

IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Meeting

Date: 17 October 2018
Chair: Antoine Gerard (OCHA)

Agenda

1. Updates by activity leads on the progress on 2018-2019 HFTT activities
2. Briefing by IASC secretariat on the IASC work plan and changes in the IASC structures
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 648 104 349 Password 123456

Notes

1. Updates by activity leads on the progress on 2018-2019 HFTT activities

Activity 1.1 - Develop resource mobilisation and outreach strategy to influence decision-makers to sufficiently resource humanitarian action and close the funding gap

OCHA/PRMB informed that there were no further updates on the development of the Resource Mobilisation and Outreach Strategy but would aim to provide an update on discussions and progress at the 21 November IASC HFTT meeting.

Activity 1.2 - Launch learning lab for peer-to-peer information exchange on benefits and risks of innovative financing

ICVA informed that they have been focusing on deepening and widening the resource space through the launch of the innovation learning lab for peer-to-peer information exchange on benefits and risks of innovative financing. Related hereto, ICVA, with the support of Mercy Malaysia, is organising a learning lab on innovative humanitarian financing, aimed at identifying/agreeing on collective approaches to deepen and broaden the humanitarian resource base. The first module will be on Islamic social financing and will take place on 28-29 November 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. ICVA further noted that preparations for the workshop are well underway and in their final stages. In response to a question from WHO regarding participation and expected outcomes, ICVA noted that currently, registration includes a mix of UN, NGO, World Bank, and ICRC/IFRC participants at working as well as high level with the aim to develop a 'community of practice'. UNICEF offered their support and noted their interest to link the work done within UNICEF with the Innovation Lab. Finally, the HFTT co-chair noted the importance of making sure that the outcome of the learning lab can be reinvested in the IASC.

Action points:

- ICVA to send updated agenda to the HFTT (done)
- ICVA to send calendar with different labs, including information on dates, venues and participants for the IASC HFTT secretariat to share with the members (pending – will be shared as soon as it becomes available)
- ICVA to share list of participants for the 28-29 November learning lab (pending)

Activity 2.1 - Conduct a follow up study on pooled funds exploring issues of earmarking, localization, access and capacity

NRC informed that the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the follow-up study on pooled funds is currently being discussed with OCHA colleagues to ensure there is no duplication with the planned global evaluation of Country Based Pooled Funds. NRC and OCHA's Country-Based Pooled Funds Section (CBPFS) aim to have the final ToR by the end of October and will proceed to launch the study soon thereafter, in line with the timeframe included in the HFTT workplan. The study will look into the synergies between Grand Bargain commitments and CBPFs operations, as well as challenges and

opportunities highlighted by NGOs. More details will become available pending the finalisation of the ToR.

Activity 2.2 - Develop the business case for multi-year funding (outlining added value of and/or arguments for multi-year funding) and develop definitions informing tracking of multi-year funding.

NRC informed of the renewed interest in the second part of the study on multi-year financing (MYF), in particular from stakeholders in Lebanon and Canada. The initiative aims at collecting evidence of best practices and benefits of MYF and builds upon the initial data already collected by NRC to highlight specificities in one or more country operations (starting with Lebanon). The initiative takes into consideration the work and interest of other NGOs and donors on the topic, notably the recent analysis on self-reports released by IRC.

Activity 2.3 - Map donor visibility/recognition needs in connection to un-earmarked funding (including best practices and case studies from HFTT member organizations)

UNICEF provided an update on the UNICEF Recovery Policy as different recovery rates are applied to public and private donors, regarding fully unearmarked funds (Regular Resources/RR), and unearmarked Thematic Humanitarian funds and non-Thematic Funds. A reduced recovery rate is applied to thematic unearmarked funds, compared to other contributions. UNICEF also stressed that the discussion should involve the allocation of unearmarked funds, not only the reporting.

UNICEF has continued to improve reporting on unearmarked and softly earmarked (thematic) funding, in line with feedback from partners and these reports are available online. In 2018, UNICEF produced a high-quality report on the use of Regular Resources (RR) in 2017 (https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_102905.html), as well as a quality Annual Results Report on Humanitarian Action (2017), which highlights results achieved with thematic funds. (https://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/Annual_Results_Report_2017_Humanitarian_Acti_on.pdf). The reports contain improved financial analysis, highlighting revenue trends, including for thematic funds. The 2017 UNICEF Compendium on Resource Partner Contributions (https://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/UNICEF_Compndium_2017_WEB_FINAL.pdf) also contains information on contributions from public and private sector resource partners to UNICEF, including RR and thematic funds.

