

GCCG Meeting

3 May 2023, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

Participant/Global Cluster: Ron Pouwels (CP); Dher Al-Hayo and Wan Sophonpanich (CCCM); Bruno Donat (MA); Jennifer Chase (GBV); Erik Kastlander (IMWG); Samuel Cheung and Nancy Polutan-Teulieres (GPC); Brent Carbo (ETC); Mailin Fauchon (GLC); Maria Agnese Giordano and Michelle Brown (GEC); Hannah Holloway (MA); Rasha Al-Ardi (GNC); Damien Joud (GFSC); Ross Tomlinson (GWC); Pablo Medina (Shelter); Nisar Syed (UNICEF-led Global Clusters Rep); Mary Pack and Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (Co-Chairs), Annarita Marcantonio, Randa Hassan, Mari Sawai and Muchun Wan (GCCG-s).

Invitees: Sebastian Einsiedel, Martha Getachew Metaferia, Esty Sutyoko (OCHA), Bernadette Raymonde Castel (UNHCR).

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. Ms. Pack asked for interest from GCCs for an update on the earthquake response in Turkiye/Syria in future meetings, which was confirmed by three GCCs. No proposed changes to the agenda were brought forward and the agenda was adopted.

Updates and follow-up on GCCG action points

2. Ms. Pack provided an update on recent IASC meetings and pending action points from previous GCCG meetings. A face-to-face OPAG meeting was held on 23 March, where the GCCG was represented by Mr. Bruno Donat and Mr. Dher Al-Hayo. Mr. Donat shared key highlights from the meeting. Session 1 heard from DSRG of the Central African Republic (CAR) followed by discussions on accountability of IASC entities to OPAG, noting the need to ensure coherence among the entities. Session 2 on *Humanitarian Development Nexus and Linkages to Peace* highlighted challenges and opportunities on the nexus. Updates on other meetings were shared: the HPC Steering Group met on 5 April, and action points were shared with the GCCG. The next meeting on 9 May will focus on costing and JIAF. Background documents will be sent to the HPC Steering Group on 4 May. Ms. Pack thanked GCCs for their comments on the Facilitation Package. The HPC Way Forward document is under revision. Ms. Pack encouraged GCCs to provide redline comments in a timely manner when final documents are circulated. JIAF Advisory Group (JAG) meetings were held on 5-6 April, and a final meeting will be held on 4 May; GCCs are encouraged to attend. Mr. Nisar Syed flagged two key issues in the upcoming JAG: the need for the quality assurance system to build on an existing system, and that the calculation of aid being delivered would further move away from simplification of the HPC processes.
3. On pending action points, the terms and definitions paper was attached as an annex to the OPAG reporting covering October 2022 to March 2023 for acknowledgement. Ms. Pack thanked GCCs who had submitted comments on the final draft of the Advisory Note on Advancing the HNP Nexus Approach through IASC Global Clusters, and upon request by GCCs, confirmed that the deadline could be extended by a week (submission by 10 May). The read-out of the joint HCT-ICCG retreat in Somalia was shared with the GCCG on 28 April. On localization workstream, GEC noted that a webinar was planned for the first week of July for cluster coordinators in the MENA region (in Arabic or with translation) and asked interested GCCs to contact Ms. Brown. The leads on localization will develop a proposal to change the indicators on the Coordination Mapping, which will be tabled for discussion at the GCCG mid-year retreat in June. The following updates and reminders were communicated to the group: (1) GCCs were reminded to update the common calendar on the GCCG Collaborative Space for planning purpose; (2) a short GCCG meeting on 9 June at 14:00 was proposed and confirmed; (3) GCCs were invited to join Ms. Skuric in an upcoming interview with the co-chairs of the Reference Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action (GRG). The two CCCM Coordinators volunteered to join the meeting.

