Participant/Global Cluster: Angel Pascual and Ela Serdaroglu (GSC); Linda Doull and Emma Fitzpatrick (GHC); Dher Al-Hayo and Wan Sophonpanich (CCCM), Samuel Cheung and Celine Maret (GPC); Brent Carbno (ETC); Michelle Brown, Maria Agnes Giordano and Thorodd Ommundsen (GEC); Marie-Helene Kyprianou (GFC); Monica Ramos (GWC); Stefano Fedele and Briony Stevens (GNC); Jennifer Chase (GBV); Roberto Paganini (ER); Ron Pouwels (CP); Mailin Fauchon and Carlotta Negri (GLC); Bruno Donat and Hannah Holloway (MA); Mary Pack and Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (Co-Chairs), Annarita Marcantonio, Randa Hassan, Mari Sawai and Nicole Butler (GCCG-s).
Invitees: Sebastian Rhodes-Stampa and Florent Mehaule (OCHA); Leila Oliveira and Elena Imberti (PMU).

Summary and action points

Welcome and agenda overview
1. The Co-Chairs, Ms. Marina Skuric-Prodanovic and Ms. Mary Pack, welcomed participants and provided a brief overview of the agenda. Changes to the agenda item Operational Updates were noted: Afghanistan would no longer be discussed at this meeting due to unavailability of the presenter. GWC requested a discussion on the OCHA Strategic Plan. No other changes to the agenda were brought forward.

Update on the ERC's Flagship Initiative
2. Ms. Pack introduced the agenda item on the USG's Flagship Initiative and welcomed Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief of the Policy Development and Studies Branch of OCHA. She invited him to provide a brief presentation on the initiative and its objectives.

3. Mr. Strohmeyer presented an overview on the three-year (2023 to 2026) Flagship Initiative which was initiated by the ERC in order to explore how to ensure humanitarian response is driven by the priorities of affected people, uses their capacities and leadership, and focuses on solutions. The RC/HCs will drive the Initiative and are fully empowered to develop and test modalities through innovative coordination solutions to fulfill needs in the field. Four pilot countries have been selected: Philippines, Niger, South Sudan and Colombia. No existing humanitarian coordination models or humanitarian programme cycle processes need to be applied. However, adherence to humanitarian principles, international law, and other standards will be upheld. Emphasis will be placed on monitoring, evaluation and learning to support an iterative process of continual adaptation and improvement. This process will include feedback loops at three levels: (i) in each pilot country-context, (ii) among the four pilot countries, and (iii) across the broader humanitarian community.

4. The floor was opened for questions:
    *   Ms. Mary Pack asked for information regarding the Initiative's timeline and how predictability and accountability would be ensured in any new coordination approach, which was cited as a key concern of NGOs. Mr. Strohmeyer noted that a tentative launch of the four pilot countries by HCs was set for 8 March. Accountability and predictability would be considered in each context, and there is no intention to discard these.
    *   GNC voiced concern over the possibility that decisions are taken by the RC/HCs without proper consultations nor sound technical advice from CLAs, whilst at the same time ensuring that the process under the Flagship does not place additional pressures on HC/RCs. Mr. Strohmeyer reconfirmed that this would be a field-driven process and the RC/HC was empowered to develop context-specific strategies on the ground.
    *   CCCM suggested that the GCCs play an active, positive, and constructive role in the Initiative, cognizant of the larger community they represent. He referred to the existence of good practices and lessons learned which are underused, and cautioned against duplicating efforts. Mr. Strohmeyer welcomed receiving feedback on good practices and lessons learned to be used by field teams to inform future strategies.
    *   GFSC inquired to what extent CLAs and host government had been involved in the process, and Ms. Marina Skuric-Prodanovic asked if there was specific advice for Global Clusters on how they should proceed with providing support in the pilot countries. Mr. Strohmeyer stated that the process prioritized open conversations with all partners involved on the ground. Global Cluster involvement would be based on country-specific contexts and guidance documents could be shared with GCCs.

5. GWC addressed the additional agenda item regarding OCHA's Strategic Plan and reiterated that GCCs were not consulted during the process. Mr. Strohmeyer clarified that the Plan did not suggest specific actions by clusters, and steps were taken to contact those deemed necessary during the consultation phase. He noted that feedback on the Plan's implementation could continue to be provided in the coming years.

6. Ms. Pack invited Mr. Strohmeyer to GCCG meetings (May or June) after guidance is issued to continue the discussion on the Initiative.

