

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE IASC TASK FORCES

March 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 and organizations outside of the formal IASC structure. The Principle of *Leaving no one behind* is central to humanitarian action and will be prioritized in all aspects of the IASC's work including Task Force priorities.

Five time-bound task forces were created as follows:

Task Force 1 - 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 2 - Accountability to Affected People (AAP): focuses on ensuring that the humanitarian response safeguards dignity and is empowering, accountable and inclusive of affected people, and is committed to leaving no one behind.

TASK FORCE 3 - Preserving Humanitarian Space: focuses on mitigating the impact of counter-terrorism legislation and addressing bureaucratic and administrative impediments.

TASK FORCE 4 - Humanitarian Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace: focuses on supporting the understanding and implementation of Humanitarian-Development collaboration and its linkages to peace, consistent with humanitarian principles.

TASK FORCE 5 - 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.

Composition:

- TFs will be composed of the delegated representatives of IASC members with substantive knowledge of the subject area
- TFs will be required to include representatives of key non-IASC stakeholders to ensure that their knowledge, expertise and ownership contribute to IASC deliberations and decisions. However, final decisions are made by official IASC members of the TF.
- TFs will ensure that field voices, including that of local actors, inform TF decisions and the development of tools

Co-Chairs:

- Task Forces will be Co-chaired by two IASC members (preferably at the Director level or equivalent).
- The co-Chairs will be nominated by IASC members and appointed by the OPAG, with due consideration for the need to maintain an appropriate balance between UN and non-UN organizations and across IASC membership.
- The co-Chairs will serve for a two-year period.
- Co-Chairs will be neutral and impartial in this role and are responsible for steering the implementation of agreed deliverables and priorities and ensuring engagement with relevant stakeholders (including non-IASC members and critical platforms).

Working Modalities:

With the support of the IASC secretariat, Task forces will:

- be nimble, outcome oriented, and focused on field impact and moving from policy to practice.
- be inclusive and proactive in ensuring the participation and consultation with local actors.
- prioritize key deliverables agreed by the OPAG with the IASC Strategic Priorities for 2022-2023 serving as a framework. All deliverables will be timebound.
- ensure linkages and collaboration with other IASC structures and platforms.
- adapt to respond to new taskings as deemed necessary by the IASC Principals or the OPAG.
- ensure streamlined efforts and engagement with critical stakeholders within and beyond the IASC, including the Grand Bargain
- ensure that advocacy is part and parcel of their efforts when delivering on the various issues.
- 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 reflects and responds 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 their workplans (including outreach activities and consultations with non-IASC partners, particularly from the Global South) approximately every six months.
