

# **IASC Task Force 2 on Accountability to Affected People**

## **05 April 2023 - Meeting Minutes**

### **Agenda:**

- Introduction and Co-Chairs' highlights on the IASC OPAG Meeting 23 March 2023
- IOM presentation of survey & KII results for Leader's training (WS.1.1.1. /1.1.2.)
- Updates on country lead supported workshops/initiatives on Collective AAP (WS.1.2.1)
  - Afghanistan, Bangladesh (CxB), Haiti
- Donor engagement to improve funding supporting Collective AAP approaches (WS.3.1.1)
  - Donor report presentation
  - Engagement with Good Humanitarian donorship
- HNPW: visibility on AAP events
- Conclusion

### **1. Introduction and Co-Chairs' highlights on the IASC OPAG Meeting 23 March 2023**

**Mr. Mohrhauer Co-Chair** went through the agenda and with **Ms. Wood Co-Chair** provided highlights on the OPAG meeting held on the [23rd of March 2023](#) for which TF2 reported on its [workplan's progress](#).

#### **a. OPAG discussion on improving ways of working with Taskforces**

- Members reflected on how OPAG can be more substantive by providing guidance through new ways of working, as opposed to be process driven focusing on taskforce's reporting.
- Responding to this, TF2 chairs prepared specific questions on how each OPAG representative sees key issues in their own organization and how to advance those.

#### **b. TF2 Chairs brought the 3 following issues to OPAG**

- How IASC members monitor and support their country leaders' performance in relation to their role in operationalizing collective AAP commitments.
- Progress, challenges, and opportunities on how to bring people's views and perspectives more effectively into humanitarian policy and coordination fora to influence decision-making.
- Reflect on the initial findings of the [donor review](#) on AAP and how to bring this forward in the IASC.

#### **c. Highlights**

- Discuss what more OPAG can do to support Task Force 2 in bringing key priorities to completion.
- TF2 to improve connection with localisation, especially on including AP's views in decision *fora*.
- Ensure we deliver on CFMs guidance and standards: a very tangible result.
- Pushing performance metrics on AAP for individual organisations' country leads led to different positions.
- Rich discussion on the donor engagement:
  - a process that can bring different agendas together.
  - an opportunity to unpick enablers and blockages in the system.
- Ensure a better connection with the ERC flagship initiative that is a great opportunity for AAP: How can the IASC support this initiative and how can the flagship inform our work.
- TF2 to better connect with [TF4](#). Nexus discussion is also linked to localisation agenda and bringing people affected people into decisions.

**TF2 Co-Chairs** noted it was useful to have a focused discussions on strategic pieces for system change.

The IASC secretariat provided actions points for TF2. Co-Chairs will review them.

## Minutes - IASC TF2 meeting – 05.04.23

### 2. IOM presentation of survey & KII results for Leader's training (WS.1.1.1. /1.1.2.)

**Ms. Baycal Mayencourt (IOM)** presented initial results of the online Interagency AAP survey with agencies' Country leaders who are mostly HCT members. This is part of the interagency project funded by BHA and led by IOM with 10 organisations on the Steering Committee.

- survey designed for country directors, representatives, chief of mission. Also, senior roles, including senior or emergency coordinators.
- conducted in Jan and Feb 23.
- received 138 responses with 87 valid responses.
- 25 organisations from 70 countries, representing all regions worldwide.
- majority of results from Asia Pacific region, MENA and Eastern Horn of Africa or African
- majority were men and 38% women.

#### **Survey questions investigate perceptions on:**

- how HCT members think that their HCT and their respective are performing on AAP
- obstacles and challenges to performing well on AAP
- needs to improve, with a special focus on informing the training content and format

#### **Some highlights:**

The HCT members declared a high level of interested to learn and noted:

- Many resources are available on AAP principles and overall AAP responsibilities.
- But Insufficient on AAP principles in practice, specific actions, and practical examples,
- Need clarifications on the overlap, linkages with other priorities (localisation, inclusion, PSEA, etc.)
- Request clear guidance on indicators and metrics, expected measurable outcomes on the effectiveness of collective approaches.
- There are perceived qualitative gaps in the resources: some exits on setting up CFMS or on participatory approaches, but less on how communities are involved in the design of CFMS or collective approaches

