
IASC Results Group 3 – Collective Advocacy

3 December 2020

Published on the [IASC](#) website

Summary Record

IASC Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy met on 3 December 2020 to discuss (i) the update on sub-groups and key messages; (ii); reflections in 2020 in breakout groups; (iii) and 2021 RG3 planning.

Action points:

1. The RG3 decided to cancel the 5 January 2021 RG3 meeting and reconvene in February (ACTIONED)
2. The RG3 decided to schedule RG3 meetings in 2021 for 90 minutes. (ACTIONED)

Update on sub-groups and key messages by RG3 co-chairs and sub-group co-Chairs

- The RG3 co-Chairs briefed on the issuance of the recent RG3 products.
 - ***IASC key messages on climate change and humanitarian action – COVID-19*** – issued in November and accessible on the public IASC website [here](#).
 - ***The final IASC climate change and humanitarian action advocacy strategy*** available on sharepoint for RG3 participants [here](#), which is a roadmap for the sub-group members in 2021.
 - ***The IASC protection key messages – COVID-19*** – issued in September and available on the public IASC website [here](#).
 - ***The final [IASC Counterterrorism database concept note](#)*** – available on sharepoint for RG3 participants.
- The RG3 co-Chairs referred to the launch of the GPC/NRC study on protection financing and protection prioritization on 30 November.
- The COTER sub-group co-Chair Ms. Kate Phillipps-Barrasso outlined the progress achieved further to the December 2019 IASC Principals meeting and the related action points. The first area constituted the building of the evidence base via i) the IASC Counterterrorism Database to document COTER-related incidents from humanitarian organizations in the field for purposes of enabling advocacy, undertake trends analysis, and possibly enable proactive response to emerging COTER developments. The database will be launched soon in alignment with the launch of the OCHA survey on humanitarian impact of COTER measures for the CTED report; ii) a resource library to catalogue existing COTER research, including a mapping of existing COTER recommendations, including target audiences of these recommendations. The resource library will also be made available to the group once available. The second area constitutes a solution document outlining the menu of advocacy options, including humanitarian exemptions. The third area constitutes a mapping of the Security Council structure and counterterrorism architecture to better understand advocacy entry points. The fourth area includes COTER guidance for Humanitarian Coordinators which will also be launched soon.

Reflections in 2020 in breakout groups

- The RG3 co-Chairs recalled the RG3 of the action points relating to RG3 at the 25 September OPAG meeting.
 1. Agree on the need to prioritize the following: (a) mitigating the impact of COTER on humanitarian action; and (b) continuing work on engagement with non-state armed groups.
 2. Ensure strengthened engagement with Results Groups 1 and 5 as well as OCHA on COTER.
 3. Recognizing that advocacy is a cross-cutting issue carried out by the IASC Principals and subject matter experts through the various Results Groups, recommend the Result Group 3 to be agile and respond to specific requests from the Principals or the EDG for the development of key messages, if and when relevant.
 4. Agree to de-prioritize the work on humanitarian diplomacy as it is done at the Principals level.
- RG3 members shared their reflections on what has worked well in 2020 and what may require adjustments in 2021. In terms of **what worked well**, members summarized that the platform has been useful for information-sharing; that key messages have been useful as member agencies could tailor them to their own mandate; that the combination of policy and communication-oriented members has been useful to support both policy and communication outcomes; that the collaboration between civil society and UN partners facilitated advocacy via different channels; that the COTER sub-group benefited from the Principals' clear roadmap based on RG3 member agencies' proactive approach of placing the issue on the agenda of the IASC Principals;
- In terms of **RG3's limitations**, the group considered that ways of working of the IASC may not be conducive for advocacy on rapidly evolving issues (on specific crises or specific thematic issues); that it was difficult to prioritize among the multiple collective advocacy opportunities; that contributing to discussions taken forward in the EDG and the OPAG would be important, including via key messages on thematic and geographic priorities; that more of a RG3 group discussion on engagement of non-state armed actors would have been helpful to better define actionable deliverables.
- As for the **way forward**, RG3 members deemed that a more flexible workplan would be helpful, not least given the changing situation such as COVID-19; that RG3 could contribute more to amplifying the work carried forward by its members; that the RG3 could increasingly position itself on best practices and policy-based advocacy which could inform the EDG's and HCT approach on thematic issues; that it would need to identify the added value of how support could be provided to Principals/ EDG given RG3 members' internal clearance processes and Principals/ EDG requiring specific asks; a way needed to be found to avoid duplication.

2021 planning

- The break-out groups discussed opportunities in terms of deliverables and ways of working regarding COTER, non-state armed actor engagement, and proactive collective advocacy. The IASC secretariat highlighted the clear taskings from the Principals and the EDGs on COTER and non-state armed groups, as well as how to strengthen linkages with the EDG and Principals. The RG3 co-Chairs concurred that placing issues proactively on the agenda of the Principals and the EDG had benefited the RG3 in terms of strategic steer and buy-in from Principals.
- The **COTER break-out group** highlighted the importance of uptake and usage beyond the set-up of tools such as databases and resource libraries. To this end, a COTER focal point will be sought for each IASC member to ensure roll-out and update of the IASC COTER database within their organization. Tactically, power mapping and stakeholder mapping may be important, as some countries from where COTER developments were emerging did not seem to be covered by humanitarian advocates. In terms of proactive advocacy, the RG3, especially the COTER sub-group may contribute to advancing specific advocacy asks, including via different technical means than IASC email lists.

- The **proactive collective advocacy breakout group** highlighted the importance of looking at OPAG's priorities and the IASC policies on gender and protection, and explore whether RGs working on localization, inclusion, PSEA, GBV, protection may require proactive targeted advocacy. This may include key messages, cheatsheets on thematic priorities to support Principals' statements and other rapid engagements on issues, such as the nexus, IHL (which OCHA had on some of these issues). They noted the need for prioritization given respective processes implied.
- The **non-state armed actor engagement breakout group** summarized that more needed to be done in this area, including finalizing the RG3 best practices by drawing on the recent OCHA survey on this topic; developing guidance being mindful of different groups and contexts; establishing a sub-group which could include key actors, such as CCHN, Geneva Call, and Fight for Humanity to develop guidance on how to engage non-state armed actors; leveraging the IASC to engage HCs/RCs on prioritizing engagement with non-state armed actors; and focusing on specific engagement, such as COVID-19 vaccinations in areas under control by non-state armed actors.