**SAG Meeting Notes**

**Date and time:** Thursday, 24 September, 2015. 13h00-14h00 Geneva time **Participants:** IFRC, IOM, UNHCR, NRC **and UN-Habitat**.

**Excused:** Habitat for Humanity, CARE, ACTED Australian Red Cross, World Vision International andInteraction

1. ***Final issues regarding activities for ECHO proposal***

* The proposals suggested by the Support Team were discussed, including the number of votes that each of them received (a total of four members of the SAG filled in the survey).
* The proposal that received the highest number of votes was *Option 2* (i.e., 60,000 for the Regional Focal Point for the Americas, 45,000 for 9 additional participants to the coordination training, 30,699 for national level workshops).
* It was highlighted that it is of crucial importance for the GSC to maintain the position of the RFP for the Americas as much as possible.
* IFRC noted that they may have funding for option 10 from the original list of proposals (i.e., Consultancy on Cash & Shelter: capturing some case studies and practices to guide on how cash for shelter should be coordinated and the main issues that need to be considered). A final decision on the amount of funding available from IFRC for this activity is yet to be made.

**Decisions and Actions:**

* The SAG decided that the unallocated ECHO funds be used for the activities described in Option 2.
* Support Team to propose to the SAG a mechanism to allocate the funds for participants to the coordination training and national level workshops.

1. ***Final revision of the GSC meeting agenda***

* Regarding the session on *the future of the cluster and of shelter,* SAG members need to identify a few key people who would be selected to prompt the discussion through a concrete contribution from the floor (up-to 3 minutes max).
* Equally, a list of potential issues to be discussed should be prepared in advance (e.g., non-traditional donors, role of national authorities in taking up cluster coordination, etc.).
* Based on these issues, the individuals identified should be briefed ahead of the meeting so that they can prepare to step in when needed.
* It was mentioned that it would be best to have people speak from their tables instead of having a panel, as this may affect the discussion and extend speeches.
* It was mentioned that the overall focus of the discussion should be on coordination rather than on technical aspects, i.e., what is the role of the cluster with regards to the topics discussed.

**Decisions and Actions:**

* SAG members to suggest issues to be discussed and send them to Pablo and Miguel by Monday, 28 September COB.
* Miguel and Pablo to brief Isobel and Jake Zarins on this discussion and the decisions that follow.

1. ***Discussion on donors’ involvement in the SAG***

* IOM explained the nature of their proposal to bring donors into the GSC SAG, and the reasons why having donors within the SAG would be a positive addition. According to IOM, having donors in the SAG would:
  1. Help to build consensus and facilitate decision-making;
  2. Help to leverage funding; and
  3. Reinvigorate the GSC SAG by making it more effective.
* Two SAG members expressed that it is good to have donors in SAGs at the country level, but not at the global level, where discussions may not be of their interest and where they do not necessarily have dedicated staff for dealing with shelter matters. They were concerned that the presence of donors could affect the debate and decision-making process given their specific needs and priorities. It was further expressed that it would be difficult to agree on which donors to invite.
* IFRC expressed that bringing donors closer to the SAG is a good idea, as long as such a change does not entail making them a part of the governance structure. A proposal was presented from both Global Cluster Leads of having a “donor consultation group” that is light, informal and open to donors who are willing to join, that can be called upon to discuss issues where their input may be needed. Such a group would, nonetheless, still help the SAG engage donors on a more structured, meaningful way.

**Decisions and Actions:**

* The Global Cluster Lead agencies will draft a concept paper with details on their proposal of a donor consultation group, and will share it with SAG members ahead of the next SAG meeting.

1. ***AOB***

**SAG Retreat:**

* The previous SAG retreats have proved to be very beneficial therefore it was agreed that the SAG should have a retreat later this year.
* This year, the SAG could explore options in terms of venue, e.g. a country where clusters are active, so as to have a better understanding of the issues
* ECHO funds are available for this activity and could be used to support SAG members travelling from remote locations.

**Decisions and Actions:**

* Support Team to organize a Doodle to agree on possible dates of the SAG retreat around the end of November or beginning of December, as well as potential locations.
* SAG members should start thinking about key topics to be addressed.

**Reminder on expressions of interest to be a member of the GSC SAG**

* Organizations interested in being part of the SAG for the coming year need to submit their expression of interest [here](http://sheltercluster.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ee1282d5c9f8ad96a8b51f014&id=01a196b8b1&e=4d797755e8), as explained in the GSC Global Update sent on September 14. The**deadline for expressions of interest is Monday 28 September**

**Changes in UN-Habitat**

* David to share details on changes in UN-Habitat as they become available as these changes may have an effect on their engagement in the GSC SAG.

**Next SAG meeting will be held on the 28 October as planned.**