Action points

i.   *GCCs: Provide feedback on the OCHA Strategic Plan if interested.*
ii. *GCCG-s: Invite Mr. Strohmeyer to future GCCG meeting in May/June 2023.*

Operational Updates

7. Mr. Sebastian Rhodes-Stampa (OCHA), who has been deployed to RCO in Ankara to support with humanitarian coordination, briefed on the earthquake response in Türkiye/Syria and coordination arrangements in Türkiye. He noted that negotiations on the Flash Appeal with the Government were ongoing. The final draft of the Flash Appeal is to be ready shortly. The death toll has surpassed 40,000. The search and rescue phase is ending, with teams in the process of demobilizing. There is still a 54-person team working in the affected areas, and UNDAC teams are working with their counterparts from the country office to try to meet the increasing needs displaced in open weather conditions. Issues have been encountered with the government on the use of language. A draft coordination model is being proposed for consideration. Mr. Rhodes-Stampa encouraged Global Clusters to get the message to their national counterparts that a full operational picture would soon be established. He noted that the high amount set out in the Flash Appeal over a short timeframe would put significant pressure on humanitarian actors to deliver.

8. The floor was open for questions. ETC asked whether it would be part of the coordination structure, and this was confirmed by Mr. Rhodes-Stampa. GSC asked for clarification regarding the email sent from USG Martin Griffith, in which he said that the response would build on existing coordination structures. Mr. Rhodes-Stampa clarified that the coordination model under the RRRP would not be well-suited to the new responses due to its focus on refugees, and this issue will be addressed with the USG. GWC enquired when clarity would come regarding putting in resources for cluster coordination on the Türkiye side. It was clarified that this would need to wait until the approval/launch of the Flash Appeal. GFSC noted that both FAO and WFP are leading the cluster, in response to which Mr. Rhodes-Stampa noted that follow up with FAO would be made accordingly.

9. OCHA (Mr. Florent Mehaule) noted that the response on the Syria side continued to scale up, and work was being done with Gaziantep-based colleagues to facilitate transshipments through three crossing points: Bab-al-Hawa, Bab-al-Salam and Al Rai. In northwest Syria, humanitarian needs are extremely high and local communities remained frustrated about the lack of support provided by the international community. Technical missions will be organized in coming weeks as a follow-up to a high-level mission that has just taken place.

10. GCCG-s gave an update on support to Haiti. Discussions were ongoing with colleagues in Haiti regarding a remote workshop on strengthening the sectors and possible in-person missions. A call is being organized on 16 February with the clusters from whom support has been requested: Protection, CCCM, GBV, GNC, GHC and GWC. The two-day workshop is expected to cover the basics of coordination. GCCG-s would contact GCCs who had expressed an interest in supporting the workshop to develop an agenda. GBV AoR asked whether the workshop would be online, which was confirmed by GCCG-s. CP AoR enquired whether a follow-up mission was being requested given that its field support coordinator had just wrapped up a two-week mission in Haiti. GCCG-s responded that this would be clarified in the call scheduled for 16 February.

11. On Somalia, CP AoR noted that a joint mission with GNC that took place to Mogadishu between 15 to 19 January, met with inter-coordination group and OCHA team in Baidoa. There was an impression that the coordination system was not working effectively, with issues around sub-national capacity in coordination, cash and voucher assistance coordination, gaps in linkages between the HCT and the ICCG. It was proposed to follow up this discussion during oPt briefing on 27 February at 16:00.

Action point

iii. *GCCG-s: GCCG-s to contact GCCs who had expressed an interest in the remote workshop in Haiti to jointly develop an agenda.*
iv.   *GCCG-s, CP AoR: Add discussion item on Somalia to oPt briefing scheduled on 27 February.*

Updates and follow-up on GCCG action points

12. Terms and definitions paper – further comments have been received. As next steps, GCCG-s presented three options: (i) keep it as a GCCG document, (ii) send to OPAG for endorsement, 3) send to OPAG as information/annex for acknowledgement. GCCG-s clarified that the paper is intended to provide clarity to the field on certain definitions such as co-leadership, co-coordinator. GHC suggested that for the paper to go to the field,
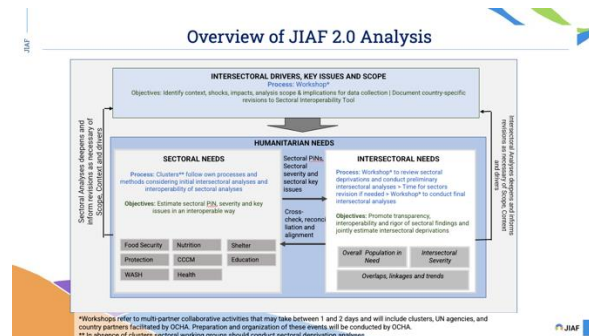
it had to go through OPAG. It was agreed to go with option (iii). For the Iraq paper further comments have been and are still being received, and an updated version would be shared soon. A finalized GCCG Workplan 2023 was shared with the GCCG on 14 February. The Co-Chair (Ms. Marina Skuric-Prodanovic) and Ms. Jennifer Chase (GBV AoR) attended the OPAG meeting on localization on 14 February on behalf of the GCCG. The meeting covered multiple aspects of localisation. One of the key conclusions was that overall, much more work was needed to strengthen implementation of localization at the field level.

