

# IASC Results Group 1 on Operational Response

Progress Report (November 2019 - April 2020)

## 2020 Priority Areas of Work – Reprioritized in light of COVID-19

[**Note:** Completed deliverables are highlighted in green. Recognizing that the COVID-19 calls for system-wide reprioritization and resequencing of priorities and has an impact on the ability of the Results Groups to deliver, any changes in light of COVID-19 are noted below in terms of: (a) areas of work that can be delivered as planned, (b) activities that will have to be postponed, and (c) new activities/ deliverables that will need to be taken onboard in support of the COVID-19 response.]

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK	“ORIGINAL” CONCRETE DELIVERABLES	REPRIORITIZATION	TIMELINES	LEADS	PARTNERS
<p>Ensure that <b>protection is mainstreamed</b> throughout the humanitarian response, beyond the actions taken by the protection cluster.</p> <p><b>Agreed, specific and measurable indicators</b> are included within the cluster response and are reviewed within the midterm review process.</p>	<p>Provide relevant <b>protection inputs</b> in advance of the IASC Principals horizon scanning session as well as the EDG’s Annual Review of Operations on critical protection concerns and required actions in selected countries.</p>	<p><b><u>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED</u></b> Protection inputs will include COVID-related aspects.</p>	<p>Inputs on Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Venezuela provided to inform the Principals horizon scanning on <b>5 December 2019</b>. Further protection inputs to be provided for the Principals’ discussion as needed.</p> <p>Protection input to EDG AROs preparatory questions to be provided in <b>Q3 2020</b> ahead of 2021 ARO.</p>	OCHA, InterAction	<p>NRC, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, DRC, IOM, IRC, Child Protection AoR Co-Chairs, GPC Coordinator</p>
	<p>(i) HCs and HCTs in selected countries to undertake reflection and exchange of <b>lessons learned on implementation of the core requirements of the IASC Protection Policy</b> (based on guidance provided by RG1). (ii) The critical lessons and issues emerging from these reflections will be distilled in a 2-page paper and inform <b>agreed, specific and measurable indicators</b> on the centrality of protection in practice.</p>	<p><b><u>POSTPONED</u></b> The work continues as planned but will slow down in light of COVID-19. The development of protection indicators were originally planned for Q2 2020 but to be delayed to Q3 2020.</p>	<p>A message sent to selected HCTs in <b>February 2020</b> with guiding questions to initiate the country level reflections process.</p> <p>Afghanistan, Colombia, CAR, Iraq, Cameroon and Myanmar provided feedback so far. The protection indicators will be developed in <b>Q3 2020</b>.</p>	OCHA, InterAction	
	<p>Commission a <b>review of the IASC Protection Policy</b> in 2020.</p>	<p><b><u>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED</u></b></p>	<p>A ToR for the review was developed, which lays out methodologies and scope of the review. The review will be commissioned by <b>end 2020</b>.</p>	OCHA, InterAction	

