

IASC Results Group 4 - Humanitarian Development Collaboration

16 February 2021

Summary Record

INTRODUCTION

On 16 February 2021, the IASC Results Group 4 convened to discuss (i) results of key meetings over the last month (GHD meeting with a focus on the Nexus, UN/INCAF adherents to the DAC Recommendation meeting results), (ii) RG4 work streams presentations and (iii) on-going activities (CoP; Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes dissemination plan; Pop up sessions), and (iv) actions and the next meeting. Co-chairs confirmed action points from the last meeting and added biannual reports and meeting with OPAG in April to AOB.

Results of key meetings over the last month

RG4 co-chairs welcomed participants and encouraged RG4 members to debrief on two key meetings over the last month, 1) the GHD meeting with a focus on the Nexus, and 2) UN/INCAF adherents to the DAC recommendation meeting results.

The GHD meeting highlighted that 255 million people required humanitarian assistance, an increase of 40% since last year, with 200-250 million people living in extreme poverty and rising threats of famine. Key highlights stressed the importance of keeping assistance to humanitarian needs but also of investing into development programming and financing, in particular in contexts of extreme fragility. In this regard, the meeting urged donors to provide socio-economic assistance, in addition of recalling the need for strong coordinated development assistance and strengthened humanitarian development collaboration. The ERC noted that the UN should have put greater efforts in addressing underlying conditions and drivers of need such as climate change and conflict, but also in providing crisis relief to countries hit by the health consequences of COVID-19. Donors and RCs noted that in African countries the Nexus has been welcomed, however it must be more oriented towards peacebuilding. With regard to specific post-conflict country contexts, participants noted that populations are eager to see change and a move towards more sustainable development. It was highlighted that there was too much pressure on humanitarian programs, and RG4 co-chairs noted that populations expect delivery on the humanitarian development peace collaboration. Donors stressed that they struggle to identify funding revenues for better humanitarian development peace collaboration, in addition of calling for greater guidance.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Hugh MacLeman briefed participants on a meeting of the adherents to the DAC recommendation, which focused on identifying concrete initiatives to accelerate the implementation of Nexus approaches, in particular (i) ways to strengthen shared analysis looking at existing tools in country programs and to (ii) scale up bilateral engagement, (iii) ensuring that results of shared analysis feed into strategic planning processes and (iv) identifying what capacity is needed to efficiently support shared analysis. As there was a common understanding that bilateral donors and UN agencies incorporate Nexus advisors in country programs, Mr. MacLeman reported that it is important to reflect on how such capacity can be shared and reinforced. Another key highlight from the meeting was to discuss (v) how we can strengthen “trilingualism”, or to ensure a better understanding of the Nexus. He noted further that efforts to develop guidance and definition of the Nexus are being taking in place to inform personnel. Moreover, several donors expressed interest in joining initiatives for shared/joined training to incentivize Nexus approaches with a focus on practical action on specific country contexts. Mr. MacLeman explained that in the next DAC adherents meeting, the members will focus on

identifying which groups they would wish to join the two proposals, which are specifically (i) to scale up shared analysis including donor participation and strengthen support to country programs and (ii) ensure performance management of staff and training of staff to guarantee collaboration. Mr. MacLeman concluded that the next meetings will be on 3 and 4 March and RG4 co-chairs finally encouraged participants to share information on similar key strategic meetings to facilitate a common way forward.

RG4 work streams presentations

RG4 Co-Chairs informed participants that all relevant papers are now updated in the shared box folder. Co-chair Marta Valdes introduced the calendar, urging the members to check the timetable and to add additional relevant information.

In “**mapping of good practice**” work stream, OCHA thanked colleagues for the feedback provided on the concept note. The draft concept note will be finalized this week and will be shared with the Co-Chairs and RG4. The leaders of the sub-group explained that advances were made in terms of refining the main scope and objectives, adding that it will be shared for additional comments. The sub-group noted that efforts to reach out to country representatives beyond the UN to ensure an inclusive exercise have been already taken forward. Co-Chairs urged a consistent approach across all workstreams to ensure consolidated feedback both on good practice but also on that RG4 can support local actors.

In relation to the **peace issue paper** Co-Chairs noted that Canada contacted RG4, observing that the paper was deemed very useful and that they would wish to utilize the document for their training. They will reach out if they require further clarification and added that they might invite RG4 members to join the training. WFP also mentioned the video “Visualizing the P in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus”, noting that it is not being translated to French. RG4 members clarified that the French version will be available on InterPeace website and FAO YouTube channel in next few days. The English version can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU45k07s70I>. The sub-group also highlighted that other donors expressed interest in training their staff, and RG4 is eager to support with training material for all stakeholders.

In terms of the drafting of a concept note, the sub-group working on the Peace tool kit and guidance, has met only once for now and agreed on finalizing it after the next meeting on 1 March. The sub-group suggested further to work on an app for field practitioners and research on how to develop it are being taken forward. Mr. Pedro Mendes from UNHCR (mendes@unhcr.org) expressed its interest in joining the sub-group.

