STEERING GROUP TELECONFERENCE – 2ND SEPTEMBER 2020 - **MINUTES**

Agenda

I. Latest updates

II. Points of discussions

    I. Contingency plan to engage new countries if travels are limited

    II. Researches opportunity

    III. Funding opportunity

III. A.O.B

Were present on the call

- British Red Cross- (Sophia Novelli)
- Plan International (Naveed Ishaq)
- Welthungerhilfe (Sofia Minetto, David Jakob, Florent Chane)
- Penn State University (Jason Acimovic)
- Save the Children (Sue Hodgson)
- UNHRD (Nirmala Decosta)
- Action Contre la Faim (Guillaume Mathieu)

- **Were Excused**

  - IFRC (Nikola Jovanovic)
  - OFDA (Gurmeet Philora)
  - IOM (Takuya Ono)

Latest updates

- The proposal for ESUPS phase 3 submitted to OFDA has now passed the technical approval and waits for the final grant unit signature. The WHH OFDA liaison officer is regularly following up with OFDA and requested a pre-award letter for ESUPS to start engaging expenses around the procurement of STOCKHOLM phase 2

- The UNHRD representative Georgia Farley has moved on within WFP and is being replaced by Nirmala Decosta and/or Annette Angeletti. A call will take place early October for an initial briefing from the PM as well as to define which one of these 2 persons will be the UNHRD representative

- ESUPS in Nepal: after sharing the first recommendation draft report with the Nepal Log Cluster, the compilation of feedback is ongoing. Once received, the PM will adjust the final report to trigger the publishing and communications

- ESUPS next stage: the PM has progressed the coordination with the WFP regional office in Bangkok and a call has been set up for ESUPS to be presented to the next Log Cluster preparedness officers coordination teleconference on the 16th September. Many of the ESUPS ongoing countries and new countries (phase 3) will be part of that call

Follow Up actions

1. **Get OFDA award letter for ESUPS phase 3 funding**

2. **Brief the new UNHRD representative**

3. **Collect feedback compilation of the draft Nepal report, adjust the final report and trigger the publishing and communication phase through the FB page and Social media as per calendar planned by the ESUPS communication officer.**

4. **Present ESUPS at the next Log Cluster preparedness teleconference for Asia.**

- The PM explained that the current covid situation and more specifically its direct consequence on travel restrictions will be hampering ESUPS progress unless solutions to engage with in-country partners are identified and put in place. Following a data collection flowchart proposal circulated to SG members, and initial feedback received, a discussion was engaged to identify some of those solutions.

- 4 strategies and their pro's and cons were presented: ESUPS agencies engagement / Webinar / Champions / PPT/Voiceover. After discussion, the consensus was that a combination of those approaches would be necessary to ensure adaptation to the different context faced in countries affected by Covid. Indeed, in places were a Log Cluster preparedness is in place, engagement should not be an issue and in other places, different approaches might be required.

__Follow Up actions__

1. **Put together a webinar. This can be recorded in different languages and made available for our future partners to have an initial look at.**

2. **Consider hosting a Linkedin event to ESUPS future partners to engage and present what ESUPS has to offer**

3. **Continue seeking first engagement through Log Cluster preparedness**

POINT of Discussion 2: Researches & funding opportunities

- The PM was contacted by Ozyegin university who expressed an opportunity for European funding and the desire to keep working with ESUPS if an opportunity was to be found. The PM brought the opportunity to the SG as well as a few ideas and the following came out of the discussion.

1. Idea suggested by the PM included studying the impact of Cash Programming on pre-positioning and how to integrate that in the existing ESUPS model. Another suggested idea was to study the impact of standardisation on supply chains efficiency (both time and costs)

2. Suggestion was made to consider researching the impact of COVID on supply chains. However it was expressed that many organisations, including the Log Cluster are already looking into that.

3. Another suggestion was to look at the lessons from the current crisis to define how to be better prepared for next pandemics and what it means particularly for preparedness and pre-positioning

4. Finally a suggestion was made to investigate how coordinated pre-positioning could impact on carbon footprint across all organisations.

Follow Up actions

1. **Those suggestions will be taken back to Ozyegin to see if any of those could be of interest for them. Further discussions will then be held as to what a future collaboration with ESUPS on those topics would look like.**

ECHO reached out to indicate they had funding opportunities as they just published the Enhanced Response Capacity HIP. With this HIP ECHO dedicates part of its budget to support initiatives which seek to increase the capacity of the humanitarian community to respond to crisis in the most effective and efficient manner. **The initiatives have to be global and strategic in their vision** and inclusive in their approach in order to contribute to eco-system wide change. The Enhanced Response Capacity focuses on **initiatives which would not have emerged or would not have the same systemic impact without a dedicated funding, and which cannot be covered by DG ECHO geographic funding**

The SG members suggested the possibility to investigate private sector capacities at National level and it was also mentioned SG opportunity to discuss that funding with Ozyegin as there seems to be obvious bridges between the 2 opportunities.

NEXT MEETING

- Next teleconference: Agreed date 14th October 2020 - 15h00 ECT. TEAMS Invitation with agenda to follow

- It was also suggested that the format of the teleconference should be alternate: one following the 4 pillars update approach, and one with a general update and points of discussion.