

## IASC Results Groups 1 on Operational Response Workplan and Areas of Priority for 2020 and 2021

**[Note:** As a follow up to the IASC Principals' request to the OPAG to consider ways to better streamline work and rationalize structures of the Results Groups, each Results Group tightened their priorities, with commitments to shifting the focus to strengthening collaboration across Results Groups, translating policy to action and amplifying the voices of local actors. The below workplan lays out the prioritized areas of work of Results Group 1, as endorsed at the OPAG meeting on 25 September 2020. The de-prioritized areas of work will continue under agency specific mandate.]

### IASC RESULTS GROUP 1 ON OPERATIONAL RESPONSE PROGRESS REPORT – FEBRUARY- SEPTEMBER 2021

PRIORITIZED	DE-PRIORITIZED	COMPLETED
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### RESULTS GROUP 1 - OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

**Co-Chairs:** InterAction, OCHA

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK	CONCRETE DELIVERABLES	TIMELINES & STATUS	LEADS	PARTNERS	LINKAGES ACROSS RGs
<p>Ensure <b>Centrality of Protection</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>[COMPLETED]</b> Inputs on Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Venezuela provided to inform the Principals horizon scanning on <b>5 December 2019</b>.</p> <p>CoP group offered help with updating the questions sent to the field as part of the EDG Annual Review to strengthen the discussion around protection. Informed by IASC Secretariat that no survey would be sent apart from the OCHA coordination structures one. Short turnaround for the OCHA survey did not allow time for consultation of the CoP group. However, CoP group co-chairs provided protection inputs to the OCHA survey to inform the EDG AROs for 2021. Agreed to explore other steps for building on this more robustly in the coming year. EDG AROs format changed for 2021 due to COVID-19 relying on limited number of inputs.</p> <p><b>[ONGOING]</b> The CoP sub-group provides support to OPAG reflections on protection. The OPAG met to discuss protection implications of COVID-19 related stigmatization on 18 June, informed by a background paper and recommendations prepared by the CoP group. It held another dedicated protection meeting on 29 October to discuss and endorse the ToR for the IASC Protection Policy review; progress and next steps for the development of the CoP indicators; and a UNHCR proposal for integrating protection across</p>	OCHA, InterAction	NRC, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, DRC, IOM, IRC, Child Protection AoR Co-Chairs, GPC Coordinator/Operations Cell, ProCap Support Unit, IFRC,	RG2, RG3

		<p>the IASC Results Groups and other IASC subsidiary bodies. At the request of donor governments, the CoP sub-group, with the RG1 co-chairs, briefed donors in January on key activities being undertaken in support of the Centrality of Protection. Donors expressed support for CoP indicators development and the five year review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy.</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).</p> <p>(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>[ONGOING]</b> A small group of CoP members (InterAction, IOM, CP AoR, OCHA, GPC Ops Cell, ProCap Advisor deployed to the GPC) articulated an initial approach for the development of the indicators, drawing on HCT reflections received from 7 countries in 2020, as well as other sources. In recognition of ongoing competing demands on CoP group members, a senior ProCap advisor was brought on board in January 2021 but for personal reasons stepped down from the assignment. Another ProCap advisor took up the assignment in March. She is working closely with the CoP group, to develop the benchmarks through a consultative process. Consultations with the CoP group and other key stakeholders (Global Protection Cluster and ProCap) have fed into a zero draft. Wider consultations are planned to take place in September and October. An update to the OPAG on the benchmarks is scheduled for 30 September.</p>			
	<p>Commission a <b>review of the IASC Protection Policy</b> in 2020.</p>	<p><b>[ONGOING]</b> OPAG endorsed ToRs for the Review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy in November 2020. The CoP group developed a budget and a strategy for outreach to donors (an initial meeting was held in January 2021), and articulated terms of reference with a host organisation for the administration of the Review process. The ToR also set out a key role for the CoP group in inputting to and supporting the Review process. A host organisation (NRC) has been identified, and a bid was issued in May 2021. Applications are currently being reviewed. Outreach to donors is ongoing. The CoP group co-chairs also supported RG1 co-chairs to develop ToR for the IASC Committee, endorsed by OPAG in March 2021. The Committee will act as a sounding board for the consultants and encourage system-wide buy-in for the Review itself, and its findings and recommendations. An Overseas Development Institute (ODI) consultancy team was commissioned to conduct the Review and came on board in early August. The CoP group convened two</p>			

