

## IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Meeting

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**Date:** 18 October 2017  
**Chair:** Melissa Pitotti (ICVA)

### Agenda

1. Update on the revision of the localization marker definitions paper
2. Briefing by UNICEF on multi-year planning/funding workshop and by World Vision on the paper on multi-year funding
3. Briefing on the Synthesis Report on Corruption by Transparency International
4. Planning of 2018 HFTT retreat
5. AOB

### Logistics

**In Geneva:** Room D-610, D building, 6th floor, Palais des Nations  
**In New York:** 13th floor conference room, DC2-1370, 2 UN Plaza, 44th Street  
**Via Webex:** Meeting number 318 324 353; password 12345

# Notes

## 1. Update on the revision of the localization marker definitions paper

**Co-chair (ICVA):** We organized a meeting between the GB localization workstream co-conveners and HFTT sub-group on the localization marker leads to ensure that there is clarity on the process. It was agreed that the following steps will be undertaken:

1. Co-conveners of the GB localization workstream (IFRC and Switzerland) are currently updating the definitions based on inputs from the HFTT sub-group on the localization marker.
2. The definitions will then be re-circulated to GB signatories for review under silence procedure.
3. Once agreed, the HFTT sub-group on the localization marker will start collecting evidence through the data collection exercise.

**CAFOD:** The proposed data collection exercise was circulated to the HFTT. This exercise will be discussed during the meeting of the HFTT sub-group on the localization marker on Tuesday, 24 October.

**OCHA/FCS:** There will be two opportunities for UN agencies to raise concerns on the definitions paper. First, when the definitions will go to GB signatories for review under silence procedure (UN agencies can then provide comments to the GB facilitation group). And second, when the definitions will be recirculated to HFTT afterwards. However, in the second opportunity, the definitions will not be opened for comments anymore. Members will only have a chance to comment on technical explanations.

**IFRC:** The baseline survey will have to be revised to reflect definitions agreed upon between HFTT and GB signatories.

## 2. Briefing by UNICEF on multi-year planning/funding workshop and by World Vision on the paper on multi-year funding

**UNICEF:** Canada and UNICEF, as co-conveners of the Grand Bargain work stream on Multi-Year Humanitarian Planning and Funding, supported by OCHA and NRC, organized a global workshop on 12-13 September hosted by the Canadian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. The commitment made by the signatories of the GB was to increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding instruments.

The objective of the workshop was to consolidate the learning and studies made on multi-year planning and funding, as well as to bring to light several country experiences including the good practices and benchmarks.

The workshop was broadly attended (over 40 participants) including representatives of institutional donors, NGOs, UN Agencies, ICRC/IFRC and Humanitarian Country Teams from the West Bank and Gaza, the DRC, Chad, Uganda and Sudan. Many participants also “wore two hats” bringing with them insights about the work of other Grand Bargain work streams.

Participants recognised that there was a need to scale up multi-year funding. However, recipient organisations will have to present better evidence on the advantages of multi-year funding. We also should develop better ideas on what is expected from humanitarian organisations with regards to multi-year planning. There was a call for better donor coordination, assessments and planning at the country level and it was recognised that monitoring systems were weak.

The participants also agreed on the need for appropriate definitions and clarity on how multi-year planning/funding supports humanitarian-development nexus.

From donor perspective, while most multi-year funding goes to multilateral organisations, there is less evidence on how this translates into multi-year pass through funding to NGOs.

There were two priorities that were identified. First, providing better guidance on multi-year planning/funding, which includes: guidance and scope; integration of specific requirements into needs assessment frameworks; and support to results-based management and monitoring/evaluation. And second, mapping best donor practices in multi-year funding and facilitation of pass-through multi-year funding to IPs.

**OCHA/PAMS:** There was a lot of emphasis in the workshop on linkages between multi-year planning/funding and humanitarian-development nexus. Sometimes the two are used interchangeably but they are not the same things. Better definitions are needed.

There is also a need to better show results of multi-year funding, which will require adapting tools and systems to support multi-year programmes.

From funding perspective, there was a need to have flexible resources. Often multi-year commitments are earmarked, which makes them very limiting.

**World Vision:** We recently completed a study of multi-year funding from implementers perspective. This study consolidates experiences of front line responders on multi-year funding.

The objective of the study was to better understand which of the anticipated benefits of multi-year planning/funding are seen on the ground. The study reviewed multi-year donor pledges; grant documents; and results of front-line staff interviews. It was conducted in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Sudan, Somalia and Jordan.

The key findings of the study are:

- None of the reviewed grants 100% match multi-year donor pledges

- Staff modified/supplemented both development and humanitarian multi-year grants to meet emerging needs
- Civil society coalitions pursuing diversified funding together saw many of the same benefits as those for multi-year funding
- There was no difference in monitoring and reporting requirements between multi-year grants and single year grants

Key Recommendations of the study are:

- More tools for flexibility, liquidity and predictability are needed
- Layered, sequenced collaborative financing needs to empower communities and needs to be responsive
- Leverage the benefits of multi-year funding on staff and asset retention
- Use multi-year funding to reduce reporting burden
- The best available tools, as locally determined, should be combined to facilitate flexible, predictable funding:
  - Development fund modification (add crisis modifiers/flexibility to amendments)
  - Humanitarian fund modification (multi-year, flexible)
  - Creation of 'transition' funds

The full report from the study is going to be published in January ahead of the GHD workshop.

