

## GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting Notes – 25/05/2023

**Date:** 25 May 2023

**Participants:** Australian Red Cross (Veronica Bell), CARE International (Bill Flinn), CRS (Seki Hirano), NRC (Alison Ely), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), InterAction (Mohamed Hilmi, Juli King), IOM (Carolina Cordero-Scales), GSC (Ela Serdaroglu, Brett Moore, Pablo Medina, Stephanie Loose)

**Excused or Absent:** Danish Refugee Council (Chiara Jasna Vaccaro), ACTED/Impact Initiatives (Augusto Come), Habitat for Humanity International (Irantzu Serra-Lasa), UNHCR (Francesca Coloni)

### **Agenda:**

Time	#	Agenda item
13:00 – 13:15	1	Welcome, introduction of the agenda and introduction of new SAG members
13:15 – 13:40	2	Statement on Reducing Environmental Impact
13:40 – 13:50	3	Annual Meeting updates
13:50 – 13:55	4	BHA proposal update
13:55 – 14:00	5	AoBs

### **Summary of action points:**

Action Point	Who	Deadline
Colleagues to share their final red lines to the “Environmental statement”	SAG members	Friday, 26 May 2023, COB
SAG members to please write to GSC team to share if and who from their organisation will join the Annual Meeting	SAG members	Wednesday, 31 May 2023, COB

#### **1. Welcome and introduction of SAG members to Alison Ely (NRC), and approval of the agenda**

After the approval of proposed agenda for the meeting, the Chair of the call introduced the new representative for NRC, Ms Alison Frey ([alison.ely@nrc.no](mailto:alison.ely@nrc.no)). Alison will represent NRC in the GSC SAG until February 2024. The present SAG members also introduced themselves.

#### **2. Update and feedback on Statement on Reducing Environmental Impact**

After the last round of comments, the latest version of the “environmental statement” was shared with SAG members in the invitation for this SAG meeting (25 May). In order to include the comments/suggestions from SAG members who did not manage to comment yet, the deadline for comments was extended to Friday, 26 May 2023 COB. The GSC team took note of comments received and included as many as possible to the current version, underlining that the document should be seen as a “Statement” and not an operational guidance<sup>1</sup>. An editorial review will be done by the GSC in the week of 29 May 2023, and a final version reshared with the SAG (including a deadline, after which an approval will be assumed). The Statement will then be added to the GSC website under “updates”.

#### **3. Update on the agenda for the Global Shelter Cluster Annual Meeting (21/22 June 2023)**

The GSC team provided an update on the planning for the GSC Annual Meeting, which will take place as one (main) event during this years Shelter Week (19 June -23 June 2023)<sup>2</sup>. The agenda was shared with the SAG members, explaining that the selected three priority topics (Wider Impact of Shelter; Greening; Durable Solutions and Recovery) will each have one “setting the scene session”, and a second part for developing recommendations, which will drive the GSC workplan on the respective topic in the coming year.

<sup>1</sup> In addition to this statement, there will be a longer document, which includes more details on the work of the GSC Green team and will guide the way forward, aligned with the upcoming GSC Strategy’s priorities.

<sup>2</sup> The Shelter Week consists of the “Shelter Cluster Coordinators’ Days” (19-20 June); the “GSC Annual Meeting” (21-22 June) and the “Shelter Meeting” (23 June). The Shelter Meeting is not organized by the GSC, but by the Shelter Center, but is part of the week’s programme.

SAG members had volunteers to contribute to a mini-SAG and then to take co-leadership for sessions, in cooperation with the GSC team:

- Wider Impact of Shelter: Interaction, CRS
- Environment/Greening: GSC Green team, Interaction
- Recovery and Durable Solutions: IOM; Habitat for Humanity

In case there is interest from any other SAG member to join the above teams, please do not hesitate to reach out to the GSC team and/or the agencies leading on the sessions.

Short instructions on session framings were shared and outlines (proposals) should be provided until 26 May. For the “setting the scene” part of the sessions, including external or “non-sector” speakers is highly encouraged. The GSC team will support each team with a dedicated focal point and session co-leads are kindly asked to keep the GSC team in copy of major conversations and before contacting speakers. IOM requested information on participating Shelter Cluster countries, in order to include coordinators in sessions. Donors<sup>3</sup> who have shared their interest to speak during the Annual Meeting, could e.g. be invited to speak in a thematic session (tbd).

In addition to the thematic sessions, Communities of Practice (CoP) and Working Groups (WG) have the possibility to present their work during “Market Places” sessions. An email to ask for expressions of interest to present at a Market Place will be shared with the CoPs and WG in due course. The work of the CoPs and WG will also be included in the introduction session (overview of achievements).

It was noted that some SAG members had not yet registered for the Annual Meeting. The registration has been closed, but SAG members who missed the deadline and want to attend can write to the GSC team so that they can be added to the participants list manually (deadline Wednesday, 31 May 2023). The room has limited capacity (120 px), and SAG members, where many people have registered, are kindly asked to confirm who is coming from their respective organisations.

#### **4. Update on GSC concept note for BHA funding**

BHA asked the GSC to revise the proposal for funding, by reducing the timeframe to two years and the budget to approx. 3 mio USD. Some activities were reframed to include a stronger country level focus (e.g. for advocacy activities). A final decision by BHA is expected by August 2023, with an expected start date of 1 October 2023.

#### **5. AoBs**

##### **A. Sector Capacity Assessment (Interaction)**

- Interaction presented the rationale of the exercise; asking for SAG members to share their interest in sharing the exercises regarding “what” and “how”; it was proposed to have a dedicated discussion on the assessment, as many points and questions were raised and would need a longer discussion (including sensitivity and liability of data);
- At this stage, the timeframe of the exercise is foreseen until Jan 2024.

##### **B. Updates on Sudan (requested by CRS)**

- GSC shortly briefed on the situation, highlighting ongoing violence and instability, while large scale displacement leads to even further increased shelter needs. In the countries, response capacities are currently reduced (including due to many areas being inaccessible at this point in time). The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has just been updated and [published](#). IOM has requested to add updates on upscaled or new emergencies as standing agenda points for the SAG meetings.

##### **C. Request for updates on ongoing processes that might impact the work of Shelter Clusters (at global and country level) (requested IOM)**

- There are currently different processes ongoing at global and country level that might influence the way humanitarian response will be delivered and coordinated, which will also impact the

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<sup>3</sup> Key donors will be also included as main audience for a launch event of the Global Shelter Cluster’s Strategy.

Shelter Clusters. Those include e.g. the Emergency Relief Coordinator’s Flagship Initiative<sup>4</sup> (piloted in Niger, Colombia, the Philippines and South Sudan) or the IASC review of the cluster system<sup>5</sup> (by ODI).

- While clusters are not in the “driving seat” for those initiatives, but rather asked to comment on documents circulated at agency and GCCG level. The SAG will be updated on critical points as the processes continue.

**The next SAG meeting will be held on 13 July 2023<sup>6</sup>  
at 13:00 Geneva time, 12:00 London time, 07:00 Washington, 22:00 Melbourne**

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<sup>4</sup> [The Flagship Initiative: Affected people, local communities tailor the response | OCHA \(unocha.org\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Cluster Approach Evaluation | ODI: Think change](#)

<sup>6</sup> Kindly note that the session on 27 June 2023 would be cancelled due to the Annual Meeting taking place the week before; as the proposed SAG will now take place on 13 July, the next regular meeting in July (29 July) would then also be cancelled and we would pick up with the set dates in August 2023;