Action points

- i. GCCs: *Send final redline comments on the Advisory Note on Advancing the HNP Nexus Approach through IASC Global Clusters (by 10 May).*
- ii. GCCs: *CCCM Coordinators to take part in the interview with the co-chairs of the Reference Group on GRG (4 May).*
- iii. GCCG-s: *Add an additional GCCG meeting on 9 June at 14:00-15:00.*

Operational updates

4. **Sudan:** Ms. Martha Getachew, Operations and Advocacy Division of OCHA, briefed on the latest developments in Sudan. She noted that the severity of needs had worsened in areas affected by conflict. Khartoum and Darfur States with ongoing heavy fighting are now facing extreme and catastrophic needs. South Darfur, which has the second highest number of IDPs, is facing interruptions in WASH and nutrition services, shortages of food and

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medicine. Khartoum already had the highest levels of food insecurity among its urban population at the beginning of 2023, with food insecurity having worsened due to increases in food prices. Other areas of the country have also been impacted due to Khartoum being a supply hub for humanitarian goods to go through. ERC/USG Martin Griffiths is in Port Sudan, advocating to have interlocutors designated in order to secure a commitment from parties to the conflict for safe humanitarian passage. ASG Joyce Msuya has requested the Permanent Representative of Sudan to facilitate a scale-up on the resumption of humanitarian assistance, and a Note Verbale has been sent requesting visa waivers on behalf of humanitarian partners in the acute phase of the response. The mapping of in-country resources and stocks was useful in informing the availability of goods for immediate shipment once conditions allow, while partners continued to advocate for additional supplies. Ms. Pack reminded GCCs who had not done so to fill in the cluster capacity table on Sudan.

5. The floor was opened for cluster updates and discussion. GLC informed that WFP was in the process of setting up a staging area in Jeddah for all humanitarian partners. WFP is requesting partners who have cargo ready for distribution to continue to Port Sudan, but any stockpiles should be sent to Jeddah to avoid congesting Port Sudan. Abéché in Chad is also scaling up its capacity to respond to the refugee inflow and to prepare for re-entry into Sudan. GLC reiterated the importance of setting up two hubs ready to accommodate and consolidate cargo for potential re-entry. Meanwhile, work continued with the other corridors in Libya, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan, where there is WFP and logistics capacity with trucks in preparation for convoys. GWC noted that while most of its coordination teams were still in-country, one of the sub-national coordinators was in Chad and the national coordinator had been evacuated. WASH services have been disrupted, particularly trucking operations, and supplies were being looted. There were reports of people resorting to unsafe water sources.
6. Ms. Pack noted that while some NGOs had positive experiences of the evacuation, others faced challenges related to not having their own resources to transport staff to the evacuation points for example. She said that this had highlighted the need for greater transparency and communication, and noting that the Saving Lives Together (SLT) focal point system had not worked well in the first few days. Concerns remain around ensuring the safety and security of national staff and keeping the communication lines open. Ms. Getachew noted that the comments received from NGOs have been mostly positive but there could always be room for improvement. She requested any specific concerns to be relayed bilaterally and this would be shared with the security focal point in OCHA (the focal points to receive any feedback on SLT are Joachim Schmitz, DSS, schmitzj@un.org, and Lloyd Cederstrand, OCHA, cederstrand@un.org). Ms. Pack also expressed concerns about challenges related to remote coordination and asked when in-country coordination would be enhanced. Ms. Gethachew said that this would be a focus going forward. GBV AoR updated that its coordinator and the deputy were out of Sudan when the conflict flared up and had continued to work remotely since. Trainings have been held on provision of remote support for GBV services. Ms. Jennifer Chase noted she was due to depart for Nairobi on surge and asked for contacts from other agencies and to be looped into coordination meetings. She also enquired whether Nairobi was to become an official temporary hub, to which Ms. Getachew clarified that OCHA was encouraging those who could have a hub in Nairobi to do so. She encouraged Ms. Chase to contact Ms. Gemma Connell, Head of OCHA ROSEA.
7. **Nigeria:** Ms. Esty Sutyoko, Deputy Head of Office, OCHA Nigeria briefed on the challenges, opportunities and key asks from Nigeria operations. A high turnover of sector coordinators, food insecurity among 4.4 million people in BAY states, recurring natural disasters and health emergencies such as cholera, limited government capacities in some areas, are some of the challenges. Sector coordinators are unable to trigger emergencies in a timely manner and support is required to strengthen their role. Some of the opportunities mentioned include the fact that the HC/RC is at the ASG level; being one of the solutions priority countries under the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, ASG Robert Piper; an HRP that is relatively well-funded, and finally an active engagement and capacity of the Community Engagement, Accountability and Localization Working Group (CEAL). Ms. Sutyoko outlined key asks to the GCCG: an in-person refresher workshop for sector coordinators and focal points, tools and tips, online and remote trainings, facilitation of meeting workshops, bilateral consultations as well as a diagnosis mission. GFSC asked for timing of refresher trainings and whether there had been previous trainings, to which Ms. Sutyoko responded ideally it should be in May/June and added that some had been previously trained. Ms. Sutyoko further clarified that some sectors such as education was not strong leads, and overall the country would merit from a diagnosis mission. GLC proposed bilateral follow-up for cluster-specific support.
8. **Haiti:** Ms. Marcantonio (GCCG-s) provided an update on Haiti. The HCT met on 3 May and decided to activate the following clusters: Protection, Child Protection AoR, Nutrition and Health. Lead agencies of GBV AoR, CCCM, Shelter and NFI, and WASH were consulting with their government counterparts to decide on activation before communicating this to the HCT. WFP had decided not to activate Food Security and Logistics clusters to avoid jeopardizing the relationship with the government. A letter from the HC to the Chair of the EDG would soon be sent. Current sector capacity in Haiti is being mapped out, and Ms. Marcantonio asked GCCs to update the

