

# IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team – Meeting Notes

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16 December 2015

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

## Agenda

1. Discussion on HLP report
2. Update on WG workplan and Principals meeting
3. Update and wrap-up of all outstanding HFTT activities:
  - a. Donor conditions
  - b. Objective 4
4. Planning of the retreat
5. All other business

### 1. Discussion on HLP report

Hiroko Araki (HLP secretariat) provided an update on the HLP. The panel is still editing its report, which is expected to be finalized on Monday, 21 December. The report will then be submitted to the SG and will become available to agencies. The launch of the report is planned for 17 January, pending confirmation.

Before the launch some donors and agencies will be signing in to become active participants of the grand bargain. The HLP will establish a Task Force to work with humanitarian actors on the grand bargain in order to achieve concrete results before the WHS.

Siti Kamariah Ahmad Subki (WHS secretariat) provided an update on Islamic social finance. WHS secretariat engaged Islamic Social Bank in the consultation process. Islamic finance has large potential. Its main sources of funding are voluntary giving, endowment and Zakat, which is mandatory giving. According to available estimates, Islamic social finance generated US\$ 24 million last year in India alone.

Kate McGrane (NRC) asked if the recommendations of the HLP will feed into WHS and if the work on reaching the agreement between donors and agencies will be imbedded in WHS follow up process.

Sandra Aviles (FAO) stated that it is import to link the recommendations of the HLP report with the work of IASC Principals as well. Issues such as grand bargain, standardization of costing and institutionalization of humanitarian-development bridge will be taken forward this year by the

Principals. Her understating is that WHS will be looking into the HLP report but pragmatically, Principals will lead on some of the recommendations.

Sandra Aviles recommended that HFTT should be tasked by the Principals to work on the details of implementation of some of the HLP recommendations. She also observed that donors will have to be actively engaged in many of these discussions.

Rachel Criswell (World Vision) asked what specifically is expected from agencies regarding the HLP report before 17 January.

Melissa Pitotti (ICVA) asked if any NGOs got already engaged in the HLP follow up process.

Hiroko Araki explained that as for the institutionalization of the humanitarian-development bridge, the HLP report gives active role to the World Bank at the institutional level in the follow up process.

Hiroko Araki also informed that so far the HLP secretariat was hosted by OCHA but as of January, it will move to WHS secretariat to ensure coherence with WHS process. The secretariat will continue working under HLP but will come under the umbrella of WHS.

Emmi Antinoja (WHS SG report drafting team) informed that the forthcoming Secretary-General's report for the WHS would build on the work of the HLP alongside preparatory WHS consultations and other change and review processes, including the SDGs.

Sandra Aviles asked if HLP report had a road map for implementation.

Hiroko Araki explained that the implementation is not within the mandate of the HLP and it will have to be imbedded in WHS processes.

**Actions:**

- HFTT to ensure adequate follow up on HLP recommendations.

## **2. Update on WG workplan and Principals meeting**

Tanja Schümer (IASC secretariat) provided an update on the WG workplan and the Principals meeting. She explained that action points from the principals meeting are not available yet. However, the draft WG workplan includes the following three points on financing: costing, cash programming and grand bargain.

Tanja Schümer explained that it is still premature to discuss which activities will be taken up by the WG and which ones by the HFTT because although key points are already agreed on, specific activities are still being discussed. The WG will look into what subsidiary bodies will be required and hopes to reach conclusions before the end of the year.

Tanja Schümer also mentioned the possible establishment of a strategic cash task group.

Kate McGrane, suggested that the HFTT should invite the chief of WHS secretariat to its next meeting to discuss how the HLP recommendations will be taken forward by WHS processes.

Hiroko Araki explained that HLP secretariat discussed this issue with WHS secretariat and agreed that before the summit will take place, some of the follow up initiatives will already be defined in concrete terms.

Lisa Doughten (OCHA/CERF) noted that the HFTT should invite the chief of WHS secretariat to the retreat in January.

Tanja Schümer added that humanitarian financing is a broad field and there is interest in the WG to be very specific on financing activities.

Melissa Pitotti stated that there is a lack of clarity in the discussions on costing. When it comes to costing, it appears the HLP is talking about overheads while Principals may be referring to activity based costing. She recommended that HFTT should discuss activity based costing and its implications on humanitarian coordination, particularly in view of the disadvantages of ABC and the lack of official guidelines on development of activity costed appeals.

Tanja Schümer said that the Principals had a very broad discussion about costing and did not discuss activity based costing.

Tensai Asfaw (HLP secretariat) explained that majority of actors do not trust current costing. There is, therefore, a need to develop a better and more credible costing methodology.

