**GCCG Meeting**
14 December 2022, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

**Participant/Global Cluster:** Angel Pascual (GSC); Linda Doull (GHC); Dher Hayo and Wan Sophonpanich (CCCM); Brent Carbno (ETC); Michelle Brown and Thorodd Ommundsen (GEC); Monica Ramos (GWC); Celine Maret (GPC); Jennifer Chase (GBV); Abdul Majid and Marie-Helene Kyprianou (FSC); Jim Robinson (HLP); Stefano Fedele and Rasha Al-Ardi (GNC); Christelle Loupforest (MA); Ron Pouwels (CP); Mailin Fauchon (GLC); Mary Pack and Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (Co-Chairs), Annarita Marcantonio, Darya Sagaydak, Janet Puhalovic and Nicole Butler (GCCG-S).
**Invitees:** Bruno Georges Lemarquis (HC DRC); Suzanna Tkalec (D/HC DRC); Carla Martinez and Emmanuelle Osmond (OCHA DRC); Julius Jackson, Eva García Bouzas and Eva Montserrat Serrato Avila (TF4 representatives); Erik Kastlander (IMWG); Farhad Movahed (IASC); Nisar Syed (UNICEF Global Cluster Coordinator Unit).


**Summary and action points**

**Update and follow-up on GCCG action points and workplan**
1.  The Co-Chairs, Ms. Marina Skuric-Prodanovic and Ms. Mary Pack, welcomed participants, encouraged meeting participation in person in 2023, and outlined the meeting's agenda, noting that the DRC item shifted due to the HC's schedule and asking for any amendments to the agenda. GBV AoR suggested two amendments: an update on the transition process in Libya and a read-out from the Somalia HCT meeting. Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic then provided the following updates:
    *   **Action points**: The tracking matrix of action points from GCCG meetings will be moved to the GCCG Collaborative Space. On pending points, the GCCs were asked if they wanted to carry out a virtual engagement with the ICCG in Iraq (responses in the chat indicated 'yes' and GPC reported it would circulate outcomes from its deactivation survey in Iraq). They were informed that the GCCG focal point to the IASC Taskforce (TF) on Localization will be Marie-Helene Kyprianou (FSC), although other GCCs that are already members of the group (e.g. CCCM) will continue to attend in a technical/agency capacity. The follow up on DCO will be moved to the 2023 workplan (to be addressed in February).
    *   **2022 workplan**: Most of the workplan has been completed, with many items covered at the retreat. Incomplete items which will carry over into 2023 include: (i) donor engagement ; (ii) one page menu of operational support options for HC/HCT/ICCG ; and (iii) briefing by the disability reference group.
    *   **IDP review:** ODI was selected with Lewis Sida as team leader. An IASC Deputies meeting will be held at the end of January 2023. A donor meeting took place in the week of 5 December 2022, where the main issued raised was funding (currently, three donors have pledged money: US, Netherlands, Switzerland).
    *   **Operational updates:** The ToRs for the oPt mission were sent via email. The GCC inputs (6) on Somalia cluster scale-up were sent to the field in advance of the HCT retreat taking place on 14 December. On Libya, the transition is ongoing and a letter requesting the deactivation of clusters is being drafted; GCCs were asked to support clusters/sectors on the transition. (GHC noted that there were differences of opinion at the field level regarding the transition, necessitating GCC support, and that learning from Pakistan and Iraq should be considered). On Mozambique**,** the HCT asked clusters to complete CCPMs as soon as possible; GCCs were requested to encourage completion. The ICCG was conducting a performance review at national level and in Cabo Delgado. Clusters were reluctant to transfer capacity to the subnational level, where greater support was required, and there were some cluster-specific issues to be discussed bilaterally. (Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic noted that the GCCG-s would be in touch over the coming weeks).
    *   **Reminders**: Nominations to the HPC Steering Group's Monitoring Working Group are requested by 19 December 2022. Comments on the terms and definitions draft are due by 14 December 2022. The draft EDG paper summarizing the learning from Iraq will be shared by 22 December 2022; two weeks will be given for comments and the paper will be submitted to the EDG by mid-January 2023. GCCs were reminded to update the group on an individual missions (Note: CCCM to Ukraine in January; GPC to Somalia in February).

2.  The floor was opened for questions. CCCM/UNHCR underscored the importance of designated focal points to various IASC bodies to reflect the views of the GCCG when in this role and not of their CLA; Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic underscored the importance of consulting and representing the group and noted that if other GCCs also were present at these meetings on behalf of their CLA, they should consider putting the agency hat to the side and representing the GCCG perspective as appropriate. CCCM/IOM indicated that she sent detailed information on the IDP review via email.

