Global Cluster Coordination Group (GCCG) meeting – 2 March 2022
FINAL Summary of discussion and action points

Participants: Ms. Monica Ramos, Global WASH Cluster (GWC); Ms. Ela Serdaroglu and Mr. Brett Moore, Global Shelter Cluster (GSC); Mr. Stefano Fedele, Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC); Ms. Wan Sophonpanich and Mr. Dher Hayo, Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM); Ms. Linda Doull, Global Health Cluster (GHC); Mr. William Chemaly and Ms. Celine Maret Global Protection Cluster (GPC); Mr. Abdul Majid and Ms. Naouar Labidi, Global Food Security Cluster (GFSC); Ms. Athalie Mayo and Ms. Mary Jelliti, Global Logistics Cluster (GLC); Ms. Jennifer Chase, Gender Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR); Ms. Christelle Loupforest, Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR); Mr. Ron Pouwels, Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR); Mr. Jim Robinson, Housing Land and Property Area of Responsibility (HLP AoR); Ms. Michelle Brown and Ms. Maria Agnese Giordano, Global Education Cluster (GEC); Mr. Brent Carbno, Global Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (GETC); Ms. Marina Skuric Prodanovic (GCCG Chair); Ms. Randa Hassan and Mr. Mate Bagossy, (GCCG Secretariat).

Invitees: Ms. Uta Filz and Mr. Ivane Bochorishvili (OCHA); Ms. Aida Mengistu (OCHA P2P); Mr. Martin Keitsch and Mr. Bernat Escarre (GLC LogIE); Ms. Audrey Janvier, (IMWG).

Summary of Discussion	Action Points
The GCCG Chair provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting and agreed, as requested by one of the participants, to begin the meeting with the Ukraine operational updates.	
Operational updates: Ukraine Mr. Ivane Bochorishvili updated the group about the work of the operations cell for Ukraine, which was established in late February 2022 and is composed of IASC Emergency Directors. The cell has until now focused on security related aspects, including relocation and evacuation of national and international staff and dependents from Kiev. As of 2 March, three evacuation convoys had departed Kiev and were on route towards the west of the country. These convoys completed the major evacuation and relocation stage; most staff are now out of insecure areas. The situation is worsening and there is limited data about needs. For example, government representatives have indicated that a humanitarian disaster is taking place in Volnovakha, near Severodonetsk. Fighting and insecurity is so intense, resulting in humanitarian consequences. This is not only the case in the east but also in the south of the country (e.g. Kherson and Nikolaiv). There are reports of fighting in Odessa and Mariupol is encircled. Heavy fighting and destruction are also reported in Kharkiv, Sumy and Kiev. This situation leads to grave humanitarian consequences and there is an urgency to discuss the operational and response modalities. **Operational discussion outcomes:** What to do with people in immediate need of assistance and what is the caseload that needs to be targeted. • The first caseload is in the east and relates to the old-HRP but with increased needs. • People in areas where fighting is ongoing. • IDPs within Ukraine who have fled towards the west of the country. This refers to groups in need inside the country and does not include the refugee response led by UNHCR. As of 2 March, more than 800,000 people had crossed into Poland, Moldavia, Romania and Hungary. There are ongoing discussions about what would be the best humanitarian operational hubs within Ukraine. A hub was established in Krakow (Poland). GLC is coordinating with OCHA and an interagency hub is being set up near the border. Lviv, Uzghorod and Tchernivtsi are the three locations currently being considered for hubs within Ukraine. Humanitarian actors are requested to provide information on what is in the aid pipeline to know what can be delivered and when. This is linked to discussions with the Ukrainian authorities about opening corridors to the west. The logistics sector should be provided with this information in order to plan ahead. In the next phase, the operations cell will address scenario planning (i.e. where the crisis is heading and how to best plan the response based on an understanding of needs in the ground).	1. GCCG-S to propose timeslots for weekly dedicated meetings on the Ukraine situation. 2. GCs to regularly share with the Ops cell updates about the details of their responses.

