

IASC Priority/Task Team Progress Report January 2014-April 2015: IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT)

OBJECTIVES:

Reimagining Humanitarian Funding: review the potential of the current funding architecture to respond to the evolving nature of humanitarian action and analyse how we can improve our ability to provide aid to those who most need it.

The Task Team's work plan has four objectives:

1. Adequate humanitarian financing that is context appropriate and accessible to operational organizations on the ground
2. Re-negotiate burdensome donor requirements
3. Contribute to aid effectiveness by reducing the humanitarian/development divide
4. Improve transparency through strengthening empirical knowledge base on funding flows

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE EARLY 2014:

Adequate, appropriate, accessible humanitarian financing

- Published report "**Future Humanitarian Financing: Looking Beyond the Crisis**": During global consultations with innovative thinkers inside and outside the humanitarian sector in London, Bangkok, Amman, Dakar, and Geneva, issues were identified and solutions recommended. The report, launched in June 2015, is used as input for the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the World Humanitarian Summit. <http://futurehumanitarianfinancing.org/>
- Identified the **top challenges to access country-based pooled funds (CBPFs)** by completing a desk review of relevant studies. These findings will be tracked over time to see how the December 2014 launch of Global Guidelines on CBPFs reduces impediments over time.
- Published report on **Partner Capacity Assessments**, which includes recommendations for greater transparency. <https://icvanetwork.org/resources/partner-capacity-assessments-humanitarian-ngos-fit-purpose>
- **Identified good practices to accelerate CERF implementation:** Compiled good practices to accelerate the disbursement of CERF sub-grants from UN agencies to NGOs and thereby speed up CERF implementation. This was presented to the CERF Advisory Group in October 2014 and is available for UN agencies to consider adopting in their own practice.
- Developed a theory of change for a possible **Global Preparedness Fund**.
- Maintained a **system-wide inventory** of finance-related initiatives, including the creation of new funds, and determine how to engage in preparations for the **High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing** and **WHS**.
- Reviewed **Pooled Fund Reporting Templates** and identified potential for greater alignment.
- **Improved CERF visibility:** CERF developed a resource mobilization and communications strategy, and an improved website to highlight the fund's added value for the humanitarian system.
- The HFTT serves as a forum to prepare for **Pooled Fund Working Group** meetings, and its co-chairs represent the Task Team in the Working Group.

Less burdensome donor requirements

Identified main donor conditions hindering agencies and reviewed UN agreements. Further research to properly capture NGOs perspective is underway. These will inform advocacy strategies targeting donors, including the GHD.

Reducing the humanitarian/development divide

IASC/ODI "**Dare to Prepare**" study launched and findings/recommendations used for World Humanitarian Summit consultations

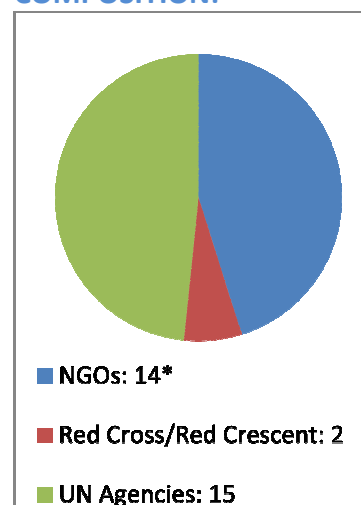
Improving the transparency of funding flows

Based on HFTT advice with regard to the proposed INTOSAI Integrated Financial Accountability Framework (IFAF), the UN Secretary-General decided to continue improving **funding transparency** via FTS and IATI.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE END OF 2015:

- Develop key advocacy messages and recommendations to address the **top-5 most challenging donor conditions** and design an advocacy strategy targeting the GHD initiative (GHD) and other donors.
- Follow-up on 'Future Humanitarian Financing' report, including on **multi-year funding**.
- Further explore synergies with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (**IATI**).
- Identify concrete steps to **improve IASC reporting to FTS**, the Financial Tracking Service.
- Create **online repository** of humanitarian financing studies.

COMPOSITION:



* Four NGO consortia are members of the Task Team: ICVA, InterAction, SCHR, and the Start Network. Together, they represent hundreds of NGOs around the world.

Co-Chairs: Lisa Doughten, OCHA (Darla Silva, UNICEF, starting May 2015) and Cecilia Roselli, ICVA (Melissa Pitotti, ICVA, until March 2015; Marzia Montemurro, ICVA, until July 2014)

WG Sponsors: Nan Buzard, ICVA, and Gordana Jenker, WFP (Brian Lander, WFP, until June 2015; Darlene Tymo, WFP, until December 2014)

Secretariat Support: Nicolas Rost, OCHA