UNICEF further informed about continued progress on their work on partner visibility. UNICEF has developed and is now implementing new procedures to improve recognition of resource partners, particularly those who contribute to RR and thematic funding pools. UNICEF continued to recognize key resource partners in institutional reports produced in 2018. Throughout 2017, more than 40 new visibility initiatives were undertaken for top public-sector resource partners for flexible funding contributions, including regular results briefs that partners can share with their constituents; social media announcements; press releases; and presentations for parliamentarians. In addition, UNICEF informed that the agency has also been transparent about allocation of flexible resources. In line with the UNICEF Executive Board decision 2013/20 to approve the Integrated Budget 2014-17, UNICEF reviewed its resource allocation system, including the RR formula, and presented this to the Executive Board at the first regular session in 2017. The MOPAN Assessment of UNICEF (2015-2016) highlighted

that UNICEF has a clear and explicit decision-making structure for the allocation of resources, including of RR to country programmes.

Also related to activity 2.3, within the context of the Grand Bargain Workstream 8, ICRC noted that they have received feedback from donors that in order to increase their flexible contributions, donors need (i) better narrative on prevention (ii) increased transparency regarding allocation of funds and (iii) more visibility for their unearmarked contributions. Donors had interestingly mentioned that in terms of visibility, it is currently better to give earmarked contributions to countries on a yearly basis, instead of flexible and/or predictable funding. An example hereof is the visibility attached to pledging conferences. ICRC further informed that during the recently clustered Workstream 7 and 8, ICRC will carry out, as one of the first activities of their joint workplan, an assessment of needs of donors in terms of feedback from actors (reporting, but also visibility issues). ICRC remains available to report back to the HFTT once there is feedback on the assessment, expectedly in Q1 of 2019.

Activity 2.4 - Develop a short guidance note for IASC members on ways to support country-level financing solutions for local actors, based on existing learning and research (for advocacy by HFTT and for local/national organizations' use)

Oxfam reported that little progress had been made to date on this activity. Nevertheless, Oxfam informed that Ms. Coree Steadman (IFRC) has shared the ToR for the IFRC-led research, which will be carried out as part of the Grand Bargain Workstream 2 activities. This activity has caused some delays on the progress with the HFTT working group on activity 2.4 in view of the obvious overlaps. Oxfam noted that currently, the ToR is looking specifically at the three demonstrator countries, which have been nominated in Workstream 2, namely Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Iraq. Oxfam is checking with IFRC to see if this can be expanded to provide an overall analysis based on existing learning.

Activity 3.1 - Continue support for the UN harmonization process, including survey work on Partnership Agreement, and a follow-up joint workshop with UN and NGOs

ICVA informed that they continue to support the UN harmonization process, including survey work on Partnership Agreement, and a follow-up joint workshop with UN and NGOs. Although results in this area are from earlier in the year, they have not yet been shared fully with the HFTT. A final version of the partner survey, focused on assessing perceptions of UN agency Partnership Agreements (PAs), was distributed during the months of May and June 2018. The survey was sent to a sample of approximately 300 NGOs partners of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and OCHA, with 76 responses received (response rate of approximately 25%). ICVA informed of the following highlights from the survey results, including:

(i) NGOs reported that cost classifications, reporting requirements, and conditions for release of funding were the areas with greatest difference in partnership agreements among UN agencies; (ii) clear agreement that the type of information requested to complete agreements for all agencies is accessible; however, there was also universal agreement that the staff time required to complete the agreements was too burdensome; (iii) the time required for UN agencies to approve agreements was also identified as an area of weakness.

ICVA commits to sharing the detailed results in written form with the IASC HFTT shortly. The survey results will be used in October to discuss the way forward on partnership agreement harmonization

with UN agencies. There is also an interest in addressing harmonized approaches to PSEA, among other topics. ICVA further informed that they are working to repeat a consultation between NGOs and OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, and WFP on harmonization in either November or December (TBD). Related to activity 3.1, NRC added that with regards to harmonization of procedures, NRC continues its work to harmonize cost classification and financial reporting. The project is ongoing in collaboration with Humentum.