Summary of Discussion	Action Points
There is currently limited knowledge about the response. GCs are asked to share details of their responses. Ms. Uta Filz updated the group on the status of the Ukraine Flash Appeal launched on 1 March. The appeal was prepared very quickly and all figures are estimates based on the scale and direction of the military operations, previous contingency plans, intentions surveys and current displacement patterns. The Flash Appeal supersedes the HRP. The HRP had focused on two regions of eastern Ukraine while the Flash Appeal focuses on a completely different scenario. OCHA has stopped tracking the Flash Appeal as of 28 February and the plan is to revise the HRP 2022 within the next three months, this requires starting the planning for it now. The limited insight at the operational level is an obstacle to take decisions. An information management cell has been set up in order to address this and will have its first meeting on 2 March. The cell will coordinate, structure, collate, manage and analyse secondary and primary data related to the humanitarian situation. UNHCR is co-leading the cell for the refugee response outside Ukraine. The expected output of the cell is supporting IASC decision-making at headquarters and field level. **GLC shared the following key messages with the group:** 1. Information management is a key aspect given the multiple dimensions of the response (internal to Ukraine and refugee response) 2. The Logistics Cluster is trying to ramp up support to in-country coordination mechanisms as well as to the 'Polish corridor'. At the same time, is trying to collate information on the capacities and needs of partners to respond from other neighbouring countries: Romania, Moldova, Slovakia and Hungary. 3. A challenge is finding out which border crossings are usable to get cargo into the country. 4. GLC is trying to pull together inputs on the logistical aspects, this includes changing situations with cargo entry points, bureaucratic arrangements to get cargo flowing and the bigger picture from the regional side on flexibility to move between staging areas. 5. Regarding the 'Polish Corridor', warehousing arrangements have been established for staging areas in Rzeszow and Lublin, with capacity also in Warsaw. 6. There is a need to avoid clogging up staging areas without having visibility at border crossing openings – the challenge is to find opportunities to get relief items across the borders. 7. There is no established corridor in Romania, Moldova and Hungary but there are warehouses contracted for inter-agency support in Romania, Moldova and Hungary. Details are available on the Logistics Cluster website. 8. GLC teams will be arriving in Romania and Hungary in the coming days. 9. GLC is working closely with UNHCR on refugee response supply chain issues to ensure there is no competition for resources. 10. The Logistics Cluster Information Exchange (LogIE) is an information management tool to collate all logistics data, especially aspects related to supply chain, capacities, gaps, challenges and will go online shortly. The Chair asked if the group is receiving information from the operations cell quickly through their CLAs or if this needs to be facilitated. **Discussion:** • GPC informed that it is deploying a staff member to the information management and operations cell (IMAC) and asked if there is a readout about what is more specifically expected from the IMAC and what will be its modality of operation. He also enquired if the unit will work with the OCHA office in Ukraine besides the EDG and asked about the interlinkages between the two. • Mr. Bochorishvili said that he would share the email of the operations cell with the group. The communications flow is as follows: after each operations cell meeting there is a	

Summary of Discussion	Action Points
message with action points shared with the EDG; it is expected that the action points are further shared as relevant. Sitreps are now issued on a daily basis but there is a need for more information on the response side. It would be good to include daily updates from clusters. • Ms. Filz added that the objective of the IMAC group is to support both IASC HQ level and field level decision making. The unit will be tasked with collecting and analysing primary and secondary data and will therefore provide regular analysis. Is not clear yet how information will be shared because the first meeting is taking place today. GCs are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Filz and ask details about the functioning of the cell. • Ms. Hassan informed that the CCCM Cluster is expected to be activated today. OCHA is also in communication with the Logistics and ETC clusters about their activation. She added that a multi-sectoral coordination cell has been