**Next steps to develop practical guidance on the nexus for clusters**
3.  Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic noted a previous request by *IASC Taskforce 4 on Humanitarian Development Collaboration and its Linkages to Peace* to comments on the concept and approach to develop practical guidance on the nexus for clusters. The goal was to identify ways of working and opportunities to support and advance humanitarian-development-peace collaboration with practitioners at country level. Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic introduced Ms. Eva García and Mr. Julius Jackson, members of IASC Taskforce 4 and focal points of the initiative to develop the guidance, and invited them to provide a brief presentation.
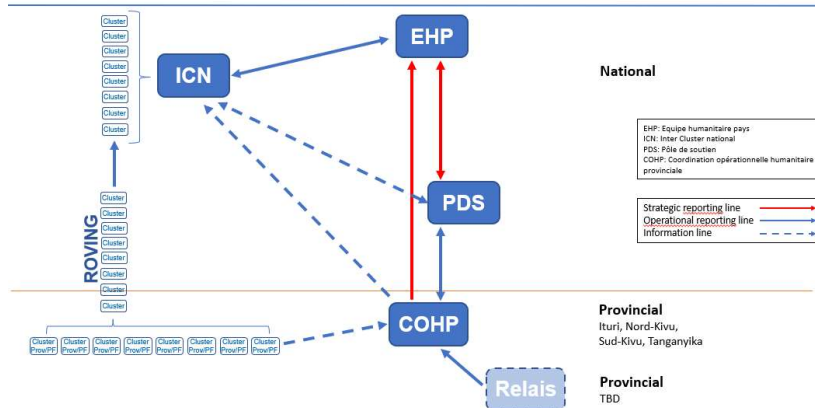
4. The Taskforce 4 representatives outlined that the Advisory Note for Clusters will be endorsed by OPAG and is meant to guide GCCs in the development of their own cluster-specific guidance on the nexus (so far, three clusters have their own guidance - protection, health, food security). This is being done to fill a gap to guide clusters on how to engage on the nexus; as an example, the 2022 HNOs had no references to collective outcomes and only limited references to the nexus. The first step in this process was to identify entry points to apply the nexus approach in cluster's country-level planning, programming and response processes. The annotated outline of the Advisory Note was already shared with the GCCG for comments; any additional comments should be provided by the end of 2022. The Taskforce would revise the outline after receiving feedback with the aim of providing the GCCG with the full guidance for comment by 13 February and the final guidance for OPAG endorsement and publication by April 2023. The goal of the guidance is to be a day-to-day checklist to be used by clusters to identify how to contribute to collective outcomes and joint programming with development and peace actors. GCCs were encouraged to contribute to the exercise with advice on entry points, illustrative examples of good practice, etc. The Taskforce 4 representatives also indicated that bilateral meetings with individual GCCs was possible.

5. Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic opened the floor for comments. Mr. Nisar Syed referred to a CLARE II finding regarding the lack of uniformity in CLA application of the Grand Bargain commitments on the nexus; he noted that UNICEF was in the process of developing guidelines to ensure a uniform approach. He also asked whether one guidance note could be prepared for all clusters to ensure a common approach or whether cluster-specific guidance was indeed intended. The Taskforce 4 representatives confirmed that the Advisory Note is intended to guide GCCs in the development of individual cluster-specific guidance. WASH and CCCM reported on their steps to develop cluster-specific guidelines on the nexus.

**Action point**
i. *GCCs:* Provide inputs on the annotated outline of the Advisory Note and/or any other suggestions on the way forward to Taskforce 4 by the end of year.


**Briefing on DRC**
6. Ms. Pack introduced the agenda item on DRC and welcomed Mr. Bruno Lemarquis (HC), Ms. Suzanna Tkalec (Deputy HC), Ms. Carla Martinez (OCHA Head of Office) and Ms. Emmanuelle Osmond (OCHA Deputy Head of Office). She noted that there was a keen interest among GCCs in receiving a briefing on coordination in DRC and then handed the floor to Mr. Lemarquis.

7. Mr. Lemarquis noted that the briefing on DRC would focus on (i) the current humanitarian coordination architecture and (ii) proposed changes to strengthen coordination in 2023. He handed the floor to Ms. Tkalec, who spoke on the first point.