					Child Protection AoR Co-Chairs, GPC Coordinator
<p><b>Address bureaucratic impediments imposed on NGOs</b> to curtail their access and their ability to carry out humanitarian activities [in collaboration with RG3 on Collective Advocacy].</p>	<p>(i) Document and <b>map bureaucratic impediments</b> and restrictive NGO Law provisions in major global humanitarian crises.</p>	NA	The mapping was finalized in <b>December 2019</b> .	InterAction, ICVA	Save the Children, InterSos, various field NGOs and NGO consortia
	<p>(ii) <b>Develop normative guidance</b> (in the form of a best practices and lessons learned document) for HCs and HCTs to contribute to mitigating effects of bureaucratic impediments on humanitarian operations.</p>	<p><b>POSTPONED</b> The delivery of the guidance was originally planned in Q2 2020. However, country case studies are put on hold to be sensitive to the difficulties faced by field colleagues in COVID contexts.</p>	As a result of COVID-19, the number of country case studies had to be reduced from 12 to 5, now focusing on Myanmar, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Venezuela and Yemen. As the case studies are an essential ingredient to feed into the guidance, the timeline for the final product remains uncertain at present.	InterAction, ICVA	
<p>Pursue activities to <b>strengthen humanitarian leadership</b> for a more effective and inclusive humanitarian response, while fostering synergies and complementarity with the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system.</p>	<p><b>Update the Introduction to Humanitarian Action – A Brief Guide for Resident Coordinators (2015)</b> (this is part of the background documents that are shared together with the ERC designation letter to sitting HCs and the ERC letter to newly appointed RCs to articulate the expectations of them in ensuring crisis-affected people rapidly get the humanitarian assistance needed).</p>	<p><b>POSTPONED &amp; ADAPTED IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19</b> The update of the Handbook continues but will shift its focus on areas most relevant to the COVID-19 response, including for RCs performing HC functions. OCHA will make ready relevant elements online for RCs, rather than waiting till the whole book is finalized.</p>	The update of the Handbook to be completed by <b>Q2 2020</b> .	OCHA	P2P, UNSDG, various NGOs
	<p>Convene an inter-agency advisory team to support the <b>development of and contribution to the 1st RC Induction Briefing</b> held since the implementation of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system.</p>	NA	A proposal developed by OCHA following consultation with DCO and shared with the inter-agency advisory team in October to provide inputs to the RC Induction on <b>11-14 Nov 2019</b> .	OCHA	DCO

	<p><b>Strengthen linkages with DCO on aspects related to leadership and the development system reform</b> and ensuring that field leaders are aware of the expectations of them and the support available by the IASC for their humanitarian coordination function.</p>	<p><b><i>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED</i></b> Given that there will be an increase in requirements for leadership support, including from RCs stepping up HC functions, overall support will continue in close collaboration with the EDG and DCO on leadership aspects.</p>	<p><b>Continuous</b> – Areas of particular relevant to RCs will be prioritized, such as outreach to NGOs.</p>	<p>OCHA</p>	<p>EDG, DCO</p>
	<p><b>Review and provide guidance</b> on the identification (circumstances), development (tailored support for sitting DHCs) and accountability (guidance to manage the relationship and accountability of the DHC to the HC and HCT) of <b>Deputy Humanitarian Coordinators</b>.</p>	<p><b><i>POSTPONED</i></b> While the guidance was originally planned to be finalized in the first half of 2020, this will be postponed, given its close linkage to the HC retreat which is postponed till end 2020. Support will continue to be provided to new and sitting DHCs on an individual basis.</p>	<p>Initial consultations with DHCs conducted. The work will resume in the <b>second half of 2020</b>.</p>	<p>OCHA, ICVA, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM</p>	<p>P2P</p>
	<p>Develop a <b>communication and outreach campaign</b> in support of <b>broadening, deepening and diversifying the pool of candidates for inter-agency senior field coordination leadership</b> functions.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>This was already addressed during <b>2019's annual call for the HiPo and the HC Pool</b>, which saw better gender, geographical and functional balance.  In view of COVID-19, 2020's HiPo and HC pool process will be conducted virtually with the original timeline, with outreach planned in <b>Q3 2020</b> ahead of the next ERC call for the HC pool.</p>	<p>OCHA, ICVA, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM</p>	<p>UNSDG</p>
<p>Determine how to <b>strengthen the IASC Early Warning and Early Action Analysis</b> and ensure that the “early action” aspect is prioritized by the various IASC structures</p>	<p>Continue to <b>identify, analyse and prioritise emerging risks</b> and <b>publish bi-annual EWEAR analysis report</b>. <i>[They will better align with other Disaster Risk Reduction and preparedness mechanisms and consider an adjustment of the timing of the report's publication in line with the IASC Principals and EDG meetings]</i></p>	<p><b><i>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED</i></b> The latest iteration of IASC Early Warning and Early Action Analysis (May – October 2020) considers COVID-related risks in identifying risks and preparedness actions.</p>	<p><b>Continuous</b> - Analysis continues to be produced with a six-month horizon.</p>	<p>WFP</p>	<p>EDG</p>

