GCCG Meeting
31 August 2022, 13:00 – 15.00 GVA time

Participant/Global Cluster: Monica Ramos (GWC); Linda Doull (GHC); Mailin Fauchon (GLC); Ron Pouwels (CP AoR); Brent Carbno and Caroline Teyssier (ETC); Bruno Donat and Christelle Loupforest (Mine Action): Francisco Monteiro and Angel Pascual (GSC); Abdul Majid and Marie-Helene Kyprianou (GFSC); Michelle Brown and Thorodd Ommundsen (GEC); Rasha Al-Ardi (GNC); Astrid Haaland (GBV AoR); Dher Hayo and Bruce Spires (CCCM); Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (Chair); Randa Hassan, Darya Sagaydak and Janet Puhalovic (GCCG-S).
Invitees: Tinago Chikoto (OCHA Somalia); Monique Maani (OCHA Iraq); Diana Lynn Browne and Uta Filz (OCHA Geneva); Farhad Movahed (IASC Secretariat); Erik Kastlander (IMWG); Nisar Syed (UNICEF Global Cluster Coordinator Unit).

Summary and action points

Updates and follow-up on action points from previous meetings
1. The Chair welcomed participants and outlined the meeting's agenda. She asked if there were any amendments to the agenda; requests were made to include South Sudan and the coordination mapping as agenda items. The Chair then provided the following updates:
   - Marie-Helene Kyprianou was welcomed as the incoming **Co-coordinator of the FSC**.
   - The process to select the **NGO co-chair** of the group was ongoing. The three consortiums were delayed in nominating a candidate meeting the requirements for this role. When the nomination is submitted, the GCCG will approve the candidate by a majority vote, either electronically or at its next meeting.
   - The **OPAG** will meet on 6 September to discuss the IAHE on Yemen, the IASC Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action (GRG), and reporting on the Gender Accountability Framework Review. The meeting invitation and background materials were shared with the GCCG. A volunteer was requested to attend the OPAG meeting with the GCCG Chair, but no volunteers were forthcoming. The Chair encouraged participants to read the IAHE report given its findings on coordination and its recommendation to "streamline the current cluster coordination system … with a view to reducing clusters and meetings where possible". She also reminded participants that each Global Cluster had a responsibility to contribute to the Gender Accountability Framework reporting process - 8 out of 11 Global Clusters had contributed to the update provided by the GCCG to OPAG.
   - The **HPC Steering Group** will meet on 1 September to continue its discussion on localization, the Global Humanitarian Overview and costing methodologies. The GCCG received the agenda, background documents (including the full costing report) and minutes of the last Steering Group meeting. The Chair outlined the five recommendations included in the costing report and asked for any feedback. GHC reiterated that a single approach to costing does not work for health as indicated during previous reviews /meeting.
   - A **Member States briefing on Pakistan** took plan on 30 August, which focused on the flooding situation and the launching of the Flash Appeal. There is no intention to activate clusters at this point.
   - In terms of GCCG meeting **action points**, most have been completed. The GCCG will receive the action point tracking matrix bi-annually for information. The Chair focused on a handful of action points that required follow-up. She briefed that the GCCG mission report on South Sudan was almost finalized and that the ICCG already has taken action on a draft shared with them earlier; participants would receive the final report and be invited to a dedicated meeting to unpack the key findings and recommendations and to pinpoint post-mission support shortly. GWC and GEC confirmed interest in a meeting on South Sudan. Randa Hassan also briefed on an action point related to transition plans in Honduras and Zimbabwe, noting that no plans were underway in either country. For Honduras, the IASC approved clusters only until December 2022; if they are continued, a formal request from the RC/HC is needed. For Zimbabwe, the RC/HC has expressed reservations with the deactivation of clusters given concerns about a poor harvest, although there has been no HNO or HRP for the last two years. GHC indicated that clusters (and sectors) were not functioning in Zimbabwe and that no data on populations in need or reached was available; she questioned why this context was still considered activated. Clarification also was requested on whether Colombia was undertaking a coordination architecture review; Ms. Hassan committed to providing an update on Colombia at the next meeting.
   - Regarding the GCCG **workplan**, the Chair reminded participants that a donor briefing was tentatively planned for September and if this workstream was to go ahead, it needed a GCCG focal point to lead on the development of key messages and a concept note detailing the donor engagement strategy; no focal point volunteered for this workstream and it would likely not go ahead in 2022. CCCM reconfirmed that it would work with FSC on a one page "menu of operational support options" for HCs, HCTs, ICCGs, clusters and come back to the group with an update. CCCM/IOM was reminded of its commitment to develop a paper on area-based coordination by October and to organize a GCC meeting by November.
   - Participants were invited to provide any **field mission plans**. The following missions were noted: the GBV coordinator was on surge to Somalia; a Shelter roving officer and standby partners were deployed to Somalia; the GEC deputy coordinator was deploying to Somalia in mid-September for one month; and the Child Protection deputy coordinator was deploying to Ukraine in mid-September for two weeks.
   - The Chair welcomed Rasha Al-ardhi, the new **GNC deputy coordinator** for field operational support, and welcomed back Erik Kastlander, the **IMWG Chair**, after a one-year assignment outside of the UN.

