

IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Meeting

Date: 15 November 2017
Chair: Melissa Pitotti (ICVA)

Agenda

1. Inputs to the Principals meeting agenda item on humanitarian financing
2. January retreat planning
3. 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 319 753 468; password 12345

Notes

1. Inputs to the Principals meeting agenda item on humanitarian financing

UNHCR expects that these subjects will be discussed: funding from the US, partnership with the World Bank and CRRF (in connection with localisation and working with partners). Principals will also probably be seeking a more coherent approach to preparing appeals to be used across countries.

NRC: This meeting will be a good opportunity to push forward some messages on multi-year planning and funding. It could also be a good opportunity to discuss innovative financing and shrinking the needs.

UNHCR: while the discussion on innovative financing and private sector would certainly be interesting, it may be difficult to reach concrete outcomes on it, as it is up to each agency to come up with its own private sector strategy.

OCHA/Grand Bargain Adviser: Grand Bargain should be brought to the attention of the Principals. There seems to be a trend of neglecting the Grand Bargaining commitments. It is an opportunity to re-launch some of the efforts to comply with the Grand Bargain. A clear outcome could be that IASC members are re-committing to making the progress towards the achievement of Grand Bargain commitments. In fact, some donors are actually making it more difficult to access funding rather than other way round.

DI: What about the recommendation to shrink the needs? There seems to be very little action taken on it. The Grand Bargain is supposed to find efficiencies but this alone will not fill the funding gap.

OCHA/PAMS: the costing group recommended that both unit costing and project costing will be acceptable in development of appeals. The costing group is now working with global clusters on formalising these approaches.

World Vision: There are questions around the appeal system and how it should be modified to strengthen the role of communities in the appeals. We should also get a greater clarity from the World Bank on their role in funding humanitarian action. We need to have funding tools that can be flexible and focus on quality and utility.

UNICEF: With regards to appeals, we should focus on improvements such as multi-year appeals. There is also a problem of appeals trying to address too many issues. They should be streamlined.

FAO: Doubtful about re-discussing the costing at Principals level. It is not clear on what would be the outcome of this discussion. We are missing the broader message. The suggestions on re-committing to the Grand Bargain are more relevant for the principals.

Oxfam: There should be more dialog with donors. We could bring this up at Principals level.

OCHA/PAMS: we face big challenges with the decision process on defining requirements in appeals. We develop requirements through agreed costing methodology and then, in some cases, HCs

challenge the outcome and want to reduce the requirements for political reasons. The case then comes back to the technical level and it is unclear how to address it. We should be better in setting the boundaries.

OCHA/FTS: There is room for improvement in transparency of funding flows. There is a need for better reporting to FTS and re-thinking current reporting requirements.

OCHA/Grand Bargain Adviser: We need more clarity on funding opportunity offered by the World Bank and how it can bring more funding to humanitarian action. We also need progress on localisation. Building on this, we need all organisations to be supportive of the Grand Bargain.

Action Point:

- HFTT secretariat to draft a note from HFTT to the Principals and share it with HFTT for comments. The note will then be used as an input from HFTT to the Principals meeting.

2. January retreat planning

HFTT secretariat: WFP offered to host the retreat, which will take place on 24 and 25 January in Geneva. The save the date message has been sent to the entire HFTT and logistical details will be provided at a later stage. The agenda will be developed in the coming weeks and sent to the HFTT for comments.

We will launch the reporting process on the progress of HFTT against its 2016-2017 work plan. The last report was done in February 2017 and needs updating. We will also need this report as input to the discussion at the retreat. The request for inputs to this report will be sent shortly.

The co-chairs are planning to invite the Grand Bargain facilitation group and GHD representatives to the retreat. Do HFTT members have other suggestions on guest speakers at the retreat?

ICVA (chair): It would be good to invite HDNTT co-chairs to provide inputs on humanitarian-development nexus and the funding compact. It would also be good to invite OECD's Rachel Scott and someone looking at the private sector.

OCHA/Grand Bargain Adviser: There is very little done on the funding compact. It may be premature to focus on it because there will be little to say.

WFP: Given the prospect of a second report in December, the Secretary-General reform should feature and be briefly presented during the retreat.

FAO: The UNDG is not moving forward at the same speed and little has been done so far on the development side with regards to the humanitarian-development nexus.

