

GCCG Meeting

12 October 2022, 13:00 – 15.00 GVA time

Participant/Global Cluster: Ross Tomlinson (GWC); Linda Doull (GHC); Nancy Polutan Teulieres (GPC); Mary Jelliti and Mailin Fauchon (GLC); Brett Moore and Pablo Medina (GSC); Abdul Majid and Marie-Helene Kyprianou (GFSC); Michelle Brown and Maria Agnese Giordano (GEC); Stefano Fedele (GNC); Dher Hayo and Wan Sophonpanich (CCCM); Brent Carbo (GETC); Jennifer Chase (AoR GBV); Ron Pouwels (AoR CP); Jim Robinson (AoR HLP); Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (Chair); Randa Hassan, Annarita Marcantonio, Darya Sagaydak (GCCG-S).
Invitees: Kelly David (IAHE), Lewis Sida (IAHE), Farhad Mohaved (EDG Secretariat), Abdul Haq Amiri (OCHA)

Summary and action points

Updates and follow-up on GCCG action points and workplan

1. The Chair welcomed participants and outlined the meeting's agenda. The agenda focused on the GCCG's workplan and operational updates, briefing on transition in Libya, GCCG retreat and briefing of the IAHE evaluation of Yemen. The Chair asked if there were any amendments to the agenda, none were provided. The Chair noted two short AOBs from CCCM and AoR HLP. The Chair then provided the following updates:
 - A candidate for the **NGO co-chair** has been nominated by the three NGO consortia. As a majority of favorable votes was attained (in line with the procedures outlined in the GCCG TOR), the Chair proposed to proceed with confirming the nomination. The Chair noted a suggestion from a number of GCCs to reconsider in a year's time an adaptation of the criteria in the ToR to encourage more local actor nominations.
 - The **HPC Steering Group** meeting had been cancelled and the HPC SG papers on localization and costing were not sent to OPAG due to objections by Group members to some of the content. Both documents will be returned to the HPC Steering Group for further revisions.
 - The Chair thanked CCCM (Dher Hayo) for joining her in the **OPAG meeting**. CCCM briefed on the OPAG meeting, focusing on the GCCG's workplan, and mentioned that the discussion had also focused on how clusters can make further strides on localization and the resourcing challenges faced by local actors as well as how clusters address HDNP issues. Separately, concerns were raised about parallel non-cluster mechanisms that were observed in a number of contexts and the need to ensure oversight and control to avoid a plethora of coordination mechanisms that are outside the cluster system. Other comments included positive remarks on strengthening the link between the GCCG and the EDG. The Chair noted OPAG's interest in the coordination mapping findings which will be presented to OPAG in a separate session. The Chair also indicated to OPAG the GCC's willingness to participate in the Independent Review on coordination which was noted.
 - The **IASC Taskforce (TF) on Localization** will have one seat allocated to the GCCG and asked Clusters to indicate their interest to represent the GCCG on the TF, indicating that this role requires consistency in participation. Similar with the JIAF process, cluster coordinators interested should nominate themselves and a vote will take place to select the GCCG representative should there be more than one nominee.
 - The Chair shared for information that an **inter-agency discussion on localization** PBR indicators with FCDO was taking place (WFP, IOM, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR and OCHA). Cluster specific indicators may be set during this process and clusters may wish to contact their CLA FCDO focal point to ensure they are liaising on this issue.
 - GEC noted that ahead of the **JAG meeting** next Monday, clusters may wish to send in comments or concerns so that the GCCG collective voice can be represented. In particular she highlighted concerns about the recent JIAF simulation exercise: 1) the simulation was missed opportunity for real field testing, 2) technical integrity of process, and 3) partnership; and the inordinate amount of time required of TF members. GEC welcomed questions and common concerns through a separate meeting or through email. The Chair indicated the GCCG Secretariat's support to set up a meeting if required.
 - In terms of GCCG meeting pending **action points**:
 - The GCCG mission report on **South Sudan** mission was completed and has been shared with the GCCG.
 - A field support mission to **oPt** at the request of OCHA-oPt will take place from with participation of OCHA/GCCG-S, GFSC, GWC from 6- 19 November and will focus on strengthening

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- capacity of cluster coordinators in Gaza and West Bank, provide guidance to localization working group, and advise on the overall humanitarian coordination architecture.
- Pending action points from the **GCCG workplan**: Drafting a one-pager on areas of GCCG field support for HCTs, ICCGs and clusters (GCCG-S, GFSC, CCCM), and a paper defining the Area based coordination (CCCM)
- GCCG-S reminded the GCCs to share any **planned field missions**.

