

Priority Areas of Work of the OPAG Task Forces (2022-2023)

This document presents the priority areas of work for the newly established Task Forces (covering the 2022-2023 biennium¹) as informed by the IASC Principals endorsed strategic priorities and as **approved by the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG)**. **Leaving no one behind** (including women and girls, persons with disability, elderly) is central to humanitarian action and will be prioritized in all aspects of the IASC's work. Please refer to the [Task Force terms of reference](#) for further information regarding the functioning of the groups. The implementation of these priority areas of work will require **strengthened and streamlined engagement** (a) with the field, including field leadership as well as local actors in support of localization efforts, (b) amongst Task Forces, (c) with relevant IASC structures (including the EDG, Deputies Group, GCCG, and others), (d) with ongoing initiatives/processes including the Grand Bargain, amongst others. As agreed by the OPAG, **advocacy will be a critical pillar** of the work of the Task Forces. Furthermore, due consideration will be given to **limit the production of additional guidance/policies**, with the understanding that the focus of this this biennium period is to better support the field and **working towards operational impact**.

TASK FORCE 1: CENTRALITY OF PROTECTION

Co-Chairs: Ms. Bernadette Castel- Hollingsworth, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, **UNHCR**; Ms. Erin Weir, Director of Protection, **InterAction**

Objective	Priority Areas of Work
Uphold and strengthen the centrality of protection in all aspects of humanitarian action, including by addressing gender-based violence and child protection.	<p>Ensure that protection is prioritized and mainstreamed throughout the humanitarian response, beyond the actions taken by the protection cluster by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taking forward the findings and recommendations of the Review of the Implementation of the IASC's Protection Policy (including by developing a clear management response plan with concrete actions). 2. Developing and field-testing agreed, specific, and measurable Centrality of Protection indicators to be included in the humanitarian response (including the clusters or equivalent) and to be reviewed as part of the midterm review process) 3. Developing and supporting the implementation of recommendations on advancing gender-based violence prevention and response as a collective responsibility, including by examining trends and gaps (drawing on IAHE findings, HCT Protection Strategy Reflections, and contributions from the GPC/GBV AoR).

¹ New priorities maybe added based on requests from the IASC Principals or Deputies Group.

4. Facilitate solid **analysis of the protection concerns in humanitarian operations** – and what is being/needs to be done to address them – to inform EDG deliberations (and, where applicable, IASC Principals discussions/decisions).

[Note: The review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy is ongoing and is expected to be finalized by Q2 2022. Findings are expected in March, recommendations are to be developed in April, and the full report and recommendations will be issued in May 2022. The findings will inform ongoing efforts to develop the IASC protection indicators to be able to deliver on collective protection outcomes.]

TASK FORCE 2: ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE

Co-Chairs: Ms. Pascale Meige, Director of Operations, **IFRC**; Mr. Samir Wanmali, Deputy Director, Programme, Humanitarian and Development Division, **WFP**; Ms. Tanya Wood, Executive Director, **CHS Alliance**

Objective	Priority Areas of Work
<p>Ensure that the humanitarian response safeguards dignity, is empowering, accountable and inclusive of affected people.</p>	<p>Adapt the humanitarian response to ensure the systematic participation of affected communities as well as the timely and relevant response to feedback and needs voiced by affected communities, particularly the voices of women and girls, including by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting humanitarian leadership and coordination structures in the field (through HCs, HCTs, ICCG, and/or their equivalent) to prioritize and strengthen AAP by piloting key IASC tools (including the AAP Framework, Results-Tracker, and the Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms' standards) in 5-6 operations to further develop and finalize the tools and prepare them for global roll-out (pilots will also inform OPAG's decisions about system-wide efforts and priorities to strengthen collective AAP). 2. Considering proposals from the sub-group on collective AAP (co-led by WFP and IFRC) and agreeing on the key "transformative" recommendations to take forward. 3. Supporting HCs and HCTs in strengthening AAP through the establishment of a global inter-agency roster of technical capacity on AAP and deploying technical capacity. 4. Finalize the compilation of Good Practices and Lessons Learnt on collective AAP to inform country-level actions to strengthen collective AAP efforts at both the strategic and technical levels.

[Note: Close collaboration with the Grand Bargain and their efforts around the participation revolution will be key to ensure streamlined and complementarity of efforts. Separately, due consideration will be given on the annual report on AAP to be shared with the IASC Principals upon consultation with the ERC]

TASK FORCE 3: PRESERVING HUMANITARIAN SPACE - Focusing on addressing bureaucratic impediments (BAI) and mitigating the impact of counter-terrorism legislation on humanitarian action (COTER)²

Co-Chairs: Mr. Aurelien Buffler, Head, Policy Advice and Planning Section, OCHA; Ms. Emma O’Leary, Head, Humanitarian Policy Unit, NRC