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table that had been shared. The dates and content of a GCCG mission will be discussed on 5 May at 14:30 Geneva time. Support from global clusters to sectors in Haiti remains a priority for the HCT based on recommendations from the EDG mission.

9. **Somalia:** Ms. Marcantonio briefed that an Operational Peer Review (OPR) would take place from 21 May to 1 June, which could identify additional support areas. It was proposed that a GCCG mission be based on the results of the OPR. The report of the HCT-ICCG retreat in Somalia was circulated to the GCCG, with main recommendations on strengthening sub-national coordination, ensuring dedicated capacity at national level.
10. The floor was opened for questions. On Haiti, it was clarified that GFSC and Logistics Cluster had already been scaled up and were functioning well, based on a joint decision by WFP and FAO. Further information on Education Cluster in Haiti was asked by GEC. GWC clarified that coordination on WASH was being led by UNICEF and expressed interest to join the GCCG mission to Haiti.

Action points

- iv. *GCCG-s: Organize an ad hoc GCCG meeting on Sudan (week of 8 May).*
- v. *GCCs: Fill out cluster capacity table on Sudan (asap).*
- vi. *GCCG-s/GCCs: Provide support to Nigeria to strengthen sector coordinators' roles, through bilateral outreach, remote and possibly in-person trainings.*
- vii. *GCCG-s/GCCs: Based on results of OPR in Somalia, jointly consider a GCCG mission (after June).*

Briefing on IDP Review

11. Ms. Skuric welcomed Mr. Sebastian Einsiedel, Senior Advisor on Displacement (OCHA), to brief on the Independent Review of the Humanitarian Responses to Internal Displacement (thereafter referred to as the *Review*). Mr. Einsiedel began the briefing by noting that the Review began in January 2023, with an initial briefing given to the IASC Deputies' Group. A Reference Group was also constituted, co-chaired by himself and Ms. Caitlyn Briggs (NRC) and members include HCs, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of IDPs and donor representatives. Ms. Wan Sophonpanich is also a member of the Reference Group, representing IOM. The Review is independent and consists of four phases: (i) inception, (ii) evidence gathering, (iii) analysis and validation, and (iv) final phase. An inception report was developed in the initial phase based on the ToR and stakeholder interviews, and presented to the IASC Deputies' Group at its retreat in Rome in late March. A literature review is ongoing. The second phase is about to begin and will focus on six country case studies involving two to three-week visits by the Review Team, followed by stakeholder interviews. The countries are Honduras, DRC, Nigeria, Mozambique, Yemen and Ethiopia. The third phase (late July/early August) will involve analysis of findings and further stakeholder interviews to test the relevance of the findings and emerging recommendations. Mr. Einsiedel recommended an in-depth session between the Review Team and the GCCG during this phase given the focus on coordination aspects. The final phase will take place in October/November with a view to having the recommendations of the report adopted through engagement with key stakeholders.
12. Mr. Einsiedel noted that the inception report was essentially a workplan and laid out the methodology, organized around 17 key questions centered on three issues: coordination and programming, leadership and accountability, and laying the groundwork to solutions. The Review will also look at questions around data, financing, and roles and responsibilities of actors. At the IASC Deputies' Group retreat in March, a high level of interest and commitment were expressed. The IASC Deputies, while respecting the independent nature of the Review had expressed concerns on the possible overlap with other processes, such as the work on solutions led by Robert Piper and the USG's Flagship Initiative. Deputies also requested to cover financing, and not to ignore politics by differentiating between where governments can be part of solutions or obstacles.
13. The second meeting of the Reference Group held last week highlighted three ongoing conceptual conundrums, namely drawing the line between the IDP review and a humanitarian system review, balancing between meeting the needs of IDPs while avoiding a status-based approach, and how the humanitarian system could advance solutions when governments or development actors were unwilling/not present. Ms. Sophonpanich complemented by noting the discussions on looking beyond material needs of IDPs (e.g. re-establishment of community networks), and the need to have a common vision on solutions from the outset of a crisis.
14. The floor was opened for discussion. Mr. Dher Al-Hayo thanked Mr. Einsiedel for confirming the list of countries, noting that two countries (Ukraine and Afghanistan) had been dropped from the initial list. He agreed on the importance of depoliticizing contexts especially during transitions, as was seen in Iraq and Libya. He encouraged clusters to reach out to ensure being part of the Review as much as possible, while noting the importance of the independent nature of the Review.