(including the IASC and the EDG).	(i) Provide <b>preparedness/readiness inputs</b> for risks to be discussed by the analyst group in order to inform the prioritisation of the EWEAR report. (ii) Identify and consolidate suggested <b>IASC readiness and early actions</b> and support required, through consultation with field offices, following the identification of prioritised risks, and ahead of the EDG and Principals meeting, in order to inform the discussions at the EDG and Principals. (iii) Provide regular update reports on actions taken regarding EWEAR risks.			OCHA, UNICEF	
Finalize the revision of the ERP guidance, publish and disseminate the revised ERP guidance.	Revise the <b>ERP guidance</b> , including as relevant Anticipatory Actions.	<b>POSTPONED</b> A draft of the revised ERP guidance was ready in February 2020, however the consultation process is put on hold in light of COVID-19.	The work will resume in the <b>second half of 2020</b> .	WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, Mercy Corps	EDG
	NA	<b>NEW DELIVERABLE</b> Develop an “ <b>IASC Interim Guidance: Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Approach to the COVID-19 Pandemic.</b> ”	The interim guidance was developed by OCHA and UNICEF and endorsed by the Principals in <b>April 2020</b> .	OCHA, UNICEF	
Support efforts to <b>operationalize localization</b> , including representation of relevant national and local organizations in coordination structures.	Develop <b>guidance for HCs/HCTs to engage local/national representation in HCTs</b> , based on an information repository to bring together a range of information on participation of NNGOs in leadership and coordination structures.	<b>POSTPONED</b> Developing an interim guidance on localization in the COVID contexts is prioritized. The work to develop a general guidance will resume later this year.	TBC	IFRC, Save the Children, UNFPA, GPC	TBC
	NA	<b>NEW DELIVERABLE</b> Develop an “ <b>IASC Interim Guidance on Localization and the COVID-19 Response.</b> ”	The interim guidance was developed under the leadership of IFRC and UNICEF and endorsed by the Principals in <b>May 2020</b> .	IFRC, Save the Children, UNFPA, GPC	
	Draft a <b>Framework for better engagement with local government</b> in humanitarian operations [ <i>IASC Principals action point agreed on 5 Dec 2019</i> ].	<b>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED</b>	To be finalized in <b>Q3 2020</b> . Consultations with various stakeholders took place, including with local governments to draft a	UN Habitat	Various local governments

			framework for better engagement with local governments.		
Consolidate the current policies and practices of humanitarian partners in the area of <b>data responsibility</b> .	Facilitate the development of the new “ <b>joint system-wide operational guidance on data responsibility</b> ” being produced by the OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data in the Hague.	<b><i>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED</i></b>	To be finalized in <b>Q4 2020</b> . The initial draft was developed in late March, based on a desk/literature review on other similar initiatives and a public survey on expectations on the guidance. By end May, a revised draft will be shared with the wider Group for feedback with the view to finalize the document in fall for endorsement.	OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, UNHCR, IOM	DRC, IFRC, IRC, IOM, JIPS, Mercy Corps, MSF, NRC, OCHA, OHCHR, Save the Children, UNHCR, WFP, CARE and CRS
	NA	<b><i>NEW DELIVERABLE</i></b> Develop an “ <b>FAQ on Data Responsibility in the COVID-19 Response</b> ” to support organizations and staff around the world working with data in the COVID-19 response.	Completed in <b>April 2020</b> . The FAQ will continue to be updated on a rolling basis.	Same as above	NA
Review the <b>Humanitarian Programme Cycle</b> tools and monitor field compliance.	Revise <b>Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) templates</b> with an associated step-by-step guide.	NA	Finalized in <b>April 2019</b> .	OCHA, UNHCR, IOM	NA

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