Terms of Reference for the Global Cluster Coordination Group
June 2014

Background

Since the beginning of the cluster approach in 2005, Global Cluster Coordinators (GCCs) have met (convened by OCHA) to work together on areas of common concern and to share information. The Global Cluster Coordinator's Group (GCCG) has never been an official IASC subsidiary body and has never had a formal Terms of Reference (TORs) or work plan, so meetings have tended to be held on an ad hoc basis and the group's relationship with other bodies, as well as its membership, have been fluid. The GCCs lead partnerships of humanitarian actors that contribute significantly to emergency preparedness and response in their respective sectors and represent a collective view, which may be distinct from that of the Global Cluster Lead Agency. The GCCG has the potential, therefore, to contribute positively to coordination-related decision-making, in support of country-level operations. These TORs set out the GCCG's purpose, membership and modus operandi.

Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the GCCG is to support the strengthening of country-level cluster and inter-cluster coordination with the overall aim of improving the quality of humanitarian response. To achieve this, the GCCG will:

(i) **Coordinate the provision of joint field support to cluster and inter-cluster coordination, tailored to the specific country situation.** This could be in response to requests or upon the initiative of GCCs who have identified a situation requiring the support of two or more clusters (this could include support on any aspect of humanitarian coordination such as cluster activation, cluster performance monitoring, the functioning of coordination mechanisms, cluster deactivation/transition and the implementation of any step of the humanitarian programme cycle).

(ii) **Collaborate on capacity building and other joint initiatives where cooperation between all or a group of clusters at the global level will contribute to a more efficient use of resources and a better response at country level.** For example, the members of the GCCG will share information on their cluster's capacity building programmes with the aim of identifying possible areas for collaboration (and efficiencies) which might take the form of sharing applicable modules and/or participating in each other's training programmes. The GCCG will ensure that any guidance or tools it produces are disseminated to the field through appropriate briefings and trainings at the global and/or country level as required, and as resources allow.

(iii) **Encourage clusters (Cluster Coordinators and cluster partners) to participate in and/or inform global level decision-making and raise issues requiring resolution relating to cluster and inter-cluster coordination with relevant bodies as needed.** The GCCG will establish appropriate links with the IASC Working Group, the IASC Emergency Directors' Group (EDG) and other relevant bodies so that it can contribute to the development of policy relating to clusters from the outset, and

raise issues from the field to a relevant body for resolution. In particular, the GCCG will establish a regular two-way working relationship[1] with the Emergency Directors' Group (EDG) whereby the GCCG will raise any operational or strategic problems hampering the response and requiring resolution by the EDG, and share information, analysis and advice on cluster and inter-cluster coordination and other issues with the EDG.

(iv) **Upon the request of field colleagues, engage in joint advocacy on issues which require amplification at the global level. This could include advocacy on specific operational or policy issues, or advocacy concerning neglected emergencies or sectors.** The GCCG will also engage in a regular dialogue with donors and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of ensuring cluster coordination and response are both adequately funded and that mutual expectations are realistic.

(v) **Contribute to the development and dissemination of guidance and tools for country-level clusters as required.** The GCCG will use its collective experience to advise on when and if guidance and tools are needed to address a system-wide gap, and will respond accordingly. The GCCG is the custodian of the IASC Cluster Coordination Reference Module and will update it as needed.

(vi) **Share information and learning on the implementation of the cluster approach with each other and with relevant actors.** This will also include reviewing relevant reviews and evaluations for applicable recommendations and following up on them.

The GCCG will ensure that multidisciplinary and cross-cutting issues which are not within the remit of one specific cluster are addressed through concerted action and that synergies and efficiencies are identified across clusters.

Composition and Structure

The GCCG is composed of Global Cluster Coordinators of the 11 IASC recognised Global Clusters; as members of the group, the Global Cluster Coordinators represent the partners in their respective clusters[2]. The Protection Cluster's four AOR Coordinators are also invited to attend. The composition of the GCCG will be reviewed by its members every 6 months. If Global Cluster Coordinators are not able to attend meetings in person, they will designate an alternate who has the ability to make decisions on their behalf. Other stakeholders such as representatives from cross-cluster and cross-cutting issues, NGO consortia representatives and Chairs/Co-Chairs of other IASC bodies are not members of the GCCG but they (and others) will be invited by the GCCs to participate in discussions on specific topics as required.

The GCCG will be convened and facilitated by OCHA (HCSS), and OCHA will provide Secretariat support to the Group. The Secretariat organises meetings; drafts and distributes the agenda and action points; monitors progress of the implementation of the action points arising from the GCCG; maintains a contact list of GCCG members; prepares materials for distribution to the GCCG; and facilitates the flow of information with other bodies as needed.

[1] Exact modalities to be agreed between the GCCG and EDG.

[2] It is the responsibility of the Global Cluster Coordinators to ensure consultation with their sector/cluster partners.

Regarding the GCCG's relationship with the Emergency Directors' Group (EDG), the GCCG will designate one of its members who, along with the OCHA Convener of the Group, will represent the GCCG at the EDG. These representatives will ensure that the views of the GCCG are accurately reflected in EDG discussions, and that the discussions held and decisions made by the EDG are reported back to the GCCG.

Agenda and Frequency of Meetings

The GCCG will meet regularly to ensure progress in fulfilling its objectives. In addition, GCCG members and OCHA may also call for meetings on an ad hoc basis to address specific issues as required. The agenda will be proposed by OCHA through consultation with the GCCG members and informed by requests from other groups/individuals requiring consultation with the GCCG.