8. Ms. Tkalec outlined the current decentralized coordination model, which has been in place in DRC since March 2022 and is based on a recommendation of the September 2021 P2P mission. The new structure aims to allow for faster and more effective humanitarian response in this large and complex operation; include provincial representation in coordination; and bring the structures closer to affected people. The image on the next page depicts the new structure which has an HCT (in French, EHP); a *Support Hub* (PDS), a new strategic and operational coordination mechanism based in Goma and chaired by the D/HC; four *Provincial Humanitarian Operational Coordination Mechanisms* (COHP) in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika; *Humanitarian Relays*, a one-person mechanism of information gathering and monitoring, now temporarily active in Kananga (Kasai) and Kindu (Maniema); an ICCG (ICN); and clusters. This new approach has placed the provinces in the centre of coordination and lightened the previous set-up. A national roving cluster system was supposed to be put in place to support subnational focal points but a lack of funding has prevented its implementation; alternatives are being considered. A review of the new architecture is underway and the feedback so far has been quite positive; the final stocktaking will take place in January. However, certain challenges persist, especially in ensuring sufficient capacity across such a large operation, which is financially strapped. Ms. Tkalec closed by noting that national clusters do not provide subnational (provincial) clusters with sufficient support, even when there is a new crisis; she cited an example that the first national cluster coordinator to conduct a support mission to North Kivu in response to the M23 crisis took place five months after the crisis started. She asked for GCCG support to improve cluster coordinator capacity and performance through remote or in country support and to ensure the hiring of the right candidates for this coordination function.

9. Mr. Lemarquis added that cluster capacity at the provincial level was a considerable weakness, noting that all clusters (except for food security) currently are double-hatted which leaves little time for the cluster function. He asked for GCCs support in this regard. He also added that the logistics cluster need to be bolstered as it is a critical mechanism for partners in the complex operating environment of DRC and will be even more needed following the transition and potential withdrawal of MONUSCO.

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10. Mr. Lemarquis then moved to the second focus of the briefing: the transition from a cluster to a hybrid sector-cluster model, with sectors led by the national authorities. He underscored that national authority ownership was lacking but that the humanitarian community was also responsible for the deficit, citing that many humanitarian and development coordination structures often run parallel to national ones and undermine them (e.g. 26 thematic groups are under the Donor-Partner Group). Discussions have already taken place with the HCT and OCHA about connecting more purposively to national structures and building national/provincial authority capacity. Focus also needed to be placed on progressing on the nexus, including promoting solutions to structural problems, which was his top priority. Mr. Lemarquis recognized that the two criteria for deactivating clusters have not been met; the first step in the transition will be to strengthen the national authority's role in sectoral coordination. A few key sectors deemed "non-sensitive" and already working closely with national authorities have been identified to initiate this transition: food security, nutrition, health, water, hygiene and sanitation, and education; more sensitive clusters (such as protection and CCCM) will remain as clusters. Mr. Lemarquis asked for guidance from the GCCs on examples of positive hybrid coordination models and for their continued support to coordination mechanisms in DRC during and after the transition, including to sectors.

11. Ms. Pack opened the floor for questions and comments. GCCs expressed thanks for the briefing. They were quite receptive to the proposed changes, while also noting more detailed information was needed for them to provide an informed opinion and to fully understand what was being proposed and the chances of success. Generally, GCCs did not know of any similar hybrid coordination models that were successful and cautioned about following a similar approach to the one used in Iraq, suggesting that Iraq was not an example to follow. They also noted that DRC is such a specific context that finding an exact comparison would be difficult. Nevertheless, GCCs offered to provide support in a variety of ways, including documenting practice from other complex contexts like Syria, drafting guidance, reviewing transition plans, supporting analysis to underpin decision-making, capturing the process for knowledge management and replication in other contexts, and carrying out a support mission to DRC. They asked to be included in discussions on this issue in 2023 so that they can provide remote support and guidance from the start of the process.

12. GCCs confirmed that CLAs and Global Clusters generally do provide government-led sectors with capacity, technical support and/or guidance, as resources and capacity allow. They also noted challenges in resourcing clusters, particularly hiring the right people and finding funding for coordination. CCCM elaborated on its plans to ensure sufficient capacity of the cluster; GLC noted that it would bilaterally follow up and look into concerns regarding the cluster's functioning. MA AoR raised the many lessons learned from trying to transition and handover to the national authorities in DRC since 2016; she noted two issues to consider when trying to shift to nationally led coordination: (i) lack of resources and prioritization of humanitarian action by the national authorities; and (ii) donor concerns about corruption.

13. Mr. Lemarquis and Ms. Tkalec thanked the GCCs for the information and offers of support. Ms. Tkalec welcomed a support mission by the GCCG. They agreed with the need to document the change process, establishing indicators/criteria to measure improvements and follow due process. They confirmed that they will reconnect with the GCCG once a more definitive plan is developed in 2023. Mr. Lemarquis agreed with the concerns of corruption but believed it was worth taking a risk to build trusting partnership and invest in national capacities; the alternative was to continue to have a parallel coordination set-up which so far left and will leave 'nothing behind'. On funding challenges, Mr. Lemarquis questioned if there are any creative ways to build capacity in the provinces and explained that while there is a CBPF, donors did not want it to be used to fund coordination. Ms. Tkalec remarked that DRC also is a resource-rich country and there may be opportunities to find ways to resource coordination. They both welcomed further collaboration with the GCCG.

