

GSC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting Notes | 28 March 2024

Date: 28.03.2024

Participants: Australian Red Cross (Veronica Bell), CARE International (Step Haiselden), CRS (Jaimie Richardson), Danish Refugee Council (Chiara Jasna Vaccaro), Habitat for Humanity International (Mario Flores), IFRC (Ela Serdaroglu), InterAction (Mohamed Hilmi), IOM (Carolina Cordero-Scales), NRC (Amelia Rule), GSC (Pablo Medina - Chair, Seki Hirano, Stephanie Loose and Francisco Vassalo Monteiro) and Shelter Cluster Mozambique (Alvaro Gramajo)

Excused or Absent: ACTED/Impact Initiatives (Giulia Montisci) and UNHCR (Francesca Coloni)

Meeting Agenda:

Time	#	Agenda Item
13:00 - 13:05		Welcome, introduction of the agenda, roll call
13:05 - 13:10	1	Any new synergies since last SAG meeting?
13:10 - 13:20	2	Operational updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haiti (IOM) • Mozambique (IFRC SC coordinator)
13:20 - 13:25	3	GSC strategy framework validation
13:25 - 13:30	4	GSC annual meeting preparations update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week Schedule, venue, and open participation (within reason); and • Mini – SAG
13:30 - 13:35	5	Developing PSEA guidance for the Shelter Cluster
13:35 - 13:40	6	World Urban Forum (WUF) and Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) coordination
13:40 - 13:45	7	Donor Consultation Group meeting (April 11): SAG representation
13:45 - 14:00	8	AoB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAG ToR • Durable Solutions Working Group • ECHO call for proposal • State of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlement Report – Advocacy focus

Action Points Summary

Action Point	Responsible	Deadline
Expressions of interest to join the PSEA Working Group	SAG members	Next meeting
Contributions to WUF	SAG + GSC	Next week
Participation in the HNPW	SAG + GSC	Next week
SAG representation at the Donors Consultation Group meeting	SAG + GSC	Next week

Welcome and approval of the agenda

The GSC SAG Chair (Pablo Medina) introduced the meeting agenda and welcomed participants, noting that the quorum is met.

1. New synergies between SAG and Support Team since last SAG meeting

NRC (Amelia Rule) has acknowledged how valuable the meeting between the GSC's SAG and Support Team members was, as despite being aware of the different support roles, it was impressive to see the width and diversity of the team. NRC has since approached the GSC focal point for Research (Lizzie Babister) and the GSC focal point for Assessments (Elsa Perreau) to support NRC advocacy work on the wider impact of shelter, will revert with feedback.

CARE (Step Haiselden) has also liaised with the GSC focal point for Research (Lizzie Babister) to discuss future research options, opportunities and topics, collaboration is ongoing.

2. Operational updates

Haiti

IOM (Carolina Cordero-Scales) updated on the ongoing operations and the security situation in Haiti, where the conditions continue to deteriorate. At this stage there are less than 50 UN International staff left in country, with further evacuations planned. The target from the shelter cluster was about 450,000 households, however there's been significant restriction in terms of access. A government-imposed curfew makes operations near impossible, given the security situation. Additionally, the cluster coordination team has been affected the difficult security and operational context, with the change of cluster coordinator and constant team rotation in and outside of Haiti, working from the Dominican Republic. Despite the challenges, there are attempts by partners to do distributions but, with less than 10 active partners in country, it looks like most of the distributions that they're able to do are limited to the surroundings of their offices and nearby locations, because there is no safe access the wider areas in and around Port-au-Prince. There is a factsheet with more up to date information on the website: the cluster is still targeting about 360,000 people that have been displaced, the majority staying with host families and a small proportion (20%) is staying in collective accommodation, and some partners are providing support, including with transportation for people to reach host families in locations where they are able to go.

Mozambique

IFRC Shelter Cluster co-coordinator for disaster DRM (Alvaro Gramajo) presented the impact and ongoing response efforts to the tropical storms and flooding in Mozambique. TS Filippo's (12 March) storm surge and strong winds have affected approximately 57,000 people (12,000 households) across 4 provinces (Sofala, Inhambane, Gaza and Maputo) and an additional 50,000 people – number expected to raise to 100,000 - have been affected by heavy rains and flooding that followed, with widespread house damage, the vast majority in the urban areas in Maputo province. Cluster joint efforts, through IOM and Mozambique Red Cross, in coordination with OCHA and the government authorities, have supported initial needs assessments in the areas affected by TC Filippo, and shelter and essential household items assistance is underway. A challenge is that most humanitarian partners are operationally based and focused on the centre-north provinces of the country – that have been affected by widespread conflict induced displacement since 2019 – and there is a consequent lack of engagement and potential contribution to respond to emergency shelter needs in the south of Mozambique. While flooded areas in Maputo province are under assessment and with the lack of engagement of in country shelter partner agencies, it is hard to line up operational capacity to supporting the government with concrete response actions. As the HRP for Mozambique only considers the shelter needs of the households displaced by the protracted internal conflict in the North of the country, OCHA is looking at options to support the humanitarian response in the urban area of Maputo through a CERF request but relies on the GoM decision to declaring state of calamity to trigger further efforts – appeal for international assistance.

