

# Notes of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Meeting

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**Date:** 16 May 2018  
**Chair:** Antoine Gerard (OCHA)

## Agenda

1. Closing the funding gap: Briefing by Andrej Kirn, World Economic Forum
2. Efficiency and effectiveness: Briefing by Stephen Van Houten on Partner Capacity Assessments study
3. Humanitarian development nexus: Update by FAO on output 4 of the HFTT work plan
4. Discussion on the finalization of 2018 – 2019 work plan
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 319 753 468; password 12345

# Notes

## 1. Closing the funding gap: Briefing by Andrej Kirn, World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum (WEF) started exploring economic opportunities within the humanitarian space as a measure to bridge the funding gap. It is framed as Humanitarian Investing because it looks beyond humanitarian development nexus, seeks to strengthen the narrative on long-term investible opportunities, and does not take away from the urgency of finding new approaches to humanitarian financing.

WEF seeks to explore what space needs to be created for the new players to get involved. There is a growing interest among investors and public private partnerships but the sustained interaction between the key players do not take place yet.

The time is right for moving the narrative beyond traditional public-private collaboration, changing the mindset from collaboration towards co-design and co-ownership and building on the momentum created by WHS and Grand Bargain for business mobilization around SDGs.

Several initiatives have recently taken place, such as the workshop on Innovative Finance in London, which was key because the outcomes led to creating a community of practice including private and public sectors.

WEF works on mapping and supporting the ongoing initiatives aiming at opening channels for private capital to flow into humanitarian space. It is important to look at it from the investors' side of the project. Another workshop is planned for July to activate the community of practice. It will allow investors to take part in the design of the project.

The humanitarian investing is not only limited to sudden onset emergencies but also considers protracted and conflict-related crises. In such situations the populations are vulnerable and the rule of law is often shaky. Questions emerge on what kind of return on investment can be expected. There are also reputational risks related to investments in such environments. These questions will be further explored during the workshop in July.

### Action points:

- HFTT to engage with WEF on the preparations for July workshop
- HFTT to include WEF in HFTT's innovations lab

## 2. Efficiency and effectiveness: Briefing by Stephen Van Houten on Partner Capacity Assessments study

The HFTT requested the review of approaches to Partner Capacity Assessments (PCAs) as part of activity 1.2 of HFTT's 2016 – 2017 work plan. The study was carried out by Stephen Van Houten, who presented it to the HFTT during the meeting. The key findings of the study were:

- There have been significant developments in the PCA landscape since the last study.
- There is strong evidence of how organisations are using the principles of harmonisation, simplification, and proportionality to address PCAs.
- There has been a noticeable improvement in the commitment to, and application of, these principles.
- There has been progress on the issues of many organisations using one assessment; sharing results; and setting a validity period for PCA results.
- The development of one, standardised PCA tool is somewhat more difficult but the consensus is that stakeholders should continue working towards this goal.
- There is a need for the development of underlying PCA principles.
- Confusion has been created by using various names to describe PCAs, and there is a need for one commonly used name.
- There is a need for the creation of regional forums where stakeholders can discuss the various aspects relating to PCAs.
- PCA partnerships have an important role in the future of strengthening the quality of PCAs.
- The conceptual work, that is, choosing what to call the partner assessment and more importantly the development of common PCA principles should be done at the global (political) level.
- The specific operational issues, including the communication, coordination, and collaboration should happen at the regional/country level.
- The communication of best practices should happen at both the global and regional/country level.
- Evidence, through external evaluations, is required to show the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of PCAs
- This review proposed the principles of subsidiarity, intersubjectivity, and transformative partnerships to guide the discussions on the underlying principles and improvement of PCAs.

The HFTT members were interested in examples of good PCAs that would be relevant to NGO consortia and in key obstacles that currently limit the progress on PCAs.

The consultant explained that the key obstacles include attitude towards PCAs among many NGOs, which still reflects the perspective from several years ago. Kenya and Afghanistan were quoted as two good examples of PCAs.

The HFTT agreed that the time is right to move forward with many recommendations of the study and the work on it should continue under 2018 – 2019 work plan.

**Action points:**

- Activity leads for activity 2.1 of the 2018 – 2019 HFTT work plan (OCHA/FCS and NRC) to work on operationalizing the recommendations of the study.

**3. Humanitarian development nexus: Update by FAO and discussion on HFTT work plan output 4**

In the absence of activity leads for output 4 of the HFTT work plan, The HFTT co-chair (OCHA) presented the revised activities under this output, which were shared earlier by FAO. Following the

comments from many HFTT members, the activities were simplified to encourage engagement by NGOs. The revised activities have been shared with all HFTT members by email.

**Action points:**

- HFTT members to provide comments on the revised activities under output 4 before the upcoming finalization of the 2018 – 2019 HFTT work plan

#### **4. Discussion on the finalization of 2018 – 2019 work plan**

HFTT co-chair (OCHA) informed the group that following this meeting there will be the last round of comments on the HFTT work plan before it will be shared externally. The HFTT will then shift the focus from developing the work plan to implementing it. The group discussed activity 1.1 – study on the consequences of underfunding and activity 3.1.1 - design concrete tools and methodologies for the harmonization of cost classification and financial reporting.

**Action points:**

- HFTT co-chair (OCHA) to follow up with Development Initiatives on the inclusion of gender aspect in the study on the consequences of underfunding as requested by UN Women and UNFPA.
- HFTT co-chair (OCHA) to follow up on finding a UN agency to co-lead activity 3.1.1. with NRC.

#### **5. AOB**

- The second annual GB meeting will take place on 18 June and the draft agenda has been circulated
- The programme and slots of ECOSOC humanitarian segment side-events should be clarified, so interested organizations could plan their participation.

## Participants

Location	Name	Agency
New York	Antoine Gerard (HFTT co-chair)	OCHA/OAD
	Mirna Loiferman	OCHA/CERF
	Sanjana Quazi	UNICEF
	Philippe Decker	OCHA/CBPFS
	Juan Chaves	OCHA/HFRMD
	Davide Coffey	UN Women
	Mira Ihalainen	UNFPA
	Fernando Hesse	OCHA/CBPFS
	Mateusz Buczek (HFTT secretariat)	OCHA/CERF
Geneva	Cecilia Roselli	NRC
	Ysabel Fougery	OCHA/APMB
	Marie-Helene Kyprianou	WFP
	Fatma Al Ibrahim	IASC secretariat
	Andrej Kirn	WEF
	Yasin Samatar	OCHA/FTS
	Jordan Menkveld	IOM
By Webex	Katherine Brown	WEF
	Angela Hinrichs	FAO
	Anne Street	CAFOD
	Anita Kattakuzhy	Oxfam
	Luca Peciarolo	NRC
	Sara ?	Oxfam
	Stephen Van Houten	PCA consultant
	Paulette Jones	GB secretariat
Pascoal Bento	WHO	