

# **PROGRESS REPORT**

April - October 2019

## **IASC Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy**

## Membership

Org.	Member	Position
Save the Children	Mr. Michel Anglade	Co-Chair / Director and UN Representative, Geneva Advocacy Office, Save the Children
UNFPA	Ms. Shoko Arakaki	Director, Humanitarian Office
IASC secretariat	Mr. Jonathan Brunggel	IASC secretariat Focal Point / Humanitarian Affairs Officer
FAO	Ms. Dervla Cleary	Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer
	Ms. Justine Texier	Outreach and Communication Officer
ICRC	Ms. Jessica Dodo Buchler	Policy and Humanitarian Diplomacy
ICVA	Ms. Emmanuelle Osmond	Senior Policy Officer
ICVA -INTERSOS	Mr. Miro Modrusan	Geneva Representative and Policy Advisor
ICVA - World Vision	Ms. Nina Nepesova	Director, Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy
IFRC	Ms. Victoria Stodart	Senior Officer, Inter-Agency Coordination (Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Activation, Coordination and Leadership)
	Ms. Kirsten Hagon	Senior Humanitarian Policy Analyst
InterAction	Ms. Kate Phillips Barrasso	Director, Humanitarian Policy
	Ms. Priscilla Yoon	Programme Manager
InterAction - Concern	Ms. Brona Higgins	Humanitarian Programme and Policy Officer
	Ms. Réiseal Ní Chéilleachair	Head of Advocacy Ireland and EU
IOM	Ms. Angela Staiger	Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor
OCHA	Ms. Kirsten Mildren	Chief of Section, Public Information
	Mr. Aurelien Buffler	Chief, Policy Advice and Planning Section
OHCHR	Ms. Maria Andrea Echazu	Emergency Response Section, Humanitarian Action Unit
SCHR	Mr. Gareth Price-Jones	Executive Secretary
SR on the HRs of IDPs	Ms. Martina Caterina	Legal Adviser
UNFPA	Ms. Ann-Erb Leoncavallo	Head, Advocacy and Communications Unit, Humanitarian Office, UNFPA
UN-HABITAT	Mr. Andre Dzikus	Coordinator, Urban Basic Services Branch Acting Coordinator, Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch
UNHCR	Ms. Elizabeth Eyster	Chief of Section, Division of International Protection
	Mr. Nicolas Brass	Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Partnership and Coordination Service, Division of External Relations
	Mr. Simon Russell	Focal point of Global Protection Cluster
UNICEF	Ms. Segolene Adam	Chief Humanitarian Policy Section (EMOPS New York)
WFP	Ms. Marie-Helene Kyprianou	External Partnerships Office
	Ms. Meghan Sullivan	External Partnerships Consultant

WHO	Mr. Rudi Coninx	Chief, Humanitarian Policy & Guidance, Emergency Operations, Health Emergencies Programme
World Bank	Ms. Lobna Hadji	International Affairs Officer

## 2019 Priority Areas of Work

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK AS AGREED BY OPAG	CONCRETE DELIVERABLES	STATUS	LEADS	PARTNERS
Determine how best to address the <b>impact of counter-terrorism measures</b> and the growing trend for the <b>criminalization of humanitarian action</b> in specific contexts [To be done in close collaboration with Results Group 1 on Operational Response].	Conduct desk review with focus on recommendations.	[ONGOING] To be finalized in October 2019.	InterAction, Save the Children	GHD, UNCG
	Conduct a mapping of the impact that counter-terrorism measures have on humanitarian organizations, including specific case studies.	[ONGOING] To be finalized in Q1 2020.		
	Conduct a light lesson learned exercise on the concerted advocacy effort around the proposed listing of Al-Shabaab under a new sanctions regime.	[ONGOING] To be finalized in Q4 2019.		
Identify 2-3 contexts and develop a <b>clear humanitarian diplomacy strategy</b> , capitalizing on the IASC membership at the various levels, to address protection and/or access challenges.	Define guiding questions that help identify the contexts that should be addressed.	[COMPLETED] Finalized in Q3 2019.	InterAction, World Vision	
	Based on the contexts identified, define the diplomacy strategy and the contributions of RG 3, linking to the agenda of the EDG.	[ONGOING] To be finalized in Q1 2020.		
Develop <b>common narratives on specific issues of concern</b> (such as enhancing respect for IHL, IHRL, humanitarian principles and core protection framework) to support IASC members' efforts in their collective and/or bilateral advocacy efforts, including during upcoming key anniversaries (please see note on "humanitarian diplomacy" developed by the IASC secretariat outlining such events).	Collect and disseminate key messages for the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Convention on 12 August 2019.	[ONGOING] To be concluded by end of 2019.	ICRC	GHD, UNCG
	Collect and disseminate key messages for the 10-year anniversary of World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2019.	[COMPLETED] Finalized in Q2 2019.	OCHA	
	Collect and disseminate key messages for the 20-year anniversary of Security Council resolution 1265 (1999) and the adoption of the protection of civilians as an item on its agenda on 17 September 2019.	[COMPLETED] Finalized in Q2 2019.	OCHA	
	Collect and disseminate key messages for the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 2019.	[ONGOING] To be finalized in early November 2019.	UNICEF, Save the Children	
	As a test case for developing common narratives, messages will be developed for the Climate Summit.	[ONGOING] Key messages have been developed jointly with IFRC, OCHA in <b>September 2019</b> disseminated widely. The group will continue working on developing common narratives on climate change and humanitarian action.	UNICEF, IFRC	
	Establish platform to discuss common narratives.	[COMPLETED] Finalized in April 2019.	IASC secretariat	