Action points

(i) *GCCG-S to follow up on GCC nominations for a seat in the IASC Localization Task Force.*

(ii) *GCC to follow up on criteria for future rotations and promote more ownership by local actors. GEC recommends thinking carefully about how regional organizations might work better.*

Update from the EDG (Farhad Movahed- EDG Secretariat)

2. The recent EDG meeting discussed what further steps can be taken to support each of the four Scale Ups currently in place. In addition, a discussion is taking place on the Scale Up mechanism as a whole with the suggestion of doing a study on how Protocols have been applied and how they can be tweaked and reviewing the role of the Protocols in protracted crises.
3. EDGs will be doing a mission to Yemen from 19-26 November.
4. Small scale EDG missions to the four Scale Ups will be taking place in the next months, especially Somalia and Ethiopia.

Operational Update:

Briefing on transition in Libya – Abdul Haq Amiri/OCHA

5. The Chair invited Mr. Amiri (OCHA HoO a.i.) to brief on the transition in Libya and cluster deactivation.
6. Mr. Amiri noted the development of a transitional plan blueprint from humanitarian to development and HDP nexus according to the UNSDCF collective outcomes including migration and internal displacement. A request was made to extend the durable solutions advisor as part of transition period during the coming year. He also noted the development of a durable solutions strategy for Libya and an action plan.
7. The transition entails a change to the coordination architecture: (a) The HCT will transition to a “Humanitarian- Development-Peace Nexus Advisory Group” led by the RC/HC. ToRs and membership criteria were under development. (b) Deactivation of the clusters via official letter to the EDG chair. These will transition to multi-sectoral results groups under the UN Cooperation Framework. Sectors will remain for emergency preparedness purposes only- there will be no intersectoral coordination architecture going forward. (c) Existing Area Coordination Groups’ ToRs being revised to include development actors and national actors. They will be handed over to the RCO or Authorities at the end of 2023. (d) There will be no HRP in 2023. Any current residual needs will be addressed through the Cooperation framework. (e) Attached to the Transition Plan will be a Contingency plan for Libya and SoPs for emergency response.
8. Mr. Amiri noted the difficulty for clusters and CLAs to hand over responsibilities to the government counterpart, given the limited capacity at the national and local level. Global Clusters were requested to assist field colleagues on timelines for handover of responsibilities to the authorities. The Chair asked if clusters have transition plans and encouraged all GCCs to reach out to their clusters in Libya.
9. GNC reflected on the broader issue of cluster transition and the role of the CLA to lead international support of national sectoral leadership. This responsibility continues after cluster deactivation and beyond the departure of a cluster coordinator. The Chair agreed on the importance of this point and encouraged GNC to raise these issues within the GCCG TF on transition.

Briefing on Somalia Scale Up – Jennifer Chase/GBV AoR

10. The GBV AoR Coordinator briefed on her mission to Somalia noting the need for a greater sense of urgency in the response, in particular to build up subnational hubs. She noted access challenges and the inability to monitor response and aid delivery which was quite concerning in an environment of corruption and extortion. Ms. Chase noted that while meeting schedules was in place, in many instances a variety of coordination meetings did not take place regularly. On the logistical side, challenges remained in terms of

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lodging for missions visiting subnational hubs. The GPC will be organizing a mission to Somalia in the first two weeks of December.

Iraq Deactivation- GCCG Chair

11. The formal process was still ongoing and should be completed by the end of December. There was a recognition (also acknowledged by the OPAG during the recent meetings) of the need to capture lessons learned in the transition process. The GCCG-S will let GCCs know when the formal deactivation takes place. Mr. Mohaved (EDG Secretariat) noted the change in RC/HC leadership in the midst of the deactivation process. CCCM noted the need to discuss the role of clusters in transition processes. The Chair indicated the importance of this question which will be addressed during the retreat by the GCCG Transition Working Group.

Action points

- (iii) *All GCCG members to reach out to clusters in Libya to support on transition planning.*

Update on GCCG retreat preparations

12. The chair provided updates on GCCG retreat in Morges November 24-25. GCCG-s will share draft agenda for GCCG comment. Ms. Marcantonio provided an update on the two GCCG workstreams: transition and non-activated contexts, which will also be covered during the GCCG retreat:
 - (a) On transition, work is taking place with GEC and WASH focusing on transition in Iraq. GCCG-s noted a survey of coordinators and co-coordinators on the transition was being finalized - red line comments can be received by 13 Oct. The survey will be launched the following week. GCCs are requested to share the survey link with cluster colleagues and encourage them to complete the survey.
 - (b) On non-activated contexts: GCCG-S is working with CCCM and GLC to survey GCCs on the criteria used to support and determine the type of support provided to non-activated contexts. The Chair thanked all clusters who are active in these workstreams and noted the importance of advancing on this work.

