**5) Needs assessments – OCHA and European Commission (ECHO)**

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

As work stream co-conveners, OCHA and ECHO have engaged in bilateral discussions with key stakeholders in the area of needs assessment, including non-operational, specialist actors. OCHA has launched a flexible partnership for joint assessments to reinforce the collaboration on needs assessment, namely to support country operations in producing timely situation analysis after sudden onset disasters and trend analysis in protracted crisis. In its coordination role for the Humanitarian Project Cycle, OCHA disseminated Grand Bargain commitments and best practice to the HCT and HC with the view of strengthening the HNO for 2017.

Through the Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) 2017 funding programme, published in November 2016, ECHO will support initiatives strengthening the capacity of the humanitarian community to conduct needs assessments in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.

ECHO has already reached out to specialist actors like ACAPS, REACH, and JIPS in order to come to a shared understanding of the gaps concerning needs assessments, and to identify steps forward ahead of a

ECHO and OCHA will organize a technical workshop early 2017 to collectively identify the current challenges and possible ways forward with each relevant actor contributing to the collective endeavor with its specific expertise, role and capacity. The workshop will also be used to prepare a baseline study in early 2017 to assess to which degree the needs assessments of the past years meet the criteria of the GB commitments on needs assessments and to define how to measure progress against the work stream commitments.

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

At this stage, no concrete joint action has been taken, but there are a number of strong links which should be established.

The Grand Bargain work stream on needs assessment explicitly states the need for transparency in terms of methodology and results of needs assessment. The co-conveners of the work stream will thus reach out to the transparency work stream.

From a donors perspective, the work on needs assessment is closely linked to the work stream on reporting requirements, especially if this work stream covers formats for proposal drafting as well.