

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

DEPUTIES GROUP

SUMMARY RECORD AND ACTION POINTS

27 June 2022

Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator and Chair of the IASC Deputies Group, convened the meeting to discuss the IASC response to the climate crisis and the impacts of the Ukraine crisis on humanitarian action globally.

Session 1: IASC Response to the Climate Crisis

The Chair indicated that climate change is a key priority for the IASC, as per the 2022-2023 Strategic Priorities. As a result, the IASC Deputies had convened to discuss climate risks confronting the humanitarian system, what role the IASC should play, and the concrete next steps the IASC could take either collectively or individually based on comparative advantages.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, and Ms. Sara Nyanti, Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, to the meeting to ground the discussion in field realities and share their insights on the impacts of climate change to both countries and the Horn of Africa region.

Presentation from Humanitarian Coordinators

Mr. Abdelmoula highlighted the challenges faced by Somalia where climate change continues to induce and exacerbate recurring shocks such as floods and droughts, resulting in widespread displacement, disease outbreaks, and rapid urbanization in addition to increased food insecurity and increased poverty. Somalia continues to face harsh drought induced by consecutive failed rainy seasons affecting scores of vulnerable populations and leading to famine-like conditions. The Horn of Africa region continues to experience severe food insecurity with permanent impacts on the livelihoods of pastoralists. Climate experts predict that the mean temperatures in Somalia and the region will be one of the highest in the world by 2030 with heat mortality intensifying, sea levels dramatically rising, and a decline in per capita water availability - all leading to an explosion in the scale and severity of needs, severe floods and droughts, and an exponential rise in extreme shocks, disease outbreaks, and displacement. Mr. Abdelmoula called for IASC action in three areas: (i) ensuring humanitarian operations are more agile to allow for timely movement of assistance to shock areas, adapting response modalities as required, and efficient collective prioritization in light of dwindling resources; (ii) adapting humanitarian programming to realities on the ground by ensuring high quality emergency interventions that tap into nature-based solutions, including through the provision of standby capacity focused on climate; (iii) changing the narrative around internally displaced persons, particularly in light of the rapid climate-induced urbanization, by embracing humanitarian-development-peace interventions. Mr. Abdelmoula ended his presentation by urging the IASC

to scale-up its investments in resilience and climate adaptation programming and calling the IASC to advocate more effectively for fragile states to access green climate funds.

Ms. Nyanti highlighted key challenges facing South Sudan most of which were being driven by climate change, particularly displacement. She noted the severe humanitarian situation, with a lack of funding to address displacement and refugee interventions. She discussed the record rainfall and flooding of 2021 which continued to impact communities, with water levels still at the same levels today as in 2021. Ms. Nyanti provided examples of how to address the challenges by bringing together development and humanitarian actors and accessing funding mechanisms to address water management issues. She noted the need for coordination structures, tools, and mechanisms to become better fit for purpose, by finding solutions quickly across the peace, humanitarian, and development spectrum.

Discussion

IASC Deputies expressed wide appreciation for the presentations by the Humanitarian Coordinators. They registered overall support for the recommendations included in the background document while noting the need to take a cautious approach, focusing only on the humanitarian consequences of the climate crisis through the comparative advantages of its members. Deputies noted the need for further work at the technical level to focus IASC efforts in this regard, including on joint analysis and messaging.

Deputies agreed that climate change continues to impact key humanitarian contexts, and consequently will push millions more into extreme poverty and cause further displacement. The climate crisis compounds shocks, further stretching the already weak capacity of governments in fragile settings. The World Bank highlighted its Climate Change Action Plan to integrate climate and development and relevant commitments of US\$26 billion in Fiscal Year 2022 for mitigation and adaptation; mainstreaming climate in its broader efforts to invest in crisis prevention and preparedness including monitoring compound risks to take effective early action and use of all available tools- financing, analytics and partnerships; US\$5.8 billion since 2020 to expand social protection and shock-responsive safety systems in fragile and conflict-affected situations and to strengthen efforts to address drought, floods, and famine early warning systems; support through IDA to scale up early response financing to address acute food insecurity crises and disease outbreaks during the early stages.

Deputies also acknowledged the need to harmonize the climate and localization agendas by investing and focusing more on anticipatory action, early warning, and readiness at the local level. There is also a need to adopt a more proactive approach to the challenges triggered by the climate crisis, building on the IASC's horizon scanning. Suggestions were also made by humanitarian organizations to reconsider access the various green climate funds, including proposing changes to the CERF window and opportunities to access development budgets. There is a need to strengthen joint IASC advocacy efforts on climate leading up to COP sessions, including by building on the UN common guidance on resilience. The human rights approach to climate resilience action was emphasized.

