

IASC Results Group 1 - Operational Response

Face to Face meeting on 12 February 2020

Results Group 1 on Operational Response met on 12 February in Geneva to share key updates from each priority areas, namely: mainstreaming protection; addressing bureaucratic impediments; strengthening humanitarian leadership; strengthening the IASC EWEA analysis; revising the ERP guidance; operationalizing localization; and developing a joint system-wide operational guidance on data responsibility.

The Group first discussed how to take forward the priority area, “supporting efforts to operationalize **localization**, including representation of relevant national and local organizations in coordination structures.” IFRC, leading this workstream, convened the first subgroup meeting on 5 February with participation from Save the Children, UNFPA, ICVA, GPC and UN Habitat. The subgroup noted that the Grand Bargain localization workstream continue focusing on financing and donor aspects, while RG1’s work revolves around coordination structures. IFRC proposed for the Group’s consideration two deliverables to be taken forward in 2020 under this priority area: (i) Establish an information repository to bring together a range of information on participation of LNNGOs in leadership and coordination structures – moving forward, analysis can be conducted in collaboration with the academia to understand what is (not) working in which countries and what support is most needed; and (ii) Draft a Framework for better engagement with local government in humanitarian operations – this is already being drafted by UN-HABITAT.

Co-Chairs encouraged engaging with development actors as well as donors through the Grand Bargain to gain insights from their stabilization process with local governments. Developing basic guidelines for HC/HCTs was suggested, given that the field leadership often lack practical knowledge on how to engage with local NGOs and structures – alternatively a short section can be added to the RC Handbook. UNHCR highlighted the importance of scaling up capacity-building efforts for community actors and expressed interest for contributing to the workstream in that regard. An analysis on national and local governments dynamics analysis was also suggested. Rich resources are identified, including the GPC’s GBV guidance on engaging with local governments and the Grand Bargain’s five forthcoming guidelines on different aspects of localization.

In the following session, the **Protection** subgroup, led by InterAction and OCHA, briefed on progress made under their three deliverables as follows: (i) Inputs for critical protection concerns were provided for the Principals’ horizon scanning on 5 December. A debrief was held among the subgroup on process and impact. Key challenges identified included: time constraints, many layers of approval and lack of feedback loop. The subgroup will discuss whether to continue this practice and then discuss this in a future RG1 meeting. They agreed not to proceed with inputs to the February 2020 EDG ARO, mainly to avoid duplication with already established channels for field/IASC members to input to the annual review. Instead, the subgroup proposed it could help with updating the list of questions sent to the field as part of the EDG Review, to strengthen the discussion around protection; (ii) The request for HCT reflections on the IASC Protection Policy was sent via OCHA on 15 January to HCs/HCTs in 10 countries (Afghanistan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen). Inputs are requested by end February. RG1 members were requested to encourage their respective country colleagues to participate in this reflection exercise and OCHA agreed to send out a reminder; and (iii) the ToRs for a review of the IASC Protection

Policy (5 years of adoption in 2021) have been drafted and are now being refined by CoP subgroup. Final draft to be circulated to RG1 and OPAG by second quarter 2020, with a view to commissioning the study in the second half of 2020.

Action

- **Members to encourage their respective country colleagues to participate in the reflection exercise.**
- **OCHA to send out a reminder to the selected field offices.**

The **Bureaucratic Impediments** subgroup, led by InterAction and ICVA, briefed that a series of country specific “deep dives” will be undertaken to better document and understand problems and solutions at the country level. The subgroup agreed on a set of questions to have a common approach to the 11 selected countries (Colombia, DRC, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, oPt, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Somalia, Iraq). NGO Consortia on the ground will be engaged for inputs, while several UN agencies volunteered as focal points to collect UN data and additional NGO/IFRC inputs. Members suggested engaging with clusters, OCHA Access Working Groups and Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy for inputs and collaboration. OCHA agreed to establish linkages with the OCHA Access Working Groups. WHO expressed interest to contribute, mainly through their work on “health under attack”, and proposed a bilateral talk with InterAction at a later stage.

Action

- **OCHA to establish linkages with the OCHA Access Working Groups to advance the country deep dives on bureaucratic impediments.**

The **Humanitarian Leadership** subgroup, led by OCHA, ICVA, UNDP and UNHCR, briefed that a rough draft of the updated *Introduction to Humanitarian Action – A Brief Guide for Resident Coordinator* will be ready end February. Progress is being made with the second round of consultations to commence. In addition to consulting with OCHA colleagues and the RG1 members, the subgroup will also consult with the end-users (HC/RCs) through an advisory group consisting of former and active HC/RCs. Linkages with DCO is to be strengthened beyond contributions to the RC Induction Briefing. Guidance for DHC will be shaped later this year, and OCHA will meet with the all five DHCs on the margin of the 2020 HC Retreat to provide any support and consult on expectations for the DHC guidance. Efforts continue to diversify the pool of candidates for inter-agency senior field coordination leadership functions. OCHA Head of Offices were encouraged to look for more diverse prospective leaders, given that only 22% of the nominations in the last uptake were for female leaders. OCHA noted reliable funding would be available to support the diversification of the leadership pool over the coming years.

OCHA on behalf of WFP briefed on the work of the **IASC Early Warning and Early Action Analysis** group that efforts continue to further strengthen the linkages between the Early Warning and Early Action. The subgroup aims to produce more substantial, specific recommendations in the next edition of the report for the EDG’s consideration. The Early Warning analyst group convenes on a monthly basis to keep track of early warning and readiness in between the six-month cycles. A draft of the revised **ERP guidance** was circulated on 11 February to global focal points of respective organizations. The revision will be finalized by early April and will be shared across Results Groups to inform their various humanitarian actions.

The Group’s discussion then moved to an update on the **joint system-wide operational guidance on data responsibility**, co-led by OCHA’s Center for Humanitarian Data, IOM and UNHCR. The Center noted that the subgroup was established composed of 15 members, including 9 NGOs. The subgroup is conducting a desk review to inform the way forward of the guidance. An internal survey is underway to

sharpen key topics and components, while a similar public survey will take place targeting a broader humanitarian community to identify expectations for the guidance.

The next face to face meeting will take place on **2 April 2020** from **15:00 to 16:00 pm GVA / 9:00 to 10:00 am NY** with further details to be circulated by the IASC secretariat.
