to COVID-19 and the issues partners are raising and addressing in this regard.  Updates from other Global Clusters:  Ms. Sophonpanich, Global CCCM Cluster Co-Coordinator, drew attention to the fact that in some contexts, e.g. Bangladesh, the reported numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths remain low, leading to a growing discontent with the focus of humanitarian action on COVID-19 response and preparedness, and even hostility towards humanitarian staff, particularly international staff who are seen as carriers. Fears and rumours against testing are also commonly reported, and growing concerns around mental health issues related to isolation and quarantine are also bring reported by in-country teams (e.g. in Iraq). In her view, CWC / RCCE are key and the CCCM cluster is actively engaging in these initiatives. Ms. Sophonpanich also reported that in some countries there is pressure for people to depart camps and collective centres (e.g. South Sudan, Ethiopia). Lastly, she pointed out that preparedness activities are progressing slower this year, due also the need of ensuring they are carried out with minimal COVID-19 risk.  Unrelated to COVID-19, the Global Shelter Cluster informed that Mr. Moore, GSC Co-Coordinator, remained on deployment to Lebanon, in support of the Beirut Explosions response.  GHRP monitoring and reporting:  Ms. Peterson (OCHA) reminded the communication which had been shared with the Group regarding the GHRP monitoring and reporting, highlighting the various deadlines and ways in which the GCCs can contribute. Contributions from NGOs are also sought and expected. Fot the current progress report, six “situation and needs” and 18 “performance” indicators (marked in green, in the template circulated to agencies) would be highlighted, with food security and protection being the highlighted sectors.  The forward schedule includes: a progress report in September and another one in October, while any November submission would be included in the GHO. December/January report is still to be confirmed.  Ms. Peterson encouraged the GCCs to continue sharing any reports they might have with the OCHA team.  Mr. Minjauw, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator, requested clarification regarding the entity from which contribution on food security was expected – i.e. the global cluster, the CLAs, partners – and suggested that for the next iteration Clusters be the main monitoring and reporting focal points. In this connection, GBV AOR Coordinator pointed out the risk of considering data from various sources, considering the interconnectedness of cluster and AOR partners and significant likelihood of duplication of the data.  Ms. Peterson clarified that currently agencies were the main reporting focal points, but that clusters and partners were also encouraged to contribute any information that they might have for inclusion. In light of the comments made, she agreed to consult and revert on the proposal regarding future reporting being done primarily by Clusters. The GCCG secretariat will follow up with OCHA in this regard.  Lastly, Ms. Peterson clarified that the reporting on indicators was due on Wednesday, 19 August, while the sectoral (narrative) reporting was due on Friday, 21 August.  HPC 2021: Q & A:  Ms. Dhur (OCHA) informed that the HPC 2021 package has been approved by the OPAG and shared with the field. Not much feedback has been received at this stage, except for a few requests for clarification. Any additional proposed changes to indicators would need to be shared/discussed in the JIAF/JIAG forum. The GCCs were encouraged to join the next HPC SG meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 26 August.  Mr. Price, Global Logistics Cluster, flagged a concern received from South Sudan regarding the guidance package and apparent pressure to change the costing methodology for 2021. Ms. Dhur informed that any changes to methodology were discouraged and that she was not aware of any such proposed changes. She agreed to check with the OCHA team in this regard and revert. | i) GCCG-S to circulate information on MPTF funding;  ii) GCCs to respond to request for guidance received from Afghanistan;  iii) GCCG-S to follow up with OCHA on GHRP reporting responsibilities;  iv) GCCG-S to revert to the GCCG on South Sudan costing methodology question. |
| **GCCG Terms of Reference:**  Referring to the draft GCCG Terms of Reference document which was re-circulated ahead of the meeting, the GCCG Chair recalled the consultations that took place in early 2020 and informed the Group that concerns raised and comments provided were incorporated (and are reflected in red for ease of reference). Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic elaborated that the new draft contains: (i) simplified, unrestrictive language on linkages with IM and the IMWG, (ii) revised order of principles that trigger GCCG action, (iii) additional language on participation of the UNICEF-led clusters and IMWG representatives in the meetings, and (iv) updated language on the quorum, with the two thirds principle retained.  Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic informed that the only outstanding issue which requires GCCG’s decision is the AOR voting right. Pointing out to the options outlined in the draft document, she encouraged GCCs to provide their views and proposed that, if more reflection time was required, a decision could be taken through an electronic vote.  Mr. Chemaly, Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, drew Group’s attention to the uniqueness of the AOR model which should be seen as different to the co-lead arrangements for certain clusters, mentioning also the accountability issue. He proposed that a presentation be made for the Group on how the AOR model works and that the issue be discussed at the upcoming extended GCCG session which will look at cluster system more broadly (“*Looking back to step forward*”). Referring to proportionality of the system and the need to recognise the actual commitment, he indicated that the GPC and AORs would be agreeable to the option which grants AORs 0.25 of a vote for a total of 1 vote for all AORs. Referring to Mr. Chemaly’s point on accountability, Mr. Price (Global Logistics Cluster) requested a clarification regarding the actual accountability of the AORs. Ms. Chase pointed out that UNFPA did accept accountability in the IASC on GBV.  