Finally, ICVA informed that on 12 November, UNHCR will host a roll-out of the new UN Partner Portal in Geneva (invitation has been shared with the HFTT). The Portal will provide NGO partners with a common point for registration and responding to calls for expressions of interest for UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, and WFP.

In response to the update, UNHCR noted that there were currently no further details to be provided on the event but that further information could be provided if needed. NRC expressed their support to ICVA but noted the challenges related to not having a UN agency lead or co-lead activity 3.1 and pointed to the importance of the legitimacy of some of the initiatives. The HFTT co-chair remarked that the co-chairs will reach out to the UN agencies to ask for potential interest in supporting this activity. Related hereto, WFP noted that its view was that efforts should be done within the partnership portal which will be launched on November 12th as it allows for streamlining procedure between UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF and NGOs.

Activity 3.2 - Map existing studies and initiatives on risk management

On activity 3.2, ICVA noted that while initially scheduled for completion earlier in the year, finalization of this piece of work has been delayed. Initial work to map existing risk management initiatives as they link to humanitarian financing has been completed over the past several months, and ICVA is currently working to put this into written form for sharing. Further updates will be provided at the November HFTT meeting. The HFTT co-chair suggested ICVA to liaise with Interaction to ensure discussion on the outcome of the studies and a conversation on risk-sharing. NRC noted their work on how counter terrorism legislation affects humanitarian space is closely related to how risk affects our sector and provides a perspective on a specific aspect of risk tolerance/sharing/management among constituencies. NRC will continue to explore this aspect in the coming year with more in-depth analysis.

On activity 3.3, ICVA added that the activity will be planned for 2019 pending completion of 3.2.

Activities 4.1 - Understand financial gaps and highlight opportunities and 4.2 - Contribute to a common understanding among humanitarian and development actors to widen the financing base

UNDP informed that the research currently being undertaken will contribute to making aid more effective and improve collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in fragile contexts and protracted crises. The aim of the study is to document how much predictable, multi-year, flexible financing is actually made available at country level and how it matches collective outcomes. It will provide RC/HCs and the country teams in the selected countries with the knowledge of the wider availability of international and domestic resourcing that could help in implementing programmes that reduce needs, risk and vulnerability.

FAO, NRC, UNDP, OCHA, WB, OECD, ICVA, MPTFO are conducting this initiative in the framework of the IASC HFTT. The study will be conducted by two independent consultants from September 2018 - April 2019 in five different countries as case studies and is commissioned by UNDP, FAO and NRC. The Central African Republic has been selected as the first, but the field visit has been shifted to ensure availability and support from the HC. Once the country selection is completed, the HFTT co-chairs would need to send out the agreed upon letter to RC/HC in the selected countries.

Activity 5.1 - Develop guidelines on IATI and FTS reporting (including downstream reporting) to fulfil IASC transparency requirements and expectations

Under this activity, FTS informed that they are collaborating with Development Initiatives, IATI, and Centre for Humanitarian data on a pilot to enable the use of the data published in IATI format to fulfil FTS reporting obligations. The aim is to (i) reduce the manual reporting burden from partners; (ii) ensure a more regular/granular reporting from partners, avoiding reporting gaps and to enable better decision making across the humanitarian community; and (iii) efficiency saving for the FTS team, who can better focus on data and triangulation rather than collection and manual uploading.

FTS noted that the pilot includes the US, DFID, The Netherlands, IRC and CBPFs and will run until the end of the year. The experience of the pilot participants will inform the guidelines that could be used by other partners who would like to explore the use of IATI format to report to FTS. The pilot has now entered in the core phase of technical analysis of data through a consultant who has been working with FTS to better understand the reporting requirements and with the pilot participants to understand their internal system, their data collection and how to refine their IATI publication to meet FTS reporting standards.

FTS has developed an ingestion module to absorb data from IATI publishers. The data will not be automatically published on FTS, but it needs to be curated as any data coming to FTS to avoid double counting and to correctly link contribution flows to produce an aggregated picture of where the money is coming from and where it is going. The ingestion module will be tested with the data from participants. The first draft of the guidelines is expected to be ready by January at the end of the current pilot.

Activity 5.2 - Following the endorsement by IASC HFTT of the “localisation definitions”, members will study lessons learned from OCHA’s pilot project of classifying organisations recorded in FTS. Specifically, HFTT will consider the appropriateness and feasibility of developing a system-wide process of classifying organisations. If deemed appropriate, HFTT will develop recommendations on the next steps in consultation with the Grand Bargain localization workstream.

