

## GCCG Meeting

20 September 2023, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

**Participant/Global Cluster:** Linda Doull and Emma Fitzpatrick (GHC); Dher Al-Hayo, Wan Sophonpanich, and Ruxandra Bujor (Global CCCM); Nisar Syed (UNICEF-led Global Clusters Rep); Michelle Brown and Friedrich Affolter (GEC); Rasha Al-Ardi (GNC); Brett Moore and Pablo Medina (GSC); Ron Pouwels (CP AoR); Jennifer Chase and Stefanie Lorin (GBV AoR); Jim Robinson (HLP AoR); Peter Kozelets (GPC); Monica Ramos (GWC); Marie-Helene Kyprianou and Abdul Majid (GFSC); Mailin Fauchon and Mary Jelliti (GLC); Roberto Paganini (GCER); Farhad Movahed (IASC Secretariat); Mary Pack and Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (GCCG Co-Chairs), Randa Hassan, Annarita Marcantonio, Stephanie Reynes and Fabia Hasch (GCCG-s).

**Invitees:** Peter Muller (OCHA); Greta Zeender (Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement).

### Summary and action points

#### Welcome and agenda overview

1. Ms. Marina Skuric Prodanovic, GCCG Co-Chair, welcomed participants and provided a brief overview of the draft agenda. Ms. Monica Ramos (GWC) proposed adding one item under AOB regarding the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW). The agenda was adopted with the addition proposed by GWC.

#### Updates and follow-up on GCCG action points

2. Ms. Skuric provided an update on recent IASC meetings and pending action points from previous GCCG meetings.
  - IASC Task Force (TF) 3 on Preserving Humanitarian Space met on 30 August. Ms. Skuric invited participants to give an update if any GCC had attended the meeting. No update was provided.
  - IASC Task Force 5 on Localization Workstream 1 and the full task force met on 5 September. Ms. Skuric reported that the lifespan of IASC Task Forces, including Task Force 5, will be extended. TF5 is considering adjusting its workplan to add an advocacy element. There was also a call to have a stronger connection with the GCCG workstream on localization.
  - An IASC OPAG meeting on the role of humanitarians in the provision of basic services took place on 19 September. Ms. Skuric encouraged everyone to read documents that were circulated. A number of interesting observations were made on the different contexts. It remains to be seen whether the suggestion made on behalf of the GCCG, to involve the GCCG in follow up discussions will be adopted. She also noted that NRC had mentioned they would be releasing a paper on transitions in five settings on 19 October.
  - The HPC Steering Group will meet on 27 September. The agenda was shared with all GCCs; GCC inputs on supporting documents would be very welcome.
  - The Monitoring Working Group will meet on 25 September. GEC (UNICEF) is the new GCCG focal point for the group and will revert on future meetings.
  - GEC reported on the JIAG meeting noting that there were expectations on the GCC in terms of dissemination of JIAF 2.0 and reported to JIAG that the support on PiN is progressing.
3. With regard to pending action points, Ms. Skuric reminded GCCs to invite colleagues from Haiti and Niger to the upcoming localization webinar to be held in French. Ms. Skuric also asked all GCCs to share good examples on co-leadership with national governments.
4. On Burundi, Ms. Skuric thanked GNC, GEC and GPC for offering their support.
5. Concerning the request from Niger on national NGOs taking up co-leadership/co-chairing roles, Ms. Skuric asked if any GCCs had followed up with their counterparts in-country. There was agreement to do so. GWC indicated they had been in touch with colleagues and it was reported that co-leadership is covered by technical line ministries.
6. GSC has drafted a paper on the challenges with CERF and CBPF processes that was circulated to GCCs for comments and will be suggested as an agenda item for the next meeting. All GCCs were asked to consult with their country cluster coordinators on key points of the paper. GSC reiterated the importance of the topic and encouraged colleagues to review it thoroughly.
7. Responding to a GWC question on support to Mozambique, Ms. Hassan (GCCG-s) reported that there was interest in going ahead with GCCG support and that OCHA Mozambique was liaising with national and sub-national clusters to identify the key focus areas. Ms. Hassan will report back on the outcomes of the discussion.

