

# IASC Task Force 2 on Accountability to Affected People

## 06 September 2023 - Meeting Minutes

### Agenda:

- Welcoming notes
- New timeline and revision of workplan
- Exchange on the CHS revision
- Progress update from workstream 2.1.1 on Community Feedback Mechanisms: Operational planning and engagement for field support and learning
- Communication with our wider community
- AOBs
- Conclusion

### Discussion:

#### 1. Welcoming notes

TF2 Co-Chair, Jesse Wood, welcomed all the attendees and presented the agenda.

#### 2. New timeline and revision of workplan

TF2 Co-Chair, Jesse Wood explained that based on the extension of the IASC structures until June 2024 the TF2 Leads organised a retreat in late August to review the TF2 workplan. This was also an opportunity to review progress, challenges and links across all workstreams and with other initiatives.

TF2 Co-Chairs, Mr Jesse Wood and Mrs Tanya Wood provided a summary of key reflections from this retreat going through the workplan activities and invited members to comment:

##### **Activity 1.1.1. and Activity 1.1.2.**

It was noted that the HCT compacts often includes AAP as priority and that the Humanitarian Leadership Support Branch (HLSS) in OCHA also prioritises AAP in its support to HCs and RCs. Therefore, the consideration was to change the description of the deliverable that is closer to the inter/agency training project led by IOM and is closely coordinated with the HLSS. In addition, the focus on Collective APP performance metrics for HCT members will continue to be a priority in the overarching Responsibility Area 1 on "Promoting learning, advocacy, and multi-level engagement across the system". This advocacy has also a link into Priority Area of work 3.1. Engagement with donors to improve funding to support collective AAP approaches, through our

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Country level engagement and support, and will relate to the development and usage of the IASC Collective AAP Results Tracker.

### **Activity 1.2.1. results-based country level AAP actions plans**

It was noted key lessons had been drawn from Country Workshops and other country support based on the suites of IASC Collective AAP tools and resources adapted in their respective contexts. A new draft of The Collective AAP Framework will integrate these key learnings. OCHA is leading on this revision process that will include TF members. The TF Leads will then seek to bring to OPAG for feedback and endorsement before the end of the year. Changes will be suggested to the description of the activity as "Country Level Actions Plans" does not encompass other types of benchmarks that can be used to evidence the advancement and commitment at country level.

### **Activity 2.1.1. Feedback Mechanisms**

Mrs Wood noted the importance of this workstream that invests at operational level to provide tailored support, opportunities to compare our tools and learning to finalise our common products, based on current best practice and improving it. *See focused update further down.*

### **Activity 2.1.2. Views of people into decisions fora**

At global level, Tanya outlined previous TF efforts with other IASC structures (EDG and principals). Moving forward the focus with the IASC Secretariat and other actors will be on preparing topline response specific views for distribution to the IASC structures.

At responses level the proposed focus is on consolidating the diversity and learning from country level practice. TF will investigate how to collaborate on this with the Localisation Taskforce (TF5).

### **Activity 3.1.1. Donor Engagement on AAP**

Mrs Wood outlined the progress made : The publication of the TF2 commissioned [report on Supporting donors on AAP](#) authored by Andy Featherstone's who [presented main findings during the HNPW in April](#) and related subsequent engagement with the [Good Humanitarian Donorship](#) and through a dedicated [ECOSOC side event](#). Moving forward the TF2 leads are engaging with the [Grand Bargain](#) and other stakeholders to investigate ways to ensure a sustained, structured and impactful process can advance this work with TF2 and beyond its mandate.

### **Activity 3.1.2. Focus on CERF and CBPF**

On the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF), TF Leads recognised progress had been made by OCHA to improve the way these Pooled Funds can advance Collective AAP. This was reflected in the updated CBPF guidelines that integrated Collective AAP more explicitly. TF Leads proposed to focus on providing opportunities for Country

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Level Actors to better know how to leverage those instruments to advance collective AAP. Moving forward this would be better placed if explicitly integrated into Activity 1.1.1. on training of HCT members; and into Activity 1.2.1. Results Based AAP Action Plans development; and see how they can support the 2 other objectives (Objective 2 and 3).

