

## GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting Notes – 28/09/2023

**Date:** 28.09.2023

**Participants:** Australian Red Cross (Veronica Bell), CARE International (Step Haiselden), Habitat for Humanity International (Irantzu Serra-Lasa), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), InterAction (Mohamed Hilmi), NRC (Alison Ely), UNHCR (Francesca Coloni), GSC (Ela Serdaroglu, Brett Moore, Stephanie Loose)

**Excused or Absent:** ACTED/Impact Initiatives (Augusto Come), CRS (Seki Hirano), Danish Refugee Council (Chiara Jasna Vaccaro), IOM (Carolina Cordero-Scales)

### **Agenda:**

Time	#	Agenda item
13:00 – 13:05	1	Welcome, introduction of the agenda, roll call
13:05 – 13:20	2	ECHO Grant conclusion (overview on project's outputs and activities)
13:20 – 13:35	3	GSC Research Focal Point updates on research streams
13:35– 13:40	4	Update on Responses: Haiti and Libya; Armenia and Morocco
13:40- 13:45	5	Mini-SAG for advancing discussion on Shelter Week 2024
13:45 – 13:55	6	GSC updates (event dates, AidEX, BHA grant, localization efforts);
13:55 -14:00	7	AoB

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

Action Point	Who	Deadline
Send out invitation for mini-SAG on Shelter Week 2024	GSC ST	Before the next SAG meeting
Share invitation for the establishment of a mini-SAG to discuss issues and options for advancing localisation of the GSC SAG	GSC ST	Beginning of Oct 2023

#### **1. Welcome and approval of the agenda**

The Chair introduced the meeting agenda and welcomed participants, noting that the quorum is met.

#### **2. Presentation of the outputs and activities of the ECHO grant (closure June 2023)**

The GSC presented an overview of the ECHO grant (24 months, July 2021 – June 2023; grant managed by UNHCR for GSC) and the activities and outputs that were funded under the grant. The total grant value summed up to approx. 1.47 mio USD, with 650,000 Euro contributed by ECHO, approx. 495,000 USD contribution by UNHCR and 280,000 Euro by the various partners (in-kind contributions). Outputs included global as well as country specific technical guidance, tool development and advocacy activities, implemented by partners (CRS, CRAterre, WWF and IFRC) and the GSC team.

#### **3. Presentation of the GSC Global Focal Point for Research**

The GSC Global Focal Point for Research, Lizzie Babister, introduced the wide partnership on research and the process to define GSC research priorities. Lizzie mentioned the consultations, fellowship/university partnerships and the dissemination strategy, including through the [Shelter Projects Editions](#) and also presentations at the regional fora, HPNW, and during the GSC Shelter Week. There are currently two global priority studies, "Informing Decisions on Cash Programming" and "Identifying Barriers between Providing Relief to Supporting Recovery", with the study on Cash being at final stage (proof reading and editing) prior to being published on the GSC website. The presentation is included in the attached pdf version shared during the meeting.

#### **4. GSC Updates on Responses**

The GSC Coordinator shared updates on the responses in Libya, Haiti, Armenia and Morocco. The GSC is currently supporting the countries (Libya and Haiti) for setting up and updating pages on the website.

- In Libya, the clusters were deactivated end of 2022, but the former lead agencies, UNHCR and NRC, are now also coordinating the flood response during which 43,000 people were displaced. Access to the region is still the main issue.
- Haiti: The ERC send out the “no-objection”-notification, so an activation of clusters is imminent. IOM will be leading the SC. The requirements have been identified for 21 mio USD.
- Armenia: The number of people arriving from Nagorno Karabach region to Armenia is constantly rising (above 60 000 px); emergency shelter is needed; UNHCR and RC are co-leading the Inter-Agency Coordination Group; UNHCR is also leading the inter-agency sectors for Protection and Non-Food Items. The response includes mixed populations and UNHCR is coordinating under the Refugee Coordination Model
- Morocco: The UN RC proposed support to Morocco government, the main challenge is the accessibility which will become more difficult with deteriorating weather conditions. A IFRC Shelter Coordinator is supporting coordination efforts, aiming to also add early recovery options in the response considerations.

## 5. *GSC Updates*

### *a, SAG retreat:*

SAG retreat 2023 will take place on Wednesday 29 November and Thursday 30 November 2023, a “save the date” (calendar invite) was sent.

### *b, Discussion on GSC Annual Meeting 2023 process:*

The discussion on the organization of the GSC Annual Meeting 2023 with the mini-SAG members took place on 13 September, 13:00. The points discussed will be taken into consideration for the planning of the next GSC Annual Meeting.

### *c, Shelter Week 2024*

The CCCM cluster has not yet decided on a date / location for their annual meeting, but GSC members requested to change the proposed dates for the Shelter Week 2024 (17-21 June 2024) to 10-14 June, as there is a public holiday in the US in that week. The location, format, objectives and focus of the week will be some of the key issues to be discussed by the mini-SAG.

### *c, AidEX:*

The [AidEX conference](#) will take place in Geneva on 25-26 October 2023, with the GSC participating in a joint stand and events in cooperation with eight other clusters.

### *d, SAG elections and “localisation of GSC SAG”*

The invitation for the mini-SAG (CRS, InterAction, NRC) to advance discussions on the localisation objectives for the GSC and assess issues and options will be sent out in the next week.

## 6. *AoBs*

There was no request for AoB, but Ela Serdaroglu updated SAG members that the coming SAG meeting in October will be her final one as GSC Coordinator and that she will then join the GSC SAG in her IFRC function only.

**The next SAG meeting will be held on 26 October 2023  
at 13:00 Geneva time, 12:00 London time, 07:00 Washington, 22:00 Melbourne**