The Global GBV AOR Coordinator reminded of the desire expressed in the past for AORs to have one vote each, in particular in light of the accountability issue, but that she would also welcome option B (half vote for each of the AORs). A representative of the Global Mine Action AOR seconded this opinion. The Global Housing, Land and Property AOR Coordinator added that, in his view, the GCCG should ensure that AORs are provided with the right to vote, regardless of the actual formula/weight of AOR votes agreed by the Group. Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic reminded that, in the past, several GCCs expressed preference for the AORs not having a vote, but rather being represented by the GPC vote.  The GCCG Chair suggested that there be an electronic vote on the issue by all Coordinators, including the AOR Coordinators. She also reminded GCCs that decisions, with exception of two instances, have historically been taken by consensus, and thus that decisions by voting would not be a frequent occurrence going forward either. She also reminded the GCCG that where voting was required (JIAF representation), a solution was instituted for vote counting that had been acceptable to all even if it did not exist in the terms of references. The agreement reached was for the GCCG secretariat to clarify the options and organise an electronic vote on the issue, also introducing the option of completely taking out the portion of the text related to voting.  In addition, the Global Logistics Cluster raised a concern over inclusion in the text of the requirement for Global Clusters Coordinators to devote 20 percent of their time to GCCG matters. The concern might rather over the issue of ‘commitment’ rather than actual percentage. As the GCC who had proposed the text was not available to comment, it was agreed that the issue would be consulted “offline” to ensure consensus is reached prior to the final approval of the draft.  The GCCG Chair also requested GCCs to provide any final comments on the text of the Terms of Reference by no later than Friday, 21 August. | i) GCCG-S and GPC to organise a briefing on AOR model;  ii) GCCG-S to organise electronic vote regarding AOR voting right;  iii) GCCG-S to clarify/ propose new language on GCCs time commitment;  iv) GCCs to provide any final comments on the ToR. |
| **Survey questions: Data Collection 2020:**  Ms. Puhalovic (OCHA/GCCG secretariat) reminded colleagues of the scope and the purpose of the annual data collection exercise, which involves and covers clusters/sectors, inter-cluster, and other coordination bodies, with the primary purpose to inform the Emergency Directors’ Group annual review of operations. The 2020 exercise is supposed to start sometime in mid-October, based on the set of questions which the GCCG has been consulted on. The updated version of the questionnaire was shared with the GCCG two days prior to the meeting and the GCCs are requested to provide any last, red line comments by Wednesday, 19 August. The GCCG secretariat will share the final version of the questionnaire with the Group by Friday, 21 August.  The IMWG Chair Mr. Kastlander briefed GCCs on the proposal for adding an additional perception-based question on cluster IM capacity and coordination, which has been discussed with Global Clusters’ IMOs. I.e. a question “*do you believe that existing capacity in country is sufficient to uphold the responsibilities outlined in IASC policy guidance?*”, with a potential follow-up question on what would be required to achieve it. In this connection the GCCG Chair cautioned of potential for skewed responses to open-ended/qualitative questions in the questionnaire. Mr. Kastlander clarified that the question would only be included if GCCs feel comfortable with such perception-based inquiries. Ms. Puhalovic admitted that, in the past, some issues with qualitative questions were reported.  In this context, Ms. Chase, Global GBV AOR Coordinator, inquired about the need to remind Cluster Lead Agencies of their responsibility to not only provide cluster coordinators, but also the required IM capacity; the latter not necessarily being seen as priority (considering the declining numbers of dedicated cluster IM capacity).  Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic inquired why the proposed, additional, perception-based questions would refer only to the IM capacity and not also the Cluster Coordinator capacity. In addition, Mr. Price, Global Logistics Cluster, referred to the CCPM surveys being conducted by GLC, through which the such qualitative data is solicited and, enquired if this was the case for other Clusters, so that perhaps could the data could be paired with the those obtained through the annual data collection exercise. Several GCCs replied indicating that some type of perception based questions are included in their CCPMs. The GCCG secretariat and the IMWG Chair will follow up with GCCs on this issue accordingly. Ms. Puhalovic clarified that as far as OCHA is concerned only limited number of qualitative questions are being collected regarding HCT performance. Lastly, Mr. Kastlander clarified that the questions would not only be about IM but about coordination more broadly. | i) GCCs to provide any final, red line comments on the 2020 questionnaire;  ii) GCCG-S to share the final version of the questionnaire with the Group;  iii) GCCG-S and IMWG Chair to follow up with GCCs on the perception-based question(s) for the 2020 survey and in their CCPMs. |
| **AOB:**  The GCCG Chair encouraged all GCCs to propose items for the forward GCCG agenda and reminded the Group of the new dates/format of the meeting, and the extended session of 2 September. She also enquired whether the GCCs wished to continue including COVID-19 as part of future meetings.  The Global CCCM Cluster informed the Group about the planned global meeting of the cluster which has been rescheduled for early November. The Cluster’s Co-coordinators will be in touch bilaterally with other GCCs ahead of the meeting in relation to the various planned sessions of relevance to other Global Clusters and focusing on cross-cutting and coordination issues. | i) GCCs to provide feedback on inclusion of the COVID-19 in the forward agenda, and suggest other agenda items. |