

GCCG Meeting

22 March 2023, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

Participant/Global Cluster: Brett Moore (GSC); Celine Maret (GPC); Stefano Fedele and Briony Stevens (GNC); Linda Doull (GHC); Thorodd Ommundsen (GEC); Brent Carbo (ETC); Ron Pouwels (CP); Dher Al-Hayo (CCCM); Bruno Donat, Hannah Holloway and Yoshiyuki Shiomi (MA); Jennifer Chase (GBV); Erik Kastlander (IMWG); Jim Robinson (HLP); Abdul Majid and Marie-Helene Kyprianou (FSC); Mary Pack and Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (Co-Chairs), Annarita Marcantonio, Randa Hassan, Mari Sawai and Nicole Butler (GCCG-S).

Invitees: Sebastian Rhodes-Stampa and Uta Filz (OCHA); Kirstin Lange, Christian Modino Hok, Isabelle de Muysen (Reference Group on Inclusion of PWDs).

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. No proposed changes to the agenda were brought forward and the agenda was adopted.

Updates and follow-up on GCCG action points

2. Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic provided an update on recent IASC meetings, pending action points from previous GCCG meetings, and progress on the GCCG Workplan. A face-to-face OPAG meeting will be held on 23 March, and the GCCG will be represented by Ms. Skuric, Mr. Bruno Donat and Mr. Dher Al-Hayo. A bi-annual report to OPAG is due by 6 April, and GCCG-s will share a draft with the GCCG for review prior to the deadline. The final terms and definitions paper will be attached to the reporting to OPAG, for information. The EDG held its Annual Review of Operations on 28 February. Ms. Skuric thanked the GCCs who had attended and contributed to the EDG-GCCG meeting on 2 March which presented a valuable opportunity for engagement on more strategic issues and hopefully will be replicated on a regular basis – once or twice a year. The revised recommendations and an action plan will be shared with the GCCG prior to sharing with the EDG.
3. On pending action points, GCCs were encouraged to share tools and initiatives on assessing the capacities of local partners through a new folder established on the GCCG Collaborative Space. The GCCG-s briefed on its follow up with the OCHA DRC Office according to which there were no indications at present on the timeline for a possible GCCG mission to DRC. With regard to the synchronization of CCPM timeline, a draft email will be shared with the GCCs to in turn communicate the agreement to their respective clusters in the field. With regard to workplan updates, progress was ongoing under 6.1 *Localization* and it was suggested to align this with those being undertaken by the IASC Task Force on Localization. GCCs were also asked to share plans of upcoming missions. The following updates and reminders were communicated to the group: 1. a final draft of the *Advisory Note on Advancing the HNP Nexus Approach through IASC Global Clusters* will be shared with GCCG before 29 March for red-line comments (two weeks); 2. an ad hoc GCCG session on JIAF pilots in Somalia and Colombia will be held on 31 March; 3. Ms. Jennifer Chase (GBV AoR) announced that representatives from two local women-led organizations were visiting Geneva and were available for in-person meetings: Gloria Soma from Titi Foundation, co-chair of Task Force 5, and Fatima Iman from a women-led organization from Nigeria. Finally, with regard to the GCCG half-day retreat in June, the Chair asked for support from GCCs in identifying a venue that could accommodate 30 to 40 persons. Mr. Dher Hayo offered to explore venue options at UNHCR. Upon further consultation on the dates, it was decided the retreat would be held on either 26 or 27 June.

Action points

- i. *GCCG-s: Organize an ad hoc GCCG meeting on JIAF pilots in Somalia and Colombia on 31 March.*
- ii. *GCCG-s: Share tools and initiatives on assessing the capacities of local partners through a new folder established on the GCCG Collaborative Space.*
- iii. *GCCG-s/GCCs: Complete bi-annual report to OPAG by 6 April.*
- iv. *GCCs: Provide redline comments on the final draft of the Advisory Note on Advancing the HNP Nexus Approach through IASC Global Clusters.*

Operational Updates

4. **Türkiye:** Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic welcomed Mr. Sebastian Rhodes-Stampa to provide an update on the earthquake response in Türkiye. Six weeks into the response, the response has picked up its pace and the Flash Appeal was now 19 per cent funded. In some areas it was evident the needs of affected populations (total 5.2 million people targeted) were still not being met. Transition plans will focus continuing the response to meet the needs on the ground. Coordination models going forward require attention, given that funding will continue to flow beyond the end of the Flash Appeal. Mr. Rhodes-Stampa reiterated the importance of filling coordination capacity at the hub level given unmet needs across large areas of coverage. Questions remained around what

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the government response would look like after the Flash Appeal, and how much operating space humanitarian organizations would have.

