

## IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Meeting

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**Date:** 19 December 2018  
**Chair:** Antoine Gerard (OCHA)

### Agenda

1. Briefing on the financing session of the OCHA Global Policy Forum
2. Briefing on the Islamic Social Financing workshop in Kuala Lumpur
3. Discussion on the 2018 HFTT progress report
4. World Economic Forum Humanitarian Investing Initiative
5. AOBs

### 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

**Phone:** Meeting number 1-917-367-5313; password 0230

# Notes

## 1. Briefing on the financing session of the OCHA Global Policy Forum

**OCHA/PAIS:** OCHA held the annual Global Humanitarian Policy Forum on 12 December 2018 in New York, which comprised UN agencies, NGOs, think tanks, universities, the private sector and Member States. The theme of the 2018 forum was “Solutions for Humanity: Creating opportunities for those furthest behind”.

One of the most important points of interest raised at the forum for the HFTT was that a lack of resources was not presented as a top obstacle to deliver on the 2030 agenda. In fact, a lack of adequate leadership was considered the top obstacle.

One of the working sessions of the forum focused on financing to leave no one behind and explored new financing tools. However, it was agreed that solutions are not a matter of more funding alone.

In the contexts such as the Yemen crisis, more funding may alleviate some suffering but will not resolve the situation. The ambition should be to go beyond the humanitarian assistance and to address the root causes of humanitarian needs.

**UNDP:** looking at it more from development perspective, the humanitarian system is internally well coordinated and functions well. But it will only lead to progress if it works well with the bigger system. For instance, we should not only focus on delivering aid but also explore linking it with such mechanisms like debt relief or trade solutions. The issue of security is the biggest threat to aid budget and working on security and stabilization is therefore key to long-term progress.

**UNICEF:** Did the discussion in the policy forum on the wider architecture of the humanitarian system link to the Grand Bargain (GB)?

**OCHA/PAIS:** The GB was mentioned very little in the discussion because the workshop was framed around financing in crises not just humanitarian financing. It more focused on linking the humanitarian system with other mechanisms rather than improving it.

**ICVA:** In connection to the second agenda point on the learning lab, it would be useful to have more discussions on the connection between the forum and innovative financing.

**OCHA/PAIS:** We will share IRC paper on IDA 18 funding, which provides valuable inputs to the discussion and will look forward to exploring the subject more in 2019.

### Action Point:

- HFTT secretariat to share the IRC paper on IDA 18 with HFTT and include it in HFTT agenda for discussion in 2019

## 2. Briefing on the Islamic Social Financing Learning Lab in Kuala Lumpur

**ICVA:** On 28 and 29 November, ICVA, with support from Mercy Malaysia and an expert Steering Committee organised a learning lab on Islamic Social Financing in Kuala Lumpur. We had almost 40 participants from within and outside of the humanitarian sector, including Islamic scholars and other experts. The first day focused on lessons learned from different organisations on working with Islamic Social Financing.

The second day included group work focusing on finding solutions to some of the key barriers to bringing more Islamic Social Financing to humanitarian action. Many experts and scholars from Islamic banks, zakat boards and academic institutions were present, and valuable inputs from different organisations about their experience were received and discussed.

ICVA gathered a lot of commitment from all participants to increase the effort to bridge Islamic Social Financing with humanitarian action. Potential points for collective action have been identified for follow-up. ICVA informed that a summary note of the workshop will soon be shared and that a working group on Islamic Social Financing will be put together. Moreover, a collaborative briefing paper will be completed before the HFTT retreat in March and ICVA will hopefully be able to present the outcomes of the entire work to the principals in May.

**UN Women:** To what degree there was a discussion on ethical considerations related to the Islamic Social Financing? Especially in terms of funding towards women and girls and equality.

**ICVA:** The question was discussed from the perspective of allocating the Islamic Social Financing based on demonstrated needs as opposed to more conservative or traditional ways on how this funding should be used. There was a lengthy discussion on the topic and the group concluded that it was generally possible to use Islamic Social Financing in alignment both with humanitarian principles and Shariah principles, but this will be a central part of future discussion and there was agreement the we need to further engage Islamic scholars.

### **Action Points:**

- ICVA to share detailed notes from the Learning Lab with the HFTT in January.
- Collaborative briefing paper on the use of the Islamic Social Financing to be developed by the HFTT retreat in March.

## 3. Discussion on the 2018 HFTT progress report

**HFTT secretariat:** The HFTT was tasked to submit the 2018 end-of-year report to the IASC secretariat before Christmas. The HFTT secretariat used the updates on the status of HFTT activities delivered by activity leads in October to consolidate the first draft of the report in the format required by the IASC secretariat.

