# SAG Meeting Notes

**Date and time:** Thursday, 30 April, 2015. 13h00-14h00 Geneva time

**Participants**: Australian Red Cross, IFRC, UNHCR, UNHABITAT, Habitat for Humanity, and Interaction.

**Excused:**  ACTED, CARE, IOM, NRC, and World Vision International.

## **Welcome - Introductions - Revision of the agenda**

1. No comments on the agenda. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
2. The draft position paper on the recommendations from Environment Community of Practice will be shared with the SAG in the coming weeks.

## **ECHO Proposal:**

1. The GSC has received positive feedback from ECHO on the proposal for 2015-2016. While nothing has been signed yet, the intention to contribute 1.5 million EUR towards the GSC plan for 2015-2016 was verbally confirmed. This amount is 0.5 million EUR less than the GSC initial proposal which was requesting 2 million EUR from ECHO.
2. Since the date when the proposal was submitted until today there have been important and unfavourable exchange rate differences between EUR, USD, and CHF which account for 20% increases in some cases. Since USD and CHF are key currencies for implementation and co-funding of the grant, most of the amounts of the proposal have had to be revised.
3. A revision has been done in the draft budget based on the criteria agreed during the SAG Retreat and the following activities have been removed from the ECHO proposal:
   1. State of Humanitarian Shelter (Activity 2.3);
   2. Support to country level workshops (4 national workshops in Activity 1.4);
   3. Funding for technical meetings (2 technical meetings in Activity 1.3);
   4. Translation of materials (Activity 1.3);
   5. Guidance material for national counterparts (Activity 1.3);
   6. Roster managed by Cluster partner (Activity 1.2)
4. Additionally some activities have been reduced:
   1. IFRC will also fully fund their Deputy Global Cluster Coordinator in addition to UNHCR.
   2. The advocacy and communications functions of one of the GFP hosted by UNHCR will disappear and the role will focus on IM. This role will continue to be fully funded by UNHCR.
   3. Roving Focal Points: one of them has been removed. The two other ones remain but the co-funding required has increased to 50%. Both appear with 100% dedication but this could be revised if needed.
5. Given the above cancellations and reductions, two activities have been changed:
6. Activity 1.3 Enhanced participation of national actors: has been removed and the Cluster Coordinator in the Americas has been moved to Activity 1.1 as part of the Roving Focal Points.
7. Activity 2.2 Website has been merged into Activity 2.3 Evidence-based information is gathered and disseminated. This is to acknowledge that the website is actually a tool to disseminate information and advocate.
8. All these changes and the revised detailed budget have been shared by email with SAG members. Please revise in detail and provide detailed comments by 3 May. All changes will be consolidated on May 4, and a revised final budget and narrative will be shared with short turn-around for final revision before submission to ECHO that very week.
9. A draft methodology for the selection of partners to implement the ECHO activities was shared with SAG members in the same email where the detailed budget was shared. This methodology is similar to the one used in 2013. Please also submit comments by May 3.
10. It is important to note that the Cluster will still pursue all the activities included in its Plan 2015-2016 be they included in the ECHO proposal or not. Activities which are not included in the ECHO proposal should be fundraised for during the “Donor Roadshow” or self-resourced by a consortium of agencies.

**Action:**

1. SAG members to revise the new ECHO detailed budget and the methodology for the selection of implementing partners. Please provide comments by May 3. The Support Team will consolidate and prepare a new proposal for submission to ECHO.

## **Donor Roadshow Request from the Environment Community of Practice (CoP):**

1. Key talking points to guide agencies approaching donors during the Donor Roadshow were circulated. This document is not mandatory but serves as a common reference point. SAG members approved the key talking points document.



1. Additionally to the key talking points, it would be useful to have a budget with all the activities of the Plan 2015-2016 highlighting which ones are priorities for fundraising. They could be divided into an A list of core functions and a B list of additional activities.

**Action:**

2. SAG members to use the Donor Roadshow key talking points when approaching donors.

3. Support Team will prepare an initial draft of list of prioritized activities.

1. ***Improved global level coordination***
2. There is a need to enhance coordination of global level shelter activities to ensure that we are all well aware of these activities and adequate synergies are found.
3. The sectoral news page in the website provides a platform for this so do the different working groups and the SAG meeting.

**Action:**

* 1. Include a running agenda point in SAG meetings on sectoral activities.

1. ***Shelter Projects***
2. A Global Update will be sent soon to request expressions of interests from agencies to offer either cash or contributions in kind for this project. We need to identify who will resource this project as stakeholder, beyond the current three stakeholders who also need to declare their continuing interests (IFRC, UNHCR and UNHABITAT). The final stakeholders will by default become a mini-management committee. The e-mail will elaborate on these issues in more detail.

**Action:**

* 1. Support Team to send a Global Update on expressions of interest to resource Shelter Projects.

1. ***Nepal earthquake***
2. IFRC as Cluster Lead of the Nepal Shelter Cluster provided an update of the situation. More information can be found in the [website](http://www.sheltercluster.org/response/nepal-earthquake-2015). The main points are:
   * The government’s position is that they will not engage in emergency shelter, they will focus on early recovery and reconstruction and will rely on humanitarian agencies to provide emergency shelter to the affected population.
   * Challenges are around access, some of the roads and bridges have been affected, thus a huge logistics challenge. Also absorption capacity of the airport has been a challenge, which has already affected many aid workers themselves, but also supply of materials coming from abroad.
   * The government is putting a lot pressure on agencies to deliver. Humanitarian Coordinator office sent a message that they will not be doing a MIRA at this stage the agencies should focus on responding first, and there might be a MIRA later in three weeks or so. Consequently, we are taking a different approach – assist and assess, which basically is putting together some standard harmonized form for agencies that are doing distributions to assess at the same time as they do distributions. Then we will compile that information and try to analyze and make sense of it. The focus remains on providing immediate assistance first.
3. Learning from Haiti, it is important to reduce displacement. Provided it’s safe, humanitarian aid should be provided to the families on their site affected rather than in central spots or in camps. The delivery of humanitarian assistance should support people’s own coping mechanisms.

**Action:**

* 1. SAG members are encouraged to share their plans in Nepal with IFRC and actively participate in the Nepal Shelter Cluster.