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## IASC Results Group 3 – Collective Advocacy

6 July 2021

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### Summary Record

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IASC Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy met 6 July 2021 to discuss (i) climate change advocacy; (ii) counterterrorism and humanitarian action; (iii) food security collective advocacy; iv) RG1 presentation on protection indicators and centrality of protection, and its advocacy implications.

#### Action points

- **RG3 members to advocate for their agencies to adopt the Climate and Environment Charter. [CONTINUOUS]**
- **RG3 members to encourage their senior managers for climate change to be on the agenda of a IASC Principals meeting**
- **IASC members were encouraged to share their related climate change and humanitarian action initiatives with OCHA, who would add them to the [trello board](#). [CONTINUOUS]**
- **RG3 members encouraged to reach out to Isabelle Rivolet - [isarivolet@hotmail.com](mailto:isarivolet@hotmail.com) – to support the establishment of advocacy success indicators as part of the work on Centrality of Protection.**
- **IASC secretariat to schedule an ad hoc call on famine prevention coordination [ACTIONED]**
- **IASC secretariat to share the RG1 protection process indicators with RG3 [ACTIONED]**
- **IASC secretariat to cancel the regular RG3 August meeting [ACTIONED]**
- **Next meeting on Tuesday 7th September 2021**

#### **Update on climate change advocacy (RG3 climate change co-chairs Kirsten M. and Danielle L.)**

- IFRC briefed that to date some 70 organizations had adopted the [Climate and Environment Charter](#). Organizations are expected to submit their own targets within a year of adoption, and guidance is included on the website. OCHA added that the draft background paper that should serve as a basis for the IASC Principals to discuss climate change also makes a case for individual IASC organizations to sign up to the Charter. The RG3 co-chairs highlighted that Save the Children and other NGOs had adopted the Charter, and proved a useful resource linking climate change with humanitarian action.
- IFRC has also submitted a **side event for COP**, with the idea to have a proper launch of the Charter at that event.

#### **World Humanitarian Day (WHD)**

- Members noted that there had not been a great uptake at the G7 on the UN SG's call on nations to meet the annual US\$100 billion climate finance commitment. Other upcoming events include the High-Level event to advance anticipatory action on 9th of September, and there may be an adaptation event at the UNGA. A UNFCCC report is expected on 6 August.
- On **WHD**, global campaign is about 'join the human race' via the company Strava. The SG's office is pleased that this campaign zooms in on the most vulnerable and is about human stories happening now, whereas other climate campaigns are more focused more on biodiversity and the environment.

- In addition, a **parallel mini-campaign will be on aid worker security** based on the statistics from Humanitarian Outcomes. The figures for the first half of 2020 are on par with previous year, while one of the most recent incidents constituted the shocking murder of three MSF staffers in Tigray, Ethiopia.

#### **Update on counterterrorism and humanitarian action (RG3 COTER co-chairs)**

- The RG3 COTER co-chairs briefed on the outcomes of the 4 June meeting of the RG3 counterterrorism (CT) sub-group, including on the InterAction Resource library on CT related research, including the analysis of recommendations for over a decade; and the IASC CT Database, and the call for COTER group members to log at least one of their agencies' incidents into the CT database as a collective effort to strengthen the evidence base regarding the humanitarian impact of sanctions and CT measures.
- In addition, the CT co-chairs briefed on the discussion around **beneficiary screening**, given continued requests from some donors to screen beneficiaries. A poll undertaken during the meeting highlighted that among the participating organizations, only 2 had CT policies in place. In addition, the discussion pointed out the different understandings regarding the screening of beneficiaries. To this end, the group had supported the proposal to initiate an IASC position on beneficiary screening in order to be as united as possible on this issue,
- The RG3 COTER group had also agreed on drafting **public key messages** to support advocacy efforts related to the endorsed and internal IASC solutions proposal on sanctions and CT measures. Finally, a **briefing to the Counterterrorism Committee (CTC)** by OCHA and ICRC was to take place later in July; and a **HC CT guidance** is also in finalization stage.
- Upon RG3 members' query regarding any potential impact of the **Ethiopian government's decision to consider the TPLF as a terrorist group**, it was commented that there was room for improvement in exchanging notes on emerging issues, and concurred that collecting evidence on the impact was important. In addition, humanitarian organizations' position was that there was a need to engage with all parties to conflict whatever the designation. In this regard, it is important to note that the GA in its resolution A/RES/75/291<sup>1</sup> recently adopted the Global Counterterrorism Strategy Review, which includes a paragraph on the need for CT not to affect humanitarian operations and the need for humanitarian organizations to engage with all parties to conflict.
- RG3 members also referenced emerging discussions at New York level regarding **CT issues related to more territories in Afghanistan being controlled by the Taliban**. In this context, an EDG visit may be planned to Afghanistan. Attention was also drawn to the complex situation in **Nigeria**, specifically the recent death of the Boko Haram leader, as well as increased incidents of schoolchildren's kidnapping. Members were invited to raise such emerging issues in the RG3 COTER subgroup.