		initial discussions around expectations of the Review, and compiled some initial key considerations in a short paper submitted to the Review team. Regular updates will be provided to RG1 members and OPAG. The IASC Committee met in September.			
	Upon finalisation of the Review, support OPAG to develop a Management Action Plan to facilitate IASC-wide absorption and meaningful action on the Review's findings and recommendations. [OPAG action point agreed on 29 October 2020].	[ONGOING] To be undertaken upon finalisation of the Review, as set out in the ToRs for the IASC Review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy, endorsed by the OPAG at its meeting October 2020.			
Address bureaucratic impediments imposed on NGOs to curtail their access and their ability to carry out humanitarian activities [in collaboration with RG3 on Collective Advocacy].	(i) Document and map bureaucratic impediments and restrictive NGO Law provisions in major global humanitarian crises.	[COMPLETED] The mapping was finalized in December 2019.	InterAction, ICVA	Save the Children, InterSOS, various field NGOs and NGO consortia	
	(ii) Develop normative guidance (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.	[ONGOING] RG1 and OPAG confirmed prioritization of BAI as a key work area and deliverable. Normative guidance for HCs and HCTs related to effectively and collectively addressing Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI) at the field level will be developed in mid-2021, based on a synthesis of a series of case studies conducted by the sub-group. The first case study, on Myanmar, has been finalized, including an update on changes due to COVID-19 restrictions which will yield additional documentation and learning. The next three case studies' data collection and analysis, in Afghanistan, Venezuela, and Nigeria complete and the Sub-group is basing draft final tools from them. Following the preparation of final draft tools, the sub-group conducted consultation and feedback sessions with the three most recent case study contexts to offer and solicit feedback from field-based colleagues. The sub-group is also working with the IASC P2P team on a briefing and workshop on BAI with HCs to test out the draft normative guidance and the guidance will be submitted to OPAG in November. Co-chairs are concurrently briefing donors upon their request.	InterAction, ICVA	InterAction, ICVA, WFP, IOM, OCHA, NRC, Save the Children, UNHCR various field NGOs and NGO consortia	RG3, RG5
Support efforts to operationalize localization, including representation of relevant national and local	Identify benchmarks to measure progress in taking forward the localization agenda.	[COMPLETED] This deliverable was requested by the OPAG at its meeting on 19 July 2020; benchmarks have been developed as part of the localization guidance to HCTs and will be used for the HC/HCT guidance to measure progress.	ICVA, UNHCR		All RGs

organizations in coordination structures.		In addition, OCHA will be collecting disaggregated data on localisation, in order to monitor and track indicators for the development of a baseline for targets for the guidance on meaningful participation of local/ national actors in IASC coordination structures.			
	Operationalize the <a href="#">IASC Interim Guidance on Localization and the COVID-19 Response</a> .	<b>[COMPLETED]</b> This deliverable was requested by the OPAG at its meeting on 19 July 2020. To increase visibility and further implementation of the interim guidance (and other documents currently being developed by the sub-group), the guidance has been presented during an IASC briefing on 28 January 2021 and a message was shared with IASC members. Regarding the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM), there are initial discussions on reviewing the CCPM and the possibility of adding specific information on localization into the CCPM guidance, survey questionnaire and the reporting template to ensure that clusters report on progress made.			
	Draft a <b>Framework for better engagement with local government</b> in humanitarian operations [IASC Principals action point agreed on 5 Dec 2019].	<b>[ONGOING]</b> To be finalized in <b>Q4 2021</b> . Consultations with various stakeholders took place, including with local governments to draft a framework for better engagement with local governments. An advanced draft of the Framework for Engagement between Local Governments and Humanitarian Actors which consists of two parts (a Statement of Principles and Commitments and an Operational Guidance Note for Improved Collaboration between Local Governments and Humanitarian Actors) has been shared with OPAG for endorsement with feedback currently being integrated.	UN Habitat	Various local governments	
	Develop guidance for HCs/HCTs to engage local/national representation in HCTs, based on an information repository to bring together a range of information on the participation of NNGOs in leadership and coordination structures.	<b>[COMPLETED]</b> Finalized in July 2021 and shared with all IASC mailing lists and HCs. The Sub-group consulted all RGs, the Grand Bargain Work Stream 2 members, NGO consortia for feedback. In addition, consultations were held with local actors in English, Arabic, French and Spanish. In April, the guidance was shared with OPAG for endorsement with feedback adequately incorporated in May. An online information repository was also established at reliefweb.int to improve information sharing on localization and coordination including guidance, policies, good practices, case studies, and information on localization initiatives and projects. Consultations with the subgroup and the additional local members will be organised to	OCHA, ICVA and UNHCR	OCHA, ICVA, UNHCR, Somalia NGO Consortium, NEAR Network, IOM, UNICEF	

