

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE IASC TASK FORCES

January 2022

This document sets out the terms of references for the Inter Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Task Forces following the IASC Principals and Deputies decisions of December 2021.

IASC Task Forces:

Purpose:

In support of the OPAG, the IASC timebound Task Forces (TFs) are responsible for delivering on OPAG-endorsed normative work for the 2022-2023 biennium strategic priorities. TFs support may also be sought to review guidelines produced by inter-agency bodies outside of the formal IASC structure.

Five time-bound task forces were created as follows:

Task Force 1 - Counter Terrorism (COTER) and Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI): focuses on mitigating the impact of counter-terrorism legislation and addressing bureaucratic and administrative impediments.

TASK FORCE 2 - Centrality of Protection: focuses on upholding and strengthening the centrality of protection in all aspects of humanitarian action, including by addressing gender-based violence.

TASK FORCE 3 - Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP): focuses on ensuring that the humanitarian response safeguards the dignity and is empowering, accountable and inclusive of affected people, and is committed to leaving no one behind.

TASK FORCE 4 - Localization: focuses on enabling the meaningful engagement and leadership of local and national actors - with a special focus on women-led organisations in humanitarian response - enhancing capacity exchange and increasing direct funding.

TASK FORCE 5 - Humanitarian Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace: focuses on supporting the understanding and implementing Humanitarian-Development collaboration and its linkages to peace, consistent with humanitarian principles.

Composition:

TFs will include delegated representatives of IASC members with substantive and technical knowledge of the subject area (maximum two).

In the spirit of inclusion, key organization that are not members of the IASC will be invited to the Task Forces. However, final decisions are made by the formal members of the IASC.

TFs will include participation of local actors.

Co-Chairs:

Co-chaired by two IASC members (at Director/D1 level) who serve on a rotating basis for a two-year period. The co-chairs for each Task Force will be nominated by IASC members and appointed by the OPAG, with due consideration of the need to maintain an appropriate balance between UN and non-UN organizations and across IASC members.

Working Modalities:

With the support of the IASC secretariat, Task forces:

- will be nimble, outcome oriented, and focused on field impact.
- will be proactive in ensuring the participation and consultation with local actors.

- will prioritize key deliverables determined by the OPAG with the IASC Strategic Priorities for 2022-2023 serving as a framework. All deliverables will be timebound.
- co-Chairs of TFs are responsible for steering the implementation of agreed deliverables and priorities and ensuring engagement with relevant stakeholders (including non-IASC members and critical platforms).
- TFs will be expected to reach out to the concerned stakeholders (including inter-agency bodies, humanitarian leaders, regional organizations, national NGOs, among others), particularly from the field, to inform the activities (including the formulation of policies and guidelines) that they will be working on; while maintaining the decision-making authority of the formal IASC members.
- While no additional sub-structures will be created under TFs, they are free to organize their work in any fashion that is deemed efficient and leads to the required implementation of their respective workplans.

Accountability and Linkages:

TFs report to the OPAG, with strong linkages to the EDG to ensure that their work is reflective of and responsive to field needs and realities.

TFs are required to provide regular updates to the OPAG on time-bound deliverables tasked to them by the OPAG, including reporting on progress against its workplan (including outreach activities and consultations with non-IASC partners, particularly from the Global South) approximately every 6 months.