Action points
(i) *GCCG-S: Share the action point tracking matrix bi-annually with the GCCG for information.*

(ii) *GCCG-s: Organize a dedicated meeting on post-mission support to South Sudan.*
(iii) *GCCG-S: Follow-up on Zimbabwe transition plans.*
(iv) *GCCG-S: Provide an update on Colombia at the next GCCG meeting.*

Overview of Somalia scale-up

2. The Chair noted that the session focuses on progress following the IASC Principals' decision to activate the humanitarian system-wide Scale-Up protocols in Somalia for 6 months. She thanked participants for their contribution to the mapping of cluster capacity in Somalia and invited Tinago Chikoto, the Deputy Head of OCHA's Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa (on surge to Somalia), to provide an update.

3. Mr. Chikoto noted that the scale of the current drought in Somalia, a culmination of four successive failed rainy season, was unprecedented, with 7.8 million people affected and some 213,000 Somalis facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 5, July-September projections). Humanitarians have stepped-up the response, reorienting activities towards famine prevention and targeting the most vulnerable people in areas of highest need. As of July, 5.3 million people (or 69%) have received some form of assistance across all sectors. Mr. Chikoto noted that the scale-up needed to be further sped up. The focus was on strengthening subnational coordination in five priority areas – *Baidoa, Banadir, Galkayo, Belet Weyne and Kismayo* – and focusing on four main clusters – *food security, health, nutrition and WASH*. The aim was for these four clusters to provide an integrated, multi-sector response, at a minimum, with other sectors complementing the four, particularly protection and GBV. There were significant logistical and security constraints in the five priority areas not allowing a full scale-up of all clusters. Subnational cluster capacity continued to be double- or triple-hatted; this was proving unsustainable as the scale-up has placed increased demand on programme staff, who were no longer able to cover cluster functions. Dedicated subnational cluster capacity, particularly for the four priority clusters, was required; if this was not possible, roving officers and several programme staff needed to be assigned cluster responsibilities in each location to allow adequate coverage of the function while double-hatting. IMO expertise also was missing at subnational levela. If surge was deployed, Mr. Chikoto recommended deployments of at least three months to be of value. In the absence of capacity, an ICCG 'caravan' was used as a roving function at the subnational level but this approach was no longer as effective as coordinators were required *in situ,* and with the caravan, they spend few hours on the ground. The transfer of the logistics cluster from Nairobi to Mogadishu also was noted as critical to the scale-up as "everyone needed to be around the same table". Mr. Chikoto explained that OCHA was currently mapping CLA pipelines of capacity and based on that, Global Clusters would be better able to identify gaps. He noted that while national staff were well qualified and had greater reach and knowledge of the issues, it was important to have an adequate number of international staff to provide support, particularly given some of the challenges faced by national staff. He asked for support on assessing needs and collecting data in hard-to-reach areas using community-based methods or remote methods such as satellite imagery.

4. The Chair then opened the floor for questions and comments, which were as follows:
    *   ETC indicated an activation request for Somalia was likely. A team was in place to assess ETC needs.
    *   GHC planned to surge a senior IMO in mid-September for several weeks and was recruiting other dedicated IMO and national/subnational cluster capacity, including a possible MHPSS focal point. GHC indicated it successfully navigated scale-up hurdles by using standby partners, hiring national staff, and submitting proposals to donors like UK/FCDO and USAID/BHA. GHC underscored that donors wanted to see multi-sector responses and joint strategies of the four priority clusters and CCCM. She believed such a joint proposal was submitted by the HCT to donors for programmatic activities of the four priority clusters; a similar proposal likely was required for cluster capacity of these clusters.
    *   FSC was hiring four additional subnational coordinators, adding to its already strong team led by a P4 coordinator.
    *   CCCM established NGO focal points in areas with no subnational cluster presence to ensure a localized operational footprint, has expanded operations into hard-to-reach districts, and was hiring a roving subnational coordinator. As one of more underfunded clusters, lack of funding was noted as a challenge to ensure long-term presence and access to priority areas.
    *   GWC noted that support requests needed to be directed to the CLAs/Country Offices, given that most Global Clusters have limited resources and that any staff surged would likely deploy for a limited amount of time. Information was requested on what commitments the HCT/CLA made to improve subnational capacity and if there was a comprehensive HCT plan for long-term staffing of the four priority clusters.
    *   GNC reported providing roving support and partnering with national NGOs to ensure coverage at the subnational level.
    *   The IASC Secretariat reported that the Humanitarian Communications Group was working on a statement to be published on 5 September to coincide with the release of the conclusions of the famine review committee.