#### **Next step and expectations from TF members**

- Project will use this evidence to develop the online training and the resource materials.
- Survey and the interviews results are useful and of interest beyond development of the training.
- Follow-up interviews are ongoing, survey and KII summary of results will be made available.
- End of April - Steering committee workshop + reaching out to some TF members who want to contribute.
- Members can share with the IOM team some resources on trainings or documents that are targeted to country leadership. Do not share generic documents on AAP targeted for operations. The focus is on the leadership roles and responsibilities.
- Members of the SC and/or TF2 members needed to develop resources in still non-existent areas.
- Members can volunteer some country reps/ country directors that would be keen to be interviewed.
  - Interview format is 30 to 40 minutes guided by the survey questionnaire.
  - Explores preferences on training and learning format.
  - The interviews offer space for them to provide some unsolicited comments that inform us on their needs (e.g. how do we communicate on AAP to gov partners).

**Ms. Varghese (UN Women)** manifested interest in contributing to this work by:

- providing case studies from several countries and regions (that can complement guidelines).
- suggesting contacts for interviews.

**Ms. Maher (IASC/OCHA)** recognised the value of the results and noted that it reinforces the need to provide practical examples of how to enact collective AAP, result that is also visible in other pieces of research such as

## Minutes - IASC TF2 meeting – 05.04.23

the Inter-Agency IRC- led project on participation of frontline workers on AAP, and the IASC Collective AAP country level cases studies.

**Ms. Maher** recommended to:

- Link this work with the lessons learned in those country level case studies.
- Investigate a gender lens following the interviews to help understand how gender influences leadership as well as other intersectional issues.

**Ms. Baycal Mayencourt (IOM)** welcomed comments and noted that OCHA is involved in the workstream and project steering committee. She emphasised the workshop in April would be the best opportunity to share those resources and ensure linkages.

**Mr. Noble (TF2)** noted two points:

- Respondents said they need more economic and dedicated resources to perform better on AAP. This is pre-eminently brought up and coincides with other pieces of evidence. It should be noted that the collective AAP agenda is also about *how to do better with less*: a fact that comes up in the country workshops.
- The fact that there is gap in resources on participatory community design and approaches came out in the results. Reminder: UNHCR and CDAC co-led a set of guidance for IASC Results Group 2 specifically linked to the update of the MSNA/REACH AAP questions. The focus of these resources is to support a participatory approach for AAP CFMs.

### 3. Update on country lead supported workshops/initiatives on Collective AAP (WS.1.2.1)

a. **Afghanistan**. **Ms. Maher (IASC/OCHA)** highlighted the following:

- Workshop took place end of Feb 2023, driven by UNFPA, OCHA and the AAP WG
- Sought to respond to the late December Taliban imposed restrictions on women's employment in international organisations and the related access of women to humanitarian assistance.
- Sought to also act upon reporting obligations delivered by the IASC principals following December ad-hoc meeting.
- Workshop goals were to build on existing research and work done on Community Voices platform with emphasis also on data security and data responsibilities in relation to AAP.
- A successful workshop with many national staff, including women and a strong interagency approach.
- Participants presented and endorsed minimum standards for operating whiles maintaining accountability in an environment where fundamental accountability to affected people is severely challenged.
- An agreement for an interagency platform on AAP and on data responsibility was developed.

b. **Bangladesh/CxB**. **Mr. Noble (TF2)** provided the following highlights:

- After the July 2022 RCO-led workshop in Dhaka a follow-up engagement took place in Cox's bazar on 29-30 March. The first workshop focused on climate induced disaster humanitarian work.
- The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) workshop focused collective AAP in the refugee response.
- Arjun Jain ISCG Principal Coordinator led it with his team, AAP country focal points, and IASC support.
- Day one with sectors and day two with ROCT (equivalent to HCT for that response): Sectors focused on three areas [see below] and solutions. Those solutions were refined into six priority actions:
  - Strengthen assessment registry and review by sectors of findings and gaps.
  - Checklist for new assessments, including commitment to feedback to community.
  - Rationalize channels collecting feedback to increase effectiveness.
  - Improve Common Feedback Platform by making it more user-friendly and increasing membership; add qualitative analysis to feed into upstream process.

## Minutes - IASC TF2 meeting – 05.04.23

- Mapping refugee-led organizations, including groups, committees, and volunteers to inform future empowerment and capacity building.
- Propose AAP TWG TOR (transition from CwC WG to AAP was already agreed).