HFTT secretariat: Another question on which we need ideas of the group is how to structure the retreat. We could start by reports by activity leads on the progress so far and see which of the current activities should continue. We could then open the floor for discussion on new areas on which HFTT should focus.

Other approach would be to start with the discussion on new areas HFTT should focus. Once an open discussion is completed, move on to reviewing the progress made so far. This approach could possibly foster a more open discussion on new priorities.

NRC: Since HFTT is recognised for producing solid results, NRC suggests focussing on reviewing the progress so far and discussing the activities that should continue. Once done, have a discussion on possible additional priorities for 2018/2019.

FAO: Apart from looking at funding levels and funding gap, what is being done to assert the results of underfunding. It would be important to explore what does it mean when there is an appeal that is 50% funded? Does it mean that 50% of targeted people did not receive humanitarian assistance? Are any studies being done on this?

NRC: It will also be important to clarify the role of the World Bank in financing humanitarian action. Will the World Bank be part of the retreat? And where do we stand with exploring options of funding from World Bank to humanitarian action?

UN Women: What is the feedback from the IASC secretariat on the work of HFTT?

ICVA (chair): The feedback is very positive. HFTT is well recognised for its achievements and is one of the best functioning groups. Many other task teams expressed interest in connecting to HFTT. IASC secretariat also recognised that HFTT should strengthen its linkage to Principals and to other IASC groups.

HFTT secretariat: We will develop a draft agenda for the retreat based on this discussion and will circulate it for comments of the group.

Action Point:

- HFTT secretariat do draft retreat agenda and circulate with the group for comments
- HFTT secretariat to launch HFTT reporting process

3. AOB

OCHA/Grand Bargain Adviser: The Joint Grand Bargain Facilitation Group meeting took place on 24 October in Berlin. It convened at working-level both outgoing and new facilitators (outgoing: ECHO, IFRC, OCHA, SCHR, Switzerland, UN Women and WFP; and new: Great Britain, ICRC, InterAction, OCHA, UNHCR and Germany).

The meeting's main aim was to clarify the role of the Facilitation Group in steering the Grand Bargain process in its second year. Drawing on the conclusions of the Annual Meeting in June as well as the High-Level Roundtable Meeting in September, the Joint Facilitation Group Meeting focused on the following four cross-cutting challenges: improving Grand Bargain cooperation and communication; driving progress in Grand Bargain work streams and strengthening the quid pro quo; achieving greater field impact; and pushing for more synergies with external processes.

UNHCR: The co-convenors meeting will take place on 23 January in Geneva, just before the HFTT retreat.

ICVA (chair): The definitions related to the localisation marker have been sent out for comments under the silence procedure to the Grand Bargain signatories and HFTT members. This is the last opportunity for HFTT members to raise any concerns on the definitions. If silence is not broken, the HFTT sub-group on localization will incorporate these definitions in the LMWG paper. Once this has happened, the HFTT sub-group on localization will circulate the paper one last time for HFTT feedback on the content, excluding the definitions.

The next meeting of HFTT falls on Wednesday, 20 December, however since many HFTT members will already be out for Christmas, this meeting will be cancelled. HFTT will therefore next reconvene during the retreat in January.

Participants

Location	Name	Agency
New York	Mirna Loiferman	OCHA/CERF
	Maryline Py	UNFPA
	Johannes Fromholt	UNDP
	Antoine Gerard	OCHA/Grand Bargain Adviser
	Davide Coffey	UN Women
	Mateusz Buczek (HFTT secretariat)	OCHA/CERF
Geneva	Melissa Pitotti (Chair)	ICVA
	Laura Calvio	OCHA/FTS
	Finn Stallbaum	IASC
	Daniela Gilotta	OCHA/FTS
	Joy?	Oxfam
	Marie-Helene Kyprianou	WFP
	Ysabel Fougery	OCHA/PAMS
	Redrigue Vinet	FAO
By Webex	Hiroko Araki	UNHCR
	Julie Ann Thompson	OCHA/RMSS
	Sanjana Quazi	UNICEF
	Louise?	WHO
	Jeremy Rempel	ICVA
	Cecilia Roselli	NRC
	Sara Darlymple	DI
	Angela Hinrichs	FAO