

Global Cluster Coordination Group (GCCG) meeting – 2 December 2020
Summary of discussion and action points

Participants: Sean Price, Global Logistics Cluster (GLC); Jennifer Chase, Gender-based violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR); Jim Robinson, Housing, Land and Property Area of Responsibility (HLP AoR); Linda Doull, Global Health Cluster (GHC); Ela Serdaroglu and Miguel Urquia, Global Shelter Cluster (GSC); Monica Ramos, Global WASH Cluster (GWC); Stefano Fedele, Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC); Dher Hayo and Wan Sophonpanich, Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM); William Chemaly, Global Protection Cluster (GPC); Bruno Minjauw, Global Food Security Cluster (GFSC); Christelle Loupforest, Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR); Brent Carbo, Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC); Erik Kastlander, Information Management Working Group (IMWG); Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (GCCG Chair); Randa Hassan, Annarita Marcantonio, GCCG Secretariat.

Invitees: Seki Hirano (CRS); Tulio Mateo (CRS); Mohamed Hilmi (InterAction); Louise Thaller (Impact Initiatives)

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<p>The GCCG Chair provided an overview of the draft agenda which was adopted.</p> <p>1. Follow-up on previous GCCG meetings (action points, summary record, etc)</p> <p>(i) Stepping Back to Look Forward: GCCG-S collated inputs on all topics and shared with the Focal Points (FPs). FPs have reviewed five of the 13 topics: Topic 1 Cluster Activation and Accountability; Topic 4 Cluster Performance, Efficiency, Effectiveness; Topic 7 Emergency Preparedness / DRR; Topic 9 Resourcing; Topic 13 Humanitarian-Development Collaboration. The Chair urged the FPs to finalize the review of their topics and submission of consolidated note/problem statement. With regard to Topic 3: Inter-Cluster Coordination, GCCG-S will send out an invite to relevant FPs to set up a time to review the collective inputs.</p>	<p>1. GCC FPs to finalize the review of their “Stepping Back” topics and submission of consolidated note/problem statement.</p> <p>2. GCCG-S will send out an invite to relevant FPs on Topic 3 to set up a time to review the collective inputs.</p>
<p>2. Update on Covid-19</p> <p>Ms. Linda Doull (GHC) provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global case incidence remains high at 62.4 million and is expected to rise to 63 million or more by the end of the week, with approximately 600,000 new cases/ day globally. Around 4 million new cases (4% decrease compared to the previous week) and over 69,000 new deaths (3% increase) for the week ending 29 November. Changes are occurring across various countries, with regional variations: there was an increase in new cases compared to the previous week in the Western Pacific (12 per cent increase), South-East Asia (6 per cent increase), Africa (3 per cent increase) and the Americas (3 per cent increase). Notably, there was a decrease in new cases compared to the previous week in Europe (13 per cent decrease) for the third week in a row, as well as a slight decrease in the Eastern Mediterranean (1 per cent decrease). Half of the total global cases come from four countries: US, India, Brazil, and Italy. There is an increase in the number of cases in countries, such as Ukraine, Ethiopia, oPt (Gaza). Even though vaccines will be made available soon, testing will continue to play a vital role. Regarding the vaccines, the UK has awarded a license for the Pfizer vaccine. Other countries, such as the US, are applying for licenses, which will facilitate bilateral agreements. Of particular interest to humanitarians are vaccines available through the Covax facility. The IASC WG on Humanitarian Buffer (WHO, GHC, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, IFRC, ICRC, MSF, OCHA & WFP) is negotiating with ACT/COVAX pillar & GAVI on the scope & mechanics of the buffer. A paper is being prepared for the GAVI Board meeting for an ‘in-principle 	