#### **Food security collective advocacy**

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<sup>1</sup> Para. 109: *'Urges States to ensure, in accordance with their obligations under international law and national regulations, and whenever international humanitarian law is applicable, that counter-terrorism legislation and measures do not impede humanitarian and medical activities or engagement with all relevant actors as foreseen by international humanitarian law, noting the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics;'*

- FAO updated that almost 570,000 people were effectively in famine-like conditions, notably in Ethiopia where the observed food security conditions were the worst seen in one place since in Somalia in 2011 – UNHCR also referenced the 2 July [Statement on Tigray by the Global Protection Cluster](#). Deterioration of food security conditions were expected i.a. in Afghanistan and Southern Africa. While the key messages seem to be heard, e.g. in the G7 compact, funding has not yet materialised to the scale which is needed to respond to the rapidly growing needs.
- In terms of **upcoming events**, the WFP/FAP hotspot report is to be issued around 20/21 July; the SOFI report by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO is coming out the next week; the High Level Task Force on Famine Prevention met at the technical experts level; two G20 meetings, inc. in Brindisi; FAO/WFP/UNICEF sent a letter on the situation in Madagascar (where the funding situation seems to have improved after a visit by the head of WFP and the related statement); a SG letter was sent on 6 July to 193 Member States (MS), including 2 non-MS and 4 regional organizations (AU, GCC, OIC and EU), asking them to step up their response; a multi-cluster statement is in preparation; and the Italian government announced a 2-day Africa conference in Rome in early October; and the G20 summit on 30/31 October.
- As for the **resource mobilization situation (pitching \$2 billion for 6 countries (Burkina Faso, southern Madagascar, north-east Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, Ethiopia)**, OCHA had prepared a resource mobilization strategy, incl. outreach to individual donors based on real-time funding information; and virtual visits to donors, inc. non-traditional donors.
- **access** remains a challenge, as illustrated for example by the situation in South Sudan with 5 humanitarian workers killed in recent weeks),
- RG3 members commented that there building more synergies between different advocacy efforts is important and that **RG3 seemed to be the sole platform where advocacy on famine prevention efforts was collectively discussed between UN agencies, IFRC/ICRC and NGOs**. Synergies could be strengthened in terms of ensuring that the UN, IFRC/ICRC and NGO voices were joined up when targeting Member States.

#### **Presentation on RG1 protection indicators and centrality of protection and its advocacy implications (RG3 co-chairs)**

- The RG1 consultant Ms. Isabelle Rivolet briefed on the process of identifying OPAG-mandated process protection indicators and/or benchmarks to strengthen the IASC's centrality of protection (COP). In line with the IASC COP policy, the two particular outputs are process level benchmarks (focusing on the HC, HCT, ICCM, protection cluster/area of responsibility for protection; and other clusters as stakeholders); and a HCT-self-assessment tool on progress.
- Key features of collective advocacy encompassed an evidence-based collective protection priorities based on a coordination information system and an in-depth and integrated protection analysis; as well as an alignment of all HCT strategic documents on collective protection priorities.
- In terms of next steps, Ms. Rivolet will contact some RG3 members for semi-structured interviews, particularly regarding success criteria from an advocacy point of view. The final draft is expected by early November.