

GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting Notes – 25/07/2024

Date: 25 July 2024

Participants: Impact Initiatives (Giulia Montisci), Australian Red Cross (Leeanne Marshall), CARE International (Step Haiselden), CRS (Jamie Richardson), Habitat for Humanity International (Mario Flores), InterAction (Mohamed Hilmi), IOM (Carolina Cordero-Scales), UNHCR (Vasiliki Tsioutsiou), Danish Refugee Council (Chiara Jasna Vaccaro), GSC (Pablo Medina, Caroline Dewast, Stephanie Loose, Angel Pascual)

Excused or Absent: NRC (Amelia Rule), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), GSC (Seki Hirano)

Agenda:

Time	#	Agenda item
13:00 – 13:05	1	Welcome and approval of the agenda
13:05 – 13:15	2	GSC Strategy: follow-up to finalizing chapters incorporating feedback received (refer to Seki's email of 17 July 2024)
13:15 – 13:25	3	Presentation on a proposal for a new Working Group on PSEA
13:30 – 13:40	4	Updates on the African Shelter Forum (July 2024), and upcoming Asia Shelter Forum (Oct 2024)
13:40 – 13:50	5	Update on the Disability & Inclusion WG and call for engagement in the new COP on Gender, Diversity and Inclusion; Update on the GCCG Disability and Inclusion meeting
13:50 – 14:00	6	AOB

Summary of action points:

Action Point	Who	Deadline
Review Activity Proposal on PSEA Working Group	SAG members	Friday, 30 Aug 2024
Organise a SAG session on learnings and way forward for Shelter Fora	GSC to send invite	
Discuss how to support the Shelter Centre "Humanitarian Library"	SAG members	Next SAG meeting

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

Pablo welcomed the SAG members and shared the agenda for this SAG meeting which was approved.

2. GSC Strategy: Chapter revision

SAG members discussed the status of the GSC strategy chapters and the GSC Coordinator emphasized the need to finalize them by 1 August 2024. The group went through the [GSC Strategy tracking sheet](#) reviewing the chapters that still required finalisation. The text had been sent to the copy editor for coherence of language and writing styles. The Durable Solutions chapter was updated based on the last version. Pablo will now liaise with the copy editor to check the status of the text and provide clarity.

Generally, the SAG agreed on the importance of incorporating practical, actionable recommendations rather than very detailed comments which may be addressed somewhere else. There was consensus on ensuring that the strategy remains focused and implementable. Final chapters should be finalised by 1 August 2024.

3. Proposal for a New Working Group on PSEA

UNHCR and IFRC, in consultation with CARE and the Australian Red Cross, introduced an activity proposal for a WG on PSEA. The activity proposal is attached for review of SAG members. SAG members were encouraged to contribute and join the WG, which will, after endorsement, be announced in a Global Update.

IOM underlined its interest and willingness to share its products as it is also developing an internal PSEA checklist for the sector which is almost finalised. It covers settlement planning, HLP, distribution and shelter construction.

IOM is also working on a specific one for Rental Assistance and transit hotels, and another one for collective accommodation.

4. Updates on the African Shelter Forum (July 2024) & upcoming Asia and Pacific Shelter Forum (October 2024)

DRC and other participating SAG members shared their impressions of the African Shelter Forum. The key themes were, localisation, urban response, area based/settlements-based response and local building practices. Overall, the ASF was a great success, with about 200 participants including online participants of which 150 participated in person. The good collaboration with the hosting Kenyan university was highlighted. Most presentations were delivered by local organisations, and very few from the larger INGOs such as DRC or NRC. The feedback was to do more advocacy to engage the larger organisations, but the engagement of national organisations and academia, as well as UN-Habitat was very well received. The GSC contributions for financially supporting country-led organisations added value. The Africa Shelter Forum report has been drafted and has been shared for comments and lead-organisers will send a “thank you” letter to the university.

CRS shared a quick update on the [Asia and Pacific Shelter Forum](#) taking place on 21-23 October 2024 in Manila, Philippines. The registration form has been launched and the call for proposal for sessions or other contributions was sent out publicly.

5. Update on the Disability & Inclusion WG and upcoming launch of the CoP on Gender, Diversity and Inclusion

Australian Red Cross provided an update on the Disability & Inclusion WG, which is now closing since its tasks have been completed. The (to be launched) [Gender, Diversity and Inclusion COP](#) will serve as a follow-up body in the GSC on this and other cross-cutting topic such as disability and inclusion, LGBTQI, Gender and Age. The COP will soon be launched via a Global Update.

6. Any Other Business (AOB)

6.1. A quick update on the GCCG meeting on Disability and Inclusion was shared. Two agenda items were discussed in that meeting:

- Two papers and one diagram from NGO Consortiums (SCHR, Interaction and ICVA) in contribution to OPAG discussions. (Please see the cover message further below which explains the background).
- A letter and non-paper on Humanitarian Coordination and Disability Inclusion that was sent to the IASC Principals by Finland, Australia, Germany, Italy and New Zealand.

Those who participated to the meeting agreed that the purpose of this discussion around Disability and Inclusion seemed to be also promoting other initiatives, including Evaluating Cluster Coordinators and Area Based Coordination among others. It was also agreed that some of the proposals from the two papers were not realistic, and requesting specific focal points for disability and inclusion for each cluster was not realistic.

6.2. CARE reminded SAG members that there was no more funding for the Shelter Centre Humanitarian Library and suggested SAG members to discuss how and whether to further support this initiative.

**The next SAG meeting will be held on 29 August 2024
at 13:00 Geneva time, 12:00 London time, 07:00 Washington, 22:00 Melbourne**