

IASC Results Group 1 – Operational Response

17 June 2021

Summary Record

IASC Results Group 1 on Operational Response met on 17 June 2021 to discuss (i) the development of Centrality of Protection benchmarks and (ii) discuss progress made by the localization and bureaucratic and administrative impediments sub-groups.

Action points:

1. Support the CoP sub-group with consultations on the Centrality of Protection draft benchmarks [**RG1 Centrality of Protection sub-group members**]
2. Develop a dissemination plan for the IASC guidance notes on localization [**RG1 Localization sub-group**]
3. Develop a plan clearly outlining new deliverables for the Localization sub-group until the end of 2021 [**RG1 Localization sub-group**]

1. Development of Centrality of Protection Benchmarks

Mr. Julien Schopp, RG1 co-chair, discussed that a key priority for RG1 has been the development of Centrality of Protection benchmarks. RG1's Centrality of Protection (CoP) sub-group previously received reflections from seven HCTs (Afghanistan, Colombia, Cameroon, CAR, Iraq, Myanmar, and Yemen) to inform this process. Ultimately, the benchmarks would provide a shared basis for planning and monitoring progress on practical means of fulfilling Centrality of Protection in practice, based on the 2016 IASC Protection Policy. The CoP sub-group has now developed a draft approach and tool and this meeting was an opportunity for RG1 members to provide feedback and recommendations on the overall direction taken by the sub-group.

Ms. Dina Abou Samra and Ms. Jessica Lenz, co-chairs of the Centrality of Protection sub-group, thanked RG1 members for their continued support in the development of the CoP benchmarks. Together with RG1 members and a senior ProCap Advisor, the sub-group developed a draft approach. They noted that these benchmarks would aim to (i) contribute a shift in mindset to ensure Centrality of Protection is seen as a collective responsibility requiring collaboration to achieve protection outcomes, (ii) promote integrated and inter-sectoral analysis of protection risks to ground decision making in such analysis, (iii) encourage a culture of continuous reflection and monitoring, and (iv) encourage learning, adaptability, and resource mobilization. The end product of this initiative would be process level indicators/benchmarks and a self-assessment tool for HCTs. Ms. Isabelle Rivolet, Senior ProCap Advisor currently supporting RG1 on the development of the benchmarks, informed that the process level indicators would primarily target Humanitarian Coordinators, Humanitarian Country Teams, Inter-Cluster Coordination Groups, clusters at the operational level. The process level benchmarks would support these stakeholders in taking practical steps towards CoP and monitoring collective progress. These would be accompanied by areas of responsibility, commitments, and milestones/pathways. In terms of monitoring, a traffic light system of self-assessment for five top success criteria is proposed to take stock of collective progress towards achieving Centrality of Protection. The draft approach and tools were extensively discussed in the CoP sub-group and the next steps include external consultations with the Global Protection Cluster Strategic Advisory Group, IASC Results Group 2 and 3 between June and July 2021. An updated draft would then be ready by August with consultations taking place with Humanitarian Coordinators and CoP sub-group members organizing internal consultations within their organizations utilizing semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. A global workshop with field participation is being considered to validate the approach and tools. The draft approach and tools would then be presented to OPAG in September to receive feedback on the overall direction. The entire workstream is expected to conclude by October 2021.

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RG1 members expressed their appreciation of the CoP sub-group's work on the development of the benchmarks

including the consultative process and results-based approach being promoted. Some members inquired about plans to socialize the approach and tool once they are endorsed and whether the tool will hold HCT as a structure or individual agencies to account. CoP sub-group co-chairs informed that following consultations, the draft approach and tool would be shared with OPAG for review and endorsement. Once endorsed, they would be field-tested to explore their relevance, application and consider potential adjustments based on experiences and challenges faced during field testing. Potential support to humanitarian operations utilizing the approach and tools would be considered particularly as the tools would need to be contextualized if they are to succeed. In terms of accountability, the tool foresees a dual role for the HCT with HCT members expected to utilize the approach for their individual agencies while also collectively advocating and using it for the HCT as a structure.