Related to this activity, FTS has now begun to analyse the categorization of registered organizations through FTS, CERF and the country-based pooled funds. An enormous task lies ahead which includes - in addition to cleaning up the data - (i) a review of all organizations appealing in plans in 2016, 2017, 2018, and/or all organizations that have received funding in 2016, 2017, 2018; (ii) a review of all organizational attributes (i.e. website, description, location, etc) to allow for clean-up/updates to the organization data at the same time as categorization. FTS remarked that this exercise will, no doubt, allow OCHA to ensure the categorization of organizations that are currently uncategorized as well as a review/update of organizations that are already categorized.

After this initial review is complete, which will expectedly take several weeks given its enormity, it should ultimately lead to the development of a consolidated OCHA-wide list of organizational types and the corresponding methodology to classify such organizations based on the agreed HFTT definitions. The second phase will include the following activities: (i) the development of a joint FTS/CBPF/CERF methodology to classify organizations; (ii) the development and implementation of a technical solution for maintaining an OCHA-wide list of organizations; (iii) agreement on a joint classification process within OCHA (including both HQ and Field); and iv) the drafting of a lesson learned paper from the classification exercise which will be provided to HFTT.

Also related to activity 5.1 and 5.2, Development Initiative (DI) noted that the FTS-IATI interoperability pilot is a key element of the Grand Bargain Transparency workstream. All of the Grand Bargain workstreams are in the process of selecting one core commitment on which to focus. The Transparency workstream, to date, has primarily focused on promoting the publication of humanitarian data using the IATI standard. However, the core commitment for the workstream going forward will now be to focus on data use, DI added. As such the FTS-IATI interoperability pilot will be a crucial part of promoting and enabling the use of humanitarian data.

UN Women raised the question of how to set the criteria for identifying women's organisations or organisations focussing on women and girls and what provisions have been put in place to track this in FTS.

2. Briefing by IASC secretariat on the IASC work plan and restructuring in the IASC structures

The IASC secretariat informed that in May 2018, the IASC Principals had endorsed five Strategic Priorities for the IASC for 2018-2020: Operational Response, Accountability and Inclusion, Collective Advocacy, Humanitarian-Development Collaboration, and Humanitarian Financing. During the past 12 weeks, the IASC secretariat has led an intensive broad consultative process to build these Strategic Priorities into a detailed workplan with clear outcomes and actions.

The IASC Principals also endorsed a review of IASC structures to ensure that it is better fit for purpose and delivers more directly towards the IASC's Strategic Priorities. The objective of the review was to produce a streamlined architecture incorporating greater simplicity, focus, inclusivity, flexibility, and accountability in structures that are action oriented and engage more systematically both with one another and the broader humanitarian ecosystem, with the ultimate goal of strengthening collective humanitarian action. Discussions are ongoing; however, the new structures are expected to be functional by January 2019.

The mandate of the current IASC Subsidiary Bodies concludes by the end of December 2018. In support of the newly endorsed IASC Strategic Priorities, the existing Task Teams (TT) and Reference Groups (RG) are recommended to be rationalized as the new, streamlined structure comes into effect. The establishment of five new Results Groups, to be directly aligned with the five Strategic Priorities agreed by the Principals, is recommended. The work of the existing Task Teams and Reference Groups would be integrated into the newly established Results Groups, except for groups that continue to

exist as IASC-associated entities. The Results Groups will be responsible for developing more granular workplans with more detailed actions, owners, and timelines to deliver upon the vision of, and Strategic Priorities set by the Principals. The IASC secretariat informed that further information on the IASC restructuring will be shared with IASC colleagues as soon as the new structures are endorsed.

3. AOB

No points were raised under this agenda point.

Participants

Location	Name	Agency
New York	Antoine Gerard (HFTT co-chair)	OCHA/OAD
	Kristine Hansen (HFTT secretariat support)	OCHA/CERF
	Mirna Loiferman	OCHA/CERF
	Philippe Decker	OCHA/CBPFS
	David Coffey	UN Women
Geneva	Meghan Sullivan	WFP
	Yasin Samatar	OCHA/FTS
	Tanja Schuemer-Cross	IASC secretariat
By Webex/ Phone	Marilena Viviani	UNICEF
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	Sara Baschetti	UNHCR
	Angus Urquhart	DI
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	Luca Peciarolo	NRC
	Romano Lasker	UNDP
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