

IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team – Meeting Notes

19 November 2015

Co-Chairs: Lisa Doughten (OCHA/CERF), Melissa Pitotti (ICVA)

Agenda

1. Follow-up on 'Future Humanitarian Financing' report (CAFOD, FAO, World Vision)
2. Update on Objective 3 on bridging the humanitarian/development gap (FAO and others)
3. Update on Donor Conditions (UNFPA, WFP)

Other business

- a) Introduction of new co-sponsors
- b) Task Team retreat
- c) Introduction of new secretariat
- d) Update on humanitarian financing non-paper
- e) Agenda items for 16 December meeting

1. Follow-up on 'Future Humanitarian Financing' report

Sandra Aviles, FAO, introduced this agenda item by explaining that the Future Humanitarian Financing report was launched at ECOSOC and presented to the IASC principals. Some IASC principals felt that the recommendations of this report were not groundbreaking enough. Nevertheless, the Future Humanitarian Financing report was taken up by multitude of actors and is considered to be a solid product. For instance, the High Level Panel used this report to develop the understanding of what is working and what is not in the humanitarian financing system.

The matrix outlining recommendations and actions to be taken has been developed and shared with the group prior to the meeting. Sandra Aviles recommended that HFTT members discuss this matrix internally in respective agencies and fill in the actions that should be taken. The group should then discuss on how these actions should be taken forward.

Julian Srodecki, World Vision, emphasized that the Future Humanitarian Financing report is a joint UN and NGO product, which offers good opportunities to tackle some of the common challenges. This report was written by three agencies but was grounded in the work of the HFTT and includes

depth of perspectives of numerous actors. He remarked that it would be good to receive feedback on the core of this report and the process that was followed.

Sandra Aviles explained that the GHD initiative took this report as an IASC product and incorporated it into its work. GHD uses it as a statement made by humanitarian actors regarding the work that should be done by donors.

Sandra Aviles put forward the idea of writing a think piece of 3 to 5 pages that would outline how the HFTT plans to position itself vis-à-vis the recommendations of this report and the ongoing work that is already being done to address them. This document could inform the discussion during the upcoming retreat. Lisa Doughten, OCHA/CERF and co-chair, and Jordan Menkveld, IOM, commented that such think piece would be very useful and would help structure the strategic thinking at the retreat.

Kristine Ptitsyna, WFP, recommended that it would be good to link this paper with UNDG because we should reach out to development actors and further develop our dialog with them.

Paulette Jones, WFP, remarked that the main challenge for WFP is how to make the follow up actions concrete and actionable.

Julian Srodecki observed that the group should carefully consider which recommendations can be addressed by agencies alone and which recommendations should feed into the work plan of this group.

Melissa Pitotti, ICVA and co-chair, expressed gratitude to all agencies, which were involved in the work on this report. There are 29 recommendations in this report, so the HFTT should prioritize which to focus on. For instance, recommendations related to donor conditions, increased transparency and localization are relevant to our existing workplan and discussions in the World Humanitarian Summit. On the other hand, the recommendations regarding activity based costing and a preparedness fund require further discussion. This group should carefully choose which recommendations to focus on.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic, UNFPA, remarked that a number of events in the last few months, such as the migrant crisis, have changed the humanitarian financing landscape since the report was initially written and that should also be taken into account.

Sandra Aviles emphasized that this matrix takes stock of what was in the report and what was taken up by other processes but it does not represent what the HFTT should work on. The TT members still need to go through the prioritization process and select the recommendations that this group will focus on.

Sandra Aviles also suggested that we could have a report every year drafted by the HFTT on the state of play in humanitarian financing. Sophia Swithern, GHA, commented that this was a good idea and that GHA could take this work forward.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic mentioned the importance of also taking into account the statement made by the SG on 11 November in which he expresses his concern on proposed cuts in development aid

and underscores the importance of fully funding both efforts to care for refugees and asylum seekers in host countries as well as longer-term development efforts.

Actions:

- Fill out 'actions to be taken' in the follow up matrix of the Future Humanitarian Financing report
- Activity leads (CAFOD, FAO, WVI) to draft a 3 to 5 pages think piece outlining the position of the HFTT on the Future Humanitarian Financing report

2. Update on Objective 3 on bridging the humanitarian/development gap

Melissa Pitotti introduced this agenda item. Sandra Aviles mentioned the work on creation of preparedness fund, which moved forward and will be taken up with donors. There is a huge interest across the system in this initiative.

