

Humanitarian Financing

IASC Task Team Terms of Reference

Final version, January 2014

1. Background/Expected Results

Background to Humanitarian Financing

The Humanitarian Financing Task Team was requested by the IASC Working Group (WG) at its July 2013 ad hoc meeting to help the IASC achieve its objectives related to the IASC priority on Humanitarian Financing. The Humanitarian Financing Task Team fulfils the roles previously played by the Humanitarian Financing and CAP IASC Sub-Working Groups, and reflects elements of their work.

Expected Results

The objective of the Task Team is to improve our ability to provide aid to those who most need it by reviewing the potential of the current funding architecture to respond to the evolving nature of humanitarian action. In particular, the Task Team will:

1. Support coherence among multiple initiatives on humanitarian funding and strengthen financing mechanisms and related tools so that they are accessible to those able to use them effectively and rapidly in support of broader resource mobilization efforts
2. Explore models to maximize the current funding base and to secure additional, flexible and predictable funding streams for humanitarian organizations, including by identifying new partnerships

Tasks

The Task Team plans on delivering the following tasks for the period 2014-2015:

- Share information and coordinate with IASC organizations, task teams and other coordination bodies
- Review the impact of donor conditions, e.g. counter-terrorism clauses, visibility requirements, and other tied aid elements, on the programming environment and on risk management strategies, suggest alternative options for funding agreements (in coordination with the Task Team on Principled Humanitarian Action), and use it with donors to advocate the alignment of conditions
- Provide input to humanitarian financing policies and evaluations of pooled funds; contribute to assessments on how pooled funds contribute to coherence and collaboration between agencies, and whether they are effective in supporting the humanitarian programming cycle
- Contribute substantively to the preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit, using the theme of humanitarian effectiveness as an entry point, and providing inputs and advice on issues related to humanitarian funding and financing
- Engage with the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative and new actors and partners, including non-DAC countries and the private sector, to establish and strengthen partnerships and leverage their commitments
- Strengthen existing partnerships between humanitarian organizations, donors and others, map new and potential partnerships, especially with emerging donors and the private sector, and identify best practices from the efforts of individual agencies to broaden their donor base
- Support the further exploration of strategic response planning costing models and system-wide resource-mobilization efforts

The Task Team will discuss these tasks in greater detail at its retreat in January, and will compile a more detailed workplan for 2014-2015.

2. Working Methods

Structure

The Task Team may form working groups as necessary to complete specific parts of its annual work plan. The Task Team will decide on its structure at its retreat in January 2014.

Chairs/Co-chairs

The Task Team will operate under two Co-Chairs for the next two years: the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), currently Co-Chairing the IASC Sub-Working Group on Humanitarian Financing, and OCHA. The Co-Chairs' responsibilities include:

- Steering the implementation of the workplan
- Linking between other Task Teams, groups and processes
- Addressing blockages and trouble shooting
- Represent the Task Team externally, including speaking on behalf of the Task Team
- Link to senior focal points and champions
- Chair meetings
- Coordinate the different work streams (if no coordinator present)

Individual objectives within the work streams will have lead organisations.

Please refer to workplan, which will be finalized in early 2014, for further details.

Secretariat

OCHA functions as the secretariat of the Task Team and, under the direction of the Co-Chairs, coordinates the substantive implementation of the workplan. The tasks undertaken by the secretariat include:

- with information provided by participants of the Humanitarian Financing Task Team, the secretariat supports the Co-Chairs in drafting the annual workplan for discussion and agreement by the Task Team
- maintains an e-mail distribution list of participants
- convenes meetings of the Task Team at the request of the Chairs and is responsible for venue arrangements and related logistics
- drafts and distributes the agenda and minutes and keeps a participants' list for each meeting
- prepares materials for distribution to the Task Team and facilitates the flow of communication
- works closely with the IASC Secretariat to ensure that the IASC website and calendar are updated with information relevant to the Task Team

Participation

Participation is open to interested humanitarian organisations, bringing together NGOs, UN, IOM, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and other international organisations on an equal footing. Participants are expected actively to contribute to the work of the Task Team and take on responsibilities to advance the Task Team's work. Participants represent their organisations and, where applicable, ensure that their WG or EDG representatives or Principals are regularly briefed on the Task Team's work and progress. Experts, donors, and/or governments may be invited as observers to provide technical input or to discuss certain relevant issues, when needed. Operational NGOs are encouraged to participate actively.

Meeting schedule and frequency

The Task Team will convene 10-12 times per year via video/telephone link. If necessary, additional meetings may be held on specific issues. An annual face-to-face meeting will be held if necessary. Agendas are determined by the Co-Chairs with the Task Team members able to have input.

Decision-Making

Decision making in meetings is preferably consensus based. If consensus is not achievable then a majority decision as determined by the Co-Chairs will be required. Agreement on accuracy of minutes, wording of documents etc. will be on a 'no objections' basis, with every effort made to ensure Task Team members have adequate time to respond.

Funding and Resources

Resources will be sought depending on the elaboration of a workplan, and subsequently communicated.

3. Reporting

Accountability

The 84th IASC Working Group in March 2013 agreed that Task Teams are to be "accountable to the Working Group." In order to support Task Teams, IASC Working Group Sponsors will work closely with the Task Team to meet its objectives and ensure links with the IASC Working Group. The Task Team Co-Chairs and WG Sponsor are responsible for ensuring their Task Team's accountability to the WG.

Monitoring implementation

The Task Team Working Group Sponsors and Co-Chairs are responsible for monitoring implementation of the Task Team's objectives and work plan, with the support of the IASC Secretariat. Workplan implementation will be monitored through lead organisations reporting back to the Task Team at its monthly meetings.

IASC Working Group Sponsors: *Nan Buzard, ICVA, and Darlene Tymo, WFP*

IASC Task Team Co-Chairs: *Lisa Doughten, OCHA, and Marzia Montemurro, ICVA*

Annex: The Role of IASC WG Sponsors

The term 'Sponsor' is a new designation at the IASC. In essence, a Sponsor is a Working Group member who oversees and advocates for a particular priority, and ensures that policy development for the said priority is aligned at all levels – from designation by the Principals, through discussion at the WG, and through elaboration at the Task Teams. In some cases, the Sponsor will also be a Co-Chair of a Task Team (TT)/Reference Group (RG); where this is not the case, the Sponsor should ideally be from the same organization as the Co-Chair of the relevant TT/RG.

More precisely, the functions of WG Sponsors are as follows:

- Act as a manager, or focal point, for the IASC priority;
- Ensure a liaison function between the TT/RG and the WG;
- Advocate for the priority or the TT/RG's work vis-à-vis the WG, when necessary;
- Facilitate the TT/RG getting items on the WG agenda for discussion and decision, when necessary;
- Provide strategic guidance to the TT/RG; and
- Work closely with the TT/RG (Co-)Chairs to ensure accountability of the TT/RG to deliver on the expected results within the set time frame.

As the IASC Secretariat closely follows each of the IASC subsidiary bodies, the WG Sponsors can call upon the IASC Secretariat to support them in the above functions.