IASC | Inter-Agency
Standing Committee

Operational Policy and Advocacy Group and Results Groups
ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON PURPOSE AND WORKING METHODS

The founding document which defines the purpose and working methods of the IASC Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) and its Results Groups is "IASC Structures and Working Methods", endorsed on 31 January 2019. The following additional guidance sets out supplementary details to further elaborate and explain how the OPAG and the Results Groups will function, with the support of the IASC secretariat, to ensure that the vision and priorities of the IASC Principals and its mandate are executed.

1.   PURPOSE

OPAG

The overall objective of the IASC is to ensure better preparation for, as well as rapid and coherent response to humanitarian crises, including the protection of the rights of affected people. Against this backdrop, the OPAG serves as a forum supporting the **normative and strategic policy and advocacy work** of the IASC, including on system-wide policy and advocacy matters with a **direct bearing on humanitarian operations**.

In practice this includes:
- developing **policies and guidance** in line with strategic decisions and requests made by the IASC;
- making **proposals to the IASC** on strategic issues;
- overseeing the work of **the Results Groups**;
- **collaborating with the EDG** in identifying and elaborating policy and advocacy matters with direct bearing on humanitarian operations.
- **reviewing guidelines produced by Entities Associated with the IASC as well as other inter-agency bodies outside** of the formal IASC structure following a review by the IASC secretariat for consideration by the IASC, as appropriate.

RESULTS GROUPS:
The work of OPAG is supported by 5 Results Groups which are timebound subsidiary bodies responsible for delivering the agreed normative outputs under each of the IASC Strategic Priorities (SPs) for the biennium (currently five SPs for 2019-2020) and as tasked by the OPAG.

Their support may also be sought by the OPAG to review guidelines produced by inter-agency bodies outside of the formal IASC structure, after review by the IASC secretariat.

2.   MEMBERSHIP:

OPAG:
The OPAG is co-chaired at the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG)-level or equivalent. Representation is at the Director level or equivalent. Each OPAG member can be accompanied by a 'plus 1'. NGO consortia are joined by two NGO representatives.

ICVA will be afforded 2 additional seats in the OPAG to ensure participation of representatives of national non-governmental organizations from developing countries.

Co-Chairs of the 5 Results Groups are invited to participate in OPAG meetings on an as needed basis. The OPAG may also invite, on an ad hoc basis, representatives of specialized organizations within or outside the UN system, field leadership or representatives of key stakeholders to discuss critical issues of relevance to the work of the OPAG.

RESULTS GROUPS:

Results Groups are composed of IASC member organizations. This is to ensure that the 'decision making' and 'endorsement' of key normative material and tools takes place through the formal IASC membership. However, as pointed out in section 4 below, the Results Groups will be required/expected to engage with the relevant non-IASC bodies/entities to ensure that the normative work produced is inclusive of the voices and expertise of critical interlocutors (please see DRAFT "Revised Mapping of Inter-Agency Bodies for Engagement by IASC Results Groups"). In addition, depending on the topic/issue being discussed/ addressed in the Results Group, temporary guests/invitees are encouraged to ensure that the required expertise/ subject matter experts are part of the discussion.

ICVA will be afforded 2 additional seats in the Results Groups for representatives of national non-governmental organizations from developing countries.

3.   ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING

OPAG:

The OPAG serves as a forum supporting the normative and strategic policy and advocacy work of the IASC, including on system-wide policy and advocacy matters with a direct bearing on humanitarian operations. It is accountable to the ERC and the IASC Principals. It is responsible for overseeing the work of the Results Groups on behalf of the IASC.

RESULTS GROUPS:

The Results Groups are accountable to the OPAG. They will report to the OPAG every quarter on their key time-bound deliverables, ensuring that their work is reflective of and responsive to field needs and realities and/or supporting advocacy efforts as well as how non IASC members have been included in the outcomes of the Results Groups.

It is up to each Results Group to determine how best to take forward and implement the time-bound deliverables agreed to by the OPAG (*ex: they may decide to carryout the work directly through the RG; or they may rely on existing networks/bodies with the relevant expertise to take forward a certain body of work; or they might decide to recruit a consultant, work with an academic institution a think tank, or establish a sub-working team to deliver on a certain item. However, for accountability purposes, in all circumstances, the Result Group must review and endorse the body of work before escalation to the OPAG).*

Results Group co-Chairs are expected/ encouraged to engage amongst each other to ensure complementarity of their work. As outlined in the "IASC Structures and Working Methods" document of 31 January, the IASC secretariat will support the co-Chairs who are responsible for steering the implementation of the workplan. The IASC secretariat will also monitor progress with the implementation of the time-bound deliverables agreed to by the IASC and/or the OPAG.

ENTITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE IASC

A number of bodies (namely, the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluations Steering Group (IAHE), Global Cluster Coordinators Group (GCCG), Humanitarian Programme Cycle Group (HPCG), the Gender Reference Group, and the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group) are

considered entities associated with the IASC and are accountable to the OPAG.   As noted in the "Structures and Working Methods" document of 31 January, these groups link/interact with different IASC bodies (e.g., OPAG, Emergency Directors Group, Results Groups) as appropriate; the IASC secretariat facilitates that exchange and supports the direct contact. For instance, they may be consulted during the development of new IASC policies/guidelines or may be requested to produce a specific deliverable by the IASC. They can also submit policies/guidelines for review and endorsement by the IASC, following review by the IASC secretariat. Their work is followed by the IASC secretariat and relevant IASC entities, and they provide an update to OPAG on their progress every six months.

OPAG, with the support of the IASC secretariat, will oversee the work of the 'Entities Associated with the IASC' to review and consider their products and capitalize on them as reference.

4.   LINKING WITH KEY INTER-AGENCY STRUCTURES:

LINKAGES WITH THE EDG:

The OPAG and the EDG are expected to reinforce, support and complement each other's roles. The EDG may bring to the attention of the OPAG issues requiring attention from a policy and advocacy perspective, while the support of the EDG may be sought to support the implementation of critical normative work. The engagement between the two bodies should, at minimum, occur at the Chairs level with the support of the IASC secretariat, in addition to capitalizing on the dual membership of organization representatives in both structures. In addition, the IASC secretariat will facilitate more systematic information flows and an annual join meeting of the OPAG and EDG may also be considered.

LINKAGES WITH OTHER KEY INTER-AGENCY BODIES:

To foster coherence, cooperation and coordination, it is critical for the OPAG as well as the Results Groups to proactively link and engage with key inter-agency structures, networks, among others.

The document titled "*Revised Mapping of Inter-Agency Bodies for Engagement by IASC Results Groups*" (attached as Annex I) offers an overview of inter-agency entities and networks for which the Results Group will be required to or are recommended to engage with.

It is also envisaged that the Results Groups will provide further details on other inter-agency coordination entities to engage with based on proposed taskings or decisions from the OPAG.

Systematic and, importantly, streamlined engagement with the field, particularly field leadership, will be critical to ensure that normative discussions/decisions are informed by field realities.

> **Note:** Results Groups will be expected to proactively collaborate with other IASC structures and non-IASC entities to promote inclusivity and ensure the engagement with subject-matter experts (*please see* "***Mapping of Inter-Agency Bodies for Engagement by the Results Groups***").

5.   MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

IASC members have the responsibility to implement or mainstream decisions as agreed and to inform the IASC secretariat on a regular basis of progress while highlighting any challenges that arise.

The IASC secretariat will monitor implementation of the IASC workplan and Action Points on a regular basis and will report annually to the OPAG on the previous year's Results Groups outputs and activities.

6. REPORTING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Results Groups will report to the OPAG every quarter on their key time-bound deliverables as well as inclusivity of non IASC members.

The OPAG will present an annual review to the IASC for its consideration.

The IASC secretariat will work closely with the OPAG and Results Groups to ensure wide dissemination of policies, guidelines, tools, among others, within the IASC and the larger humanitarian community (including regularly updating the IASC website). It will also facilitate and organize regular exchanges/engagement between the co-chairs of the Results Groups to ensure complementary of efforts.

Each Result Group will also have a dedicated webpage (public and secured) to keep the humanitarian community abreast of developments in their work and also ensure that material, including meeting minutes, status of actions, etc. are shared in a secured section of the website.

The IASC secretariat will also support the OPAG in strategic discussions on thematic issues, including with the donor community.

> **Note:** Sharing of IASC materials with field-based partners must be done through the IASC secretariat to ensure streamlined engagement with field colleagues.

7. ENDORSING IASC PRODUCTS

Overall, IASC products developed by or with the oversight of the respective Results Groups (in consultation with key constituencies within or outside of the IASC membership) need to be reviewed and cleared by the OPAG. Endorsement of IASC policies, guidance, or other normative documents is done by the IASC, unless the Committee delegates this responsibility to the OPAG as laid out in the IASC restructuring paper endorsed on 31 January.

8. PREPARATION AND MANAGEMENT OF MEETINGS

OPAG:
The Co-Chairs convene the meetings of the OPAG, determine the frequency of the meetings, and set the agenda in consultation with the OPAG members and the IASC secretariat.

The OPAG meets regularly in person **twice a year** with a key focus to take stock of policy and advocacy issues and agree on an annual workplan. They will also **meet on an ad hoc** basis as necessary.

All background documents are circulated to all members of the OPAG approximately 10 days in advance of the meetings.

All meetings will be minuted and action points will be captured by the IASC Secretariat.

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RESULTS GROUPS:

The Co-Chairs convene the meetings of their respective Results Group, determine the frequency of the meetings, and set the agenda in consultation with the Results Groups members and the IASC Secretariat.

All meetings will be minuted and action points will be captured by the IASC Secretariat.