5. **Syria:** Ms. Skuric-Prodanovic welcomed Ms. Uta Filz to provide further updates on Syria and the Flash Appeal. Ms. Filz shared the status of the two planning frameworks for Syria: i) Flash Appeal (USD 400 million request) is approximately 80 per cent funded and will end in May; and ii) 2023 HRP (\$4.8 billion request) is 5 per cent funded. Ahead of the Donor Conference in Brussels on 20 March, Syria earthquake needs and response overview was published. This document outlines the needs, response and gaps of the earthquake response in Syria under the Flash Appeal, based on a needs assessment conducted to date. Ms. Filz clarified that this document is not an update of the Flash Appeal. The HRP will incorporate the early recovery and remaining needs under the Flash Appeal at some point this year.
6. The floor was opened for questions. GSC inquired the extent to which cluster support would be needed at the hub-level; Mr. Rhodes-Stampa informed that this was still to be seen. There was a question on how the outcome of the Donor Conference would link to the recovery strategy and what would fall under the Flash Appeal. Ms. Filz responded that the overall breakdown of the USD 7 billion pledge to Syria response and how much would go to different appeals was still unclear. GFSC asked how the requests from the Government were being met. Mr. Rhodes-Stampa clarified that the requests which matched the humanitarian needs and priorities were being met primarily through the support of Germany.
7. **Haiti:** GCCG-s (Ms. Annarita Marcantonio) provided an update on the different training sessions that were provided to the clusters in Haiti on 9 and 10 March, which received positive feedback thanks to the facilitators from CCCM, GHC, GWC and GCCG-s. A key takeaway was the lack of government participation in intersectoral group meetings, chaired by OCHA, while the government claims full responsibility over the coordination of the response. Additional training sessions are being organized on a rolling basis, with a session on localization planned on 23 March. A draft ToR for a possible GCCG mission to Haiti (potentially in May) will be shared with the HCT for feedback. An EDG mission to Haiti took place between 14 and 16 March. Its key conclusions were: an urgent need for scale-up and humanitarian action amidst fears that the situation would worsen significantly; access needs to be expanded with immediate effect; humanitarian funding and high-level advocacy are required to deliver on the HRP; coordinated engagement with all relevant actors should be explored including vis-à-vis the deployment of an international force.
8. The floor was opened for questions. GFSC inquired if there had been request for cluster-specific support as part of the mission. It was clarified that a response was pending from Haiti on the scope and cluster participation of the mission. There could be two missions, with a focus on the inter-sectoral nature of the clusters, e.g. WASH, health and nutrition; and GPC with AoRs. It was noted that mission participants would need to be French speakers. GNC asked for clarity on what is required from clusters in this context where clusters are not fully activated but some sort of scale-up is requested. GCCG-s commented that the government's willingness to lead the sectors may have influenced the decision for not activating the clusters. GBV AoR noted that UNFPA had been part of the EDG mission, and suggested that since a UNFPA staff from the Regional Office in Panama were already going to Haiti, they could potentially take part in an upcoming mission.
9. **Cyclone Freddy:** GCCG-s provided an update on the response to Cyclone Freddy where an estimated 1.6 million people are in need across Malawi and Mozambique. In Mozambique, an estimated 700,000 people are affected by four crises: impact of Cyclone Freddy (damage to infrastructures and deaths), floods, cholera and food insecurity. The government's investment in preparedness and early action has resulted in fewer deaths compared to previous cyclones. In Malawi, almost one million people have been affected, and government-led assessments are ongoing. Malawi is experiencing the worst cholera outbreak in the country's history with over 50,000 confirmed cases while the situation continues to worsen due to flooding. Priority clusters are CCCM, Shelter/NFI, WASH, and Health. Mozambique HCT is currently drafting a 2023 HRP addendum to address the current crisis. A \$10 million CERF Rapid Response allocation was approved by the ERC in mid-March, and the HCT estimates approximately \$75 million are required for the response. In Malawi, the CERF Rapid Response request is being finalized. A decision is pending on whether the Flash Appeal for cholera will be amended to include needs arising from Cyclone Freddy's impact, or if a new flash appeal will be issued. In response to the GHC's question on whether clusters have been activated in Malawi, it was clarified that no discussions have taken place at the HCT or UNCT regarding cluster activation, and the government continues to lead the

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assessments and the response. GSC asked for further updates on the shelter side, and GCCG-s said it would share further information when available.

Briefing by Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Humanitarian Action

10. Ms. Pack welcomed Ms. Kirstin Lange to present on the work of the Disability Reference Group (DRG) and the technical group on disability inclusion on HNOs and HRP, noting that this was a long-standing agenda item and an important topic for the GCCG. The Reference Group was established in 2020 at HNPW, following launch of the IASC guidelines, with three focus areas: (i) increasing engagement by local Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs); (ii) strengthening capacity of humanitarian actors; (iii) influencing global processes. Ms. Lange invited GCCs to join the Reference Group which has an open membership policy. The technical group focuses on disability inclusion in HNOs and HRP and has started considering a potentially expanded scope of work to a people-centered approach in the HPC.
11. Ms. Lange outlined six areas that required actions from the GCCG: (i) connect with local OPDs; (ii) collect and use disability data; (iii) ensure that AAP mechanisms are accessible; (iv) support training to cluster partners; (v) ensure budgeting for inclusion; (vi) consider coordination mechanisms for inclusion. Examples of disability inclusion in recent system-wide scale ups and other resources were shared.
12. Discussion: HLP AoR noted it was developing a working group to better address needs of PWDs in the work of its AoR. GBV AoR underlined GPC's interest to better incorporate these concepts and inquired about examples of good practices within the cluster system. CP AoR requested advice on good practices from different field contexts regarding strengthening inclusion of OPDs into CP AoR coordination. Ms. Lange recommended engagement with local OPDs who could advise on how to implement contextually relevant accessibility solutions, and having dedicated resources initially on disability inclusion at the onset of a crisis helps to build capacity and connections. GSC noted the importance of making budget allocations during the project planning phase. Ms. Lange highlighted that direct engagement of OPDs in regular coordination meetings, HPC processes were a key part of strengthening the inclusion of PWDs.