There is clearly a gap between humanitarian and development work and an urgent need to fill it. The focus will be on early warning, early action and preparedness of international actors beyond the UN system. The concept of the fund will be developed further over the next year and we would like to use WHS to launch it. However, it will only be as good as it is capitalized in terms of financing.

There was a discussion with GHD group on bridging the humanitarian and development divide. Marrying these two work streams is difficult but it has to happen if we want to make a progress on this objective. Main focus will be on financing multiyear protracted crises.

The issue of displacement has huge implications on the sources of funding and IASC has to be involved in the work on it. The HFTT has to weigh in on how this issue will impact the financing architecture.

Addressing displacement is not a concrete activity within the objective 3 but the work on it has started and will be taken forward in the coming years. It is a very big piece that will be imbedded in WG's priorities under protracted crises.

Daniel Kull, World Bank, explained that there are a number of complementary processes related to financing happening at the moment. None of them are at the point where much can be shared. However, the World Bank is doing a lot of analytical work on issues such as natural disasters, social protection and forced displacement.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic praised the significant amount of work that had been done until now but suggested that this conversation may be bigger than the group at this point. She suggested considering whether discussions need to take place in higher forums in order to move these topics forward.

Sandra Aviles remarked that since 2013 there is a lot of work on financing done on higher levels and some members of the HFTT are engaged with these forums as well. However, HFTT is well positioned to ensure that high-level decisions work operationally.

Daniel Kull informed that there is increasing engagement by the World Bank in humanitarian/development financing. He committed himself to identify a World Bank risk financing expert, who could potentially address the HFTT.

Kate McGrane, NRC, remarked that there are many potential areas where HFTT should engage. One of them is documenting lessons learned from existing processes to inform the development of new systems.

Romano Lasker, OCHA/PDSB, recommended that TT members should engage more in development forums to further advance the work on bridging the humanitarian/development divide.

Actions:

- World Bank and HFTT to explore options for a World Bank risk financing expert to address the HFTT
- Ensure that HFTT members engage in forums discussing development financing

3. Update on Donor Conditions Paper

Marina Skuric Prodanovic informed the group that the paper on Donor Conditions is now open for comments. Given the short timeframe, the comments should focus on essentials. There is also a parking lot at the end of the paper with issues involving UN agency conditions on NGOs that will be taken forward in other ways.

Caterina Galluzzi, WFP, explained that WFP and UNFPA aim at having quick turnaround and clearance of this paper by the end of November. The launch of this paper could then be linked with the outcomes of the HLP. Several comments have already been received and this paper is almost final, however the feedback from the HFTT is essential.

Sandra Aviles congratulated UNFPA and WFP for very good work on this paper. It is very rich and it could become an indirect response to the grand bargain that HLP is pushing for.

Melissa Pitotti informed that NGOs have specific concerns on many issues covered by this paper, particularly regarding reporting, auditing, partner capacity assessments and counter-terrorism. NGOs are exploring ways to quantify the impact of donor conditions, particularly regarding reporting, through a field-level analysis.

Marina Skuric Prodanovic underlined that comments on this paper are needed by 27 November. The turnaround time is short because the launch of this paper will be tied with HLP outcomes. WFP and UNFPA need to hear from the HFTT whether this timeframe is realistic. If needed, a technical discussion on this paper could also be organized early next week.

Actions:

- Provide comments on the Donor Conditions paper to WFP and UNFPA by 27 November

AOB

a) Introduction of New Co-sponsors

Melissa Pitotti welcomed Gordana Jerger, WFP, and Raphael Gorgeu, ICVA, as new co-sponsors.

Raphael Gorgeu informed that the WG is working on a two-year work plan covering 2016 and 2017. The WG expressed deep appreciation for the efforts of the TTs, and requested them to complete pending tasks as per the 2014-2015 workplans, latest by 31 March 2016.

Then, based on the IASC WG 2016-2017 action plan, mandate and objectives of some of the IASC WG Subsidiary bodies (including Task Teams) will either be extended and reviewed (in accordance with the IASC WG priorities), or be ended.

Gordana Jerger informed that financing is one of the priorities of the WG. Given that there are no decisions on the future of the HFTT yet, she encouraged the group not to plan the work for long period of time but rather focus on specific tasks that can realistically be achieved within short timeframe.