#### Action points

## **GCCG Meeting**

20 September 2023, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

- i. GEC/GFSC: Invite colleagues from Haiti and Niger to upcoming localization webinars held in French.*
- ii. GCCs: Share with GCCG-s good examples on co-leadership with local and national actors.*
- iii. GCCs: Consult with respective country cluster coordinators on key points of the GSC paper and revert with comments.*

### **Operational Updates**

#### **Update from EDG Secretariat**

8. Ms. Skuric welcomed Mr. Farhad Movahed (EDG secretariat) and invited him to give an update on the EDG mission to DRC and other relevant issues.
9. Mr. Movahed reported that the EDG traveled to Eastern DRC from 27 August to 1 September and visited sites in Ituri and North Kivu. The mission report was shared with the GCCs. Mr. Movahed stressed three aspects:  
(1) There is an expectation that the shift to the East is more reinforced as the centre of gravity has shifted to the three provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu. The idea is that surge could turn into long-term posts, e.g. through the change of duty station, and that staff is also deployed outside the operational center of Goma.  
(2) The MONUSCO drawdown will be more accelerated than initially envisaged. Despite the planning horizon being 2024, the DRC government wants it to take place this year. As the operation is highly reliant on MONUSCO assets, this will pose a significant access and protection issue. Therefore, detailed planning is necessary. Discussions with UNDSS, DPA, DPKO are ongoing.  
(3) Given the horrific situation of protection of civilians and GBV, better and clearer guidance from the HQs to protection actors is needed. Further, protection cluster and AoRs need to work better together.
10. Discussion: GBV AoR reiterated the urgency around addressing GBV in DRC and said that more support was needed despite the work on scaling up. Ms. Apio (GBV AoR) has collected information relevant to the clusters while on mission there and would be glad to present in a future meeting. Ms. Jelliti (GLC) expressed her concern on the expectations from the HCT and other clusters around GLC capacity to fill the gap left by MONUSCO. Ms. Fauchon (GLC) reiterated that the GLC is already fulfilling its role and is closing gaps. She reminded not to mix capacity gaps with funding gaps. She stressed that the GLC has a high capacity and is ready to scale it up but cannot exceed its mandate and fill the gap left by MONUSCO. She also stressed the importance of having adequate funding. GPC reported on some possibilities of scaling up following a tri-cluster meeting and said he would be in touch with relevant parties for implementation. GBV AoR reiterated the importance of integrating risk mitigation into other clusters. Mr. Movahed acknowledged the concerns about the withdrawal and reiterated the HC's awareness of the issue and suggested that the HC should be the focus for any follow up that might still be needed.
11. Ms. Skuric thanked all discussants and encouraged all GCCs to read the DRC mission report to see if it requires any follow up from their side.

#### **Update on Morocco earthquake and Libya Floods**

12. With regard to Morocco, Mr. Peter Muller (OCHA) reported that a small UNDAC team and staff from OCHA's Regional Office Middle East were deployed to Morocco. Since there was no request from the government for search and rescue, the UNDAC team was pulled back. Only a small number of colleagues are deployed in Rabat to support the RC. A government request had been expected but has not materialized. Further government requests are expected to focus on early recovery.
13. Concerning the Libya floods, UNDAC was activated, and a team was selected to support in Libya. However, it has been challenging to enter the country. Mr. Muller reported being in touch with bilateral rescue providers that were able to fly UNDAC staff into Libya. Currently, there are six people in and around Derna and 3 people in Benghazi. Additionally, there is a small OCHA office in Tripoli. The intention is to deploy additional people from Cairo by Friday, resulting in 12 people on the ground and two WFP Logistics Cluster Coordinators. An interagency assessment mission and a field mission have also taken place. There are preparations under way for a scale-up at the field level in Tripoli, Benghazi, Al Bayda, and Derna depending on the security situation. Overall, the aim is to have field coordination hubs in Al Bayda and scale-up in Benghazi.
14. Ms. Hassan (GCCG-s) added that an initial coordination outline has been discussed by the HCT and includes thematic working groups that mirror the sectoral groups and AoRs. The OCHA team is also closely coordinating with the RC/HC. Further discussions on the coordination set-up will also cover the locations of main coordination hubs. This is taking into consideration the needs, number of partners, and how feasible it

## GCCG Meeting

20 September 2023, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

is to set up coordination hubs closest to the affected areas (Derna/AI Bayda) from a security stand-point and any staff ceilings. Overall, the current focus is to overcome security and logistical challenges to the delivery of assistance. Ms. Skuric invited GCCs to speak and contribute with observations of their own.