Follow-up Actions:

1. Establish a time bound IASC group at the technical level to consider recommendations included in the background document and formulate an IASC position for consideration by the Deputies Group. **[IASC secretariat]**

2. Strengthen joint collective advocacy through key messages on the climate crisis to inform UN climate COP processes, including resource mobilization for climate induced humanitarian action. **[OCHA]**
3. Strengthen early warning and early action analysis by forging closer partnerships and strengthening engagement with climate actors and other critical non-IASC partners to inform preparedness. **[IASC members]**

Session 2: Understanding and Addressing the Secondary Impacts of the Ukraine Crisis on Humanitarian Action

The Chair recalled that IASC Principals discussed on 16 May the impact of the crisis in Ukraine on fragile and humanitarian contexts. Principals requested that Deputies assess the latest developments of the crisis to inform the system's response and identify key areas where the IASC could act together. The Chair informed members that OCHA had already begun looking at the direct implications of the crisis on humanitarian financing. The Chair also informed members of the UN Secretary-General's Steering Group on Food, Energy, and Finance to bring together UN system efforts to address the impacts of the conflict.

The Chair welcomed Ms. Kayoko Gotoh, Director, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; Mr. Rein Paul, Director, Food and Agriculture Organization; and Mr. Altaf Musani, Director, World Health Organization, to brief presenters.

Discussion

Ms. Gotoh briefed on the adverse effects of the war on regional and global security/conflict, and on efforts to unblock Black Sea grain exports, pursue nexus/peacebuilding approaches, and tackle divisive narratives/hate speech. Mr. Paulsen briefed on the impact of increased global commodity/staple prices on low-income, food import-dependent countries as well as the effects of high energy costs on agriculture inputs and the subsequent harvest outlook for food production and crop yields in many developing countries. Mr. Musani briefed on Covid-19-related financial/economic fallouts, supply chain issues and negative coping mechanisms that have further complicated the provision of healthcare and increased the costs for containing various diseases including Covid-19, yellow fever and cholera.

Deputies discussed the need to develop joint advocacy on the multifaceted nature and systemwide implications (beyond food insecurity/famine prevention), on the pressures being placed on the humanitarian system and on the resourcing challenges of existing programmes across the globe.

Follow-up Action Points:

1. Strengthen systematic analysis on the impact of the Ukraine crisis and share regularly with the relevant IASC bodies, including the EDG. **[OCHA in coordination with IASC members]**
2. Map the impact of the Ukraine crisis on fragile and humanitarian contexts and take the required preparedness actions to mitigate its impact on vulnerable communities. **[Emergency Directors Group]**
3. Develop IASC key messages on the impact of the Ukraine crisis on the global humanitarian landscape to facilitate consistent messaging among IASC members and ensure joined-up humanitarian advocacy, to be revised periodically. **[OCHA in coordination with IASC members]**

4. Mitigate the indirect impact of sanctions on humanitarian action, including advocating for exemptions for yellow fever vaccinations. **[IASC members with the support of the Emergency Directors Group]**

Session 3: AOB

IASC Deputies bid farewell to Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, who is retiring from the World Food Programme after 30 years of service. Deputies thanked Mr. Abdulla for his major contributions to humanitarian action globally and his relentless efforts in advancing the food security agenda and in helping the IASC identify practical ways forward to address them.

Mr. Justin Byworth, Global Lead - Disaster Management for World Vision International, referred IASC Deputies to the update note circulated by Mr. Andrew Morley, Chair of SCHR and current IASC PSEA Champion, on progress towards prevention and safeguarding across the IASC. Mr. Byworth reminded members of the Champion's three priorities - victim centered approach (VCA), PSEA Coordinators in the prioritized high-risk contexts, and culture change – and noted that a definition of the VCA would be ready shortly which would need to be considered by the Deputies Group. He called on members to share advice on a sustainable funding solution for PSEA Coordinators.

List of Participants

1. Ms. Joyce Msuya, **Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator**
2. Mr. Rein Paulsen, Director, Office of Emergencies and Resilience, **FAO**
3. Ms. Filipa Schmitz Guinote, Head of Diplomacy, **ICRC**
4. Ms. Mirela Shuteriqi, Director of Policy, **ICVA**
5. Mr. Julien Schopp, Vice President, Humanitarian Policy and Practice, **InterAction**
6. Ms. Nena Stoiljkovic, Under Secretary General for Global Relations, Humanitarian Diplomacy and Digitalization, **IFRC**
7. Mr. Jeff Labovitz, Director, Department of Operations and Emergencies, **IOM**
8. Mr. Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner, **OHCHR**
9. Mr. Gareth Price Jones, Executive Secretary, **SCHR**
10. Ms. Lydia Zigomo, Global Programs Director, **SCHR - Oxfam International**
11. Mr. Justin Byworth, Global Lead - Disaster Management, **SCHR-World Vision**
12. Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Secretary-General Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Response Unit, **UNDP**
13. Mr. Ib Petersen, Deputy Executive Director, **UNFPA**
14. Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, **UNHCR**
15. Mr. Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director for Programme, **UNICEF**
16. Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, **WFP**
17. Dr. Altaf Musani, Director of Health Emergency Interventions, **WHO**

18. Ms. Maria Dimitriadou, Special Representative to the UN and WTO for the Geneva Office, **World Bank**
19. Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, **Deputy Special Representative, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Somalia**
20. Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti, **Deputy Special Representative, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, South Sudan**
21. Ms. Kayoko Gotoh, Director, Europe and Central Asia Division, UN **Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs - Department of Peace Operations**
22. Ms. Mervat Shelbaya, Head, **IASC secretariat**