Capture and disseminate lessons learned and best practice with regards to <b>engagement with Non-State armed actors</b> .	RG 3 co-chairs engaged in consultations, including webinars, with its members and Geneva Call, CCHN and other relevant actors to gain an understanding on how to best take this topic forward.	<b>[COMPLETED]</b> Conducted in July 2019.	Save the Children	CCHN, UNCG
	Take stock of what works most effectively with regards to the engagement with non-state actors.	<b>[ONGOING]</b> To be finalized in Q4 2019.		

## Achievements

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### ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF COUNTER-TERRORISM MEASURES.

#### ➤ Achievement 1: Conduct desk review with focus on recommendations

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** InterAction and Save the Children are about to finalize a desk review of the most relevant literature on the impact of COTER measures on principled humanitarian assistance from 2011 to 2019. 50 documents have been analysed and relevant information extracted – especially in terms of impact of COTER measures on humanitarian assistance, key stakeholders and conclusions. Additionally, the desk review has shown a number of recurrent recommendations. For this reason – and additionally to what previously agreed – a document containing key recommendations made by prominent scholars and practitioners that IASC RG 3 may wish to consider for its collective advocacy purposes has been developed. The recommendations cover a range of critical aspects including: humanitarian exemptions and exceptions; COTER-related language used in UN Security Council (SC) Resolutions; bank de-risking; the impact of sanctions regimes/COTER on humanitarian access and space; the impact of COTER measures on human rights and civic space. One of the learning of the desk review is that many relevant recommendations have been made over the years. However, there are not necessarily being implemented and therefore other tactics would need to be explore to push for actual implementation of the recommendations
- **Potential impact on the ground:** In several crises, COTER measures are restricting humanitarian agencies capacities to operate The deliverables may have a two pronged contributions to field work and HCTs: firstly, the deliverables help contouring the key features of the impact of COTER on principled humanitarian assistance and therefore they can potentially be used for increasing the awareness on the matter in country-level stakeholders. Secondly, the recommendations can provide a useful overview of key asks an HCT may want to contextualize and push forward as country-specific collective advocacy efforts, proactively or reactively, in case of particularly vulnerable contexts or in case of episodes similar to the Al Shabaab listing one (see below on achievement 3).
- **Complementarity pursued with other Results Groups and/or IASC-associated entities:** When working on this priority area, RG 3 is coordinating with RG 1 regarding their deliverable on bureaucratic impediments in order to utilize synergies and avoid overlaps. In a conference call between the co-chairs of RG 1 and RG 3, the detailed collaboration was discussed and it was decided that the respective sub-leads of each group would coordinate regularly on their activities and the progress of the respective deliverable. Based on the desk review and the overview of key recommendations, more connections will be sought in the coming months, especially regarding the RG 1 deliverable on the guidance for HCs and HCTs to mitigate effects of bureaucratic impediments on humanitarian operations. Furthermore, RG 3 is engaging with RG 5 around implications for humanitarian financing in COTER measures.
- **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** NRC has been consulted during the drafting of recommendations that IASC RG 3 may wish to push forward. The co-chairs of the IASC RG 3 met also with the co-chairs of the Good Humanitarian Donorship in August. The joint advocacy efforts to push back on the attempt to list Al Shabab under a new sanction regime associated several non IASC members. Further partnership with policy think-tanks will be explored to strengthen the advocacy approach.
- **Follow-up plans:** The set of recommendations provides a sound basis on which to build on proactively or reactively. In fact, in the coming months, IASC members may wish to discuss and jointly reflect on the proposed recommendations to “choose” some of them and concentrate their advocacy efforts on championing the protection of humanitarian space. It is also important to note that the sets of deliverables should not be considered as a “one off”. Advocacy to safeguard humanitarian space from the impact of COTER measures will require a sustained engagement. Within RG3, links between the priority area of COTER and the engagement with Armed Non-State Actors will also be further explored.