- GLC reported that the GLC has been operational since the first day and two staff members are currently deploying to Cairo and can be deployed to Benghazi once access constraints are resolved. The cluster is not activated. If common services need to be provided the cluster would need to be activated. Due to the lack of information and inconsistent reports on needs, no recommendation on the activation of the cluster has been made at this time. Ms. Jelliti mentioned that scarcity is likely to occur due to rising prices.
- GSC: The critical issue is road access, however around 10,000 people have been reached with NFIs so far. The military is the leading authority in Derna as far as coordination is concerned.
- CP AoR: The rapid response team coordinator is in touch with colleagues in Libya and Morocco. A Child Protection emergency person is expected to arrive soon. The team coordinator as well as standby partner support for IM was proposed to join on the ground. However, the regional office recommends providing remote support and is holding off on sending people in-country. Technical support is mainly requested concerning unaccompanied and separated children.
- GWC: The WASH cluster is backstopping UNICEF country colleagues from the country and New York levels. A standby partner cluster coordinator has been virtually deployed. A request has been made to identify an IMO. The GWC has supported in helping broker a partnership between the SDC and WASH supplies and is working with IMC and InterSOS on the response. Overall, the aim is to support the sectoral coordination and be ready should cluster activation take place.
- GHC: The WHO EMRO is deploying a health sector coordinator as per country request. One of the HCCs from EMRO will be send until longer term coordinator is identified.
- CCCM: Draft ToRs of a Site Management WG with the Red Crescent have been shared and are planned to be shared with the HCT. Partner mapping is emerging as a new area of work in the country.
- GNC: The GNC team has been in contact with the Nutrition WG lead in Libya to provide any needed support either remote or in-person.
- Ms. Skuric asked the GCCs share any further updates on Libya by email.

### GCCG Haiti Mission follow up actions

15. Concerning the GCCG Haiti mission, Ms. Skuric reported that the HCT and ICCG have met to discuss the GCCG's mission report. They have accepted the recommendations and have agreed to take action. OCHA is following-up on the different recommendations. Issues on cluster activation are being clarified and the HC's revised list of activated clusters is now with the EDG for approval. However, there is still no dedicated cluster coordinator for the protection cluster, an issue that may require additional follow up by GPC. Concerning the education cluster, there is no person on the ground. GEC/Mr. Affolter assured that the recruitment is ongoing. The WASH sector coordinator is leaving. However, there will be a handover between the outgoing and incoming coordinators. It is very much hoped the new coordinator will stay for the longer-term. Ms. Skuric thanked GCCs for their support on Haiti and encouraged them to continue providing support.

### Upcoming EDG priorities

16. Ms. Skuric asked Mr. Movahed if there are any upcoming EDG priorities to be aware of. In addition to Haiti, Mr. Movahed reiterated that Sudan and DRC are also active Scale-Ups. He mentioned that Scale Ups for Ethiopia, Somalia and Ukraine operations are in the process of being stood down. He also noted an increase in media and donor scrutiny of some operations in terms of aid diversion. Mr. Movahed noted that for the time being there were no new EDG missions being planned.

### Action points

- iv. GCCs: Follow up as required on recommendations from the EDG mission to DRC report.
- v. GCCG-s: Invite Ms. Apio (AoR GBV) to present her findings from DRC.
- vi. GCCs: Provide updates on response to Libya to GCCG-s via email.
- vii. GPC: Follow up on Protection Cluster coordinator gap in Haiti with OHCHR.
- viii. GEC: Continue following up on recruitment of Education Cluster coordinator in Haiti.