3. GSC strategy framework validation

Seeking structured feedback on the GSC strategy framework, the GSC coordinators have shared the GSC Strategy one pager, in a short survey format, with the GSC support team, SAG, country level cluster coordinators, and with the chairs of the GCCG.

Eighteen (18) responses were received so far, but we expect this number to grow considerably before the deadline (2 April), as we have 31 active clusters, a sizable support team, 11 member agencies plus donors.

4. GSC annual meeting preparations update:

GSC coordinator (Seki Hirano) provided an update on the ongoing arrangements for the annual meeting in Geneva (10 to 14 June). The proposed week's schedule will commence with the internal cluster lead agencies coordinators meeting – morning, 10 June - followed by the joint cluster coordinators workshop, at the IFRC Office in Geneva - afternoon, 10 June to midday, 12 June. Under the coordinators workshop, on Wednesday the SAG will meet with cluster coordinators and working group chairs, for a focused conversation. The Global Shelter Cluster Partners Annual Meeting will commence on Wednesday afternoon (12 to 14 June) for people to share their work and achievements. With the location being in a large venue, there is no need to restrict numbers and a wider, more diverse participation. The mini-SAG is still working on the agenda and will revert with feedback.

5. Developing PSEA guidance for the Shelter Cluster

The GSC SAG Chair (Pablo Medina) updated the group on the invitation made to the cluster lead agencies to join a meeting convened by WFP, leading within the IASC on PSEA. There are currently two options on the table: either reviewing the PSEA tools and guidance in the GSC Coordination toolkit, integrating PSEA considerations into those throughout the humanitarian program cycle, or developing a 2 pager tipsheet guidance, maybe also following the program cycle, on how to best link and with identified entry points for shelter and settlements practitioners for PSEA. SAG members were invited to express willingness to join this working group, and the GSC ST will put together an activity proposal that will run past the SAG for endorsement.

6. World Urban Forum and Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks coordination

GSC deputy coordinator (Stephanie Loose) presented the terms (and added link) for GSC partners to contribute videos and content (publications etc.) for the GSC stand at the WUF, as an opportunity to showcase our collective and individual work.

In addition to individual sessions, a GSC proposal will also be submitted to the HNPW event to showcase the work of different partners, including IOM as global focal point for HLP, but also DRC, NRC, UNHCR and other actors for sessions on training for HLP rights.

Any partners wishing to participate or contribute, were invited to coordinate with GSC deputy coordinator (Stephanie Loose), as soon as possible.

7. Donor Consultation Group meeting: SAG representation

GSC Coordinator (Seki Hirano) shared a presentation and updated the group on the Donor Consultation Group meeting (scheduled for the 11th of April) which to date had 5 confirmations. The GSC encouraged wider participation on the meeting and volunteers from the group to support, developing the meeting agenda. As this is the first meeting, it is anticipated that a second could take place in May and then lead up to the June meeting. It was agreed that an Agenda would be shared, and that the focus of the first meeting would not be on fundraising but rather sharing of the ToR and engaging the key partners on open strategy discussion for the sector. It was agreed to pass on additional donor contacts to GSC coordinator (Seki Hirano) who would contact and invite the DCG members on behalf of the wider group.

8. AOB

SAG ToR

GSC Coordinator (Seki Hirano) has provided an update on purpose and process for the revision of the SAG ToR.

Durable Solutions Working Group

GSC deputy coordinator (Stephanie Loose) provided an update on the discussion on durable solutions and engagement in the shared survey. A significant number of partners has engaged and 15 have participated. Additional engagement and support from the GSC ST and SAG would be important to steer and structure the discussion. It was proposed to establish a dedicated working group to further this initiative. IOM (Carolina CS) has volunteered to draft the WG ToR for discussion.

State of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlement Report – Advocacy focus

GSC coordinator (Pablo Medina) clarified on the strategic purpose of the State of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlement Report and the need to advocate perspectives to advance our work, by identifying critical topics to focus on over the next few years. A survey will be developed and shared with the SAG membership for structured input and guidance.