**SAG Meeting Notes**

**Date and time:** Thursday, 23 February 2017. 14h00-15h00 Geneva time **Participants:** CRS, Habitat for Humanity, IFRC, InterAction, IOM, Save the Children, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, World Vision International.

**Excused**: ACTED, CARE, NRC

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

Four points were added to the AOB: Update on Sphere, joint Shelter and WASH cash paper, the State of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements, and clarification on the WGs.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. Agenda is approved with no further changes. AOB noted to be discussed at the end.
2. Minutes of the SAG January teleconference were approved and will be uploaded in the website.
3. ***Draft SAG Retreat minutes and GSC Strategy 2018-2022.***

The minutes of the SAG retreat had been shared prior to the meeting for feedback with a request to submit comments by COB March 1. One comment was noted on the need to better highlight the actions and decisions agreed at the retreat.

With regards to the GSC Strategy 2018-2022, a small WG of SAG agencies needs to convene to agree on the process (including consultation with partners) and a timeline with key milestones and dates/deadlines based on the timeline agreed at the SAG retreat. The group also should agree on the key areas of interest, top line of key events and dates and themes that the GSC should be working towards in the next Strategy period.

The commitment of this small group is to come out with a zero draft by the end of April and then follow-up and revise based on the feedback received during the consultation process.

A question was raised regarding how agencies outside the SAG that would like to contribute to drafting the strategy can engage.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. Feedback on the SAG retreat minutes to be provided by COB March 1.
2. Expressions of interest to be part of the small WG to work on the next GSC Strategy to be submitted by March 2. UN-Habitat and InterAction expressed their interest at the SAG Meeting.
3. Agencies outside the SAG that would like to contribute to the drafting process can do so through one of the SAG members.
4. ***Update on ECHO.***

The ECHO Shelter and Settlement guidelines have been published, they can be found [here](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/ss_consolidated_guidelines_final_version.pdf). The GSC has been invited to a pilot training to ECHO TAs on the implementation of these guidelines. The event will take place in Brussels 7-9 March.

ECHO proposal prioritisation tool: the ECHO proposal has been submitted. Initial feedback from ECHO is positive but suggests that It is likely that the budget available will be reduced and we will have to re-submit at short notice a reduced proposal. A prioritisation tool was shared ([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.

Initial discussion on the process to be followed for allocating the funds received from ECHO: in principle, we would use a similar process to the one used in the past: a call for EoIs to all cluster members, perhaps including a webinar to better explain the ECHO proposal and the process to organizations that are not in the SAG. The intent is not to spend long time in SAG meetings discussing about the allocation of the ECHO proposal but do most of the process online while maintaining transparency. SAG members are encouraged to ask any questions or request as many details as needed but, based on previous feedback received we will avoid overloading the SAG meetings with too many details on the ECHO proposal. All ECHO funded activities will be included in the call for EoIs.

Shelter side event at UNHCR Standing Committee: in order to promote shelter, a side event has been organized at the UNHCR Standing Committee meeting. The side event will be a 1.5 hr panel session, with the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other guest speakers (such as the ECHO director). The theme centres around the role of shelter in the humanitarian-development connection and shelter as a pathway to protection outcomes. The audience is primarily the member states but it aims to be a broad discussion, not UNHCR specific. It will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on March 15. All SAG members are invited to participate. This aims to contribute to the wider agenda of promoting shelter for all. Taking advantage of the present of Matthew Sayer for ECHO, a meeting with interested SAG members will be organized just before the side event to exchange views on current humanitarian shelter issues.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. If SAG members have any feedback on the ECHO Guidelines, please send through the SAG co-chairs to ensure consistent input.
2. 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))
3. A proposal on how to allocate ECHO funding to interested agencies will be presented to the SAG for endorsement at the next SAG Meeting.
4. All SAG Members are invited to participate in a meeting with ECHO and the side event of the UNHCR Standing Committee meeting.
5. ***Donor Consultation Group***

The Donor Consultation Group, which includes DFID, ECHO and USAID-OFDA, has not met yet. The date proposed for the first meeting is April 6 at 3 pm in Geneva. We are also looking at the possibility of including SDC and the World Bank. 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 on April 6 at 3 pm. Agenda, venue and dial-in details to follow. Input for the agenda to be submitted to the SAG co-chairs.
2. ***AOB***

* **Joint paper on Cash**: in a recent meeting of the WASH WG on Cash it was suggested to have a joint WASH and Shelter position paper on Cash. The CRS WASH advisor volunteered to merge the two papers.
* **Sphere:** There has been a workshop about the Sphere review process. The consultation period will extend until November. About 70 people have signed up for the peer review process. The Sphere leads will reach out to agencies and institutions that could organize consultation events and prepare questions to explore on which it would be good to have feedback. For the time being, one session has been organized one day before the UK shelter forum on the 26th of May. For specific input the lead authors may reach out to experts or if there is anyone who would like to volunteer for a specific section (i.e. urban influences, protracted crises, role of cash, and others) please let them know.

The process just started. There are ongoing discussions as to the need to include the larger picture about multi-sectorial standards. There may be some thematic experts collect opinions in their areas and liaise with the chapter authors to integrate those opinions.

* **Proposal for an extension of the GBV WG**: the GBV WG had a call last week where new deliverables were discussed.
* **The State of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements (SoHSS)**: the first WG Meeting will take place on March 2 from 1-2 pm.
* **Global Cluster Coordinators Group (GCCG)**: at the GCCG retreat there was a commitment to prepare a one pager by the CCCM and GSC clusters on the settlements approach to be included as one of the GCCG workstreams for 2017. There has been no progress to date on this paper. During the last GSC teleconference on the Bangi pilot, the possibility of a GSC WG on urban settlements was raised, focusing on the settlements approach in urban areas. ACTED is considering to submit an Activity Proposal.

The focus of the last GCCG meeting was on multi-country response to drought: famine declared in South Sudan, Somalia, and food insecurity in Nigeria. Shelter cluster coordinators are feeding information at the country-level and back to GSC lead agency. There is a plan for a big appeal launch for Somalia (USD 800 million), and some work ongoing on a shelter specific paper for Somalia. There is strong interest in early action and quick response to avoid loss of life due to slow humanitarian response.

**Decisions and Actions:**

1. The SAG agreed to issuing a joint position paper with the Global WASH Cluster on Cash as long as the document is run past the Cash and Shelter WG.
2. If any organization has an event where an hour or two could be added to include Sphere related consultation, please let the shelter chapter lead authors, Ela and Seki, know. One opportunity could be through the GSC NFI WG which is planning another workshop in Asia in April. This will be suggested to them as they prepare the agenda.
3. The GBV WG will follow-up with the SAG with a revised Activity Proposal.
4. Any SAG agency interested in joining the SoHSS WG please let Pablo know.
5. If SAG members are working on preparedness activities in famine and food insecurity countries that have not been fed locally to the cluster coordinator, please share accordingly. The same for global level discussions within your agencies as they pertain to shelter.

**Next SAG meeting will take place on 23 March 2017**