**IASC Sub-Working Group on Humanitarian Financing Meeting Notes**

***28 November 2012***

**Chairs: Sandra Aviles, Steve O’Malley**

**Agenda:**

* Update on country-based pooled funds, including preparations for the Pooled Funds WG
* Readout from November IASC WG
* Upcoming IASC Principals meeting
* AOB

**Meeting notes:**

1. **Update on country-based pooled funds, including preparations for the Pooled Funds WG**

The pooled funds working group meeting will take place on 11 December in New York. The agenda items will include the update on CHF M&R framework. OCHA has completed recruitment of M&R staff, except in CAR. The framework will be rolled out in 2013 and making it fully operational in practice will still take time.

The agenda for the working group meeting also includes an update on the evaluation of CHFs in 2010. Another evaluation of CHFs is planned for 2013-2014.

The ERF global evaluation is completed and consultants who worked on it will be available during the meeting for questions. The report from this evaluation is due at the beginning of December and we will circulate it to this group.

The preliminary findings indicate that ERFs are fit for purpose. The recommendations are timely and OCHA will be pleased to work on them.

The Chair of the TT of Funding for Preparedness (FAO) will also provide an update of the Phase 2 country based study on the analysis of funding mechanisms and funding flows to enhance emergency preparedness. The study is set to look at how emergency preparedness is being funded and where the gaps are, within 6 different country contexts. Among the mechanisms being reviewed for suitability to fund preparedness will be country based pooled funds.

Another point on the agenda is the public information strategy for country-based pooled funds. The donors are very interested in seeing it and it will be useful for OCHA and partners. Most of our information products are in the field and it has never been systematised. This initiative aims at achieving a standard way of advocating for and publicizing country-based pooled funds. Furthermore, we want to do a global report on country-based pooled funds.

FAO commented that this is an excellent initiative and that agencies should be able to contribute to it. FAO also recommended that this strategy should also aim at attracting non-standard donors.

UNDP observed that there is a parallel structure of UNDG group in management of humanitarian and development funds. It is very clear that we have less and less room for duplications and we should look into connecting these two mechanisms.

FAO commented that pooled funds bring coherence between humanitarian and development funding and that this area should be further explored.

**2. Read out from November IASC WG**

FAO provided an explanation of the proposed new structure of the IASC. The diagram that was shared with the SWG on Humanitarian Financing represents the current priorities of the IASC working group. It consists of the Principals Steering Group, , TA Implementation Steering Group, Task Forces, Sub-Working groups and Expert Groups.

The Humanitarian Financing (including aspects of CAP) and Preparedness remained as sub-working groups in the new IASC structure. This is because these groups develop products that are consistently important for IASC work. The idea is to keep these mechanisms going as the motor of the humanitarian architecture. We still need to discuss what it means ‘including aspects of CAP’.

In essence it is a flexible architecture with sub working groups and expert groups. When the Principals and/or WG identify an issue which is being dealt within expert groups it then becomes a task force. It is designed to be a living architecture.

**Action Points:**

* Clarify what does the note mean ‘including aspects of CAP’ in the IASC structure

**3. Upcoming IASC Principals meeting**

IASC principals meeting will take place in WFP HQ on 13th December, followed by the CAP launch on the 14th. The ERC is keen on the humanitarian community engaging in the topic of resilience. There is a paper on lessons learned from the Sahel response. This report is possibly going to be tabled at the principals meeting.

There were discussions in the WG and ‘friends of resilience group’ on how resilience touches on humanitarian financing. The donors are working on making humanitarian financing instruments more flexible, including some piloting on multiyear funding.

We are hoping that important inputs to the discussion on humanitarian financing instruments will be brought by the study on resilience. We look at these issues more critically and they will be tabled in this meeting.

The humanitarian funding continues to decrease. The question of less money but with more impact will have to be looked into. We should reach out to other partners and non-traditional donors.

We are in contact with the mission of Denmark for the launching of phase two study on preparedness. They accepted to host Sandra Aviles from FAO and ODI consultants for presentation of phase two report and paper on resilience.

The TT on Funding Preparedness will organise a meeting of humanitarian and development donors in the spring of 2013.The idea is to invite representatives from the same donors but from their humanitarian and development departments to discuss some of the preliminary proposals emerging from the country studies and that will be put on the table.

**4. AOB**

UNICEF raised the issue of the FTS. It was discussed during the annual consultations on the CERF with UNICEF. The point still stands that we need to look very carefully into how we can join efforts to improve FTS. Donors and agencies keep complaining that the funding figures on FTS do not match.

It was agreed that this issue should be collectively looked into by this group. The CAP section should draft a short options paper with problem statement. The group could then look into various options to address these issues.

Since there will be no meeting in December, the group agreed that each agency should put in writing all issues that they face with FTS by the end of December. FTS should then compile these comments and present the paper to the group. The group will then review it and agree on action points that need to be taken.

Steve O’Malley reminded the SWG that the CERF High Level Conference will take place on 11 December in New York. The event will be reduced from two days to one. The SG, ERC and regional HC for Sahel will participate. Following the presentations and a film, there will be the pledging part to the CERF in 2013. The conference will be shorter and tighter than in the previous years.

Interaction inquired about the programme cycle reference module. This paper is already behind the deadline and it will have to be followed up on with the Chief of the Programme Support Branch.

UNICEF commented that the draft chapeau to the CAP document is pre-emptive to many of current discussions, such as on multiyear CAPs. We need to tailor the language in it a bit better as many of these discussions are only just beginning.

**Action Points:**

* Members of the group to submit comments on FTS to the FTS manager
* FTS to compile these comments and present a paper on ways forward to the group
* Sandra Aviles to follow up with the Chief of the Programme Support Branch on the programme cycle reference module

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