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Annex I

DRAFT Revised Mapping of Inter-Agency Bodies for Engagement by IASC Results Groups[1]

IASC Results Groups	Bodies/ Entities	Priority	Type	Strategic Priority/ Outcome
Results Group 1 – Operational Response	**Emergency Directors Group (EDG)**	**Must**	IASC	SP1.2, SP1.5
	Global Cluster Coordinators Group (GCCG)	**Must**	IASC Entity	SP1.2, SP1.3
	Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group	**Must**	IASC Entity	SP1.3
	Global Alliance for Urban Crises	**Must**	Non-UN	SP1.4
	Humanitarian Leadership Support Section	**Must**	OCHA	SP1.4
	Peer-2-Peer	**Must**	IASC	SP1.4
	UN Development Coordination Office (UN DOCO)	**Must**	UN	SP1.3, SP1.4
	Early Warning	**Must**	Associated entity	SP1.5
	UNOCC	**Must**	UN	SP1.5
	Migration Network	Optional	UN	SP1.3
	ALNAP	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.3
	Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA)	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.3
	SPHERE	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.3
	START Network	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.3
	Working Group on the UN-WB partnership	Optional	UN	SP1.3
	CHS Alliance	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.3
	IDMC	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.3
	Center for Humanitarian Data (Hague)	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.3
	Climate Risk Early Warning System (CREWS)	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.5
	Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.5
	Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.5
	INFORM partners	Optional	Non-UN	SP1.5
Results Group 2 – Accountability and Inclusion	**Communication and Community Engagement Initiative (CCEI)**	**Must**	Non-UN	SP2.1
	CDAC Network	**Must**	Mixed	SP2.1, SP2.2
	Global Mentoring Initiative	**Must**	Non-UN	SP2.1, SP2.2
	Grand Bargain Needs Assessment Workstream and Participation Revolution	**Must**	Mixed	SP2.1, SP2.2
	Call to Action on GBV	**Must**	Non-UN	SP2.2
	CEB Task Force on Sexual Harassment	**Must**	UN	SP2.2
	Cross Sector Support Group *[to follow up on the DFID Safeguarding Summit]*	**Must**	Non-UN	SP2.2
	OECD DAC Reference Group on SEA	**Must**	Non-UN	SP2.2
	UN SEA Working Group	**Must**	UN	SP2.2
	Mental Health an Psycho-Social Support Reference Group	**Must**	IASC Entity	SP2.3
	Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action	**Must**	IASC Entity	SP2.3

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[1] This Annex will be revised during the first face-to-face meeting of the IASC Results Groups in May 2019

	Gender Reference Group	**Must**	IASC Entity	SP2.4
	ALNAP	**Must**	Non-UN	Various
	NEAR Network	**Must**	Non-UN	Various
	WIDE Network (Austria)	**Must**	Non-UN	Various
	SPHERE	**Must**	Non-UN	Various
	START Network	**Must**	Non-UN	Various
	Group of Friends to Eliminate Sexual Harassment	Optional	Non-UN	SP2.2
	UN Representatives of Investigatory Services (UNRIS)	Optional	UN	SP2.2
Results Group 3 - Collective Advocacy	**UN Communications Group (UNCG)**	**Must**	UN	Cross-Cutting
Results Group 4 – Humanitarian-Development Collaboration	**Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group**	**Must**	IASC Entity	SP4.1, SP4.2
	Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration (JSC)	**Must**	UN	SP4.1, SP4.2
	UN Development Coordination Office (UN DOCO)	**Must**	UN	SP4.1, SP4.2
	UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)	**Must**	UN	SP4.1, SP4.2
	UN Working Group on Transitions (WGT)	**Must**	UN	SP4.1, SP4.2
	Working Group on the UN-WB partnership	**Must**	Non-UN	SP4.1, SP4.2
	International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) - OECD DAC	**Must**	Non-UN	SP4.2
	Development Initiatives	Optional	Non-UN	SP4.1, SP4.2
	Sustainable Development Working Group	Optional	UN	SP4.1, SP4.2
	Geneva Peacebuilding Platform	Optional	Non-UN	SP4.2
	High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) for Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments (RPBA)	Optional	UN	SP4.2
	Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments (RPBA) Inter-Agency Group	Optional	UN	SP4.2
	Senior Peacebuilding Group (SPG) *[ASG level]*	Optional	UN	SP4.2
	UN Standing Committee on Women, Peace and Security	Optional	UN	SP4.2
	UN Working Group on Transitions (UNWGT) Task Team on follow up to New Deal and the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF)	Optional	UN	SP4.2
Results Group 5 – Humanitarian Financing	**Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD)**	**Must**	Non-UN	SP5.2, SP5.3
	Grand Bargain Facilitation Group	**Must**	Non-UN	SP5.2
	Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group	**Must**	IASC Entity	SP5.2
	Centre for Humanitarian Data	Optional	Mixed	SP5.1
	Development Initiatives	Optional	Non-UN	SP5.1
	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	Optional	Non-UN	SP5.1
	Overseas Development Institute (ODI) - Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG)	Optional	Non-UN	SP5.1
	World Economic Forum	Optional	Non-UN	SP5.1
	International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)	Optional	Mixed	SP5.3