### Presentation on findings from recent COVID-19 studies

## GCCG Meeting

20 September 2023, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

17. Ms. Mary Pack, GCCG Co-Chair, welcomed Ms. Linda Doull (GHC) to present the findings of the GHC and the Operations Partnership COVID-19 studies and reiterated their importance. The three reports were published in 2023 with the aim of examining how coordination, multi-sectoral collaboration and vaccination evolved during the COVID-19 response and to find enablers, limiting factors, good practices. The studies were conducted in 14 countries with activated clusters. Additionally, surveys were conducted in all 31 countries with activated clusters. The reports were circulated to all GCCs in advance.
18. Ms. Doull outlined the key findings of the studies:
- Concerning the technical and operational coordination between WHO, the clusters, and national authorities, there has been a general improvement and a leading role of the clusters in providing guidance. Public Health Emergency Operating Centres (PHEOC) facilitated coordination and information sharing between partners.
  - With regard to the interface between humanitarian and national coordination, partners were often involved in supporting government coordination functions at the sub-national level rather than at the national level. Further, despite the WHO Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) being useful guidance, there was a lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities. Overall, participants remarked the pivotal role of the Health Clusters, the HCTs and inter-cluster coordination sector working groups.
  - With regard to multi-sectoral collaboration, pre-existing relationships were highly functional and mainly prevalent on the sub-national level. Multi-sectoral collaboration was also considered crucial for RCCE and the development of technical guidance. The presence of clusters was seen as a strong enabling factor. A limiting factor was funding.
  - Overall, the reports emphasized the importance of strong, pre-existing coordination structures. The reports recommend that the GHC provide more multi-sectoral guidance and for the GHC and CCCM to prepare a joint preparedness plan to guide collaboration in future outbreaks. Non-traditional approaches in RCCE should also be explored. OCHA should share lessons learned by CWC and AAP working groups around RCCE during the COVID-19 response with the clusters. The GCCG matrix and information package should be re-evaluated and developed further. Eventually, the findings will be incorporated into a new conceptual framework called HEPR which serves as a guiding document for all hazards.
19. Ms. Pack thanked Ms. Doull and proposed an additional meeting for a more detailed discussion particularly around follow up actions. The floor was opened for discussion. GBV AoR reported on positive feedback to the GBV REGAs on their remote guidance via webinars and on the dissemination of messages at grassroots level by the Women's Union in Yemen. Ms. Chase also suggested to add the recommendations from the reports as an agenda item for the upcoming GCCG retreat. GEC asked if there are already on-going preparations for the next pandemic based on this learning experience. Ms. Doull noted that there is additional funding being set up and action being taken, but the coherence of the action remains questionable. GWC added that the WASH cluster put together a learning brief that was rolled out with the COVID hygiene hub specifically looking at the needs for coordination and IM, which she offered to share with the GCCs.

### Action points

- ix. *GCCG-s: Solicit interest in organizing a separate meeting to further discuss recommendations and follow up actions related to the GCCG on the recommendations from the three reports on the COVID-19 response, including during the annual GCCG retreat.*
- x. *GWC: Ms. Ramos to circulate the learning brief developed by WASH.*
- xi. *GCCG-s: Upload the GHC presentation onto the GCCG Collaborative Space.*

### Update from the Capacity Development Task Team

20. Ms. Pack invited Ms. Emma Fitzpatrick (GHC) to update on the Capacity Development Task Team (CDTT). Ms. Fitzpatrick reported that in April UNICEF provided resources to the CDTT to create an e-learning module. The CDTT created a session plan focusing strengthening the ICC members' inter-cluster approach at national and sub-national level. The e-learning will be 60 to 80 minutes long and divided into four distinct parts. The sections cover the basics of the cluster approach, inter-cluster coordination, national and sub-national coordination, and reflection and application. Following the finalization, the module documents are expected to be shared with the GCCG by 9 October for comments and no objection approval. The final version is envisaged to be available on the official OCHA website with free access for everyone by early November. Additionally, a package for a face-

## GCCG Meeting

20 September 2023, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

to-face meeting that can be tailored to one country is envisaged to be developed sometime early next year. Ms. Fitzpatrick suggested to include a session on the face-to-face training in the upcoming GCCG retreat. Mr. Al-Hayo suggested that Ms. Fitzpatrick connect with colleagues in CCCM who deal with capacity building. Ms. Fitzpatrick asked GCCs to share their logos.