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<p>agreement'. The final decision will be made during the first quarter of 2021. The humanitarian buffer should be used by countries as a last resort. OCHA is helping with projected numbers of vulnerable people who may not receive the vaccine via national plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation decisions are complicated due to the initial limited supply and there will be a phased approach, based on WHO SAGE guidance (Tier 1 – frontline health workers & Tier 2 – other at-risk groups). • Another issue is around country capacity to deliver the vaccine. Plans have started in a number of countries. WHO and UNICEF prepared an Interim Guidance on developing a national deployment and vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccines. Key issues include: logistics capacity and supply chains; capacity building and training of staff, targeting. • Population acceptance of the vaccine is a concern due to antivax voices and the general hesitation around vaccines. The IASC WG on Humanitarian Buffer will keep following the situation. There will be a need to disseminate key messages to HCs and humanitarians to ensure support to national planning and operational delivery planning processes at country level. <p>Responding to questions, Ms. Doull clarified the difference between humanitarian buffer (to be used as a last resort) and the emergency mechanism which allow for interventions in countries/areas with high level of intensity needing to reduce transmission very quickly.</p> <p>Ms. Doull also referred to the HC and HCT as main interlocutors at country level; ICCG will be informed about and involved in the country planning processes.</p> <p>International travel guidance is being revised, but for the time being, vaccines are not compulsory for travelling.</p>	
<p>3. Settlements Approach Guidance Note</p> <p>The Urban Settlements Working Group (USWG) presented their newly published Guidance Note on the Settlements Approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The guidance was developed by the Shelter Clusters' Urban Settlements Working Group (USWG). - The guidance is complemented by a compendium of case studies which illustrates key aspects of the Settlements Approach. - The settlements approach offers a socio-spatial framework to guide humanitarian action in human settlements. It does this both within the existing humanitarian coordination architecture and in close collaboration with local stakeholders and development partners. <p>Ms. Wan Sophonpanich (CCCM) stated that there were many parallels between the USWG's guidance note and the recent paper on Area-Based Coordination developed by the CCCM cluster, although CCCM's focus goes beyond urban areas and includes small sites in rural areas. The CCCM cluster also contributed to the USWG's guidance note. She expressed the concern arising from a recent example in Latin America where there was push back by some actors on the use of the area-based approaches in a collective setting environment as it was associated uniquely with Shelter response. Mr. Dher Hayo (CCCM) indicated the need for CCCM and Shelter to collaborate on these approaches and while there may be overlaps, for the most part the approaches were complementary.</p> <p>Ms. Ela Serdaroglu and Mr. Miguel Urquia (GSC) stated that the approach presented is not the sole remit of the Shelter Cluster, it is an invitation for all clusters to work on this issue. They sought feedback from other Global Clusters on how they are viewing Area-Based/Settlements approaches.</p> <p>Ms. Christelle Loupforest (Mine Action AoR) stated that the approach resonated in countries such as Iraq and Syria and Mine Action seeks to collaborate with other clusters on the approach.</p> <p>Ms. Monica Ramos (WASH) stated that WASH was interested in area-based approaches and in collaborating with other clusters (especially, CCCM, Shelter, Protection), particularly around coordination in urban areas. She suggested it would be good to see how cluster coordinators in various countries are collaborating on area-based approaches.</p> <p>Ms. Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (GCCG-S) confirmed that the action point from the GCCG Mid-Year Retreat to produce a short GCCG paper on Area-Based Coordination is still pending and awaited from CCCM.</p>	<p>3. WASH, CCCM and other interested clusters to collaborate on GCCG position paper on Area-Based Approaches and field-level implementation</p>

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<p>4. Update from the GFSC Global Partners Meeting</p> <p>Mr. Bruno Minjauw (GFSC) provided an overview of key points from the Global Food Security Partners meeting, held on 10 and 11 November 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Global Food Security Cluster celebrated its 10th anniversary. - Participants reaffirmed the importance of coordination and the cluster system for an effective response. - Partners indicated the need to include anticipatory actions and activities as part of the Clusters 'work, through reinforced partnership with local actors. This implies a different way of working, requiring partnership before emergencies take place. - The importance of focusing on how humanitarian work can make a real impact on affected people (e.g. Jan Egeland's 'Kivu Test')- the necessity of making a direct impact on response was highlighted during the meeting. - The necessity of investment in coordination for effective response. CLA's should be referred to as "Host Agencies" as their role is to invest in and support coordination. <p>For more information: https://insight.wfp.org/stand-and-deliver-10-years-of-the-global-food-security-cluster-95e1a7795e37</p>	
<p>5. Operational updates: Key issues from the field</p> <p>Ms. Randa Hassan and Ms. Annarita Marcantonio (GCCG-S) provided short updates on the humanitarian situation and response in Ethiopia and Honduras.</p> <p>Ethiopia – Tigray region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners have reported an increase in displacements, injuries, casualties, in the last days, as conflict escalates in Tigray region. - According to some partners, several people left the city of Mekele and are living in makeshift camps. Several others have fled their homes and left their crops. - Around 850,000 people were already receiving relief aid, before the conflict, of which nearly 100,000 refugees in camps and in host communities. - There is great concern about security of people and access, with disruptions in the delivery of essential services and assistance, including food, water and essential medicines. - The HC has concluded an agreement with the government for unimpeded, sustained and secure access to deliver aid to the government-held areas. - The humanitarian community is preparing for inter-cluster assessment missions to Western Tigray, Southern Tigray and Afar. The teams will assess while they assist. - MIRA teams to Afar is departing on 2 December. - Other Missions to Southern and Western Tigray are on stand-by, as the Security Risk Assessment is being updated and will have to be approved by SMT and DO. - To keep the needs assessments and response as much principled as possible, the teams have established and adopted a Code of Conduct for assessments. This is aligned with the <i>'Ethiopia HCT Guiding Principles for Humanitarian Operations in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions'</i> recently endorsed. - A CERF RR has been approved for \$12.5 million, of which \$8.5 million will be for NGOs. The request was done based on the Tigray Preparedness and Response Plan. This plan will be revised to include both refugee and non-refugee response. <p>Consequences of the conflict are spilling over the neighbouring countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sudan: has received, over 45,000 people fleeing from Ethiopia. Assistance is ongoing, led and coordinated by the Government. - Eritrea: the Government has not issued any statements so far. No information is available on displacements of population either internally or from neighboring countries. 	