### 3. Briefing on the Synthesis Report on Corruption by Transparency International

**Transparency International:** This report presents synthesis findings from four case studies developed under the Collective Resolution to Enhance Accountability and Transparency in Emergencies (CREATE) initiative, led by Transparency International (TI). The objective of the studies was to produce an evidence base concerning the risks on aid integrity, in particular corruption risks, as well as prevention and mitigation measures, in relation to the implementation of humanitarian assistance in four complex operational settings: Afghanistan, the response to Ebola in Guinea, southern Somalia, and operations to assist Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

The research consisted of over 500 key-informant interviews and community consultations. These included consultations with a large number and diverse range of international and local aid organisations, donor governments, government actors and private sector representatives, as well as outside experts working on corruption issues. The focus of the research was on the supply chain and service delivery within a few key sectors, including food, shelter, health and protection, as well as cash as a delivery mechanism.

This report found that corruption risks exist across the programme cycle of humanitarian aid with slightly different emphasis depending on the context, nature of the response and the type of actors involved. Where access is constrained due to high levels of insecurity (Afghanistan and southern Somalia) there are a range of specific risks such as in the process of negotiating conditions for access, identifying local partners, and the selection and targeting of aid recipients. Other more

common risks shared between all contexts include the area of procurement, especially in the awarding and pricing of contracts, and in human resources, particularly nepotism and cronyism in recruitment and staff management and retention. In the areas of monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning, and consistent across all contexts, there were challenges in engaging affected population perspectives which impact the type of information an organisation might receive on the quality of programmes and relatedly the risks of corruption, including gate-keeping, favouritism and other forms of abuse.

The study found a variety of good practices to reduce corruption risks, primarily being utilised within an organisation rather than as a collective inter-agency approach. These involve the active implementation of anti-corruption and/or aid integrity policies, including a supportive leadership that encourages a dialogue on corruption experience and risks; corruption risk mapping as part of broader risk assessments, and analyses of operating contexts including the political economy of aid (still rarely undertaken); supporting integrity initiatives with partner organisations; staff training initiatives; communication and transparency of assistance efforts to local populations and the use of accountability officers. In the area of programme support it includes separating responsibilities (e.g., for human resources, finance, logistics, procurement decisions), using committees and thresholds for procurement, and open, competitive tendering. In the area of human resources, it includes utilising integrity criteria for recruitment purposes, conducting thorough and verified reference checks, and employing staff from diverse backgrounds.

#### 4. Planning of 2018 HFTT retreat

**Co-chair (ICVA):** The time has come for planning of 2018 retreat. The main focus of the retreat will be the development of 2018 – 2019 HFTT work plan. Traditionally, HFTT retreat takes place in January of each year in Geneva. However, the IASC secretariat informed us that the current work plan can be extended until the first quarter of 2018. That means that the retreat could also be delayed until March. Do any of the HFTT members have views or suggestions?

**HFTT secretariat:** While the work of the HFTT is highly appreciated by all members of the IASC review panel and sponsors, the SB review is not yet completed and there is no confirmation yet on the mandate of the group having been extended beyond 2017 (March 2018). We should receive confirmation on the HFTT 2018 mandate before we plan the retreat.

**Co-chair (ICVA):** We should carefully consider the calendar of events for the first quarter of 2018 to find optimal dates for the retreat. Members are also encouraged to consider hosting the retreat. We will send a separate message on it to the group.

## 5. AOB

**FCS:** There are two upcoming events related to country-based pooled funds: NGO Dialogue Platform will take place in Aman on 19 November and Pooled Fund Working Group will take place on 14 December. More information on these events will be available shortly.

## Participants

Location	Name	Agency
New York	David Coffey	UN Women
	Mirna Loiferman	OCHA/CERF
	Sanjana Quazi	UNICEF
	Fernando Hesse	OCHA/FCS
	Mateusz Buczek (HFTT secretariat)	OCHA/CERF
Geneva	Melissa Pitotti (Chair)	ICVA
	Daniela Gilotta	OCHA/FTS
	Agnese Spiazzi	OCHA/PAMS
	Jordan Menkveld	IOM
	Fin ?	IASC secretariat
	Redrigue Vinet	FAO
	Larissa Schuurman	TI
	Marie-Helene Kyprianou	WFP
By Webex	Rachel Criswell	World Vision
	Maryline Py	UNFPA
	Angela Hinrichs	FAO
	Victoria Stodart	IFRC
	Kristen Hagon	IFRC
	Christina ?	IFRC
	Sara Darlymple	DI
	Caroline Nichols	Interaction
	Juilan Srodecki	WV
	Maya Kapsokavadis	Oxfam
	Anne Street	CAFOD