**IASC Task Team**

**Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action**

**Notes of monthly call - 11th October 2017**

The chair (Georgia) opened the meeting and welcomed the newcomers to the TT. Our membership list now counts 94 participants.

# Update on multi-stakeholder workshop held on 2-3 October 2017 (Valerie)

* Full workshop report will be shared with members soon
* Over 40 participants to discuss the target audience, principles, cross-cutting issues and structure of the IASC guidelines.
  + Also to identifying individuals and agencies to contribute to aspects of the guidelines
* Presentation from Janet Lord on the Desk Review on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action
  + Strong section on legal framework
  + Some gaps (e.g. cash-based assistance, social protection and safety nets, development/humanitarian nexus)
* Presentation by Ricardo on previous guidelines
  + Structure, process and content
* Working groups to discuss the target audience, structure, cross-cutting issues and intersectoral coordination
  + Groups also discussed the three possible outlines
* Provisional decisions:
  + Target audience should be humanitarian actors and DPOs (in their role as humanitarian stakeholders). Not disability-specific organisations. Focus on mainstream stakeholders.
  + The guidelines should not be very long. It could serve as a foundational document with further products to be developed (following model of MHPSS guidelines).
  + DPOs have gaps in capacity relating to humanitarian action. So there should be a chapter on capacity building of DPOs.
  + Long list of guiding principles (to be refined)
  + The outline should be structured as follows: chapters according to cluster-system sectors with integrated guidance aligned with the project cycle
* TT co-chairs and consultant are preparing a provisional draft outline based on the discussion in the workshop.
* Most participating agencies have volunteered to contribute to the guidelines. A table will be shared with details.

# Update on cluster briefings: Shelter Cluster and MHPSS Working Group

* **Mina (IFRC)** not available to update from the shelter cluster
* **Anne** (**Healthworks)** provided an update from the MHPSS Reference Group
  + Anne did a presentation on progress of the guidelines to the IASC reference group to seek their support but there was some disagreement from the psychologists and psychiatrists on terminology relating to mental health disorders or conditions versus psychosocial disabilities
  + Anne suggested that an awareness session on these issues would be relevant to consider.
  + It was agreed to develop a working group on MHPSS and disability that will support the development of the guidelines; it will be co-chaired by Healthworks, WHO, and MHPSS.net.
  + The MHPSS Reference Group will facilitate a list of participants who would be interested to contribute to this working group.
  + Anne will develop a ToR on this working group by the end of the month if the TT thinks it is a good idea.
  + **Question from Emma (WRC):** Will the focus of the engagement with the MHPSS reference group be on meaningful access to general MHPSS services for all people with disabilities, and /or the provision of MHPSS services for people with psychosocial impairments, being these both relevant?
    - **Anne**: this discussion did not happen because participants were preoccupied with a debate on terminology
    - **Emma**: WRC has experience on working with providers of MHPSS services to make sure they are accessible for persons with disabilities and that people with mental health conditions are being identified and referred to appropriate responses. Materials will be shared by WRC.
  + **Ricardo (HI/co-chair)**: It would be relevant to develop awareness sessions as part of the IASC Briefing Pack, to be developed. Natalia (ONCE) also suggested this at the Geneva meeting.
  + **Georgia (IDA/co-chair):** i) Would the MHPSS and disability working group be open to a meeting with the IDA network of users and survivors of psychiatry who represent persons with psychosocial disabilities. ii) Would the working group be open to people outside the MHPSS reference group
    - **Anne** – i) supports this suggestion ii) Anne will have to discuss this with the co-chair of the reference group, Sarah (WHO).

# Update on MENA regional consultation (Georgia)

* The co-chairs and IASC Task Team decided to postpone the MENA regional consultation to Q1 2018 because of the need of additional time to identify relevant participants from the humanitarian community, representatives from DPOs and secure visas. New dates to be discussed but potentially March.
* In the meantime other regions are also being considered e.g Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa. The co-chairs will seek feedback from the TT.
* **Question from Emma (WRC)** - what is the strategy for identifying the right humanitarian actors for the consultations?
  + **Georgia** – a proposal was to develop a short briefing pack with an explanation of the who the consultations would target and what would be required from participants.
  + **Valerie** - the briefing pack referred to by Ricardo is to be used to brief relevant stakeholders about the work of the TT (e.g. clusters). Part of it can also be used to mobilise people for the regional consultations.

# Update on online consultation (Valerie)

* This is now a priority for the upcoming period
* A working group will be launched to support Valerie in developing the online consultation.
* Valerie calls for TT members to join the working group and, for example, share similar survey conducted in the past
* Aim is to launch the survey in early November to also inform the methodology for the regional consultations
* **Qu. from Isabelle** - what is the timeframe for the online survey. How long will it be open?
  + Valerie – Initially early Nov to January.
* **Qu. from Federico** - what survey platform will you use and will accessibility be considered?
  + **Ricardo** - one option could be to use the website but we don’t know if it will have the functionality. And accessibility will be a priority. We welcome volunteers to the group.
  + **Federico** – he will volunteer to support the development of the survey. Currently working on a survey for the World Urban Forum
* **Emma** - the WRC has funding from DFAT to engage GBV actors and women’s groups on the IASC guidance. WRC plans also to do an online consultation and it could be integrated with the wider consultation process.
* **Tom** also volunteered to join the working group on behalf of the joint project between HI, IDA, and CBM to support the work of the IASC TT.

# Update on website consultancy

* Under the DFAT grant the IASC TT has funds to build an accessible website
* A private consultant has been identified and will start soon. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this recruitment.
* The TT would like to start a working group on developing a website. We will circulate a ToR soon.
* This would involve testing and giving feedback on mock versions of the website as they are developed. Specifically important that we have people who have experience about accessibility to help test the website. So please volunteer.

# AOB

* **Georgia** – the funding working group has developed a concept note to cover the gap in funding (up to end of 2018).
  + The concept note will be circulated very soon.
* **Georgia** – Update on UNHCR/IDA workshop on 3rd October
  + During the event it was agreed to produce a joint statement on refugee and migrants with disabilities with recommendations for members states in the development of the two global compacts. This will be circulated to TT members for input and signature by the end of the week.
* **Emma** – WRC will join the GBV AoR monthly call on 31st October to brief them on the IASC guidelines development process and to brief them on regional consultations targeting GBV actors. Also WRC may be participating on a strategic dialogue on GBV in the Asia Pacific region towards the end of the November.
* **Federico** - GAATES is getting ready for the world urban forum. Participation from the TT was requested, with suggestions to link to accessibility in reconstruction and humanitarian action in urban settings (including coordinating with the IASC subsidiary body on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas).

**Next monthly call of the TT will 8th November**