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<p>Honduras: The response is ongoing following the damage brought by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. UNDAC remains in country. With regard to questions on cluster activation, this is at present not envisaged. Other options for strengthening the response are being considered, including drawing on regional capacity. Sectoral coordination mechanisms are in place; however, they are not as strong as would be desired. A request from UNDAC has been made for additional capacity to be deployed to work on Community Engagement in case any Global Cluster can assist.</p> <p>Ms. Jennifer Chase (GBV) said that a GBV WG was in place. A surge person is being recruited and expected to be deployed on the ground. A Regional roving person has provided support.</p> <p>Ms. Wan Sophonpanich (CCCM) stated that a CCCM WG had been initiated. Some agencies are not willing to implement area-based coordination as it is associated uniquely with Shelter programming (see above point during USWG presentation).</p> <p>Ms. Ela Serdaroglu (GSC) underlined the need to address the needs of people outside collective centres. Shelter/IFRC is trying to understand the needs from partners on the ground. An operational deployment from IFRC is taking place, and a better understanding of the situation will be forthcoming. Monica Ramos (WASH) said that WASH support was taking place via regional coordination (SBPs and Regional Consultants).</p> <p>Iraq Mr. Dher Hayo (CCCM) highlighted the recent statement by the HC in Iraq regarding the government's policy to close IDP camps, as well as the dire situation of people affected by the closures. For the time being, the issue is addressed at the country level and no need for GCC involvement.</p>	
<p>6. Feedback from OPAG follow up session on IASC-associated entities</p> <p>The Chair provided a short read out from the recent OPAG meeting as relayed by the IASC-S. The issue of IASC Associated Entities, including the GCCG, was discussed at the last OPAG members-only session but without a conclusive outcome. Further discussions will be taking place. There is no need for an action from the GCCG for now.</p>	
<p>7. AOB</p> <p>i) A meeting of all the IASC Results Groups (RG) Chairs/Co-chairs with Associated Entities Chairs has been postponed to Tuesday, 19 January. The GCCG-S Chair requested that a GCC volunteer to attend the meeting with her. The Chair also requested inputs on any issues to bring to the attention of the RGs.</p> <p>ii) The Sphere Project, on behalf of the Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP) has contacted the GCCG Chair to enquire whether the GCCG would be interested in discussing the HSP's work as they are developing standards and wish to engage with the GCCG. GCCG participants agreed to have this discussion at a forthcoming GCCG meeting.</p> <p>iii) Forward agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GCCG meeting on 16 December is postponed to 17 December – 2 to 3.30 p.m. - GCCG agreed the first meeting of 2021 will take place on 13 January 2021 <p>iv) Upcoming items for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ALNAP report – The State of the Humanitarian System - IAHE briefing on opportunity for engagement with the GCCG and on results of recent evaluations - Field updates - CCPM 	<p>4. GCCs interested in joining the GCCG Chair at the IASC Results Group meeting, to signal via email to the GCCG Secretariat.</p> <p>5. GCCs to share suggestions of issues the GCCG can raise at the RGs next meeting in January.</p>