

Post-transition planning

Suggested HCT discussion questions

Where a decision has been made to transition or deactivate the interagency humanitarian system in a country context, actors on the ground can expect the eventual deactivation of clusters, ceasing of HNRPs, deactivation of HCTs, and de-hatting of HCs. Mechanisms like OCHA-led pooled funds may also be stood down. In most countries, UN agencies will continue to be guided by the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and will coordinate via the UNCT. Maintaining inclusive space for NGOs, including local and national NGOs, requires more deliberate planning.

These discussion questions are designed to help HCTs consider if and how to maintain any coordination systems and structures to support remaining response needs following the IASC system deactivation.¹

Operational Response

- 1) What type of operational response will remain needed following the transition? Are there areas with severe need that will continue to require humanitarian assistance and protection? Will the response take on a more solutions orientation?
 - a) Do response organizations currently have funding to sustain this type of programming? Where and for how long?
 - b) Do national or local actors have capacity and willingness to take over these response needs? Are there any specific parts of the response that will require continued engagement by international actors?

Coordination structures

- 2) What, if any, operational coordination (e.g. sectoral coordination and/or multi-sector area-level coordination) will remain needed following the transition? Which parts of the operational response defined above would this coordination serve?
 - a) Should/could existing coordination structures (e.g. for development, solutions, or NGO coordination) serve these functions? Are they inclusive of all relevant actors (including NGOs)?
- 3) If the HCT will be deactivated, where should strategic decision-making take place on responses to residual needs?
 - a) How can we ensure NGOs (including local/national NGOs) have a voice in this? How will the structure link to any future operational coordination mechanisms? How will it link to the government?

¹ For more information, see also: IASC, *Guidance on Cluster Transition and Deactivation*, 2024 – [package of materials for clusters, CLAs, and HCs/HCTs](#).

Coordination leadership

- 4) Are national actors, especially government, willing and able to take on response coordination leadership in line with humanitarian principles? If not, how will this be taken into account for post-transition structures and processes?
- 5) If authorities are anticipated to take over any coordination leadership, what is needed to embed this? E.g. in staff ToRs, department budgets, and capacities or ongoing support.
- 6) If local/national NGOs, international NGOs, or UN agencies will take on coordination leadership roles, or coordination support roles, what funding and/or resourcing will this require to be sustainable? How can this be supported?

Collective planning and fundraising

- 7) Should needs monitoring, with the ability to flag any arising severe needs, continue? If so, how could this be managed going forward?
- 8) Will collective fundraising and/or strategic response planning remain needed? If so, what could this look like?
- 9) If OCHA-managed pooled funds will cease, what avenues could there be to support L/NGOs to access funding?

Protection, access, and diplomacy

- 10) If the HC will be de-hatted (i.e. reverted to an RC), who will take on any future diplomacy or advocacy relating to remaining humanitarian issues, including as it relates to protection, access, or civic space?
- 11) Are there any specific protection issues (e.g., risks for specific groups in specific locations, or advocacy on specific issues) that must be taken into special consideration in a) planning for transition of protection coordination? and b) overall transition planning, requiring risk analysis and mitigation actions?²
- 12) Are there any hard-to-reach areas or access issues that may need special consideration for how coordinated response is continued and led? Will any engagement or collective advocacy on humanitarian access need to continue? Who would lead this?
- 13) Are there any other specific issues that will require continued diplomacy or advocacy? (E.g., relating to resolutions to displacement, civil documentation, HLP rights.) Who will be responsible for this?

² For more information, NRC and the Global Protection Cluster recently published a practice note on promoting continuity of protection in humanitarian coordination transitions, available [here](#).