#### ➤ Achievement 2: Conduct a mapping of the impact of COTER measures

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** Developing a mapping of the impact of COTER measures would require a significant investment of time and resources, as there are a plethora of national legislations, sanctions regimes, UN resolutions and donors regulations all impacting humanitarian action in different ways. Rather than a comprehensive

mapping, it was felt that undertaking a couple of case studies in countries where humanitarian action is particularly affected would be a better and more realistic approach

- **Follow-up plans:** The sub-group will reflect on this specific deliverable and potentially proposed alternative solutions. In fact, while conducting the desk review (see above) it emerged that many articles and papers already mapped out the impact of COTER measures on humanitarian organizations – and specific case studies (especially on de-risking) were already analysed. A collection of case studies and evidence for influencing the discussion in March 2019 on the UN SC Resolution res 2462 was also prepared. In 2015 and 2018, NRC and OCHA already proposed a categorization of the impact of COTER measures on humanitarian organizations with examples. Finally, the mapping exercise of RG 1 on bureaucratic impediments already included evidence related to COTER. In light of the above, the sub-group will suggest other relevant deliverables to the RG.

➤ **Achievement 3: Conduct a light lesson learned exercise on the concerted advocacy effort around the proposed listing of Al-Shabaab under a new sanctions regime**

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** RG 3 is actively engaged in discussions around the impact of COTER measures on humanitarian action and has also coordinated advocacy efforts amongst its members around timely topics such as the suggested listing of Al-Shabaab under the sanction regime against Al-Qaeda and ISIL, which would have been problematic due to the lack of a humanitarian exemption clause. While this is not a specific deliverable as indicated on the workplan, the group decided that in the spirit of collaboratively working on this topic, a coordination effort is necessary to enable a concerted effort when addressing questions and queries from donors, creating advocacy messages and engaging all relevant stakeholders in the advocacy effort. RG 3 consists of members from the whole IASC spectrum, with each member contributing its own strengths in conducting advocacy, including strengths related to public and private advocacy. By coordinating amongst its members, RG 3 was able to tap into the strengths of the diversity of actors that make up the membership. While the outcome of the global advocacy effort – six member states objected to the proposal to list Al-Shabaab under an additional sanctions regime – was not the unilateral success of RG 3, the group developed a remarkable dynamic and contributed to the advocacy efforts of individual agencies, including RG 3 members. This gave the group a chance to further refine the intended deliverables of this priority area of work, such as the desk review of recommendations and shape them to become most useful for RG 3 members and other actors that are engaged in advocacy on this topic. In the aftermath of this successful advocacy exercise, RG 3 decided to add another deliverable to this priority area of work by conducting a light lessons learned exercise around the advocacy efforts conducted on this issue. This exercise is lead by Save the Children and intends to better prepare RG 3 members for similar advocacy efforts in the future.
- **Potential impact on the ground:** The main objective of the development of the note is to analyse and reflect on the Al Shabaab listing case for highlighting key takeaways (especially in terms of challenges and successes in advocacy efforts and in terms of policy). The brief lesson learned note serves to highlight main policy and advocacy takeaways and will suggest some follow up action. This will help actors both in the field and at HQ to better prepare for future advocacy efforts on the humanitarian impact of COTER measures.
- **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** To further advance this important priority area, RG 3 has reached out to the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative (GHD), who also has COTER and the negative impact on humanitarian operations as a priority on their workplan. In an initial meeting between the co-chairs of GHD and RG 3 on 8 August, the impact of counter-terrorism measures in general and the issue of the Al-Shabaab listing in particular were discussed. In addition, several other areas of possible collaboration were discussed between the two entities. The successfully established link with the donor community and the diverse membership of RG 3 – which includes the UN Communications Group UNCG – puts RG 3 in a unique position for creating advocacy narratives, disseminating them amongst the group and beyond and work jointly with members and donors on solutions to system wide issues.
- **Follow-up plans:** In the shared TORs, the finalization of the light lessons learned exercise is envisaged for Q4 2019 and will include a briefing to RG 3 members and possibly beyond, depending on the outcome and findings of the exercise. This could also include a webinar where findings could be presented and the way forward could be further defined. Furthermore, the link to the GHD will be further explored in the future, both by sharing the products achieved in RG 3 as well as seeking the collaboration on the technical level.