Briefing on GPC Mission to Somalia

13. Ms. Pack invited the mission team from GPC and its four AoRs to present on the findings and outcomes from Somalia. CP AoR noted that it was the first time that GPC and all its four AoRs went on a joint mission. The mission took place between 26 February and 4 March, and focused on the Centrality of Protection, the work of the Protection Cluster and collaboration between the AoRs. The mission team met with the government, ICCG, HCT, various partners, and visited IDP sites.
14. The interpretation of the scale-up of the response meant that the response had shifted its focus on the drought, and as a result conflict and protection were no longer seen as a priority area. The response focused on the sectors seen as lifesaving: health, nutrition, food security and WASH. Protection issues resulting from the drought seems to have been downgraded in priority. Concerns were heard on the lack of proper consultations to inform the decisions made by the HCT. The mission advocated to place Centrality of Protection as a standing item at HCT meetings. Based on a request from the field, CP AoR asked global clusters to provide guidance on cluster-specific implementation of Centrality of Protection to field colleagues in Somalia.
15. MA AoR briefed on access to hard-to-reach populations and engagement with non-state armed groups. There is a growing call to focus on needs, assessments and gaining access to hard-to-reach areas that are underserved and under-reported. The need to work through Somali-based entities in support of longer-term, community-based solutions was reiterated. GBV AoR briefed on the issues of inclusion and marginalization which had attracted a lot of interest from all partners, and the mission met with academics to discuss clan affiliation in the context of Somalia where 30 per cent of the population came from minority clans. While MSNA conducted in 2022 indicated that affiliation with a minority clan was the main reason for being denied humanitarian access, humanitarian organizations could not always identify who came from minority clans and therefore hiring practices could lead to an exclusion of minority clans during aid distribution and contribute to power dynamics. On a positive note, a new working group has been set up, co-chaired by Protection and CCCM and involving Humanity Inclusion (HI). On MHPSS, a technical expert deployed by the Netherlands has been a critical part of the Health Cluster. It was also mentioned that in the meeting with partners during field visit to Baidoa, which had over 30 participants, there was a notable gender imbalance (only three women from Child Protection) which needed to be addressed.

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16. HLP AoR briefed on the challenges related to access to land in Somalia, a highly contested issue, and the need to connect the work of humanitarian organizations with durable solutions. Over 80 per cent of IDP sites are privately owned, and 90 per cent are in urban or peri-urban areas. Forced (or the threat of) evictions of IDPs are intertwined with personal gain of landowners or for the purpose of aid diversion; over 1.4 million people have been evicted since 2017. The issue of forced evictions creates challenges related to the commodification of IDP settlements where landowners who own small plots of IDP sites use their assets in a tactical way to drive up rent prices. Protection and HLP lens need to be brought in when tackling the issue of aid diversion. HLP AoR highlighted the importance of having a dedicated HLP AoR coordinator including at the sub-national level. In closing, CP AoR advocated for the need to have longer-term staffing, and referred to the challenges of security measures being a hindrance to the movement of UN staff in conducting monitoring and field visits. It was noted that a GCCG mission would be welcomed by the field to enhance advocacy by the ICCG and HCT on the need for greater support to Somalia operations, but that timing would need to be thought through carefully.
17. Discussion: CCCM noted that many of the issues highlighted were long-standing and recurring, such as short-term staffing, security conditions and HLP challenges, and reiterated the need to ensure that actions are being taken to address these. CP AoR clarified that it was possible to make longer-term staffing arrangements such as the two-year fixed term contracts put in place by UNICEF. MA AoR referred to the usefulness of having a GPC AoR mission in the future. It was noted that a read-out of the joint ICCG-HCT retreat (15 March) would be shared. It was suggested to share the Somalia mission report with the EDG.

Action point

- v. *GCCG-s: Share a read-out of the joint ICCG-HCT retreat in Somalia with the GCCG.*
- vi. *GCCs: Share the Somalia mission report with the EDG as an advocacy tool for staffing.*

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18. GCCG-s noted that coordination mapping survey would be launched later in the day, and thanked the clusters for inputs and for giving a heads up to the field. The next GCCG meeting will take place on 26 April.