

Notes of 2016 IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Retreat

26 and 27 January 2016

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

The IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT) held its retreat on 26 and 27 January in Geneva. The retreat focused on revision of HFTT's achievements in 2014/2015 and development of its 2016/2017 workplan in the context of High-level Panel (HLP) on Humanitarian Financing report and the road to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

Key inputs to the retreat included the WG workplan for 2016/2017, action points on humanitarian financing from IASC Principals, WHS Synthesis Report and recommendations of the HLP.

The retreat was attended by 48 participants from UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes (FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO), NGOs (CAFOD, Handicap International, InterAction, NRC and World Vision), OCHA, ICVA, IOM, World Bank, ICRC and IFRC. Guest Speakers included colleagues from WHS and HLP secretariats and GHD representatives from USAID and Canadian Mission.

HFTT co-sponsors (WFP and ICVA) briefed the group on the financing elements of the WG workplan for 2016/2017 and emphasized that humanitarian financing is one of the key priorities of IASC Principals. Co-sponsors briefed the group that HFTT is expected to advance the work on this priority, especially with regards to the operationalization of selected recommendations of the HLP and WHS. They also informed that while key priorities for HFTT in 2016/2017 have already emerged, they will likely have to be adjusted following the outcomes of WHS.

GHD Representatives, Joshua Tabah (Canada) and Nance Kyloh (US), briefed the group on GHD's work and emphasized its limited resources, lack of official secretariat and diversity of opinion of its members. They expressed GHD's appreciation to the work of the HFTT and underlined its valuable contributions to shaping humanitarian financing agenda over the last several years. They also stated that the US and Canada want to revitalize GHD and strengthen its linkages with the HFTT, especially in the context of HLP recommendations and the road to WHS.

Hiroko Araki of HLP secretariat briefed the group on HLP report launch, panel's recommendations and envisioned follow up process. In her presentation, Hiroko Araki emphasized the urgency of decreasing humanitarian needs before increasing funding and highlighted the components of the "Grand Bargain". She noted that the "Grand Bargain" would be primarily brokered amongst the largest donors and largest agencies due to the economies of scale, however she also emphasised that NGOs are part of the "Grand Bargain" as well. The discussion then focused on adequate incorporation of the follow up actions on HLP recommendations into the HFTT workplan. Several members of the HFTT expressed concerns that many HLP recommendations are very broad and lack steps for implementation. The group agreed that more clarity is needed on the follow up process, division of responsibilities and concrete actions to be taken.

Antoine Gerard, chief of WHS secretariat, briefed the group on the modality of the summit, which will be comprised of eight high-level round tables (including one on humanitarian financing) and over 160 side events. He also informed that the HFTT will have an opportunity to suggest a side event. Mr. Gerard emphasized that HFTT will be very helpful in ensuring adequate engagement of existing and emerging actors in the lead up to the summit. He also stated that HFTT's follow up work in the post-summit period will be essential in shaping common understanding of high-level commitments, maintaining the momentum for change and operationalizing selected recommendations.

FAO-contracted consultant, Lydia Poole, led a discussion aiming at developing collective position of the HFTT on the operationalizing "Grand Bargain" and formulating follow up actions. The group agreed that more clarity is needed on specific follow up actions as efficiency is a broad term and is interpreted differently by respective actors. Several participants underlined that many elements of the "Grand Bargain" are not new, and have been the focus of the HFTT since early 2014. The group reiterated its concern that it is unclear which organizations should be directly involved in the "Grand Bargain" and in what form.

In addition to discussing the follow up actions on HLP report, retreat participants completed an exercise in which they were asked to identify HLP recommendations that HFTT is in the position to engage in. The results of the exercise indicated a consensus in the group that HFTT should focus on eight HLP recommendations (six of which related to the "Grand Bargain"). These results were later used to inform the discussion on the development of HFTT's workplan for 2016/2017.

In preparation for the work-planning exercise the group revised its achievements in 2014 and 2015. ICVA consultant, Stephen V. Houten, presented a study commissioned by ICVA on key achievements of the group in this period. The study found that, out of four objectives of 2014/2015 workplan, the group fully completed planned activities under three objectives and partly completed planned activities under one objective. The study also emphasized rich and diverse contribution that the group made to advancing the system-wide humanitarian financing agenda.

Retreat participants agreed to structure its 2016/2017 workplan according to four objectives focusing on: (i) Ensuring adequate and accessible funding; (ii) Renegotiating donor requirements; (iii) Reducing humanitarian-development divide; and (iv) Improving transparency.

Extensive discussion took place on whether the operationalizing the "Grand Bargain" should become a separate objective of the HFTT. Having carefully considered pros and cons, the group agreed to consider the operationalization of the "Grand Bargain" as a cross-cutting issue and integrate related activities into its four objectives. This decision was dictated by the fact that HFTT worked on advancing several issues related to the "Grand Bargain" well before HLP was formed and these issues are part of HFTT's ongoing work.

The workplan of the HFTT for 2016/2017 jointly formulated during the retreat will go through a round of reviews electronically and will be finalized in February.

Participants:

Name	Organisation
Anne Street	CAFOD
Charlotte Lattimer	Development Initiatives
Zu Mian	MERCY Malaysia
Raquel Santos Garcia	FAO
Sandra Aviles	FAO
Clémence Boutant-Willm	Handicap International
Anna Ramazzotti	ICRC
Clare Dalton	ICRC
Cecilia Roselli	ICVA
Sophie Helle	ICVA
Melissa Pitotti	ICVA-HFTT co-chair
Ysabel Fougery	IFRC
Caroline Nichols	InterAction
Jordan Menkveld	IOM
Selma El Khawad	IOM
Kate McGrane	NRC
Therese Marie Uppstrom Pankratov	NRC
Laura Calvio	OCHA-FTS
Michael Jensen	OCHA-CERF
Andrea de Domenico	OCHA-FCS
Juan Chaves	OCHA-FCS
Nick Imboden	OCHA-FTS
Lisa Doughten	OCHA-HFTT co-chair
Mateusz Buczek	OCHA-HFTT secretariat

Name	Organisation
Hiroko Araki	WHS-HLP
Tensai Asfaw	WHS-HLP
Tanja Schuemer	OCHA-IASC
Romano Lasker	OCHA-PDSB
Adriana Carvalho Friedheim	OCHA-PRMB
Esty Sutyoko	OCHA-RMSS
Robert Smith	OCHA-WHS
Jan Kellett	UNDP
Roberto Paganini	UNDP
Marina Skuric Prodanovic	UNFPA
Anna Buskens	UNHCR
Anne Marie Kerrigan Deriche	UNHCR
Marina Konivalova	UNHCR
Marie-Louise Wandel	UNICEF
Rekiya Adamu-Atta	UNICEF
Paola di Titommaso	WFP
Paulette Jones	WFP
Faisal Yousaf	WHO
Mirka Kone	WHO
Veli Ville Lahelma	WHO
Daniel Kull	World Bank
Amie Heath	World Vision
Isabel Gomes	World Vision
Julian Srodecki	World Vision

Guest Presenters:

Name	Organisation
Joshua Tabah	Canadian Mission
Lydia Poole	FAO Consultant
Raphael Gorgeu	ICVA-HFTT co-sponsor
Antoine Gerard	OCHA-WHS
Nance Kyloh	USAID
Gordana JERGER	WFP-HFTT co-sponsor