**SAG Meeting Notes**

**Date and time:** Thursday, 23 March 2017. 14h00-15h00 Geneva time **Participants:** ACTED, CARE, NRC, CRS, Habitat for Humanity, IFRC, InterAction, IOM, Save the Children, UN-Habitat, UNHCR.

**Excused**: World Vision International

1. ***Welcome, revision of minutes from previous meeting and approval of the agenda.***

Two points were added to the AOB: Clarification on Shelter Projects, Update on Construction Standards WG.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. Agenda is approved with no further changes. AOB noted to be discussed at the end.
2. SAG members can provide comments to the Minutes of the SAG February teleconference until COB Friday 24 March, if no changes are made, they will be approved and uploaded to the website.
3. ***Update on the Sphere Revision Process.***

Ela Serdaroglu (IFRC) and Seki Hirano (CRS) as authors of the Shelter, Settlements, and NFIs chapter in Sphere provided an update of the process:

* The structure of the chapter has been revised: there are now 5 Shelter and Settlement standards rather than the 7 that appeared in the previous edition; the NFIs standards have been reduced from 5 to 2.
* This new revised chapter has been shared with the around 85 persons that signed up for the peer review. Comments are to be submitted by 24 March. The authors will consolidate the comments received until the 31 March.
* Two rounds of consultations will take place: The first one starting in April and a second one starting in September. Around 5 consultations have already been scheduled for the first round. Partners are encouraged to propose additional consultations to the authors. These consultations can be done as an add-on of 1-2 hours to another event or by dedicating time explicitly for a consultation.
* It is recommended to have a dedicated consultation with SAG members and also another one with country-level cluster coordinators. Both consultations can be organized online.
* How are the themes of cash and urban going to be included in the Sphere revision? How is the best way to contribute to these themes? Experts have been assigned to issues that are common to all sectors such as cash and urban. There will be specific initial sections on cash, urban and other topics providing content that is applicable to all sectors. The experts on cash and urban will provide inputs to the authors of the thematic chapters but so far they have not provided this guidance. The authors of the shelter chapter have included their own considerations on cash and urban in the initial draft.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. Sphere peer reviewers are welcome to provide feedback to the authors.
2. SAG members are encouraged to propose to the authors consultations on Sphere organized around existing events or new events.
3. Authors to propose dates for consultation with SAG and with country-level shelter cluster coordinators.
4. ***Update on ECHO.***

The feedback on the ECHO proposal continues to be positive although the final decision will be made towards the end of March. It is very likely that the budget available will be reduced and we will have to re-submit at short notice a reduced proposal. SAG members are reminded to fill the prioritisation tool that was shared last month ([here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WuYtbmUJAfhPW_FSwOgSRAlgb_p7EAuuaeKGyJe7W_o/edit?usp=sharing)) so that SAG members can express their priorities in the budget of the proposal. The new draft will have to be prepared at very short notice and the priorities expressed by SAG members in the prioritization tool will be taken into consideration. The revised project with reduced amounts will be shared with SAG members but probably with very short deadline for feedback.

UNHCR as manager of the ECHO grant on behalf of the cluster is available to provide any detailed explanations or receive any detailed feedback on any aspect of the project or of the process. Additional time for discussions on the content of the project or on the process can be allocated if any SAG member would like. The feedback received in previous years from SAG members has been to minimize detailed discussions on the ECHO project during SAG meetings and this is what is being done. However, these discussions can be extended or additional dedicated meetings on the ECHO proposal can be organized if required.

The shelter side event at UNHCR Standing Committee went very well. Participants included representatives from the permanent missions of the European Union, Germany, Sudan, Sweden, Tanzania, and the United States; representatives from ACTED, ECHO, IFRC, IOM, NRC, OHCHR, UNHCR, and WHO; senior management from UNHCR including the Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, and other participants. Taking advantage of the presence of Matthew Sayer from ECHO, a meeting with interested SAG members was organized just before the side event to exchange views on current humanitarian shelter issues. The meeting went very well and exchanges were made on issues such as the use of cash, the participation of affected population in country-level clusters, and other aspects of the recommendations from the World Humanitarian Summit.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. SAG members to input their priorities in the ECHO proposal prioritization tool ([here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WuYtbmUJAfhPW_FSwOgSRAlgb_p7EAuuaeKGyJe7W_o/edit?usp=sharing))
2. SAG members are welcome to contact UNHCR or ask for a dedicated meeting or more time during the SAG meetings if additional information or feedback on the ECHO process is required.
3. ***Donor Consultation Group***