Action points

- (iv) *GCCG members to share link for Iraq transition survey with field colleagues and to provide any red line comments on non-activated contexts survey by 13 October COB.*

Briefing on the IAHE on the Yemen Crisis

13. The Chair invited Lewis Sida (IAHE) to brief on the IAHE evaluation on Yemen. He presented the overall findings of the evaluation of the 6-year and US\$ 16-billion programme in Yemen.
14. Mr. Sida outlined a number of positive findings: that humanitarian response scaled up impressively, particularly as far as food assistance was concerned and sustaining the healthcare sector. Despite massive scale up and evidence of impact, the quality of humanitarian aid was unacceptably low and an absence of longer-term sustainable approaches.
15. The evaluation is grouped around a set of evaluation questions from IAHE standard ToRs. Needs were responded to broadly but there were concerns around targeting. Protection services and livelihoods have been the worst funded and there was a poor or uneven coverage of IDP sites.
16. Contributing factors to not achieving quality included the lack of funding, challenges due to low human resources and monitoring, and the lack of access and capacity significantly exacerbated by the coronavirus. He presented pictures of IDP camps indicating poor infrastructure.
17. Mr. Sida mentioned that in terms of humanitarian principles, the evaluation found that agencies tried to adhere to them as much as possible, but he noted their inability to act in a coordinated, united way vis-à-vis the authorities in terms of access. Coordination remained difficult between different areas held by the parties to the conflict. The IAHE reflection is that the UN has become a partial substitute of government and noted that basic social infrastructure has been degraded by the conflict. He concluded that the Yemen operation saves lives, is one of largest operations with IASC coordination mechanisms and protection should have been central to humanitarian response.
18. In terms of recommendations, there are two system-wide recommendations on adapting the humanitarian system to deal with protracted crises and on overhauling collective data and analysis approaches and ten for the Yemen operation specifically. Of these, Mr. Sida highlighted four key recommendations the GCCG should take note of: (a) moving away from “numbers reached” as it does not allow leadership to understand if collective outcomes are achieved (b) minimum standards for data quality to improve accuracy (c) cluster streamlining (d) common tools to enhance collaboration.

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19. The Chair opened the floor for questions and clarifications. GEC stated that the briefing was missing contextual constraints and noted the recommendations seem aspirational. GPC noted the funding challenges as well as a lack of clarity on how protection should be mainstreamed in addition to access constraints as challenges to the protection response. Ms. Hassan asked for more details regarding the lack of effective oversight and dealing with access issues, and if there were any recommendations. GWC questioned the contextualization of the report in relation to the reality of funding which had a major impact on programming and noted that there are no funds available to start cholera prevention. GBV AoR asked if there were reflections in terms of the various protection issues covered by the various AoRs.
20. Mr. Sida noted that a 10-minute presentation will not adequately capture all the detail of a 160-page report covering six years of response. In his response to the comments received he stated that many of the recommendations are to UNDSS in relation to the access constraints. Funding constraints and specific contextual issues across the sectors are highlighted in the report, including for Protection, WASH and Education although the report is an evaluation of the various sectors. On accountability, while systems are set up, there is no response to the issues raised. On access belligerent actors try and fragment the humanitarian community, making it difficult for individual agencies to stand up to those actors. At the same time, there are positive avenues that the operation can pursue (e.g. working with local actors). The key point is that Yemen is an example of the humanitarian system being asked to do something it was not designed to do.
21. In response to a question on review of coordination, Mr. Sida stated that one recommendation was a light touch review of the coordination system and where possible to streamline. On AAP, Mr. Sida stated there were mechanisms to capture complaints, but they don't trigger responses which needs to be addressed. A joint EDG mission is being planned to Yemen. OCHA's ASG is currently in Yemen and will brief OPAG upon her return.
22. Kelly David (IAHE) noted the report has specific recommendations which were devised jointly with the HCT and that GCCs can review the management response plan to determine how to support field colleagues on the implementation of recommendations. In addition, a separate note prepared for the EDG on specific areas of support to the Yemen operation can also be shared with the GCCG. Ms. David mentioned IAHE evaluations are being considered for Afghanistan and northern Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Somalia. The EDG has suggested the IAHE considers the four Scale Ups collectively in terms of the effectiveness of the Scale Up mechanism.
23. The Chair thanked Mr. Sida and Ms. David for the presentation and their contributions.

Action points

- (v) *GCCG Chair will follow up with the IMWG Chair Erik Kastlander on data recommendations and with OCHA Yemen on next steps on the light touch review.*

AOB

24. CCCM noted that IOM was doing a review on its function as a CLA. The CCCM Coordinator will be on mission to Pakistan.
25. HLP AoR announced that UN Habitat will join NRC as the co-lead of the HLP AoR and hoped that they can join the GCCG at the November retreat.