Objective	Priority Areas of Work
Addressing Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments to enable principled, timely and effective humanitarian action.	<p>Ensure that humanitarian leaders and teams (at global and country levels) have the relevant analysis, guidance and tools to address bureaucratic and administrative impediments, including by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting field leadership in operationalizing the recently endorsed IASC Guidance on Understanding and Addressing Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments. 2. Developing a set of specific, measurable, and relevant early warning indicators on bureaucratic and administrative impediments to support field and global advocacy. 3. Compiling good practice drawn from humanitarian operations on understanding and addressing bureaucratic and administrative impediments.
Mitigating the Impact of Counterterrorism legislation and sanctions on humanitarian action.	<p>Ensure that humanitarian leaders and teams (at global and country levels) have the required analysis, guidance and tools to mobilize collective advocacy to mitigate the impact of counter-terrorism legislation and sanctions on humanitarian action, including by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting field leadership in operationalizing the recently endorsed IASC Guidance on Impact of Sanctions and Counterterrorism Measures on Humanitarian Operations. 2. Systematically monitoring and reporting on the practical impact of COTER legislation and sanctions on humanitarian operations to inform Member States decisions, including on exemptions.

² Preserving humanitarian space is a broader issue that includes access negotiations, safeguarding humanitarian principals, among others, which are being tackled by the relevant IASC bodies (including the IASC Principals, EDG, HC/HCT). For the purpose of the Task Force, the focus for 2022-2023 is on addressing BAI and mitigating the impact of COTER.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Developing key messages in support of IASC Principals in undertaking targeted advocacy with donors and Members States to mitigate the impact of counter-terrorism legislation and sanctions on humanitarian action in select humanitarian operations. 4. Consolidating good practice on efforts to mitigate the impact of counter-terrorism legislation and sanctions on humanitarian action.
--	---

TASK FORCE 4 – HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION AND ITS LINKAGES TO PEACE

Co-Chairs: Ms. Marta Valdes, International Humanitarian Director, **Oxfam**; Mr. Peter Batchelor, Head, Conflict and Fragility Policy and Engagement Team, **UNDP**

Objective	Priority Areas of Work
<p>Support the understanding and implementation of humanitarian-development collaboration and its linkages to peace, consistent with humanitarian principles.</p>	<p>Advance collective action by optimizing engagement within the IASC and with relevant development and peace actors on humanitarian-development collaboration and its linkage to peace by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mapping good practice in strengthening the peace element in humanitarian-development-peace nexus programming, where appropriate, connecting to existing country-level analytical efforts, while safe-guarding humanitarian principles. 2. Further developing the mapping of good practice implementing the HDP nexus by consolidating additional best practices and lessons learnt in collaboration with field-based partners, including existing initiatives such as the ICVA-WFP led community of practice. 3. Providing sector/cluster-specific practical guidance to strengthening humanitarian-development-peace collaboration (including on joint analysis and programming as well as monitoring progress thereof across sectors). 4. Identifying and mapping good practice on the role of humanitarian organisations contributing to the delivery of basic services across the nexus in protracted contexts. 5. Building on the ‘Financing the Nexus’ study, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) country mapping, the IASC Mapping of Good Practice and the OECD INCAF study on nexus financing, identify and propose solutions in selected countries aimed at strengthening funding and financing instruments for joint humanitarian development programming and engage with donors, including through the UN-DAC Dialogue, to bring them up to scale.

6. Ensuring that operational planning and delivery is conflict sensitive, including by **developing an IASC Conflict Sensitivity Accountability Framework**.

TASK FORCE 5 – LOCALIZATION

Co-Chairs: Ms. Alix Masson, Senior Advocacy Advisor, **NEAR Network**; Ms. Gloria Modong Morris, Founder and Executive Director, **Titi Foundation**; Ms. Segolene Adam, Chief of Humanitarian Policy of Emergency Operations and Programmes, **UNICEF**; Ms. Gloria Modong Morris, Founder and Executive Director, **Titi Foundation**.

Objective	Priority Areas of Work
<p>Enable the meaningful engagement and leadership of local and national actors (with a special focus on women-led organisations and organisations representing vulnerable populations) in humanitarian response, enhancing capacity exchange and increasing direct funding.</p>	<p>Strengthen the engagement and leadership of local and national actors in humanitarian coordination mechanisms and humanitarian response by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement: Operationalizing the IASC guidance on the engagement and leadership of local actors in humanitarian coordination including by: (i) delivering on benchmarks for the engagement of local actors in humanitarian coordination structures (including through setting targets in various operations, where possible), (ii) reporting annually on progress made in the meaningful engagement of local actors in coordination structures (including reporting on progress against agreed targets set at the country-level), and (iii) Compiling good practice on the participation, representation and leadership of local actors in coordination mechanisms (including women-led organisations) and approaches to engage affected populations in humanitarian response. - Capacity Sharing: Agreeing on minimum standards/arrangements to strengthen the sharing of capacity and risk management between international actors and local NGOs. - Resourcing: Supporting efforts to increase and channel more direct funds to local NGOs including by (i) advising on concrete steps to be taken to strengthen the channeling of funds to local NGOs, particularly women-led organizations (including in complement to Grand Bargain efforts and agreed targets); (ii) Reporting annually on progress in getting funds to local NGOs, and (iii) Stepping up advocacy with donors, UN agencies and INGOs on increasing direct funding to local partners. <p><i>[Note: close engagement with the Grand Bargain will be key to ensure streamlined and complementarity of efforts in taking forward the localization agenda]</i></p>