Sandra Aviles said that this issue is within the scope of HFTT's work and suggested that the group should take it forward at operational level. The issue of costing will not be solved by the Principals and will have to be worked on by technical groups such as HFTT.

**Actions:**

- HFTT to invite the chief of WHS secretariat to the January retreat.
- HFTT to develop its workplan once WG's financing activities are defined.

### **3. Update and wrap-up of all outstanding HFTT activities**

#### **a. Donor conditions**

Marina Skuric Prodanovic (UNFPA) informed that all comments on the paper had been addressed and the final document had been sent to FAO, who had kindly agreed to support the editing process. She suggested that the division of labour on taking this paper forward should be discussed during the upcoming retreat in January.

Sandra Aviles emphasised that it is a very good piece of work and said that FAO would be happy to make it an interagency paper. She suggested that IASC should launch it on behalf of agencies.

Melissa Pitotti informed that to supplement the work on donor conditions, ICVA received support from NGOs to launch a campaign 'Less Paper for More Aid'. This campaign will be based on field level analysis to be carried out in 5 different country contexts to demonstrate the impacts of burdensome donor conditions. It will include examples of the number man-hours required for

completion of donor reporting. Findings from a pilot carried out in Lebanon in December 2015 will be available in early January.

**Actions:**

- HFTT to discuss the follow up on donor conditions paper during the upcoming retreat.

## **b. Objective 4**

Nick Imboden (OCHA/FTS) provided an update on IATI and redesign of FTS. IATI is a common standard for reporting financial information. It was developed over the past few years for reporting development funding. We were working with IATI secretariat on extending IATI standard to cover humanitarian reporting as well. As a result, a new version of IATI standard has just been released, which includes humanitarian parameters.

The HFTT will continue developing guidelines on how best the IATI standard should be applied and will work on encouraging adoption of the standard by a larger number of donors and agencies, in particular to facilitate their reporting to FTS.

Nick Imboden also updated the group on the progress with redesigning both the frontend and the backend of FTS. New features were added to the beta site of FTS and Nick Imboden encouraged the group to provide comments on it and actively engage in the development work.

We are on track to release the new version of FTS before the end of first half of 2016. Once this is done, we will have to focus on working with agencies to improve reporting to FTS.

**Actions:**

- HFTT members and agencies to provide comments on FTS beta site and actively engage in FTS development process.

## **4. Planning of the retreat**

Melissa Pitotti informed that the initially agreed dates of 27 and 28 January will have to be changed as several members are unable to attend. New dates were suggested to be 26 and 27 January and there were no objections from the group. It was agreed that the final dates should be confirmed before the end of the year.

Melissa Pitotti opened the floor for suggesting the topics to be discussed during the retreat. Suggestions included discussing the localisation of aid, exploring the implications of grand bargain, and discussing transaction chains from donors to implementers. The group also agreed to reserve some time for a refreshing team building activity.

**Actions:**

- Final dates of the retreat to be confirmed before the end of the year.

## 5. All Other Business

Melissa Pitotti informed that the consultant hired by ICVA was working on the review of HFTT's work over the past two years and will be talking to activity leads. The final report should be available in early January. In addition, FAO will offer a think piece on the implications of HLP recommendations.

### **Actions:**

- ICVA to share with HFTT the report of the review of HFTT's activities.
- FAO to share with HFTT the analytical paper on the implications of HLP recommendations.

## Participants

Location	Name	Agency
New York	Rekiya Adamu-Atta	UNICEF
	Hiroko Araki	HLP secretariat
	Lisa Doughten (co-chair)	OCHA/CERF
	Michael Jensen	OCHA/CERF
	Marina Skuric Prodanovic	UNFPA
	Melissa Pitotti (co-chair)	ICVA
	Mateusz Buczek (secretariat)	OCHA/CERF
	Rachel Criswell	World Vision
	Nick Imboden	OCHA
	Juan Chavez	OCHA/FCS
	Siti Kamariah (Cammy) Ahmad Subki	WHS secretariat
	Anna Buskens	UNHCR
		Oxfam
Geneva	Sandra Aviles	FAO
	Theo Muller	IASC secretariat
	Guillame Simonin	WHO
	Paulette Jones	WFP
	Kate McGrane	NRC
	Tanja Schümer	IASC secretariat
	Ysabel Fougery	IFRC
	Laura Calvio	OCHA/FTS
	Paola Di Tommaso	WFP
By phone/Webex	Caroline Nichols	InterAction
	Jordan Menkveld	IOM
	Jamal	WFP
		FAO
	DHL	