

GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting Notes – 26/10/2023

Date: 26.10.2023

Participants: ACTED/Impact Initiatives (Giulia Montisci), CARE International (Bill Flinn), CRS (Seki Hirano), Danish Refugee Council (Chiara Jasna Vaccaro), Habitat for Humanity International (Irantzu Serra-Lasa), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), InterAction (Mohamed Hilmi), IOM (Carolina Cordero-Scales), NRC (Alison Ely), GSC (Pablo Medina, Brett Moore, Stephanie Loose)

Excused or Absent: Australian Red Cross (Veronica Bell), UNHCR (Francesca Coloni),

Agenda:

Time	#	Agenda item
13:00 – 13:05	1	Welcome, introduction of the agenda, roll call
13:05 – 13:10	2	Update from IFRC Senior Management
13:10 – 13:15	3	Updates from mini-SAG on the Shelter Annual Events 2024
13:15 – 13:35	4	Discussion on IASC IDP review
13:35– 13:40	5	Update on Responses: oPt, Afghanistan
13:40- 13:45	6	SAG retreat - preparatory discussion
13:45 – 13:55	7	GRF pledges
13:55 -14:00	8	AoB

Summary of action points:

Action Point	Who	Deadline
GSC to prepare and share key messages from CLA perspective on IASC IDP response review	GSC	Next week
SAG members to share proposals for guest speakers and focus topics for the SAG retreat; GSC to develop agenda and share;	SAG members/GSC	Next week
GSC to share an invite for a follow up discussion on GRF pledges	GSC	Next week

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

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

2. Update from IFRC Senior Management

Mr. Nelson Castaño, Manager Operations Coordination, introduced the structural changes within IFRC, stating that Pablo Medina is appointed as Acting Global Shelter Coordinator for IFRC. He thanked Ela Serdaroglu for her engagement as GSC Coordinator. Ela will continue to contribute to the GSC in her new role as Urban Resilience and Settlements Lead, within the Climate, Environment and Resilience Team.

3. Updates from mini-SAG on the Shelter Annual Events 2024

The first meeting of the mini-SAG on the Shelter Annual Events 2024 took place on 18 October. CRS, CARE, DRC, and IMPACT joined this first session, while many others, inc. IOM, IFRC, the Australian Red Cross, NRC and HfHI expressed interest to join in coming sessions. The focus of the discussion was on the overall purpose of the “Annual Shelter Events”, on how to foster the inclusion of local partners and conduct GSC events in locations other than Geneva, including how to strengthen links to regional fora. As there needs to be more discussion on the topic, it was suggested to put it on the agenda for the SAG retreat in November, to further explore a re-visioning of the shelter week.

4. Update on “Independent Review of the IASC Response to Internal Displacement”

Brett introduced the process of the [“Independent Review of the IASC Response to Internal Displacement”](#) (conducted by ODI), and explained the chronology of GSC engagement so far in what is an agency-led process. The Clusters are only one part of a broad review of the IDP response system, which focuses on a range of issues including role of states, financing, agency roles, nexus and durable

solutions, amongst many other issues. Clarification was provided on which steps the Clusters had been involved so far, inc. feedback into processes such as development of the ToRs, the inception report, country reviews selection process and subsequent reports on those. Last week a draft report was prepared by the review team for the IASC Deputies meeting (shared last week with SAG members) and a discussion with GCCG members and the team lead of the review process, Lewis Sida, took place on Thursday, 19 October. The IASC Deputies Meeting has been postponed as there is no consensus (inc. at highest level) on the draft findings, being discussed again by the Steering Committee members. IOM asked if the GSC could prepare key messages on the draft findings. The GSC co-leads are advocating through their cluster lead agencies and will prepare and share with the SAG a list of key advocacy points related to the draft report which the SAG members can also use for advocacy purposes through their agencies.

5. Update on ongoing responses

The GSC Coordinator from UNHCR shared updates on responses in oPt and Afghanistan.
oPt:

- The SC in oPt is led by NRC. Approximately 1.4m people are internally displaced, many of them to collective shelters.
- Remote support being provided to the Coordinator inc. on IM, advocacy and comms and NFI requirements. Additional support from Impact with [Damage Assessment Imagery](#), now available on the GSC website along with weekly updates from the Palestine cluster.
- Estimated that 40% of all housing units in the Gaza Strip have been affected. There is discussion on the need for tents by authorities, which is currently being validated and concerns on use of tents re. density issue in Gaza are being considered. When accurate information on decisions from the HCT are clear, this will be disseminated to partners and added to the shelter/NFI response requirements.
- Member States have pledged US\$100m in the Flash Appeal, but access is limited and needs exceed supplies by far, with supply blockages at Rafah border crossing from Egypt.
- Further updates on the rapidly evolving issues and needs will be provided in due course.

Afghanistan: With little media attention, there has been a third 6.3 earthquake in Herat province. SC is well functioning, and response to affected population is ongoing. More information can be found on the [GSC website](#).

6. GSC Update on SAG retreat:

SAG retreat 2023 will take place on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 November at the Impact Hub in Geneva. The agenda is being developed and inputs are welcomed, with the following points proposed as basis for discussion: (i) Updates on achievements; (ii) Shelter Events 2024; (iii) GSC Strategy; (iv) Humanitarian system review and new approaches/structures.

SAG members were encouraged to share ideas – eg, possibility of guest speakers, focus topics, etc with the GSC coordination team.

7. Updates on Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges

The [GRF](#) will take place from 13-15 Dec in GVA. Charles Campbell, campbelc@unhcr.org, leading the pledge on “Climate Resilient, Sustainable Human Settlement” introduced this multistakeholder pledge process which advocates for area-based approaches, closely aligned with the GSC inclusive settlements approach and focus of the USWG. While he encouraged organisations and stakeholder groups to support and commit to the pledge, further discussions are needed with GSC partners to better understand entry points. The GSC will share an invite for a session next week.

8. AoBs

There was no request for AoB.

**The next SAG meeting will be held on 25 January 2023
at 12:00 Geneva time, 13:00 London time, 07:00 Washington, 22:00 Melbourne**