Action point

(v) *GCCG-S: Follow-up with OCHA Somalia on the mapping of the CLA capacity pipeline, data support needs, and the joint application to donors for capacity of the four priority clusters; on the latter, GCCG support would be appreciated.*

Update on Iraq transition

5. The Chair noted that the GCCG discussed the transition in Iraq at its last two meetings. Given the interest in collectively learning from the transition, and the impossibility of carrying out a mission, other ways of learning need to be considered such as carrying out a survey of national level cluster coordinators, establishing a repository of resources, and undertaking a virtual engagement with the ICCG in the coming months. The Chair welcomed Ms. Monique Maani, Officer-in-Charge of OCHA Iraq, to brief on the latest developments.

6. Ms. Maani opened by underscoring that the transition did not mean that all humanitarian needs were resolved or that suffering has ended. She clarified that it refers to the retraction of the international humanitarian response structures given the evolving context, lack of humanitarian funding (HRP is 32.2% funded) and reduced humanitarian caseload. The HCT has put in place a transition road map which focuses on (i) mobilizing the government to take over the delivery of services; (ii) reducing vulnerabilities through transformational activities; (iii) carrying out a risk analysis; (iv) supporting the evolution of humanitarian coordination; (iv) developing joint strategies regarding IDP camps and informal sites (28 camps); and (v) carrying out technical or sector-specific transitional activities. There will be no HRP in 2023 (in lieu, there will be a 'light strategy' paper) and the Iraq Humanitarian Fund completed its final standard allocation and will remain active until the end of 2023, by which time all projects will have been implemented. As part of the evolution of coordination, UNDP and IOM have established structures at three levels: a Durable Solutions Task Force at the strategic level to ensure high-level discussions with the government; a Durable Solution Technical Working Group (DSTWG) to provide coordination and technical guidance to operational organizations; and eight Area Based Coordination (ABC) Groups to support multi-sector coordination and work with local authorities and displacement affected communities to implement area-based action plans. While the HCT and the Access Working Group will continue in 2023, clusters, the ICCG and all other working groups will cease to function by 31 December 2022. Subnational ICCGs have already merged with general coordination meetings at the governate level and discussions are ongoing with the DSTWG on how the responsibilities will be handed over to ABC groups in 2023. Clusters will hand over as per the table below:

Cluster	CLA	Handover Counterpart
CCCM	UNHCR	DSTWG, UNHCR and IOM, and CCCM partners at governorate level
Early Recovery (called Emergency Livelihoods)	UNDP	DSTWG (sub-group)
Education	UNICEF	Sector coordination forum co-led by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF
ETC	WFP	(phased out Mar 2019)
Food Security	WFP, FAO	DSTWG (agriculture working group)
Health (including Nutrition)	WHO	Ministry of Health
Logistics	WFP	(phased out Nov 2018)
Protection	UNHCR	Protection and Human Rights Platform co-led by UNHCR and OHCHR (ToRs under development). AoRs which will handover coordination functions as follows: Child Protection (government-led sector), GBV (government-led sector, co-led by national NGOs), HLP (DSTWG sub-group on housing) and Mine Action (Directorate of Mine Action).
Shelter/NFI	UNHCR	DSTWG
WASH	UNICEF	Government-led WASH working group, co-chaired by UNICEF

7. The Chair then opened the floor for questions and comments, which were as follows:
   - GWC expressed concern over the lack of an inter-sector group following the dissolution of the ICCG at the end of the year. There was no clarity on how sectors or any new groups would work together. She offered the GCC's support to help figure this out, if needed. (The durable solutions counterparts were in the process of drafting a paper which may address this issue.)
   - CCCM expressed thanks for the presentation and reiterated the importance of learning from the transition process unfolding in Iraq, particularly on the use of ABC groups and in ensuring a localized transition. He underscored the importance of collecting documentation on the transition process to retain institutional memory and to use in other transitioning operations. He asked for clarification on the role of national NGOs and the national NGO forum. He also underscored the importance of an inter-sectoral body to be established following the dissolution of the ICCG at the end of the year.
   - GEC asked for clarification on the refugee response (to be referred to UNHCR).
   - The Chair asked for clarification on how the various thematic and technical strands of the humanitarian architecture will be merged into one group – the DSTWG. She also underscored the importance of learning from the transition in Iraq.