set up with line ministries to centralize and help process clearance for material cargo support. Authorities are expected to have a 24h turnaround in terms of approvals. • GNC informed that Nutrition Cluster is expected to be activated by the end of the first week of March. GNC is already discussing with partners. There is currently a difficulty to identify the exact situation in the ground and actions taken; a lot of the partners are trying to assure their safety at the moment and it will take a few more days to get clarity about the capacities and response. Looking into the upcoming days and weeks, he enquired if there is anything else the group could consider to ensure clusters converge efforts once more information is available. • CCCM confirmed that its cluster is activated in Ukraine, a staff member has been designated to lead the cluster and a Ukrainian speaking IM officer will support the cluster. Further to this, he enquired if there is any plan to have the cluster coordinators based in the same location or hub. • MA AoR emphasized that Ukraine is one of the most mined and ERW contaminated areas of the world and this is getting worse day by day. There is an urgent need to scale-up Mine Action to protect both civilians and humanitarian workers. MA AoR is activated in country and led by UNDP, with 10 active partner organizations. MA AoR is also hoping to actively coordinate with logistics. UNICEF will scale-up risk education for children and overall civilians and the AoR is also working together with the Protection Cluster on advocacy. Finally, the MA AoR is looking forward to participating in needs assessments. • Mr. Bochorishvili confirmed that agencies are still providing information about which areas to be used as hubs. Discussion based on preferences of the agencies is ongoing and the team based in Krakow led by the DHC is in charge of communication and analysis. • The chair enquired about specific suggestions that would be helpful to the group in terms of information-sharing and meeting regularity. It was agreed that a dedicated GCCG meting once or twice a week would be helpful. • GSC underlined the importance of collocating clusters in a common location and enquired if any decision has been made about where the operations will be managed from. Clarity on this will be very important as soon as available. Information on shelter resources, stocks and capacity is incomplete. Some confusion exists between what partners plan to do inside versus outside the country and information gathering about this is ongoing. A lot of clusters are gradually developing sitreps and gap analysis, which are available on their respective websites. He noted to OCHA colleagues working on gathering and centralizing information that each cluster has its own data that can usually be accessed individually and is the most updated.	
Follow-up on previous GCCG meetings (action points, summary record, etc) • The GCCG Chair updated the group about the completion status of the follow-up items from the GCCG meeting of 2 February 2022. **GCCG representative in the JIAF:** The Chair thanked GFSC and GEC for volunteering to be the new GCCG representatives to the JIAF in 2022 and asked if there were any objections from the group to their nominations. No objections were received. GEC informed that a meeting of the JIAF SC is scheduled on 10 March and suggested a preparatory call with GCCs.	3. GCCG-S to schedule a call on JIAF with GCs. 4. GCCG-S to enquire about GCCs availability and plan a preparation meeting about the

Summary of Discussion	Action Points
OPAG meeting of 15 March: The next OPAG meeting will focus on entities associated with the IASC including the GCCG. GCCs were encouraged to volunteer to attend this meeting together with the Chair. No expressions of interest were received.	South Sudan GCCG mission.
South Sudan GCCG mission planning: South Sudan colleagues have expressed a preference for the mission to take place in May 2022, with the following clusters indicating interest in participating on this mission: WASH, Protection, CCCM and Health. The ideal length of the mission would be no less than 10 days given its national and subnational focus, with all mission members arriving at the same time to facilitate logistics. Areas that the mission will consider include local ICCGs, subnational coordination locations and the relationship between CLAs and clusters. A specific meeting will be organized to prepare the mission. GNC informed that as it was planning a mission to South Sudan in late April/early May, it was interested in joining the mission. GWC indicated it was unavailable in mid-May. GBV AoR also noted interest as South Sudan is a country with the most GBV AoR subnational locations. CCCM/UNHCR noted availability in early May and GSC also expressed interest.	