### Action points

- xii. *GCCG-s: Upload CDTT slides onto the GCCG Collaborative Space.*
- xiii. *GCCs: Send their cluster logos to CDTT members so they can be included on the training package.*

### Update from Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement – including upcoming priorities

21. Ms. Pack invited Ms. Greta Zeender (Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement) to brief on the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement. Ms. Zeender noted that the SG's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement serves as the framework for the Office's work. Niger, South Sudan and Colombia are the three countries where the Office works alongside the Flagship Initiative. With regard to Colombia, Ms. Zeender noted that the work is focused on solutions, e.g. for integrating IDPs in National Development Plans with support of UN agencies. Ms. Zeender noted that while working on different parts of the spectrum, both initiatives can learn from each other. A new Internal Displacement Solutions Fund was established in August 2023 and is currently open to 15 pilot countries. Another instrument is the placement of a Solutions Adviser in RC Offices. Thus far, 12 agencies have committed to develop plans to reinforce engagement on solutions (OCHA's for example is in process, hence not indicated in the PowerPoint presentation). Ms. Zeender further briefed the GCCG on the internal processes of the initiative, including the consultation with the pilot countries and Group of Friends. The initiative will come to a close at the end of 2024.
22. Discussion: CCCM inquired as to whether there was a timeline for scale-up and cluster activation. Ms. Zeender responded that this has not been discussed yet. She emphasized possible clarification needed on the role of the RC in leading on solutions and the HC leading on response. In response to a question from GWC on the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund, Ms. Zeender noted that the fundraising goal of US\$ 100 million is only envisaged to be met in five years. To date, US\$ 15.5 million has been secured. Since only approximately US\$ 1.5 to 3 million will be made available per country, the funds can act as a lubricant to find solutions or pilot specific solutions. The funds can be used in a broad scope and for the entire country.

### Action points

- xiv. *GCCG-s: Send GCCG transition paper on Iraq to Ms. Zeender.*
- xv. *Greta Zeender to share IDP Review documents with the GCCG.*

### AOB

23. Coordination Mapping: With regard to the coordination mapping exercise, Ms. Hassan said that the preliminary cluster data is being finalized and will thereafter be sent to the GCCs. OCHA data will then be cleaned and finalized. Trends and numbers will be presented to the group within the next three weeks. Two sessions are planned to present trends, data, and key observations from the mapping process and resulting implications over time.
24. Donor and private sector participation in cluster meetings: Ms. Brown reported on increasing pressure concerning private sector (PS) participation in clusters and was reviewing IASC guidance on cluster membership in the Cluster Coordination Reference Module (CCRM). For several reasons the GEC has not agreed to formal membership for the private sector, although bilateral partnership or observer status were not problematic. Ms. Brown enquired whether other clusters are taking a different approach. Ms. Skuric also asked if GCCs could share their positions on the membership of donors in clusters, following a request for guidance from a field operation.
25. Discussion: GCCs offered different perspectives on the two questions, as well as whether a distinction was made between member and observer. One GCC indicated at the field level they had allowed limited participation of the private sector (as an observer) in certain countries where there is a massive response with PS involvement. Another GCC said at the field level there were no hard rules in terms of membership; it would be decided on a case-by-case basis and the extent to which the Principles of Partnership/humanitarian principles were met, the decision being for the SAG. For this GCC, at the global level, donors were full members with voting rights and had a non-voting seat on the SAG. Another GCC highlighted that they drew a clear distinction between humanitarian

## **GCCG Meeting**

20 September 2023, 14:00 – 16.00 GVA time

actors and the PS. Similarly, the GCC highlighted increased donor pressure to participate in clusters and the need to push back against this to maintain independence and humanitarian principles. Another GCC highlighted that the operational context played a big aspect in the consideration of whether to include donors or PS in the cluster and these decisions should not be left to the coordinator at the field level- they need to be supported with guidance. Ms. Brown (GEC) GCC reminded the group as to IASC Guidance in the Cluster Coordination Reference Module with membership criteria that do not include donors. Given the different practices and opinions, Ms. Skuric suggested a more detailed discussion as agenda item for the upcoming GCCG retreat.

26. Concerning the HNPW, Ms. Ramos raised the question whether the GCCG will operate a shared booth. A proposal was made to have a session on localization at the HPNW. Ms. Skuric agreed to reserve a booth and suggested to have a follow-up discussion after Aidex 2023 to plan for HPNW.
27. Ms. Skuric noted that the next regular GCCG meeting will be held on **11 October from 14:00 to 16:00** (Geneva time) and suggested agenda items include (1) Operational updates (2) CBPF/CERF discussion (3) Syria OPR (4) GCCG representation at the HNPW (5) Presentation on findings from the DRC mission by Ms. Apio.

### **Action points**

- xvi.* GCCG-s: *Final cluster data to be shared with the GCCs*
- xvii.* GCCG-s: *Reserve a booth and session (potentially on transition) for the GCCG at HNPW.*