**Action points**

ii.   *DRC:* Continue to engage GCCG on transition plans and provide any documentation when available.

iii.  *GCC*: Carry out a support mission to DRC in 2023. Engage with cluster coordinators to strengthen their responsiveness and performance to subnational level support needs. Consider how to strengthen subnational cluster capacity, including by advocating internally with the CLA.

iv.   *Logistics:* Follow-up on capacity concerns raised at briefing.


**GCCG retreat follow-up**

14.  Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic provided an update on the November GCCG retreat, including the development of the 2023 workplan and engagement with the EDG. She thanked the GCCs for their responses to the retreat evaluation which were large very positive and said that suggestions for improvements will be considered when planning the 2023 retreat. The evaluation report was shared with participants. Regarding engagement with the EDG, the presentation and email from Gareth Price was shared with the GCCG; the GCCG's note to the ERC on the cluster approach was shared with the EDG. On the draft 2023 workplan, GCCG engagement is needed for its finalization – comments are due by 28 December.  Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic encouraged further prioritization of both focus areas and activities (particularly for non-activated settings, transition and location); the assignment or distribution of focal points across all focus areas; and, the inclusion of timeframes and deadlines for all activities.  She questioned the practicality of revising the Cluster Coordination Reference Module (CCRM) before the IASC IDP review was completed and without a dedicated project manager to oversee this work (note: OCHA was unable to provide capacity at this time). Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic cautioned that even slight technical changes will begin the process of revisions which could be contentious and time-consuming.

15.  The floor was opened for comments. On the CCRM, GCCs had different views on the extent of changes required.  Some suggested changing only the hyperlinks and any other quick fixes, while others believed bigger changes were needed.  There was also a trade-off between investing in a technical revision of the CCRM versus GCC strategic engagement in the HPC reform, which would impact country level clusters significantly. It was agreed that as a first step the focal points leading this work would first compile a list of suggested changes mid-January and the GCCG would then review/discuss again; the language in the workplan on this activity will also be re-reviewed.  CCCM/UNHCR suggested that the workplan focus on the IASC IDP review, outlining the GCCG's specific contribution.

**Action points**

v.   *GCCs*: Focal points for the workstream on the CCRM revision to first compile a list of suggested changes in mid-January and submit to the GCCG for further discussion; the language in the workplan on this activity to be re-reviewed.

**CCPM application and synchronization of timelines in 2023**

16.  Ms. Pack outlined that as per the 2022 workplan, GCCs were to reach agreement to apply CCPM as mandatory across all clusters and to synchronize timelines to the extent possible; this has not yet been achieved.  She suggested that all CCPMs be completed by the third quarter of the year to feed into ICCG performance review and that the GCCG-S carry out a new mapping of CCPM application/timelines across Global Clusters. The floor was then opened for comments.

17.  GCCs reported different timelines for CCPM application. UNICEF-led clusters launched the process in September/October to feed the annual reporting cycle by 1 January 2023. Shelter reported their CCPMs were completed in the first quarter of the year (covering the previous year), covering the entire HPC cycle period and a single calendar year.  GCCs generally agreed to mapping CCPM approaches/timelines to see if synchronization is possible.

**Action point**

vi.   *GCCG-S*: Map CCPM approaches/timelines for all Global Clusters and submit to GCCG for discussion.

**AOB**

18.  Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic announced that a meeting on planning the next annual coordination mapping would take place on 16 December 2022 from 9:00-10:30 GVA and the next regular GCCG meeting would take place on 25 January 2023 from 14:00 – 16:00 GVA (late time slot due to oPt mission). The 2023 GCCG meeting schedule will be sent via email.

19.  GWC provided an update on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). She encouraged greater participation by the Global Clusters in the work of this important group.

20.  Mr. Erik Kastlander (IMWG) briefed the GCCs on the migration of HR.info to Reliefweb due to the retirement of the original HR.info software.  The new platform was launched 1 November 2022 and the migration of the

content to be completed by May 2023. Country clusters are no longer able to directly upload to the platform; instead they have to send a request to submit@reliefweb.int.  Reliefweb will continue to provide contact lists, the same login method, the same content manager process.  Mr. Kastlander encouraged anyone with remaining questions to contact Mary Keller at info@humanitarianresponse.info or browse the following materials:

- All communications materials can be found here : https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/about
- Migration Package : https://go.reliefweb.int/3zzyTmX
- Newsletter Update : http://eepurl.com/gcUFjn
- Schedule of Migrations : https://go.reliefweb.int/3uF8663