Madagascar: The Health Cluster will be activated in Madagascar. Increased needs following the multiple cyclones affect already more than 400,000 people. Coordination is ongoing on the ground, with a number of staff surged to Madagascar to support it. GHC noted that WHO and the Ministry of Health had agreed to activate a month ago and only the formalization from IASC side is remaining. GPC added that an assessment of protection capacities in the country is taking place. A GPC staff will go to Madagascar in four weeks to facilitate the workshop resulting from this exercise and discuss the results with the government, including the possibility of reactivating the Protection Cluster, an option that has not so far gathered support from the authorities.	
Updates from the EDG: Ukraine is at the front of the attention. Afghanistan and northern Ethiopia are also being prioritized; system-wide scale ups in these two countries are expiring soon (11 March in Afghanistan and 29 April in Ethiopia) and will likely be extended. The EDG mission took place in Afghanistan from 20- 24 February and its main conclusions are expected soon. Other EDG missions are being planned for Myanmar, Cameroon and possibly Syria. A P2P mission is ongoing in South Sudan. Other missions are being planned to Mozambique and Burkina Faso in May 2022. An OPR might take place in Afghanistan in June 2022. The Horn of Africa drought and the risk of famine in the Sahel region as well as mobilizing resources for underfunded crises, particularly in Chad, Yemen and Haiti, are also issues of major concern to the EDG.	
Debriefing on GPC mission in the Central African Republic GPC debriefed to the group on his field mission to CAR and emphasized the following: 1. **Complexity of the crisis:** There is a history of civil infighting, corruption, underdevelopment, and multiple actors, including UN forces and foreign military contractors. The European Union is the main donor in the region and is reducing funding. Regional elections are scheduled in September 2022. 2. **Underdevelopment:** Food security, educational facilities or medical centres are generally run by international NGOs and there is insufficient humanitarian reach outside the main towns. If funding stops, the crisis will quickly escalate. 3. **Well-coordinated operation**: This is one of the best OCHA-led operations and most protection centred operations. Coordination with subnational level works very well and there is a spirit of collaboration between agencies and clusters. The HC leads and links to cluster coordinators, who link between themselves. There are interesting AAP models. The overall PSEA situation is however very challenging despite active and effective PSEA systems. There are two reasons for attention: 1) the risk of escalation and 2) the politicization of humanitarian funding. Funding is conditioned on government attitude and this requires the humanitarian sector to keep a very clear and consistent humanitarian narrative that reduces the politicization of funding. The HRP is 90 percent funded, which is possibly the highest worldwide with the exception of Afghanistan. This shows that the HCT, HC, OCHA and inter-cluster are operating well. There is however programmatic under-ambition across sectors. With high level of funding and clear gaps still existing, CLAs and clusters should undertake more ambitious planning. GPC	5. GCCG-S to share the GPC mission report with the GCCG. 6. GCs to encourage their CAR cluster coordinators to engage in more ambitious planning. 7. GCs to exchange good practices on localization (staff and partners) in CAR.

Summary of Discussion	Action Points
encouraged GCs to address this and use the planning cycle to support more ambitious programming in the country. Finally, the localization of the response is very challenging. It is difficult to recruit skilled local staff and work with local actors. Good practices from GCs are welcomed to learn more about building a stronger operational local network of actors. **Discussion** • Ms. Hassan enquired if the obstacles with local actors were related to a lack of sufficient local actors involved in the response, and if the politicization of aid might be limiting their involvement in the response. GPC highlighted the following challenges with many local actors: corruption, destabilization and lack of expertise in specialized areas, for example in the medical and mental health sectors. Many of the medical centers are managed by staff trained only in first aid. There is a genuine difficulty in finding expertise as individuals with the necessary skills are hired by agencies and INGOs. Ms. Hassan commended the operationally focused HCT, underlined the need to increase the quality of the planning as a key take away from the briefing and enquired if there is anything else the group can collectively do. Responding to the last point, GPC emphasized the need for GCs to consistently sustain what is already working. • GEC/UNICEF asked if the GPC report from CAR has captured why HCT/coordination is working well. She added that capacity has to do with underlying structural issues and asked if GPC had observed and captured any good practices in terms of HDN. GPC indicated that his report identifies several reasons as to why coordination is working well and underlined the role played by capable and motivated staff at key positions. Another reason is the limitation of overall funding, which causes actors to come together and optimize resources. Also, there is a balance between NGOs and UN that attracts resources. Many international NGOs receive good funding, reducing competition and increasing collaboration. The World Bank is trying to launch new development programs. The conditionality of funding, linked to strategic directions taken by the government, causes development work to be more irregular. Finally, development projects are similar to humanitarian projects due to chronic underdevelopment.	
