
IASC Results Group 3 – Collective Advocacy

15 February 2022

Summary Record

IASC Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy met on 15 February 2022 to discuss (i) the transition to IASC priorities and structures for 2022-2023 and (ii) take stock of progress on counterterrorism, climate change and advocacy on food insecurity.

Action Points

- Share proposal on how to operationalize climate in the IASC with the Deputies Group [RG3 co-chairs]
- Provide feedback on the draft vetting paper by 25 February [RG3 members]
- Suggest to OPAG the need for flexibility and inclusivity in new Task Force membership [RG3 co-chairs]

Transition to IASC Priorities and Structures, 2022-2023

- Ms. Shoko Arakaki and Mr. Michel Anglade, RG3 co-chairs, debriefed members on the January OPAG meeting focusing on the transition to new task forces and Results Group recommendations on potential priorities and deliverables task forces should consider. RG3 co-chairs presented their recommendations to OPAG members on how the new BAI and COTER Task Force could operate, the need to maintain and mainstream advocacy across all IASC structures, and potential areas the Deputies Group could focus on in tackling the climate crisis and the availability of RG3 climate change sub-group's support. In addition, RG3 co-chairs advised that the Deputies Group leads on the famine prevention advocacy in the IASC. The Deputies Group was expected to convene soon upon the arrival of the new Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and discuss how the Group will organize itself.
- The transition process included the following steps in sequence; (1) identification of new co-chairs for task forces, (2) nomination of focal points by IASC members for each task force and (3) development of work plans for new Task Forces. OPAG members submitted nominations for the co-chairmanship of new Task Forces and the IASC secretariat was in the process of identifying objective indicators and undertaking analysis of nominations for OPAG's and OPAG co-chairs' consideration. In addition, the IASC secretariat would soon circulate a message for IASC members to nominate focal points for each Task Force. Building upon the experience with the RG membership, the task force membership would be inclusive and the IASC secretariat will reach out to local and national NGOs to benefit from their leadership. Members noted their wish that task force membership should be flexible, inclusive and purpose oriented. They highlighted the need to bring in technical and strategic level representation as well as experts from outside the IASC, on a need basis. Finally, OPAG would also discuss the work plans for the new task forces in the coming weeks and the IASC secretariat would consult incoming task force co-chairs and membership on these work plans. The transition process was expected to be completed by mid-March allowing existing RG co-chairs and members as well as incoming task force co-chairs and members to consult each other.

Update on Sanctions and Counterterrorism Developments

- Mr. Aurelien Buffler, co-chair of RG3's counterterrorism sub-group, presented on recent developments related to counterterrorism and sanctions. He noted that the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) briefed

the Security Council on the impact of sanctions on humanitarian action on 7 February outlining the various impacts of sanctions on humanitarian partners' work and people in need. The ERC advocated strongly for standing exemptions for humanitarian action. Mr. Buffler observed a shift in the request for exemptions with the UN now collectively advocating for such exemptions, as opposed to only humanitarians advocating for such exemptions. The ERC also advocated for enhanced due diligence and strengthened risk mitigation by humanitarian partners. The discussion demonstrated the increased understanding of the humanitarian impact of sanctions and the need to address negative impacts on humanitarian action and people in need. The discussion also showed that different approaches were being considered for solutions with some calling for standing exemptions and others calling for on a case by case basis. There was a need to monitor the discussions and trends closely on sanctions while continuously advocating to minimize the impact on humanitarian action and seeking out opportunities to positively influence discussions around humanitarian operations.

- The Security Council Resolution on Afghanistan, adopted in December 2021, provided a broad exemption. The ERC is expected to report on the exemptions in six months, and OCHA had already shared guidance on the scope of the exemptions and reporting requirements and encouraged IASC members to share information through their OCHA counterparts at the country level. Partners were requested to share information on the added value of the exemptions, how such exemptions facilitated and/or helped scale up humanitarian operations, pending challenges and risk mitigation measures taken to date. In relation to Yemen, it was noted that some member states were considering listing sanctions against some groups involved in the conflict. The ERC already advocated with relevant stakeholders to minimize negative impacts on humanitarian operations and people in need and advocacy will need to continue to avoid unintended and/or negative consequences.

Position Paper on Beneficiary Screening

- Ms. Lise Salavert, Humanitarian Advocacy Manager, Humanity and Inclusion briefed members on a position paper on beneficiary screening which was developed following donor requests to screen beneficiaries against sanctions list and the impact such requests have had on programmes. Donor conditions as well as requests from financial branches of governments and the Financial Action Task Force. Humanitarian organization have been putting in place strong risk mitigation measures and policies, some donors continue to ask for beneficiary screening. In France, the law on preventing financing of terrorism was modified and guidance was published on how to screen partners, staff, suppliers, and beneficiaries for programmes funded by France. Against this backdrop, RG3's counterterrorism sub-group developed a position paper to collective push back against such policies and practices which jeopardize principled humanitarian action. The paper could also be a useful tool in contract negotiations with donors, and to present an unified position in addressing donors' requests.
- Members agreed on the relevance of the paper and the increasing demands from some donors to share beneficiary information and screen beneficiaries which sometimes compelled some humanitarian partners to return funding or change programming. Some members noted the need to develop common messaging to donors on this issue and tackle how to systematically respond to such requests as each humanitarian organization has its internal policies. There was agreement that the paper should be reviewed at the RG3

level and then elevated to OPAG for endorsement. Members indicated the need for the paper to have a sharp focus and specific messaging including the impact of donor screening measures on local humanitarian actors.

Update on Climate Change

- Ms. Kirsten Hagon, the co-chair of RG3's climate change sub-group, briefed members on the progress of the sub-group and recent developments on climate change. Ms. Hagon noted that the IPCC report would be published on 28 February. The report is expected to tackle the humanitarian impact of climate change and as such, there is an expectation that several humanitarian partners will react and consider how to tackle climate change practically within their work if they haven't already done so. IFRC was also planning to launch a report on the humanitarian impact of climate change in collaboration with some member state missions in Geneva in late March and would share the invitation with RG3 members. Finally, the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week will be held in May and several climate change events were being planned. One of the events would focus on the implementation of the commitments in the Climate and Environment Charter. Finally, UNFCCC plans to organize events on loss and damage in June in Bonn, Germany. Members of the climate change sub-group were considering submitting a paper to the UNFCCC event on the role of the humanitarian community in tackling climate change.
- Ms. Hagon noted that now the Deputies Group agreed to tackle climate change in the IASC as a priority, the sub-group agreed to take a propositional approach. The sub-group was in the process of developing a short paper for the Deputies Group's consideration suggesting ways to ensure climate and disaster risk brought into the humanitarian programme cycle as well as programming in a structured manner and build upon existing initiatives including the humanitarian community's contribution to national adaptation plans. While the Deputies Group considered how to tackle climate change, the sub-group saw value in maintaining a mailing list at the very list to exchange information regularly.

Update on Famine Prevention Key Messages

- Mr. Michel Anglade, RG3 co-chair, informed that the famine prevention key messages were being updated following the OPAG review. Several useful suggestions were made by OPAG members and the final document would be shared with OPAG after incorporating these suggestions.
- Members noted the need to have a formal arrangement on famine prevention advocacy within the IASC and agreed that the Deputies Group could be best placed for taking forward this work. Members noted the need for continued advocacy on the issue, particularly in light of the drought and other climatic events' impact on food security. There were opportunities to utilize the famine prevention key messages during the pledging events on Yemen and Afghanistan in March.