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Action points

- viii. *GCCG-s: Circulate the inception report of the IDP Review to the GCCG once available.*
- ix. *GCCG-s: Organize a GCCG in-depth session with the IDP Review Team once the case studies are completed (August/September).*

Follow up after the Independent Review of the IASC Protection Policy

15. Ms. Skuric welcomed Ms. Bernadette Castel-Hollingsworth, Deputy Director of UNHCR and Co-Chair of IASC Task Force 1, to brief on the follow-up to the findings of the Independent Review of the IASC Protection Policy. Ms. Castel outlined the six recommendations of the Independent Review: (i) conceptual clarity, (ii) leadership and accountability, (iii) collective responsibility, (iv) simplified architecture, (v) protection as an outcome, and (vi) inclusive approach. Ms. Castel noted that she co-chairs the IASC Task Force 1 on the Centrality of Protection with the Director of Protection from InterAction, with three priority areas: taking forward the recommendations of the Independent Review, developing and field-testing measurable Centrality of Protection (CoP) indicators, and implementation of recommendations on advancing GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response as a collective responsibility. As follow up to the first priority area, a draft IASC Action Plan on CoP has been developed, with four action areas in line with the recommendations of the Review.
16. Recommendation four of the Independent Review (simplified architecture) had noted that the current set-up was not fit for purpose, overly complex and fragmented and should be radically simplified and streamlined. UNHCR has been tasked to come up with recommendations to advance this area, and consultations with stakeholders have been ongoing since March. In relation to the GCCG, she suggested looking at four areas to work on: the way of working within the GPC and four AoRs; simplification or consolidation of the work between GPC and its four AoRs; systemic issues between GPC, AoRs and the rest of the cluster system; and ways to strengthen AAP and localization commitments. A first set of recommendations will be developed at the end of May, with consultations planned for June including review by the IASC Principals. Feedback from ongoing processes such as the IDP Review will also need to be taken into account. Ms. Castel asked global clusters to reach out to her directly for further consultation.
17. Mr. Samuel Cheung, GPC Coordinator, reiterated the importance of gathering inputs from the global clusters particularly in terms of reflections on the simplification and optimization of CoP within own clusters and collectively as clusters. He also highlighted the link to the simplification of the Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC).

Action points

- x. *GCCs/GCCG-s: GCCs to provide inputs to the GPC as part of the consultation on follow up after the Independent Review of the IASC Protection Policy. Organize further engagement with GPC once concrete recommendations or options are on the table (after May/June).*

AOB

18. Ms. Skuric reminded GCCs of the mid-year retreat on 26 June (lunch at noon, sessions from 13:00 to 17:30), and thanked UNHCR for hosting the venue and covering catering. Possible agenda items include review of the GCCG Workplan, localization, Flagship Project, review of cluster reviews. GCCs were requested to confirm participation and propose agenda items.
19. Ms. Randa Hasan, GCCG-s, reminded clusters that the deadline for the Coordination Mapping has passed and requested remaining clusters to fill out the survey. Additional IM capacity was requested from global clusters to support the survey.
20. Ms. Skuric noted that the next regular GCCG meeting will be held on 24 May from 14:00 to 16:00. Agenda items include action points and updates, operational updates, IMWG briefing and synchronization with the GCCG, and AOB.

Action points

- xi. *GCCs: Offer IM support if available to support the Coordination Mapping.*