		<p>develop a dissemination plan. An IASC webinar will be organized to highlight the guidance and exchange good practices.</p> <p><b>[COMPLETED]</b> Regarding the inclusion of national and local NGOs in RG1 sub-group, a call for interest was launched with clear selection criteria, e.g. previous engagement in localization mainstreaming, expertise in humanitarian and/or development assistance, proficiency in English, etc. The goal is to ensure that 50% of sub-group members are national and local NGOs, with representatives from all regions. Over 100 applications were submitted so far and a selection panel, composed of the co-chair of the sub-group, three representatives from local NGO members of Global Cluster SAGs and ICVA, reviewed the applications. Eight local candidates were selected with the consideration of gender, region, the nature of local actors as individual organization or a network and will participate regularly in the upcoming subgroup meetings.</p>			
	<p>Develop and operationalize <a href="#">IASC Interim Guidance on Localization and the COVID-19 Response</a>.</p>	<p><b>[COMPLETED]</b> The interim guidance was developed under the leadership of IFRC and UNICEF and endorsed by the Principals in May 2020. To increase visibility and further implementation of the interim guidance (and other documents currently being developed by the sub-group), the guidance has been presented during an IASC briefing on 28 January 2021 and a message was shared with IASC members. Regarding the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM), there are initial discussions on reviewing the CCPM and the possibility of adding specific information on localization into the CCPM guidance, survey questionnaire and the reporting template to ensure that clusters report on progress made.</p>	<p>IFRC, UNICEF</p>	<p>All members of RG1</p>	<p>RG5</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.	<b>Update the <i>Introduction to Humanitarian Action – A Brief Guide for Resident Coordinators</i> (2015)</b> ( <i>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</i> ).	<b>[COMPLETED]</b> The handbook was shared with RG1 and OPAG for red line feedback in December with all OPAG red line comments addressed. The endorsed document will be shared in due course.	OCHA	P2P, UNSDG, various NGOs	NA
	Strengthen linkages with DCO on aspects related to leadership and the development system reform and ensuring that field leaders are aware of the expectations of them and the support available by the IASC for their humanitarian coordination function.	<b>[COMPLETED]</b> Through engagement in the RC Talent Management Revamp, the IASC is better linked up and positioned on leadership aspects, including as it relates to RC selections, performance management, leadership development and the joint RC/HC Talent Pipeline	OCHA	EDG, DCO	NA
	<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> .	<b>[ONGOING]</b> Initial consultations with DHCs conducted. Amid the additional workload due to COVID-19, support will continue to be provided to new and sitting DHCs on an individual basis.	OCHA, ICVA, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM	P2P	NA
	Convene an inter-agency advisory team to support the <b>development of and contribution to the 1<sup>st</sup> RC Induction Briefing</b> held since the implementation of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system.	<b>[COMPLETED]</b> 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	NA
	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.	<b>[COMPLETED]</b> 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 was conducted virtually with the original timeline in Q3 2020 ahead of the next ERC call for the HC pool.	OCHA, ICVA, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM	UNSDG	NA
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	Continue to <b>identify, analyse and prioritise emerging risks</b> and <b>publish bi-annual <i>EWEAR analysis report</i></b> . [ <i>They will better align with other Disaster Risk Reduction and preparedness mechanisms and consider an adjustment of the timing</i> ]	<b>[CONTINUOUS]</b> Analysis continues to be produced with a six-month horizon.  The latest iterations of IASC Early Warning and Early Action Analysis considers COVID-related risks in identifying risks and preparedness	WFP	EDG	NA

various IASC structures (including the IASC and the EDG).	<i>of the report's publication in line with the IASC Principals and EDG meetings]</i>	actions. The report for November 2020-April 2021 was finalized in late October 2020.			
	(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		NA
Finalize the revision of the ERP guidance, publish and disseminate the revised ERP guidance.	Revise the ERP guidance, including as relevant Anticipatory Actions.	[COMPLETED] A draft of the revised ERP guidance was ready in February 2020; however, as the Interim Guidance was issued in 2020 and covers significant revisions, the Interim Guidance will stand as the official guidance for now.	WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, Mercy Corps	EDG	NA
	Develop the <a href="#">IASC Interim Guidance: Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Approach to the COVID-19 Pandemic</a> .	[COMPLETED] The interim guidance was developed by OCHA and UNICEF and endorsed by the Principals in April 2020.	OCHA, UNICEF		NA
Consolidate the current policies and practices of humanitarian partners in the area of data responsibility.	Facilitate the development of a new <b>joint system-wide operational guidance on data responsibility</b> being produced by the OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data in the Hague.	[COMPLETED] Finalized in Q4 2020 and endorsed by OPAG as of January 2021. The endorsed version will be circulated widely to the humanitarian community and followed up with a briefing in Q1 2021.	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
	Develop an <a href="#">“FAQ on Data Responsibility in the COVID-19 Response”</a> to support organizations and staff around the world working with data in the COVID-19 response.	[COMPLETED] Finalized in April 2020. The FAQ will continue to be updated on a rolling basis.	Same as above	NA	NA