## **IDENTIFY 2-3 CONTEXTS AND DEVELOPING A CLEAR HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY STRATEGY TO ADDRESS PROTECTION AND/OR ACCESS CHALLENGES.**

### ➤ **Achievement 4: Define guiding questions that help identify the contexts that should be addressed**

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** RG 3 is working on identifying 2-3 contexts to develop a clear humanitarian diplomacy strategy under the leads of InterAction and World Vision. The Results Group determined that focusing on a few specific humanitarian crises would increase the likelihood of impact of coordinated advocacy. To take this forward, the group has finalized a background note and questionnaire in order to further define which contexts the strategies should focus on, including aligning this work with the priorities of the IASC and the EDG. The questionnaire focuses on determining the contexts in which access challenges, protection concerns and acute funding shortfalls are prevalent and where the respondent believes collective advocacy could result in positive change in addressing them. RG 3 is now in the process of determining the best mechanism through which to consult with the EDG in determining the priorities. It would be important in this process to focus on areas where RG 3 can add value to on-going existing advocacy work already being done either at country level or at thematic level.
- **Follow-up plans:** Priority crises should be determined before the IASC Principals meeting. Once the priorities have been set, collective advocacy strategies will be crafted by Q1 2020. This work will gain from further guidance from the EDGs to see where collective advocacy can strengthen their efforts

## **DEVELOP COMMON NARRATIVES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES OF CONCERN**

### ➤ **Achievement 5: Develop common narratives**

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** RG 3 is developing common narratives on specific issues of concern building on key messages disseminated by its members, such as on the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Convention (led by ICRC); the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (led by UNICEF and Save the Children); and the 10th anniversary of World Humanitarian Day and the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1265 (both led by OCHA) and the impact of explosive weapons in populated areas (OCHA). To better support this work, the IASC Secretariat has created an online sharing space which allows the group's members to have a one-stop shop for material on these key events and anniversaries, including key messages and mobilization strategies. Furthermore, key messages and common narratives are disseminated through email lists of the Secretariat and through the channels of individual RG 3 members.
- **Potential impact on the ground:** Key messages and common narrative can also support advocacy on the ground as the common set of messages could be tailored to specific contexts. Further dissemination of key messages by IASC Members to their country offices could also help to ensure that joint messaging inform in country advocacy.
- **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** RG 3 is keen to associate non IASC bodies to the development of common narrative. Efforts will be made to seek inputs from national and local organisations
- **Follow-up plans:** RG 3 will increase its efforts to build sub-groups for the development of common narratives. While RG 3 has successfully shared key messages for several advocacy events in 2019 and is planning to continue doing so in 2020, additional emphasis will be put on the development of inter-agency common narratives, with the goal that these would be endorsed by either OPAG or the Principals to become common messages from the IASC. Sub-groups will be formed to take forward the development of such narratives on topics such as climate change, COTER, IHL, protection or other relevant topics.

## **CAPTURE AND DISSEMINATE LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICE WITH REGARDS TO ENGAGEMENT WITH NON-STATE ARMED ACTORS.**

### ➤ **Achievement 6: Disseminate lessons learned and best practices**

- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** RG 3 held a webinar on 11 July to hear from the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN) and Geneva Call on the latest developments around engagement with Non-State armed actors to understand where the Group can provide added value, given the fact that there is a lot of knowledge

and literature on this topic. The webinar served as an important stock-taking exercise to establish a baseline and guide the Group on which strategic direction to take.

- **Follow-up plans:** Work is ongoing to deliver on the task to “capture and disseminate lessons learned and best practices” by conducting a desk review to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2019. This desk review will compile expertise on engaging with non-state armed actors and will be disseminated widely. Depending on the outcome of the desk review and the discussions amongst RG 3 members, a webinar or similar event is planned.

## Forward-Looking Priority Areas of Work for 2020

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The Group will continue to deliver on the priority areas of work for 2019 in early 2020, with a focus on COTER and the development of common narratives.

## Key Dates

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- Briefing on the finding of the lessons learned exercise regarding the advocacy around the additional listing of Al-Shabaab. November 2019. Audience TBD.
- Webinar on lessons learned and best practice regarding the engagement with Armed Non-State Actors. Q4 2019.

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