The first draft of the report was shared with HFTT for review and additional inputs on 13 December. Subsequently, the draft was updated with inputs submitted to the HFTT secretariat and a second draft was shared with HFTT for final review on 18 December. HFTT members were reminded to submit final

inputs/comments on the report by Friday, 21 December. After this date, the report will be finalised and submitted to the IASC secretariat.

**IOM:** The report should include information on the future of this task team as the results group. We should point out the activities that should be carried over to the new group.

**IASC secretariat:** We have not finalized the new structure of the IASC yet. We will work closely with the HFTT on the continuation of the Task Team's activities; however, we will mostly focus on shaping the new group based on the directives from the principals.

**Action Points:**

- HFTT members to provide comments/inputs to the end-of-year report by Friday, 21 December
- HFTT secretariat to finalise the report and submit it to the IASC secretariat before Christmas

#### 4. World Economic Forum Humanitarian Investing Initiative

The Humanitarian Investing Initiative will be launched at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in January by the President of the WEF, Mr. Borge Brende, the Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, and President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Peter Maurer with a possible public launch to follow in view of Davos having too restricted access. UN agencies have been invited together with donors (USAID, ECHO, others) as well as business/investors (Ikea Foundation, MasterCard, and others).

WEF was in touch with OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, WB, ICRC, as well as other agencies for a preliminary meeting at the WEF HQs in Geneva in November with ECHO, ODI and MasterCard. At the November WEF meeting, the ICRC presented their objectives for Innovative Financing, such as the Humanitarian Impact Bonds.

WEF would like to define the "new rules of engagement" for this new innovative financing initiative as an opportunity for businesses to get better connected to the humanitarian architecture. The WEF indicated that this is about business investments in the humanitarian architecture and they would like to have an entry point to this "new market". It was further noted that ODI is very much involved at senior management level.

The new initiative will have a timeframe of one year for the group to deliver on the mission, and now is an opportunity for humanitarian agencies to shape it. Linked hereto, a member of the HFTT noted that the work of the initiative can be linked to the work of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team.

Points made by agencies at the meeting with WEF and discussed at the IASC HFTT: There were concerns by agencies that we do not look like "making profit on the miseries of the world" if we speak of investments, but that it would be good to explore new opportunities. However, the crucial point is whether we lack money or rather a good financing mechanism? The financing mechanism should not be driving the humanitarian response, but rather the other way around.

Therefore, since this interesting initiative is still being shaped, the IASC HFTT have an opportunity to provide feedback. Members of the HFTT also discussed that the group should be able to have a

comprehensive picture of initiatives related to Innovative Financing for humanitarian action, for example the Learning Lab in Malaysia and the WEF discussion, for our workplan in 2019.

**NRC:** Asked whether NGOs are currently engaged and noted the importance of ensuring that the voices of NGOs are indeed heard and that they can contribute to discussions.

## 5. AOBs

### IASC secretariat restructuring and future of the HFTT

**UNFPA:** It would be useful to have an update on the future of the group from the IASC secretariat. Many of us invested a lot of work into ongoing HFTT activities and we need appropriate transition from one work plan to another.

**ICVA:** We should ensure continuity of ongoing work and we should have a smooth transition from the HFTT to the results group on financing.

**OCHA (HFTT co-chair, Antoine)** will step down from co-chairing the group after the retreat in March.

**IASC secretariat:** As soon as the structure of the results group on financing is agreed upon, there will be a call for new co-chairs. The results groups will be formed as new groups, not as continuation of former task teams. Their work plans will be directly linked to the work plan of the IASC. The call for nominations of co-chairs will go out at the level of principals and you should be working with them on potential nominations.

**NRC:** It would be a big waste of efforts and resources to simply drop the HFTT work plan and ongoing initiatives as well as the efforts put into the HFTT by members. Moving forward, as soon as we get more clarity from the IASC secretariat on the new groups, we could organise an exceptional meeting of the HFTT focusing on a transition to the new group.

## Participants

Location	Name	Agency
New York	Antoine Gerard (HFTT co-chair)	OCHA/OAD
	Maryline Py	UNFPA
	David Coffey	UN Women
	Kristine Hansen	OCHA/CERF
	Mateusz Buczek (HFTT secretariat)	OCHA/CERF
Geneva	Meghan Sullivan	WFP
	Yasin Samatar	OCHA/FTS
	Ysabel Fougery	OCHA/APMB
By phone	Tanja Schuemer-Cross	IASC secretariat
	Fernando Hesse	OCHA/FCS
	Marilena Viviani	UNICEF
	Jeremy Rempel	ICVA
	Victoria Stodart	IFRC
	Coree Steadman	IFRC
	Sarah Dalrymple	DI
	Cecilia Roselli	NRC
	Jordan Menkveld	IOM
	Angela Staiger	IOM
	Romano Lasker	UNDP
Rodolpho Valente	OCHA/PAIS	