Briefing on the P2P mission in Mozambique Ms. Aida Mengistu briefed the group on the main findings of the P2P mission to Mozambique and clarified that the mission report is nearly finalized and currently being reviewed by the HC and HCT. **Background and composition of the team:** The HC and HCT request the P2P to facilitate a reflection on the humanitarian system's response to the complex emergency in the north of the country (Cabo Delgado). There has been an increase of humanitarian capacity in Cabo Delgado with the deployment of a Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and establishment of an OCHA office, providing a good timing to reflect on the coordination structures. The P2P team was led by Mr. Kevin Kennedy and was composed of staff from UNICEF, UNHCR, REACH and P2P staff. The team met with relevant stakeholders in both Maputo and Cabo Delgado, including UN, national and international NGOs, the ICCG, government officials, the World Bank and others. Some visits were also made to IDP sites in urban and rural areas. **Key areas addressed by the P2P mission:** 1. **Visibility:** The visibility of this complex emergency is limited. 2. **Unified voice**: There is a lack of a uniform voice from the HCT and UN about the situation. Having a more compelling evidence-based narrative about the humanitarian situation is something that needs more work. 3. **HDN**: Substantial reconstruction and stabilization work is ongoing in Cabo Delgado in parallel to humanitarian operations. This creates a complex operational environment. 4. **Returns**: The government has insisted that all returns will be voluntary. Despite this push and pull factors remain for people to return or resettle in locations that are not their own choices.	8. GCCG-s to follow up with P2P in order to share with the GCCG the report of the P2P mission when available. 9. GCCG-s to share the GBV/PSEA AP with GBV AoR. 10. GCCs to follow up with their cluster counterparts on the need to create a more conducive environment for local actor participation.

Summary of Discussion	Action Points
5. **Humanitarian response**: Teams in Cabo Delgado need to be further empowered and there is a necessity to streamline better national and subnational coordination structures. These are two key elements of the response that need improvement. 6. **Local actors**: Have very limited visibility. The mission noted insufficient efforts from the humanitarian system to involve and include local actors, including the use of English in official meetings and limited funding and capacity building initiatives. This complex emergency is expected to last. Working with national organizations is needed to build their capacity and support them joining existing structures at strategic decision-making level. 7. **PSEA/GBV**: There is a lot of work done in terms of protection, PSEA/GBV, partly based on the experience responding to numerous cyclones in 2019. Despite positive progress in developing guidance and action plans, their actual implementation needs strengthening. Community engagement, PSEA, GBV and others are not being consistently applied and prioritized in the response across all the HCT partners and members. The HCT has developed and prioritized action plans to work on some of the issues identified by the P2P mission. These action plans are currently being reviewed by the HCT and after this is completed by the field the mission report and action plan will be finalized. **Discussion:** • Responding to the chair's question if the report could be shared with the group, Ms. Mengistu replied that this might be possible, provided the HCT agrees. • GBV AoR asked about the specific action plan on GBV and PSEA. Ms. Mengistu noted that a GBV/PSEA action plan exists and can be shared with GBV AoR. • The chair enquired if there were specific recommendations for the GCs. Ms. Mengistu highlighted that local organizations are invited at the cluster level, however they are left at the background. Locals are often not part of coordination because they have no funding and only limited access to information. No particular effort is done to bring local actors on board. Sometimes local NGOs do not participate because they do not perceive the value of being part of the mechanisms. On the positive side, local actors are invited to cluster meetings, which is a good first step. The chair encouraged GCs to include in their strategies how to better address the challenges of localization. • CCCM/UNHCR agreed that there are funding challenges in