

## GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting Notes – 31/08/2023

**Date:** 31.08.2023

**TParticipants:** ACTED/Impact Initiatives (Augusto Come), CARE International (Step Haiselden), CRS (Seki Hirano), Danish Refugee Council (Chiara Jasna Vaccaro), Habitat for Humanity International (Irantzu Serra-Lasa), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), IOM (Carolina Cordero-Scales), InterAction (Juli King), NRC (Alison Ely), GSC (Brett Moore, Pablo Medina, 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 – 13:15	2	Discussion on event dates
13:15 – 13:35	3	Update on active/inactive WGs and CoPs: overview of list of active WG's and CoPs, CoP focal points
13:35– 13:50	4	Regional Fora: discussion on dates, leadership and any challenges
13:50 – 13:55	5	“Localisation” of SAG: other clusters’ experiences
13:55 -14:00	6	Environmental statement monitoring
14:00	7	AoB

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

Action Point	Who	Deadline
GSC Coordinators to liaise with CCCM to find out when the CCCM Annual Meeting 2024 will take place (for allowing “back-to-back” of CCCM and GSC Annual meeting)	GSC ST	Before the next SAG meeting
Send invitation for discussion on GSC Annual Meeting 2023 to Mini-SAG members	GSC ST	By Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September
Update on decisions for Regional Shelter Fora	SAG members	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	Before the next SAG
Map what SAG members are already measuring in terms of environmental indicators with a view to develop a proposal for indicators for monitoring the “Environmental Statement”	GSC	Before next SAG meeting

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

The Chair introduced the meeting agenda and welcomed participants.

#### **2. Discussion and decision on dates for upcoming events**

##### **a, SAG retreat:**

The dates for the next SAG retreat were agreed upon and the SAG retreat 2023 will take place on Wednesday 6 December and Thursday 7 December 2023.

##### **b, Shelter Week**

The proposed dates for the Shelter Week 2024 were 17-21 June 2024, but a decision was not taken as IFRC requested to check the dates for the CCCM Annual Meeting 2024. The GSC ST will liaise with CCCM and revert with the (planned) dates. A decision will then be made after consultations with the SAG members via email.

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

The 13 or 14 of September were proposed dates for the discussion on the organization of the GSC Annual Meeting 2023. The majority of the Mini-SAG members opted for the discussion to take place on 13 September, 13:00.

### 3. **Overview of list of active WG's and CoPs, CoP focal points**

After decisions on deactivation of Working Groups were taken in the SAG retreat 2022 and different SAG meetings, discussions with WG co-leads took place in August. Following those discussions, the following Working Groups are now marked as active on the GSC website (while others were moved to the page for "[Deactivated Working Groups](#)").

- Construction Standards (maintained until end of 2023, with discussion to take place at the SAG retreat, as requested by the WG)
- Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Shelter Programming (until official activation of a CoP that includes PWD, but might also include Gender, Age, and other topics);
- Settlement Approaches in Urban Areas;
- Shelter Projects;

While there is no action needed for many CoPs (Recovery CoP; Shelter, Cash & Markets; Environment; IM; Coordination), the discussion on the lead of the Technical CoP will occur at the SAG retreat (Dec 2023) and action will then be taken in Q1 2024. CARE International volunteered to take a leadership role for the CoP on Gender and Diversity based on further discussions.

### 4. **Updates on Regional Fora**

**Africa Shelter Forum 2023:** Due to insufficient resources (financial and human resources), the decision was taken by the group of agencies who had volunteered for the organisation of Regional Shelter Fora (CRS, DRC, InterAction, IOM) to cancel the Africa Regional Forum 2023, but instead put efforts in a francophone online capacity building event.

**Asia Shelter Forum 2023:** The proposed date for a Regional Asia Shelter Forum, to be held in Bangkok, were 7 and 8 Dec 2023, but due to a lack of committed partners, discussions are now ongoing to organise a forum in the Philippines in September 2024, around the same time as the Philippine National Shelter Week). The group plans to report back to the GSC and SAG members in the week of the 04 September on the final decision.

#### **Updates on decisions taken in the group of organizing partners for future Fora:**

- Taking into account the amount of resources to organize a Regional Shelter Forum, the group currently coordinating the regional fora suggested to organise only 2 fora per year, so each region would benefit from an event every two years;
- Each forum should have at least two agencies as key organisers, while other agencies will be invited to join and support;
- A budget should be defined for each forum in advance (based on experiences of prior events), to also support communication with donors;
- Dates should be defined well in advance, and e.g. aligned with Housing or Urban Fora. A list of [upcoming, relevant fora](#) was shared by HfHI.

The GSC underlined that there would have been possibilities to financially support the organisation of Regional Fora as done in previous years, if that would enable the organising committee to still hold one of the planned fora for 2023.

### 5. **SAG elections and "localisation of GSC SAG"**

As a follow-up action from the SAG meeting on 13 July 2023, the GSC Coordinator (UNHCR) had consultations with the Education and the Protection Cluster<sup>5</sup> on their experiences on inclusion of local NGOs in the global SAG. The approaches and experiences of the two clusters were different, with the Education Cluster underlining the challenges, while the Protection Cluster, which has representation of four UN, four INGO and four national NGO in its SAG, expressed that the "localisation efforts" were seen as positive, changing the narrative of SAG discussions.

The decision was taken to establish a mini-SAG to advance discussions on the localisation objectives for the GSC and assess issues and options. CRS, InterAction, NRC signalled their interest in joining the mini-SAG. The GSC Coordinator will have another discussion with the WASH Cluster for getting additional insights.

Regarding the revision of the ToRs of the SAG, this is currently postponed, as it is closely linked to the composition of the members of the SAG and localisation decisions.

#### **6. *Statement on Reducing Environmental Impact***

After the July SAG meeting and endorsement, the “Environmental Statement” was published on the [GSC website](#); a French, Spanish and Arabic version will be uploaded in due time, followed by a GSC update on the Statement. The GSC support team briefly introduced the proposal for indicators for monitoring the engagement as per Statement, asking SAG members to share the information, what their respective organisation is already monitoring, so that some indicators can be framed accordingly, e.g. for prioritizing environmental considerations in organizational strategies, policies, guidance, and tools. The GSC team will send an email to follow up with SAG members on this point.

#### **7. *AoBs***

There was no request for AoB shared with the chairs of the meeting. Field updates (as requested in a former SAG meeting) were not shared due to lack of time.

**The next SAG meeting will be held on 28 September 2023  
at 13:00 Geneva time, 12:00 London time, 07:00 Washington, 22:00 Melbourne**