Gordana Jerger also informed that recommendations from this group on what should be the priorities of the WG in terms of financing would be very valuable. She would also like to see more linkages to global processes.

b) Task Team Retreat

Lisa Doughten informed that the HFTT retreat is tentatively planned for 27 and 28 January in Geneva (rather than the earlier planned dates of 25-26 January). Despite that future priorities of the group are not decided on yet, the planning of the retreat should proceed because there are issues that will surely require discussions such as HLP and WHS.

c) Introduction of New Secretariat

Lisa Doughten introduced Mateusz Buczek (CERF Liaison Officer in Geneva), who will take over the secretariat of the group from Nicolas Rost. The group thanked Nicolas Rost for two years of his excellent work handling the HFTT's secretariat.

d) Update on Humanitarian Financing Non-paper

Gordana Jerger reminded the group that this non-paper was drafted by WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR following the WG's decision that a small group of agencies should work on these issues to make a quick progress.

The ERC has shared the non-paper with IASC principals, seeking comments by the end of October. The paper was also sent to the Task Team, and Task Team members could provide comments via their principals or directly to OCHA.

Romano Lasker, OCHA/PDSB, said that the overwhelming feedback to the paper was that there had not been enough time for adequate consultation to make this an IASC paper at this time. This feedback has been shared with the three agencies that co-authored the paper (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF).

e) Agenda Items for 16 December Meeting

Lisa Doughten informed that the next meeting will take place on 16 December and the agenda will include discussion on HLP report and the last work plan update. Suggestions on any other points should be sent to Mateusz Buczek prior to the meeting.

f) Miscellaneous

Hiroko Araki, HLP secretariat, confirmed that the report of the HLP will be made available in early December and will be launched in early January in Dubai. She also informed that the HLP is appreciative of the work on donor conditions vis-à-vis the recommendation on the grand bargain.

Sophia Swithern, GHA, informed that the work on next year GHA has started and review groups are currently being formed. The GHA is looking for a wide range of users and experts. Expressions of interest from the TT members are welcome and should be sent by email to Sophia Swithern.

Fernando Hesse, OCHA/FCS, updated on the upcoming PFWG meeting. It will take place 16 and 17 December in New York and the agenda has already been circulated.

Lisa Doughten reminded the group that the CERF High Level Conference will take place on 17 December, which also marks the 10-year anniversary of the Fund.

Participants

Location	Name	Agency	
New York	Rekiya Adamu-Atta	UNICEF	
	Hiroko Araki	HLP secretariat	
	Lisa Doughten (co-chair)	OCHA/CERF	
	Fernando Hesse	OCHA/FCS	
	Michael Jensen	OCHA/CERF	
	Taija Kontinen-Sharp	UNDP	
	Romano Lasker	OCHA/PDSB	
	Ekaterina Papaioannou	HLP secretariat	
	Kristine Ptitsyna	WFP	
	Nicolas Rost	OCHA/CERF	
	Frederic Sizaret	UNICEF	
	Marina Skuric Prodanovic	UNFPA	
	Benard Muinde	IASC secretariat	
	Geneva	Sandra Aviles	FAO
		Axel Bisschop	UNHCR
Mateusz Buczek (secretariat)		OCHA/CERF	
Elena Garagorri Atristain		ICRC	
Raphael Gorgeu (co-sponsor)		ICVA	
Gordana Jerger (co-sponsor)		WFP	
Paulette Jones		WFP	
Kate McGrane		NRC	
Jordan Menkveld		IOM	
Roberto Paganini		UNDP	
Melissa Pitotti (co-chair)		ICVA	
Tanja Schümer		IASC secretariat	
Charlotte Stemmer		Oxfam	
Ysabel Fougery		IFRC	
Roberto Paganini		UNDP	
Paola Di Tommaso	WFP		
By phone/Webex	Rachel Criswell	World Vision	
	Caterina Galluzzi	WFP	
	Gemma Glorioso	WFP	
	Brian Grogan	OCHA/PDSB	
	Daniel Kull	World Bank	
	Zu Mian	Mercy Malaysia	
	Caroline Nichols	InterAction	
	Julian Srodecki	World Vision	
	Siti Kamariah (Cammy) Ahmad Subki	WHS secretariat	
Sophia Swithern	GHA		