Mozambique. Local actors' participation was also highlighted as a gap during his field mission to Mozambique in May 2021. One of the issues that were looked at was how to better include academic actors within local organizations. The key, he emphasized, is enabling rather than simply involving local actors. Language has been a challenge in Mozambique, especially in the North. A CCCM training officer was deployed to deliver training in local languages. The question of competition between development and emergency requires humanitarians to think about how humanitarian structures can shift and adapt to different contexts. Ms. Mengistu noted that it is about prioritizing collectively an enabling environment for local actors and investing in it. For example, local actor involvement in Syria was minimal at the beginning of the Syria crisis and it has evolved into being the main pillar of the response. Investment can be made to translate and facilitate meetings and also in terms of access to financing, which is a key element. Capacity building of national organizations was identified as an area were development and humanitarian actors could work together.	
Briefing on the GLC LogIE system The Chair introduced to the group Ms. Mary Jelliti, new Deputy GLC Coordinator. Mr. Martin Keitsch briefed the group about the Logistics Information Exchange (LogIE) system, provided a practical demonstration of the use given to the tool and highlighted the following:	11. GCCG-s to share the LogIE link with the group when operational.

Summary of Discussion	Action Points
- The background of the tool is to facilitate access to real-time information from the field. Most organizations are affected by challenges of both vertical integration (for example, exchange between local and national actors) and horizontal integration (exchange between actors at the same level). - The goal is to enable access through this platform to exchange information about logistics. Logistics include all cargos moving between points with relief and humanitarian items. The focus is on the infrastructure and supply chain including airports, roads, bridges, access points and their condition. - The tool was initially planned to be used during sudden onset emergencies, trying to bridge the gap between high information needs and the existence of actors with information in the ground but facing challenges to disseminate it. - The project originated as a field-based localization project with the objective of institutional capacity strengthening of local partners and linking them with the national and international community of responders. In the early stages of implementation, it was found that opening the system to users beyond national actors would bring added value. The platform is an integrated process that is online and links to data collection applications. The data can be processed on the spot or shared with partners. - Two major advantages of LogIE are the possibility of direct overlay of baseline institutional information and that if the information is correctly updated it can be very quickly accessed. - Field updates from Ukraine are starting to be received. **Discussion** - Ms. Hassan asked which actors can input on LogIE and enquired if the data is screened in order to be accurate. Mr. Keitsch clarified that all actors can in theory provide inputs but each country has specific security layers and checks. The information is visible only if it has been validated. In the case of contexts where government has access to control the data, they are in charge of validating it - this is the case of Madagascar. LogIE is a flexible system and validation steps can be modified easily as necessary.	
AOB **Coordination Mapping:** Ms. Hassan thanked the GCCs for reaching out to their cluster coordinators, reminded them that the deadline for submission was 25 February. She highlighted that the completion rate is currently at only 50 percent. GCs will be provided with updated submission rates and are asked to encourage country clusters to comply with the deadline. She also informed that a response was provided to on questions related to Syria. The GCCG-S would like to work with GCs in order to review the survey, adapt it to the concerns that have been raised but also consider how Syria will be reflected in the report for this year. **Upcoming GCCG meetings:** Wednesday 30 March 2021, 2 – 4 p.m. (GVA) GRG, CLARE II, Activation/deactivation, GLC LOGIC, Engage with UN DCO (technical level briefing) on possible areas of collaboration/IMWG.	