8. In response to the questions, Ms. Maani noted that there will be a change in HC as of 1 October and that the OCHA Country Office will transition to a Humanitarian Advisory Team (HAT) within the Resident Coordinator's Office by July 2023. OCHA was maintaining its presence in order to ensure the proper handover of coordination mechanisms and national/local partnerships, which took years to establish and foster. She clarified that there were aspects of the functioning of the durable solutions structures that were not yet clear, including the merging of a variety of technical areas into one body – the DSTWG. The durable

solutions structures needed more time to solidify their approach to operations, coordination and funding; a paper on these structures was being drafted and it will likely include their interaction with the government and handover arrangements with humanitarian coordination. Ms. Maani further noted that Iraq has experienced national NGOs and a dedicated national NGO forum (NCCI), both of which have engaged actively in the transition. National/local partners have already accepted some responsibilities related to humanitarian activities/caseloads; this has been dependent on donor funding and support from the government. Ms. Maani noted that OCHA continues to monitor developments and actively work to ensure that national NGOs are part of transitional coordination structures.

Action point
(vi) *GCCG-S: Follow-up on progress to solidify the durable solutions coordination structures and establish an inter-sector body following the dissolution of the ICCG.*

Show-and-tell of the GCCG Collaborative Space
9. The GCCG Collaborative Space was developed by OCHA at the request of the group. It is a closed (invitation only) space for GCCs to collaborate, share resources and work on documents together, using sharepoint. Diana Lynn Browne, OCHA IMB, and Janet Puhalovic provided a show-and-tell of the platform – https://unitednations.sharepoint.com/sites/GCCG Participants were encouraged to use it. MA AoR asked for the co-chair ToRs to be added to space.

Action point
(vii) *GCCG-S: Include the co-chair ToRs on the GCCG Collaborative Space.*

AOB
10. On the **terms and definitions** paper, the Chair thanked participants for the comments/edits and noted that to be able to reach consensus, the only possible next step to finalizing the paper was having a dedicated two-hour meeting to go through the suggested changes and agree on a way forward. Two options were presented (i) a special virtual meeting in September or (ii) a dedicated session at the November retreat. Participants voted for option 2.

11. On the **coordination mapping**, Ms. Hassan reported that each Global Cluster received its data for review and that a dedicated meeting would be organized to discuss the findings from the mapping.

12. Regarding the upcoming **November GCCG retreat**, Ms. Puhalovic briefed on the work undertaken by the GCC focal points on cluster transition and deactivation (workplan activity #11) and standards for support to non-cluster activated settings (workplan activity #13) as follows:
   - *Transition*: The workstream was led by GEC, with support from the GCCG-S. A second GCC focal point was requested (GWC volunteered – many thanks!). The group met twice. The plan of action was reported as follows: design a survey to collect learning from cluster coordinators and co-coordinators (questions shared with GCCs on 6 September); collect transition documents via the GCCG Collaborative Space (URL link shared with GCCs for populating by 19 September); possibly carry out a light document review; possibly undertake key informant interviews; consider defining benchmarks/triggers and an indicative timeline for cluster transition and deactivation in a range of contexts; consider developing an exit strategy template; consider developing guidance based on good practice (OPAG request).
   - *Support to non-cluster activated contexts*: The workstream was led by logistics and CCCM, with support from the GCCG-S. The group met once; the next meeting will take place on 13 September. The plan of action was reported as follows: map types of support provided by GCCs to non-cluster activated contexts through a survey (two dimensions will be considered – criteria for support and type of support); based on results from the survey, draft a paper analyzing the different approaches across the GCCs with possible options for the group to consider at its November retreat.

13. GHC requested that the group look further into the Pakistan response and the coordination arrangements in order to capture practice/ learning. This could feed into the GCCG workstream on support to non-cluster activated contexts.

14. GSC announced that the call for expressions of interest for a consultancy to develop its next strategy has been extended until 9 September.

15. GWC invited GCCs to an interactive session which will bring together Shelter and Settlements, WASH and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) specialists to explore the opportunities and challenges of integrated programming. The session will take place on Wednesday, 21 September from 10.00-13.00.

16. The next GCCG meeting will take place on 21 September starting at 13.00. Possible agenda items include: operational updates; ICCG performance review results; coordination mapping results; IMWG update; IASC operational guidance on data responsibility; update on retreat preparations. Given the IM focus of the next meeting, GCCs were encouraged to extend the meeting invitation to their IMOs to join as well.

Action points
(viii) *GCCG-S: Ensure GCCG retreat includes a two-hour session on the terms and definitions paper.*
(ix) *GCCG-S: Organize a dedicated meeting on the coordination mapping.*
(x) *GCCG: Review the Pakistan response and coordination arrangements and capture practice/ learning.*
(xi) *GCCs: Bring along their IMOs to attend the next meeting.*