The Donor Consultation Group, which currently includes DFID, ECHO and USAID-OFDA, has not met yet. SDC and the World Bank may be included. Some SAG members suggest other additional donors to be included such as Germany. The date will be confirmed soon. This will be a teleconference just like the SAG meetings. For those in Geneva, they may join in person at the venue.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. The first SAG-DCG Meeting to take place in May, date to be confirmed soon. Agenda, venue and dial-in details to follow. Input for the agenda to be submitted to the SAG co-chairs.
2. ***GSC Strategy 2018 - 2022***

There will be a meeting on 28 March to advance the zero draft of the strategy. Invitations have been sent to those that expressed interest. If anyone else is interested please let SAG co-chairs know.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. The first meeting to develop the GSC Strategy 2018-2022 will take place on 28 March. If interested contact SAG co-chairs.
2. ***Environmental Advisor***

IFRC had a meeting with Swedish Red Cross and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). IFRC was offered an Environmental Advisor for the GSC starting towards the second half of this year. The person would be seconded from MSB and therefore could be deployed both to conflict and natural disasters and seconded to IFRC, UNHCR, IOM, UNHABITAT or others. The chairs of the Environment CoP have been contacted for advice and they were very positive about the idea. MSB may be able to deploy Gender advisors, IM capacity, and other resources to the GSC.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. The SAG agrees with the proposal to second an Environmental Advisor to the GSC Support Team that could be deployed to support country-level clusters. IFRC to continue exploring with MSB and Swedish RC other possible contributions to the GSC.
2. ***Promoting Safer Building Activity Proposal***

The Promoting Safer Building Initiative is already happening and the Activity Proposal shared with the SAG outlines a GSC activity within this initiative in relation with the coordination of technical messages. The GSC involvement will contribute to those messages being agreed faster and with more rigour during emergencies. SAG members observed that the outputs of the activity were unclear as they were phrased as questions rather than as concrete deliverables.



**Decisions and Actions:**

1. The activity proposal should be modified to explain concrete deliverables rather than questions. Once it is changed it can be shared by email for electronic approval.
2. ***Settlement Approach in Urban Areas Activity Proposal***

This activity proposal was shared prior to the meeting. ACTED and CRS provided a summary of the proposal. InterAction explained that this proposal is very connected with a conference that InterAction is organizing about the settlement approach on June 15-16 in Washington. After the meeting InterAction shared more information about this teleconference (attached). ACTED and CRS offered to have a bilateral meeting with InterAction to ensure that these activities are well aligned and perhaps they could be part of the same activity under a joint chairing by ACTED, CRS, and InterAction. No funding will be needed for this initiative. The funding allocated in the ECHO project for the settlement approach will not be used for this activity and perhaps could be de-prioritized.



**Decisions and Actions:**

1. CRS, ACTED, and InterAction to discuss how to ensure coordination around settlement approach related initiatives. These discussions should be shared with SAG members to provide additional comments to the proposal by COB Wednesday 29 March.
2. ***WASH and Shelter Cash Position Paper***

Both the GSC and the Global WASH Cluster have position papers on Cash. The two cash working groups met and decided to produce a joint paper highlighting the commonalities. The first draft of this document was shared to gather feedback from SAG members. The feedback received is the following:

* The “ask” should be clearer and punchier, it comes very late in the document
* The document gives a negative perception towards cash, it should highlight more the positives of cash rather than focusing too much on the negatives.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. The SAG agrees on the importance of this document but it should be modified according to the feedback. The SAG should review it for final endorsement.
2. ***Updates from Shelter Projects WG and Construction Standards WG***

Both groups are about to finish their deliverables. The Shelter Projects WG requested whether there is a need for the SAG to review the final deliverable. There was not a final agreement on this.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. SAG members to agree whether the SAG needs to revise the final Shelter Projects deliverable.

**Next SAG meeting will take place on 27 April 2017**