2. Progress Updates on Localization and Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments

Mr. Andrew Wyllie, RG1 co-chair, informed RG1 members that both the Localization and Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments have made significant progress on their key priorities. Mr. Wyllie noted that both sub-groups presented their work to OPAG in March 2021 with OPAG expressing strong appreciation and support for RG1's work.

Ms. Stella Ogunlade and Ms. Nimo Hassan, co-chairs of the Localizaiton sub-group, provided an update on priorities made. Ms. Ogunlade noted that the guidance note on localization in coordination was near final and ready for OPAG endorsement. The delay was due to some partners wishing to submit feedback past the deadline and this was accommodated in the spirit of collaboration. Further, the framework for engagement between local authorities and humanitarian actors was under OPAG review with feedback expected by 25 June. Given that these two guidance notes were the primary outputs for the sub-group, the sub-group would now work on a dissemination plan and socialize them through various activities including briefings. Ms. Dulmar Farah informed that the sub-group recently concluded the selection of eight local NGOs to participate in its activities following a methodical process. The sub-group is planning to organize induction meetings for new members on 28 June. Finally, Ms. Nimo Hassan suggested the sub-group should continue its work until the end of 2021. She noted that while these outputs were concluded, the broader objectives of localization were yet to be achieved, and it was important to signal to the humanitarian community that the IASC will continue to advocate for localization. Likewise, as eight new local NGOs were recently added to the ranks of the sub-group, they needed to have an opportunity to contribute to RG1's work.

Participants expressed appreciation of the localization sub-group's work and inquired about complementarity between RG1's work on localization and the Grand Bargain's work on localization. There was agreement that the discussions at the Grand Bargain were recent and there was a need to get the full read-out and digest recommendations. Nevertheless, complementarity between RG1's work and the Grand Bargain was key to push the localization agenda. Members suggested that the localization sub-group should develop a clear plan outlining key activities until the end of 2021 and present these in the next RG1 meeting. Finally, there were suggestions to ensure dissemination plans consider all constituencies including children and youth.

Mr. Jeremy Wellard and Ms. Kathryn Strifolino, co-chairs of the Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments sub-group, presented an update on the sub-group's progress. They thanked sub-group members for their continued support. They noted that the sub-group recently completed three case studies in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Venezuela which was made possible thanks to more than 140 contributors inputting into the surveys. The sub-group recently synthesized the findings from these countries and drafted a template for country case study reports to ensure all three case studies follow the same format and respect political sensitivities. Against this backdrop, the sub-group was planning to share draft case studies with country teams to hear their feedback and ensure the findings present an accurate and useful picture of the impediments faced at the country level. The sub-group was currently considering whether to present the case studies as they are and/or whether to simply use relevant information and analysis for the development of normative guidance and best practices that will be presented to OPAG later this year. The normative guidance would present a framework to address bureaucratic impediments outlining key drivers, types and impacts of these impediments and then be complemented by a propositional strategy to deal with these 2 impediments. The framework and strategy would then allow country teams to contextualize and develop locally owned solutions. The sub-group co-chairs noted the importance of developing dissemination plans well in advance

given the amount of IASC guidance produced since early 2020, and as such, the sub-group was considering a workshop with Humanitarian Coordinators in collaboration with the IASC Peer-to-Peer project.

Participants expressed appreciation of the Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments sub-group's work.

3. AOB

RG1 Centrality of Protection sub-group co-chair, Ms. Dina Abou Samra provided an update on the progress of the planned review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy. Ms. Samra noted that NRC agreed to be the administrative host for the Review supporting the team of consultants and providing administrative support, as outlined in the ToRs. Thanks to generous support from Sweden, Norway and Canada, the Review was funded at almost 80 per cent with efforts ongoing to address the funding gap. Ms. Samra noted that the IASC Committee was also constituted with a message shared with IASC OPAG members. A small committee was currently working with NRC to identify a consultancy team based on objective criteria. The consultancy team would be expected to start the Review as soon as possible. Finally, Ms. Samra noted that the CoP sub-group would develop a paper on relevant issues to be considered in the Review by the consultancy team.