Meeting Minutes, 25 November 2022
Global Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)

LOCATION
Online

DATE
25 November 2022

CHAIR
Mary Jelliti

PARTICIPANTS
Carlotta Negri, Fabrice Perrot, Stephen Cahill, Mary Jelliti, Pierre Tripon

ACTION POINTS
- Update of the SAG ToR to be discussed at the next SAG Meeting on 16 December 2022
- Synthesized findings from the GLM to be circulated to all attendees as part of the post-meeting survey
- SAG members to confirm who will attend the LCC retreat in Rome

AGENDA
1. General Update
2. Updates from Global Logistics Cluster (GLC)
3. Global Logistics Cluster Meeting (GLM) in review
4. Any Other Business (AOB)

1. General Update

- Maternity cover: Mary’s last working day is 2 December 2022. Carlotta Negri will serve as back-up for part of her work and will replace her as SAG focal point during her absence.

2. Updates from Global Logistics Cluster (GLC)

- Ongoing recruitment efforts for the GLC operations team are challenging at the moment. All open positions have been converted to staff contracts and are going through the internal staffing reassignment. They will also be advertised externally. In the meantime, the same positions are being advertised under the form of short-term consultancy contracts to ensure all gaps are covered.
- Gilles Cimetiere is retiring mid-2023 and the new Head of Operations has been identified. The exact starting date of Gilles’ replacement is still to be defined.
- Cecilia Aspe started her role as Head of Information Management and Julie Kuras will come back from her maternity leave in January 2023.
- The WREC Project Manager is due to start on 1 December. Interviews for the environmental specialists positions are ongoing.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinators (LCC) meeting takes place in Rome from 12 to 14 December 2022. Fabrice Perrot might be able to attend on behalf of the SAG. Stephen Cahill will attend on behalf of WFP.
3. Global Logistics Cluster Meeting (GLM) in review

- In progress at GLC:
  - Review of inputs, aggregation to high level action points, alignment with existing SIP activities
  - Inclusion in post-meeting survey for feedback/voting/prioritisation.

- Thoughts from SAG members:
  - Interactive GLM: the objective of organising a more interactive GLM vis-à-vis the last GLM in Copenhagen was achieved. It proved to be a good occasion for colleagues to engage with each other indifferent discussions. There was a dynamic and positive atmosphere in the room. The fact of not having any PPT presentations proved to be beneficial. The second day was a bit easier to work through, given that the sessions were better defined. Moreover, the fact that the meeting was delivered in hybrid modality allowed GLC to involve a small group of field representatives which proved to be valuable.
  - Duration: two full working days is shorter than usual, it could therefore be a good idea to move back to the two and half working days format, ideally between Tuesday and Thursday.
  - Room set-up: unfortunately, the set-up of the room was not fit for the purpose of participants engaging interactively. The facilitators were not familiar with the structure of the room, and this could have been prepared better.
  - Facilitation: facilitation services were of high level, although the ice-breakers were a bit too long, and the facilitators were not familiar with the profiles of the meeting participants. It took some time for discussions to kick off, but this is normal.
  - Type of topics addressed: unfortunately, as usual there was insufficient time available to enter into detail on the different topics addressed. Moreover, some discussions may not be of interest for all participants (for example, service provision and service management). It could be beneficial to set up different subgroups in collaboration with working group representatives for interested participants to meet up separately to address specific discussion topics.
  - Field involvement: despite online attendance, there was some disconnection with field operations representatives. This should be improved. It not only refers to physical representation, but also to improving the understanding of Logistics Cluster operations in countries where the Logistics Cluster has not been activated. Under the hybrid modality, amplifying the involvement of field representatives is important. Additional preparation time might be needed to explain to online participants how online engagement and tools work. It is essential to limit the size of the online participants to understand how many facilitators are required. It is moreover important to specify which sessions are important for the field representatives to attend, since they do not have time to be virtually connected for an entire day or two.

- Feedback from the participants survey:
  - People don’t have a good understanding of digital tools and we must boost awareness.
  - Limited understanding of the mandate and functionality of the Global Logistics Cluster by partners
  - People are very eager to work in contexts where the Logistics Cluster is not active. Partners should engage with each other to explore what Logistics Cluster support can be provided in such contexts.
Health logistics and fuel provision remain important topics for humanitarian logistics and should be systematically addressed in terms of information management support.

It is still unclear how impact can be measured in preparedness activities.

A more regionalised approach of the Logistics Cluster is proposed. This is indeed important, but additional resources would be needed to improve the regional dimension of Logistics Cluster operations.

4. Any Other Business (AOB)

- No SAG updates at GLM. Whether the SAG should play a specific role at the GLM was discussed (knowledge of SAG, activities etc) with the purpose of representing partners, beyond the GLC. This may considered if it brings additional value to partner representation, as opposed to the purpose of giving the SAG itself more visibility. As the SAG discusses and prepares GLMs during the meetings (agenda, topics, schedule, etc), then the added value would be minimal. However, when it comes to country Logistics Cluster operations and the working groups, SAG interventions could be explored and bring value to GLMs. Specifically, when it comes to operations, the SAG Terms of Reference (ToR) currently specify that SAG does not have an operational mandate. However, given that partners’ interests at field level, there is the opportunity to explore the link between operations and SAG as a feedback mechanism to report to the GLC any operational issues and any potential adjustment.

- Synthesized findings from the GLM will be circulated to all attendees as part of the post-meeting survey. If certain findings refer to specific GLC activities, these will be brought to the specific working groups. If unrelated to working groups, deep-dive SAG sessions can be organised to address those findings.

Contacts

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