**Activity/deliverables 3.2.1. Improve Inter-Agency AAP capacity.**

TF Leads recognised this remains a high priority and that a Leadership and collective drive may exist to advance Collective AAP but are still unable to find capacity that can support them when needed. TF Leads will work with Workstream Leads to review and prioritise the specific deliverables that respond to the most acute operational needs.

**3. Exchange on the CHS revision**

Mihir Bhatt, AIDMI and Co Chair of the CHS Steering Committee, and Bonaventure Sokpoh, CHS Alliance, presented an update on the ongoing CHS revision process. The consultations to date has involved over 3,000 stakeholders, including community, national and regional consultations. , as well as online webinars in English, French, and Spanish, and distributed a survey to contribute to the revision which is still open to receiving feedback.

Analysing and amending the draft will involve focusing on a few new criteria; namely, prioritizing what matters to communities in a more people-centric manner. This will involve making the standards more accessible through simplifying the language and enabling its usage across a wide range of organizations, whilst ensuring maintenance of measurability and continuity with the current standards.

While many community representatives have expressed satisfaction with the current standard, language around development, preparedness, inclusion and diversity, environment, and partnership are areas identified for strengthening. Community members have expressed need for improvements in timeliness of support provision, use of resources for intended purposes, and adaptation of support based on feedback and priorities. They also seek fair, inclusive, and transparent targeting in the sector.

The final updated version of CHS will be launched in March next year.. Strength of CHS lies in reflecting affected people's expectations and priorities around aid, so supporting different kinds of organizations in adopting CHS in their work and pushing response-level progress on the ground that positively impacts peoples' lives will be necessary. Beyond just walking the talk, the CHS must bolster the localization agenda to strengthen quality and accountability of aid.

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#### **4. Progress update from workstream 2.1.1 on Community Feedback Mechanisms: Operational planning and engagement for field support and learning**

Amanda Maher, the consultant who is leading the technical work for the workstream 2.1.1, provided a quick recap and overview of the status of workstream activities with respect to operational testing of the outputs at the country operation level. She covered the contents of the package of common operational guiding principles and standards and outlined the learning objectives and key milestones in line with the new TF extension timeline. The pathways for engagement, current coverage for operational support and some initial learnings/opportunities for further investigation were explored briefly.

The approach taken will seize ongoing and emergent opportunities to simultaneously support and learn from country operations prioritising the strengthening of CFMs for the collective AAP agenda. The nature of how the package is operationalised and reviewed will therefore depend on the specific needs and priorities of participant organisations at the country level; however, entry points for feedback and learning exist to support regional and global priorities as well. This workstream plans to host a separate session to dive deeper into some of the big questions and emergent findings in the next month and interested members are encouraged to participate and extend the invitation beyond TF membership where appropriate.

#### **5. Communication with our wider community**

TF2 Information & Knowledge Management Officer, Pedro Freire, presented TF2 existing communication channels and informed the members about the Co-Chairs decision to initiate the dissemination of a quarterly newsletter to inform the broader AAP Community about the latest TF2 updates, past and upcoming events & trainings, new resources, job postings and contact options. Members were invited to share resources, blog posts, training opportunities, job postings and anything else deemed relevant directly to [aap@collectivehelpdesk.org](mailto:aap@collectivehelpdesk.org) in order to be posted on our [Accountability & Inclusion Portal](#), included in the newsletters and amplified through our communications.

#### **6. Conclusion**

TF2 Co-Chair, Mr. Jesse Wood, concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and participating, and praising the great results of the discussions. Mr wood also communicated that the amended workplan will be shared with TF members asap.

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