In the ensuing discussion, DCO briefed on RC handbook, encouraging RG4 members to reach out to her if more information is requested or if anyone wishes to contribute to the RC handbook, adding that the timing is still flexible. The name and contact of the person leading on RC handbook will be shared by DCO. DCO also briefed on the workstream on **common country analysis and UN SDG**: the sub-group attended a call last week and presented the draft of the concept note. The objective is to make sure that collective support to country offices is provided to ensure the Nexus is well reflected in country analyses. The sub-group also stressed the importance to reflect on the best way to support the operationalization of the peace element and noted that there would be some good links to the mentoring and capacity building working group as well with colleagues working in support of Joint Steering Committee. DCO noted that RC’s suffer from lack of availability of nexus advisers, noting in particular CHAD and Niger which have asked for support. RG4 co-Chairs urge focus on key countries to ensure feasibility of the support. UNICEF joined the sub-group, also to strengthen the link to the OECD DAC working group. The target audience are the UNCTs, the RC and RC Offices. DCO added that in 2021 the sub-group will strengthen regional collaborative platforms, ensuring that NGOs will be well-connected in this process. In addition, DCO encouraged members to keep colleagues informed of developments through email and to exchange intelligence on developments at country levels. In terms of the next meeting, the sub-group will focus

on agreeing on the number of countries that could be supported on CCA and will finalize the concept note. ICVA will brief the Community of Practice on CCA/CCF process.

Action Points from ongoing working groups:

- Co-chairs to share the [calendar](#) for final review by members (**Co-chairs**) [done]
- Mapping of good practices Concept note to be circulated to all RG4 members for final review (**OCHA**)
- Peace tool kit working group to share the Concept note to all RG4 members (**OIM+WFP**)
- To share the PPT (**DCO**)
- Provide the name and contact of whoever will be leading on RC handbook. (**DCO**)
- To review concept notes and list of countries by first week of March. [**RG4 members**]

Brief updates on other ongoing activities

Regarding the **Gender and Nexus study**, UNFPA briefed RG4 members on relevant updates, noting that a draft of the Gender in the Nexus review has been shared with the Advisory Group for consultation. Some of the findings include that there is limited discussion on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Nexus discussions, as well as lack of strategic vision to mainstream GEEWG into the triple Nexus. UNFPA explained that coordination structures do not adequately promote gender mainstreaming and that key planning documents inadequately reflect GEEWG in collective outcomes. Overall, findings highlight that there is a gap in gender analysis and gender outcomes at country levels. In these circumstances, UNFPA noted that limited focus cannot guarantee transformative change. Recommendations included establishing a two-year task force linked to UN Women and development mechanism, as well as a two-year pilot in two countries that will focus on the meaning of having GEEWG mainstreamed into triple nexus processes, what capacities and recourses are required and how can it be scaled up across the system. In the ensuing discussion, OCHA noted it was important to address the underlying problems, not the symptoms as such. It queried if GEEWG was adequately incorporated in the existing planning tools, which UNFPA denied. Other members highlighted the binary concept of gender employed in the review, noting that Gender should be a more complete concept. UNFPA confirmed that gender is often mainstreamed in the analysis processes but not in the planning documents, adding that also collective outcomes do not have gender mainstreaming and acknowledging that existing guidance on the nexus insufficiently included gender as a focus.

The next action in the **Community of Practice** will be the CCA briefing, which will potentially contribute to strengthen liaison with RG5.

With regard to the **Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes dissemination**, an updated dissemination plan was developed. The leaders of the activity urged all RG4 members to ensure that the light guidance is used in their internal systems/training modules, engagement with regional teams and other activities. They noted that they will do a stock take at the end of quarter 2 of 2021 and recognized that more efforts need to be put to prove this guidance. Nevertheless, several webinars were launched in 2020 and more will take place over the coming months. IASC secretariat has uploaded translations of guidance on IASC website.

Finally, UNHCR and ICVA drafted a dissemination plan and inquired about translation to be shared on the IASC website.

In terms of the **Pop-up session** on 24 February on DRR, members noted that collaboration with RG1 does not work out.

Action Points

- Build the Light Guidance into internal briefing packages, toolboxes (internal platforms), training modules, guidance for partners etc. by end Q1. **[RG4 members]**
- Proactively promote and support use of the tool through webinars, engagement with regional / country-based teams etc. **[RG4 members]**
- Report back on these two actions by end of Q2 (suggestions for update on RG4 meeting on 15 June 2021).
- Review calendar of events.
- Upload translations on the peace concept note in the coming days. (done, please find the translations [here](#))
- Reach out to Lene/UNFPA if anyone wishes to comment on the Nexus compendium peace to the IAHE on GEEWG.
- Share ideas for pop-up sessions.

The Co-Chairs concluded with saying that in the next meeting RG4 will discuss the conversation with RG5. While the Somalia study has been uploaded online, the Bangladesh study will be reviewed externally shortly. DI finally offered a pop-up session on country studies.

AOB

The Group's next meeting is scheduled to take place on **16 March 2021, 2:30-4:00 PM**. The IASC secretariat will share further details in due time. Sub-groups leaders will continue updating the co-Chairs on their respective activities.