### Area 1 – Needs Assessments

Multiple needs assessments people have survey fatigue + limited meaningful engagement

- How to improve participatory approaches, consultation processes to engage more meaningfully, minimise duplication of solicitations and ensure people know findings and decisions made.
- Common framework to strengthen sectorial and interagency coordination and due diligence + key AAP aspects (participatory approach and informing on decisions made).

### Area 2 – Feedback Mechanism

The response has a functioning common feedback platform that needs more members (Orgs).

- Some technical improvements needed but the conversation focused on the political will to increase membership + that feedback trends are used more systematically.
- How to improve the community user experience of the CFMs? This led to efforts to standardize and improve communication to communities to avoid duplication of referrals and optimise common resources.
- Immediate actions were identified to improve the use of existing feedback in sector meetings.

### Area 3 – Role of Rohingya volunteers and community-based organizations.

- Advancing the localization agenda, beyond national or local NGOs, with the affected people themselves playing a greater role in AAP activities. Those volunteers have conducted more communication and information activities than feedback collection and consultation activities.
- Those communication skills can be built on to expand their role further for collective AAP.
- How to avoid putting the communities at risk in this new role was addressed.

### c. [Haiti: Collective AAP participatory orientation session with sector leads](#)

- OCHA organised a two-hour session with the sector leads (TF2 coordinator prepared and led).
- The humanitarian coordination had just completed their needs assessment phase and were entering the strategic planning phase.
- The session focused on what does doing Collective AAP mean in their respective sectors, whilst investigating joint and common activities /resources. They focused on feedback mechanisms, needs assessments, and communicating back to communities.

### d. On country level workshops and other initiatives

Ms. Maher (IASC/OCHA) offered closing remarks on the country workshops:

- **Planning country workshops:** The TF2 workplan mentions 10 countries but there are not 10 pre-identified countries. Those workshops are on a demand basis and aim to be responsive to in-country leadership requesting support and identified country-level readiness. South Sudan HC/RC requested support and a workshop is planned in May 2023 to be confirmed.

Mr. Morhauer Co-Chair and TF2 team noted that:

- The **ongoing process of debriefing on the workshops** and other collective AAP country level initiative provides valuable information on challenges, progress, and opportunities to ground our work.
- TF2 with OCHA had previously organised a deep dive on some workshops.
- Another deep dive after the workshop in South Sudan on these new contexts could allow time and space to discuss in more detail.

## Minutes - IASC TF2 meeting – 05.04.23

### 4. Donor engagement to improve funding supporting Collective AAP approaches (WS.3.1.1)

#### a. Donor Report

**Ms. Wood Co-chair** provided highlights for feedback and discussion.

- Andy Featherstone conducted a [meta review](#) of existing recommendations with his analysis.
- Object: engagement donors and how we can improve funding to support collective AAP approaches.
- Donors showed encouraging interest in engaging with the [review](#) and the collaborative approach. The report identifies strategic questions that the donors need to reflect on and that we need to work with them on.

The Report underlines:

- The IASC has an opportunity to join forces with donors on a common journey that investigates what it means to increase support on AAP and particularly Collective AAP.
- IASC collective AAP tools are an asset (collective AAP framework recognised as a good framework currently used and providing learnings) as well as the TF2's work plan focused on an enabling leadership, on inclusivity and resourcing.
- Next steps: WS to propose how we to escalate this conversation.

**Ms. Wood Co-chair** emphasised a few points across the 3 following levels:

#### **Strategic level**

- Donors want more clarity on Collective AAP that is linked to requests for funding, differentiating *individual organisations AAP* and *Collective AAP*.
- Questions from donors on linkages to the ERC's flagship initiative.
- Flexible funding is a common TP, but we need an understanding of what it can enable and have evidence.
- On inclusivity: capacity support has gaps and is needed with the shift. means and ability for the local NGOs to be in that leadership of local organizations to be in that leadership role.

#### **Operational level**

- Links to WS 1 on training leaders to be better equipped to articulate with donors on collective AAP.
- Links to IASC country focused work with leadership and local actors. How can local actors be supported to play more of a leadership role on this engagement with donors?

#### **Collective level**

- Are donors abiding by their principles and meeting their own commitments (core humanitarian standard, Grand Bargain, IASC, etc)? Principles and commitments can better articulate Collective AAP + Can donors improve their reporting against these commitments?
- What more can donors do to enable and incentivise AAP in the organizations they fund and use of CHS as an accountability framework?
- The IASC Collective Accountability Framework could guide donors on what to look at with requirements on AAP and links to CHS verification.

