



Terms of Reference

Advisory Group (AG) – Nationalization/Localization of Coordinated Service Delivery Project

Background

International actors at the World Humanitarian Summit and through the Grand Bargain committed to “making principled humanitarian action as local as possible and as international as necessary.” It also committed to support local and national responders on the frontline, improve the use of cash and increase flexible funding.

The Grand Bargain also committed partners to a concrete goal to achieve an aggregated target of at least 25 per cent of humanitarian funding to local and national responders directly, by 2020.

With this in mind, there are clear opportunities for the Cluster System to find ways to support the humanitarian community to identify existing strategies, or modify ‘business as usual’, to ensure that these commitments and targets remains in the forefront of global, regional and national coordination efforts; and to design tools and strategies for country level partners to enable them to realise the Grand Bargain.

Purpose

This Advisory Group will provide advice and support to initiatives within the Cluster System (initially focussed on the Education Cluster and Child Protection Area of Responsibility research project, and the Global Protection Cluster localization activities supported by ECHO) to operationalise coordination commitments towards the realisation of the Grand Bargain. This includes generating a better understanding of the extent to which local actors are currently engaging (or not) in coordination mechanisms, their access to funding and decision making processes; and support development and trialing of, and learning from, strategies designed to increase funding, decision-making and reinforce the role of national partners, with a view to achieving effective and sustainable local engagement in the longer term.

Membership

Core membership will be drawn from the following:

- UNICEF (as lead agencies for CP AoR and co-lead for Education)
- UNHCR (as Protection Cluster Lead Agency)
- UNFPA (as GBV AoR Lead Agency)
- 4 NGOs (2 from Education Cluster and 2 from CP Cluster)
- 2 Country-level Representatives (drawn from the initial 4 case study countries)
- IRC (implementing partner under the GPC localization activities supported by ECHO)

Other interested Clusters and Areas of Responsibility might be represented in the AG as observers. The AG will be co-chaired by the Global Education Cluster and Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR). Additional members may be co-opted from time to time, where deemed relevant by the AG.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Advisory Group will provide advice and guidance for the following aspects/steps of the project:

- Finalise the concept note on Nationalisation/Localisation of Coordinated Service Delivery
- Finalise and endorse the workplan including priority countries, milestones, targets and associated M&E
- Provide strategic advice to implementation, particularly ensuring ongoing alignment with the principles and intention of the Grand Bargain
- Provide logistic and practical support to implementation, by mobilising country-level clusters and cluster-lead agencies
- Monitor progress and support problem solving efforts when bottlenecks or challenges are identified
- Review and endorse key outputs from the initiative, and support the design and future direction of efforts to take the learning forward
- Foster collaboration and partnership across the SAG membership and support efforts to secure and/or allocate resources to facilitate implementation
- Function as the forum for coordination of implementing partners for different project components.

The AG members also individually commit to:

- Provide regular updates, where relevant, within members' coordination bodies/internal agencies
- Attend all scheduled meetings (or arranging a proxy with delegated decision-making authority)
- Wholeheartedly champion the strategy within and outside their individual Clusters, AoRs and agencies

Decisions

The AG will seek to take decisions and make recommendations by consensus. Where this is not possible, decisions and recommendations will be decided by the AG Co-Chair and alternative views and recommendations will be documented in the minutes.

Ways of working

Meetings will be held every two months (in the first week of the scheduled month). Venue, time, previous minutes and supporting documentation will be communicated by the Co-Chairs and/or project manager, at least one week prior to the meeting. Additional meetings of all, or some members, can be arranged on an ad hoc basis, as requested by the AG.

Remote participation will be encouraged, where members cannot be present in person.

A meeting quorum will be at least 5 members, including the Co-Chairs.

Role of the Co-Chairs

Secretariat support will be provided by the CP AoR and Global Education Cluster including coordination of meetings, drafting of minutes, support to follow up on key actions and other functions.