**8) Earmarking – ICRC and Sweden**

Which concrete actions have you taken and/or are planning to take in the near future?

Sweden and the ICRC have divided the workload in a way that brings added value to their respective competences: ICRC is exploring possible avenues with humanitarian actors while Sweden is doing the same with donors. Both have prepared a baseline questionnaire on the situation of earmarking, sent out to donors on December 9th.

The questionnaire for Humanitarian Actors (Multilaterals, INGOs, National and Local NGOs) will look at three aspects of earmarking:
1) The situation right now – does the Humanitarian Actor receive earmarked funding; what type of earmarking is most prevailing; has there been an increase/decrease of earmarking in the last 5 years?
2) Agencies' behavior – what they can do to encourage donors to earmark less; explain situations where they have not been able to do an activity because of earmarked funds
3) What the conditions are for smaller NGOs – How much do humanitarian actors earmark when they, in turn, fund other actors?

The ICRC will work with the Federation and ICVA to forward the questions to national societies and NGOs.

As a donor, Sweden will take a different approach and look at what are the impediments to increased flexibility among donors. The questionnaire will look at what types of policies and actions would help to reduce earmarking/increase flexibility by focusing on a) reporting, b) transparency and allocation models for flexible financing, and c) visibility requirements that would allow donors to be flexible. They would also like to open a discussion on how to reduce earmarking for direct contributions by sharing the SIDA model with donors, asking for feedback, and getting other donors to share good funding models. Since the questionnaire will be in-depth and qualitative, it is not yet clear how the data will be summarized.

The ICRC and Sweden plan to hold discussions with key donors in January, collect the questionnaires by the end of January, analyze the data within the next month, hold combined workshops between donors and agencies around April, and present their conclusions to the Facilitation Group before the ECOSOC in June. On reaching the 30% target of non/softly-earmarked contributions by 2020, both actors prefer to start by policy discussions and wait on the results of the baseline questionnaire, which will inform future actions. For now moving things forward is in itself an objective.

Have you taken, or are planning to take in the near future, any joint action with other work streams?

The ICRC is working closely with the Federation and its national societies on the Localisation of Aid work stream. Sweden believes there should also be increased flexibility in terms of reporting. Ongoing actions also tie into the cash and localization work streams.
ICRC is working with the Federation and UNHCR on transparency. The three organizations coordinate and share information on their respective efforts to follow-up on their commitment to the transparency work stream. Sweden and the ICRC have expressed the need to better link the transparency and reporting work stream, as these go hand in hand. Furthermore, Sweden mentioned that donors feel more comfortable and open to flexible funding if there are better needs assessments, therefore should work closely with this work stream too.