

## **IAWG Advocacy & Accountability Working Group Launch Meeting, March 9, 2026**

### **Meeting objectives/agenda:**

- **Briefly (re)introduce (20 mins):**
  - IAWG's new Working Group (WG) structure
  - The elements of IAWG's Strategic Plan relevant to the Advocacy Working Group
  - The process for launching the Working Groups
- **Discuss and agree on the following, building on the outcomes of the 2025 IAWG Advocacy Retreat (60 mins):**
  - WG's overarching mission (15 mins)
  - WG's value proposition (15 mins)
  - WG's priorities for 2026 (30 mins)
- **Share next steps for the launch of the Working Group (10 mins)**

### **Meeting summary: Draft mission statement, value proposition, and 2026 priorities for the Advocacy & Accountability Working Group**

**Draft mission (one sentence summarizing the overall aim or goal of the WG):** The Advocacy and Accountability Working Group fosters enabling environments for SRHR across the emergency response continuum, mobilizing its collective voice and diverse expertise to shape and champion the policies, programming, and funding that drive implementation of the MISP and comprehensive SRH in humanitarian settings.

**Draft value proposition (three to five bullet points articulating the unique value-add that the group offers):**

- A unified presence strengthens influence and more effectively resists opposition across the SRHR in emergencies field
- IAWG can take bolder positions, while offering space for members with differing red lines
- Coalition advocacy is perceived as mission-driven and broadly beneficial to the sector, and not limited to any one organization's interests
- Shared messaging and infrastructure allow for both collective and individual mobilization

**Potential 2026 priorities, for ongoing discussion as the WG launches:**

- The group agreed on prioritizing "Back to Basics" core SRHR advocacy efforts in 2026, which was the top priority that emerged at the 2025 advocacy retreat. Using Mural, the group coalesced around two key priorities to move forward for the year:
  - Develop a set of core IAWG advocacy messages on 2026 trends, including expanded global gag rule, bilateral compacts, and humanitarian reset, as well as other identified priorities like climate change.
  - Advance uptake and influence of core IAWG advocacy messages by identifying and supporting champion donors to promote SRHRiE.

Detailed notes are below. See also the [slides](#) and [recording](#).

## **DETAILED MEETING NOTES**

### **Background on IAWG's new Working Group structure**

Following a multi-year consultative process to identify the best ways to adapt to IAWG's growth and the shifting context for SRHR in humanitarian settings, IAWG revised its leadership structure, transitioned to a new host organization, and restructured its working groups.

IAWG now has three leadership bodies:

- Executive Committee: The highest governing body of IAWG, leading IAWG's strategy, operations, and performance monitoring.
- Technical Oversight Committee: Provides technical, operational, and strategic input to the Executive Committee and Secretariat, approves and monitors working group workplans, and has final approval of IAWG's technical products.
- Secretariat: Now hosted by the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health, the Secretariat focuses on IAWG operations, membership, and advocacy and communications. Currently, the Secretariat is made up of a full time coordinator and a part-time comms assistant.

Additionally, IAWG consolidated 14 sub-working groups into three working groups aligned with the strategic plan, complemented by task teams and communities of practice.

### **Working Groups**

Standing groups that meet regularly to advance the core pillars of IAWG's work



### **Task Teams**

Time bound teams that lead IAWG's work related to a specific initiative or event



### **Communities of Practice**

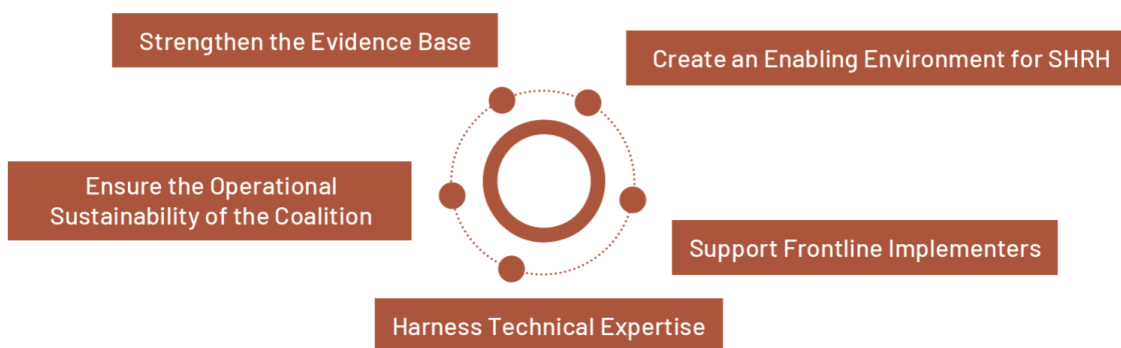
CoPs focused on specific technical or cross-cutting topics

## Background on IAWG’s strategic plan, focusing on the elements that are relevant to the Advocacy Working Group

IAWG’s 2023-2027 Strategic Plan provides the basis for the working group restructure. It includes five priority areas.

### Strategic Priorities to Expand Reach and Accessibility

IAWG is committed to fostering meaningful and diverse coalition participation; local-national-regional-global linkages; equitable partnerships; and strong coordination across the full spectrum of an emergency. Over the next five years, IAWG will focus on the following principal areas of work to expand our reach and improve accessibility of our coalition resources and expertise:



The Advocacy & Accountability Working Group advances the pillar focused on creating an enabling environment for SRHR in humanitarian settings.

### CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SRHR

IAWG advocates for funding, policies, and programming to support implementation of the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) and the transition to comprehensive SRHR in all emergencies. ***IAWG will advocate with a trusted collective voice to ensure that the right information gets to the right people at the right time in order to influence policy, funding, and programming decisions in support of the MISP and comprehensive SRHR in crisis and fragile settings.*** IAWG will:

- Develop and strategically disseminate joint advocacy statements for new emergencies.
- Create a task team to advance strategies around protracted and forgotten emergencies.
- Develop, implement, and monitor strategies for uptake of IAWG data, recommendations, and products, including the Global Evaluation recommendations.
- Elevate frontline implementers’ concerns and requests to global, decision-making spaces.
- Support the integration of SRHR into the preparedness efforts of humanitarian and development actors.



## Process for launching the Working Groups

IAWG is developing three adaptable templates to guide the launch of each WG:

- **WG Terms of Reference:** Defines the WG's mission, value proposition, and functions/ways of working
- **WG Annual Workplan:** Outlines the WG's annual objectives, activities, outputs, and timelines
- **WG Leadership TOR:** Describes the WG leadership roles and responsibilities, terms, eligibility, and selection processes

Additionally, IAWG is hosting two launch meetings for each WG:

- **First meeting (today):** Agree on the overarching WG **PURPOSE** and **WHAT** its priorities are (building on IAWG's strategic plan and 2025 advocacy retreat)
  - Open to everyone
- **Second meeting:** Agree on the nitty gritty of **HOW** the WG will function – **WG governance**
  - Open to IAWG members who wish to join the WG

IAWG will provide the three templates to the WGs with proposed language based on these launch meetings. As the WG gets going, it can revise and adapt any and all language to meet its needs, as well as flesh out its 2026 activities.

Participants were asked if they had any feedback on the process, and they agreed it works well.

### **WG Mission (one sentence summarizing the overall aim or goal of the WG):**

**Starting point for discussion, based on the IAWG Strategic Plan:** The Advocacy and Accountability Working Group advances enabling environments for funding, policies, and programming to facilitate implementation of the MISP and comprehensive SRHR in humanitarian settings, using its trusted collective voice and expertise.

#### **Feedback on the starting point from participants during the call:**

- Participants recommended using a more proactive or action-oriented voice, reflecting the type of work that the previous Advocacy & Accountability SWG did influence and call out actors, bring attention to specific issues and crises, etc.
- Participants also discussed whether it may be limiting to explicitly mention the MISP, especially as we try to draw in other actors, like climate change stakeholders; should we just say SRHR? Or life-saving SRHR?
  - We agreed that the purpose of this mission statement is more internal facing to guide the WG's work, and therefore it makes sense to keep the MISP language, but that we could also develop a more external-facing version that reduces jargon/terminology if needed

**Proposed revision to incorporate a more action-oriented voice:** The Advocacy and Accountability Working Group fosters enabling environments for SRHR across the emergency response continuum, mobilizing its collective voice and diverse expertise to shape and

champion the policies, programming, and funding that drive implementation of the MISP and comprehensive SRH in humanitarian settings.

**WG value proposition (three to five bullet points articulating the unique value-add that the group offers):**

**Starting point for discussion, based on the 2025 Advocacy retreat:**

- A unified presence strengthens influence and more effectively resists opposition across the SRHR in emergencies field
- IAWG can take bolder, justice-framed positions, while offering space for members with differing red lines
- Coalition advocacy is perceived as mission-driven, not self-serving
- Shared messaging and infrastructure allow for both collective and individual mobilization

**Feedback on the starting point from participants during the call:**

- Participants felt that this language is in good shape and accurately describes the value proposition of the Advocacy & Accountability WG.

**WG 2026 priorities:**

**Starting point for discussion, based on the 2025 Advocacy retreat:**

- **Back to Basics** – Core SRHR advocacy efforts, such as participation in key conferences, development of an IAWG statement, an advocacy toolkit, and mobilizing data on the impact of funding cuts.
- **Emergency Preparedness for SRHR** – Integrating links to localization, climate, and the humanitarian–development nexus. This also includes alignment with the MISP readiness assessment and potential co-leadership from active sub-working groups.
- **Current Emergencies** – Focused on collective action in response to active crises - both new and protracted - through donor briefings, policy statements, and communications tools, with criteria to help the coalition determine when and how to respond.
- **Note:** Areas that have emerged since the retreat: humanitarian reset, expanded global gag, US bilateral compacts, etc.

**Feedback on the starting point from participants during the call:**

- Participants agreed that the priorities are still generally strong, but there is an acute need to focus on the “back to basics” priority, including addressing global/regional/local opposition and bolstering the network of financial and political champions in a world of shifting opposition for SRHR in emergencies. The other priority areas (preparedness and current emergencies) can fit under Back to Basics, too.
- We brainstormed potential SMART objectives/activities that the WG could accomplish in 2026 under the “Back to Basics” priority via Mural. The following proposed priorities emerged:

- Develop a set of core IAWG advocacy messages on 2026 trends, including expanded global gag rule, bilateral compacts, and humanitarian reset, as well as other identified priorities like climate change.
- Advance uptake and influence of core IAWG advocacy messages by identifying and supporting champion donors to promote SRHRiE.

### Next steps

- IAWG will schedule the second WG launch meeting to discuss the group's functions/ways of working and leadership roles, responsibilities, and selection processes. Please note that this conversation will focus on the governance of the WG and is intended to be for participants who plan to join the WG.
- If you have not done so already, submit your 2026 IAWG membership application. Both new and renewing members must submit an application. Once your membership is approved, you will be eligible to participate in IAWG Working Groups and other bodies. Organizations should apply [here](#) and individuals should apply [here](#). Please note that 2026 membership fees have been waived. If you have membership questions please reach out to Sarah Knaster at [sknaster@canwach.ca](mailto:sknaster@canwach.ca).