#### b. Update on engagement with the Good Humanitarian Donorship

**Mr. Wood Co-chair** reported on his intervention at GHD meeting where he was invited along with **Mr. Iyad Agha (IASC FP for TF4 on Localisation)** to present on collective accountability approaches to the technical group.

- The GHD meets four times a year, twice at a technical level and twice at a strategic and director level.
- Belgium and Finland are Co-Chairs finalising their 2-year mandate before UK and Estonia start in June.
- **Mr. Wood** provided the GHD with highlights from the [TF2 report](#) and **Mr. Agha** linked them to practical experiences from Northwest Syria with a focus on localisation aspects.

## Minutes - IASC TF2 meeting – 05.04.23

- Echoing findings from WS1.1. research, the GHD meeting focused on *the practical ways of doing collective AAP*. It touched on:
  - the central role of donors in enabling effective Collective AAP (quality of funding, its flexibility, supporting programmatic adaptation to the expressed needs of the communities, a predictability).
  - Possibility to review the GHD principles that are now 20 years old to advance Collective AAP.
  - TF2 report as the basis for a structured dialogue with donors, potentially with GHD and other fora.

**Mr. Agda's (IASC TF4)** intervention focused on practical challenges of AAP and how it relates to the role of local actors. Talking on how localization can play an active role enabling better AAP and how donors can promote and support this. **Mr. Agda** noted:

- Discussions were very interesting, participants engaged with some specific technical questions.
- Their interest in advancing this agenda further and to engage in a structured dialogue on Collective AAP.

**Ms Varghese (UN Women)** recognised the importance of this work and flagged a few points to support it:

- Proposition to **strengthen the focus on how AAP approaches relate to cross-cutting priorities** like gender.
- This work would benefit from **engaging with the GB Friends of Gender group** (donors, UN agencies, INGOs.) It can be leveraged to advance recommendations; to anchor gender in the GB and broader processes.
- **Collective need assessments are still insufficiently inclusive** of gender and addressing women's needs (Recent e.g. in Syria 92% respondents were male leaders). The inclusion of women and other groups needs are explicit in the Collective AAP Framework but this should be reinforced.
- Several recommendations (like #39) focus on how the use of funding can strengthen the inclusion of local actors. Channeling funding to women-led organisations is as important to enact AAP priorities.

**Ms. Wood Co-Chair** clarified that:

- Including new content may be difficult now, but inputs can be used to structure the next steps.
- The [report](#) was commissioned to generate and start to frame the discussion with the donors themselves.
- Members can still send by next week, to use inputs for HPNW discussions.

### 5 - HNPW: visibility on AAP events

**HPNW synergies of agendas challenge:** Members discussed the challenges of better linking the AAP content and events in the HNPW with other areas. This remains a recurrent issue over the years even with good will and the HNPW secretariat encouraging synergies. Limiting the number of sessions may prove more effective.

**Ms. Namita Nirajan Rao (UNICEF)** announced that the [Collective Help Desk](#) will have a booth in the exhibition area from 24th to 28th April to promote it and engage with visitors. Ms. Namita added that AAP focal points in organisations are welcome to engage with her to investigate ways to contribute to it in different ways. Ms. Rao's email is [nrao@unicef.org](mailto:nrao@unicef.org)

- TF2 /IASC to share all the AAP sessions planned for HNPW with TF Members and AAP Mailing list, including the one planned with the IASC Secretariat and TF2.

### 6 - CONCLUSION

- **IASC/OCHA Country Level case studies:** OCHA has been leading on capturing some of the Collective AAP country level workshops in the case studies previously mentioned. Those are valuable to articulate what some of these real challenges, enablers, and barriers, are. They intend to contribute to further our collective understanding from the workshops and other country-led initiatives (should be available for HNPW).
- Members were encouraged to:
  - read the [donor report](#) and send feedback before the HNPW.

## Minutes - IASC TF2 meeting – 05.04.23

- join WS if they are not already active in them – write to ben and pedro (see emails below)
- flag any areas that TF Leads should be aware of or that are not advancing.
- propose any agenda topic/issues to take and address in the next TF2 meeting on the 6th of June.

*Need more information on [IASC TF2](#), have questions or want to provide feedback on those minutes or other IASC TF2 communications please write to us: [Benjamin.noble@ifrc.org](mailto:Benjamin.noble@ifrc.org), [rachel.maher@un.org](mailto:rachel.maher@un.org), [pedro.freire1@un.org](mailto:pedro.freire1@un.org)*