Action points
   v. *GCCG-s: The terms and definitions paper to be shared with OPAG as information/annex for acknowledgement.*

Briefing on the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) 2.0
13. Ms. Pack introduced the agenda item on the briefing on the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) 2.0, the result of two years of interagency work on joint humanitarian needs analysis under the JIAF Project Management Unit (PMU). Ms. Leila Oliveira was invited to present on the updated methodology, its implications and expectations from global clusters and next steps.

14. Ms. Oliveira presented the JIAF which was developed to provide a robust, transparent, replicable, scalable, comparable methodology for humanitarian needs analysis, bringing together sectoral and intersectoral analyses. The methodology is intended to be simple, with applicability to different contexts. Analyses are conducted by the partnership, considering the complexity and interlinkages of systems, with processes that build on and enhance existing structures. Regarding capacity building, transitioning from JIAF 1.1 to 2.0 will change some practices around the timing and nature of HNO workshops, methods for estimating PiN and severity of needs. The new methods will entail a greater dependence on the sectors to provide stronger and more harmonized needs analysis to build the HNO. As part of the development of JIAF 2.0, GCCG membership in the Methodology Working Group have developed tools and methods to improve the interoperability of sectoral needs analysis, but OCHA's intercluster coordination role will be particularly important to ensure this is happening in-country early in the HNO and collective results are achieved. A visual overview of the JIAF 2.0 Analysis was provided in the presentation, as seen below.

15. Ms. Oliveira reiterated the commitment made by the global clusters to support JIAF by producing robust, transparent, and interoperable sectoral needs analysis and engaging in intersectoral analysis. JIAF supports these commitments by producing the sector interoperability tool, developing a digital analysis platform, and supporting clusters to pledge funding as needed. She then provided insight into what this Framework means for GCCs, outlining three key asks of the GCCG:
   • Ensure that relevant country cluster teams are adequately staffed with a cluster coordinator and an IMO (or supported with surge capacity), willing and responsible to participate in JIAF processes including trainings and workshops, capacitated in sectoral processes and methods including the use of the sectoral interoperability tool, and share sectoral analyses methods, outputs, and key evidence.
   • Ensure that global cluster teams are trained as trainers to support capacity development strategy, provide surge capacity to facilitate joining and intersectoral country processes, and participate in global methodology working group activities.
   • Liaise with the PMU to identify needs/opportunities/modalities for raising funds to enhance joint sectoral and intersectoral analyses.

16. The representatives of the GCCs in the JIAF Advisory Group (JAG) were invited to provide comments. Mr. Abdul Majid expressed content with the outcome of the Framework, applauding its accountability, transparency, and inclusivity. The floor was open for questions, none were provided.

Action point

vi.   *GCCs: Provide support to the JIAF 2.0 process through the three key asks outlined in the presentation.*

CCPM application and synchronization of timelines in 2023

17. Ms. Pack introduced the agenda item on CCPM application and synchronization of timelines in 2023. Ms. Randa Hassan (GCCG-s) was invited to present the results from the mapping of CCPM application and next steps for synchronization of timelines.

18. Ms. Hassan thanked GCCs for their input in the survey. The results showed that most clusters implemented CCPM yearly as a mandatory exercise in the first or fourth quarter, with certain cluster-specific exceptions. Ms. Hassan reiterated that the 2014 CCPM Guidance Note clearly states CCPM is a mandatory annual exercise. Two key action points were identified from the survey results: (i) develop an understanding of why CCPM is not being implemented as mandatory by all global clusters and how to resolve this, (ii) align timelines globally to Q1 annually to cover the previous year cycle. The floor was open for discussion.

19. GHC noted that her understanding is that the exercise was mandatory, and there was a resounding agreement amongst other global clusters. GBV AoR explained that with regard to Protection, a mandatory application of the CCPM has become complicated and would follow up bilaterally on this issue.

20. The GCCG-s ran a virtual poll to align timelines globally to Q1 annually, covering the previous year cycle. Based on the results and discussion, a tentative agreement was reached on CCPM being completed by Q1 for the previous calendar year. The caveat agreed was that the exercise could be completed before Q1 when it was best suited to the field context. GCCG-s would confirm this agreement with those absent from the meeting, who had indicated that their timeline could not be Q1. Upon confirmation from those, GCCG-s would share a final note to GCCs on the synchronization of timeline on CCPM application.

Action point

vii.   *GCCG-s: Consult clusters/AoRs who were not in attendance to confirm synchronization timeline is achievable, followed by a final confirmation to all GCCs on agreed synchronization.*

AOB

21. Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic noted that the next GCCG meeting would be on 22 March from 14:00 to 16:00. Proposed agenda items include (i) operational updates, (ii) update on coordination mapping, (iii) briefing on mission to Somalia, (iv) Disability Reference Group, (v) briefing by GPC on follow up after Protection Review.