

IASC Task Team Progress Report - January until September 2016

IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT)

The Task Team's work plan has four objectives:

1. Adequate humanitarian financing that is context appropriate and accessible to operational organizations on the ground
2. Re-negotiate restrictive donor requirements
3. Contribute to aid effectiveness by reducing the humanitarian/development divide
4. Improve transparency through strengthening empirical knowledge base on funding flows

- Served as a discussion and information exchange forum on humanitarian financing between **UN Agencies, IOM, NGOs, the World Bank and Red Cross/Red Crescent**.
- Worked as a forum providing technical inputs and advise on the organisation of **World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) High Level Panel on Financing**.
- Contributed financing-related technical inputs towards the **Grand Bargain (GB)**.
- Strengthened the **cooperation between the HFTT and GHD** through effective information exchange, participation by co-chairs of HFTT and GHD in annual retreats of the two groups and organisation of a joint **side event on financing during the 2016 ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment**.
- Conducted a comprehensive **review of the HFTT work plan following the outcomes of WHS and GB** through organising six inter-agency meetings dedicated to specific technical issues.

Adequate humanitarian financing

- OCHA FCS and ICVA are currently working on a concept note and ToR for Phase 2 of field-focused study to review the **Partner Capacity Assessment process** aiming to start the activity in Q4.
- OCHA Pooled Funds Working Group and CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform meetings took place in June. There is strong support to increase the **scale and nimbleness of CBPFs** as proposed by the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity. OCHA FCS continues to brief HFTT on related processes and consults the group on discussion points for upcoming meetings.
- In Q4 the HFTT will begin planning for a study and seminar reviewing existing practices and mechanisms to improve **local actors' engagement** in the programming and delivery of humanitarian assistance, particularly through their access to pooled funding mechanisms.
- Following the Grand Bargain commitment to work with the IASC to develop and apply a localization marker, the HFTT formed a technical inter-agency group under the leadership of CAFOD and OCHA FCS, including Grand Bargain signatory donors, which will work on **development of the localisation marker**. Two meetings have been held so far and an initial paper on the concept, scope and potential parameters of a localization marker has been developed.
- Agreed to develop a TOR by the beginning of October and to kick off the first of two planned phases of work on **multi-year funding**. The first phase will include a desk review and baseline data gathering exercise to get a current and accurate picture of how much humanitarian funding is currently provided through multi-year agreements/frameworks.

Re-negotiating restrictive donor requirements

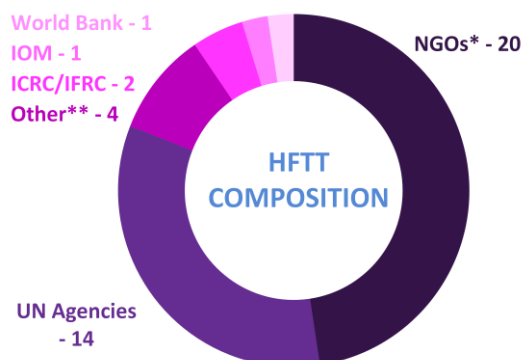
- Finalised and published the [Donor Conditions and their Implications for Humanitarian Response](#) study. Presented the findings of the study to the IASC Working Group and the GHD.
- Published the findings of the [Less Paper More Aid](#) campaign, which was an NGO initiative aiming at identifying the impact of donor conditions on humanitarian action and on NGOs. Presented the findings of the campaign to UN Agencies and Member States at a Grand Bargain experts meeting and "NGO Forward" briefing.
- Identified key emerging messages for the light **advocacy strategy on donor conditions** drawing from the GB and building on the findings of the Donor Conditions study (UNFPA and WFP), Less Paper More Aid study (ICVA) and Donor Conditionalities study (NRC and BCG). Identified key advocacy targets and held preliminary bilateral discussions with a number of institutional donors. A mapping tool of current initiatives and activities related to donor conditions is currently being drafted.
- Secured agreement from the GHD co-chairs to co-organize a workshop on simplifying **reporting requirements** with participation of donors and reporting practitioners. The workshop is planned for November 2016.

Reducing the humanitarian/development divide

- The issues that this output aims to tackle have seen global momentum through the launch of the Grand Bargain, WHS outcomes and the various mapping processes that have taken place within existing collaboration (such as the UN and WB) but outside the HFTT's work. Q4 of 2016 will focus on calibrating the HFTT's work against these outcomes in issues where there is clear value added. The team will work on advancing the dialogue on **hum/dev financing** in a broader context of joint analysis and multi-year planning that the Hum/Dev Nexus Task Team (HDNTT) together with UNDG WG on Transitions is taking forward. It will also focus on providing needed linkages with on-going mapping processes and consolidating information that is useful to the IASC audience and the work of the HFTT. It is expected that this work will continue in 2017 as the enabling environment for it is only now coming together.
- The co-chairs of **HFTT and HDNTT** have met in August and begun exploring **synergies and future collaboration** between the two groups. It was agreed that the two TTs will work closely together on issues of hum/dev nexus, will share key information on regular basis and assign selected staff to participate in each other's retreats

Improving transparency of funding flows

- **Key messages on FTS, IATI**, and the relationship between them have been prepared in advance of the GHD meeting in April 2016. The work on IATI guidelines has not started yet but is scheduled to take place during Q4 of 2016, with the aim to produce a first draft of **comprehensive guidelines on the use of IATI** for humanitarian purposes.
- The inter-agency technical working group on **FTS policy issues** has been set up and had its first meeting in April to discuss transparency and financial reporting to FTS. This work is expected to continue throughout 2017.



* Includes four NGO consortia: ICVA, InterAction, SCHR and Start Network; together representing hundreds of NGOs around the world.

** Includes WHS secretariat, HLP secretariat, IASC secretariat and GenCap.