

IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Meeting

Date: 16 January 2019

Co-Chairs: Antoine Gerard (OCHA) and Jeremy Rempel (ICVA)

Agenda

1. Update on transition of the HFTT to the New Results Group in line with the IASC Restructuring, including discussions around key priorities and expected timelines for deliverables and results of the HFTT workplan
2. Discussion on the HFTT and Grand Bargain linkages in view of the transition to the new Results Group
3. AOBs: Update on the WEF High-Level Group on Humanitarian Investing

Logistics

In Geneva: Room D-610, D building, 6th floor, Palais des Nations

In New York: UN Secretariat, Swing Space A, Meeting Room 3B-760-3

WebEx: Meeting access code: 643061062 and password: 12345

Notes

Opening the meeting, the OCHA co-chair informed members that Jeremy Rempel has taken on the role as the ICVA co-chair of the IASC HFTT instead of Melissa Pitotti.

1. Update on transition of the HFTT to the New Results Group in line with the IASC Restructuring and discussion on the HFTT and Grand Bargain linkages

OCHA/co-chair provided an update, based on available information, pertaining to the transition of the HFTT into the new Results Group on humanitarian financing, including the call for nomination for a new co-leadership. The Work Plan of the Results Group will be in line with/reflect the priorities for humanitarian financing laid out in the IASC Work Plan, pending approval by the Principals, as well as the Strategic Priorities of the IASC secretariat. In view of the transition, the HFTT has been asked to identify priorities of the current Work Plan to be taken forward under the new structures; the HFTT's achievements and deliverables to date; a timeline for deliverables and results of the HFTT; and a proposal on how to facilitate a smooth transition to the new structures of the Results Group once these are approved by Principals and up and running.

As for the focus of the new Results Group, in line with recommendations by Principals, activities need to be more results oriented, field focused/driven, and particularly helping the Principals to make decisions. Another important aspect is the coherence of the group, and the need to do more on advocacy vis-à-vis the Principals. The OCHA co-chair further highlighted the purpose of the meeting to reflect on how members see potential adjustments of activities under the current Work Plan and whether identified Outputs are in place to meet the new priorities. A suggestion was further made to maintain the planning for the annual HFTT retreat on 25 March in Geneva to allow for sufficient time to prepare a smooth transition. The efficiency of linking up with the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD), the Grand Bargain, and private sector initiatives focusing on humanitarian financing should also be considered in preparation from the retreat. Including whether we should invite external partners to brief the HFTT and how far outside of the HFTT we are ready to connect.

ICVA/co-chair remarked that the HFTT has a solid Work Plan but that there is room to further discuss and refine priorities in view of the transition. It is important to advocate for diversity in terms of the leads and co-leads to take forward the Outputs and implementation of related activities. With regard to the new Results Group, making best use of Principals should also be a key concern and priority. The HFTT retreat, currently scheduled for 25 March 2019, is a good event bringing together a range of actors and will provide an opportunity to further discuss the Work Plan and priorities to be taken forward under the new Results Group.

UNICEF queried whether Principals are involved in consultations around the restructuring and transitioning and was keen to learn more about the incentives for change. Is the decision behind the call for new co-chairs made 'just for the sake of change' or what is the rationale/theory of change driving the process? UNICEF further noted the importance to make the link between the priorities of the HFTT and the Grand Bargain workstreams.

CAFOD applauded the HFTT end-of year progress report presenting well the achievements of the HFTT but queried how the HFTT can be more effective under the new structures. Advocacy could be one focus area and having the retreat in March will give appropriate time to prepare for these discussions.

NRC agreed with the suggestion to maintain the retreat to ensure a good transition and influence the new Results Group while also pointing to the importance of the HFTT working better across the different constituencies.

FAO noted that both the new IASC structure and Work Plan are pending approval by the Principals. The Operations Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG), which is part of the new structure, has not yet been established but will be key in ensuring that RGs will focus on a limited number of tasks, which are time-bound and addressing Principals' or field teams' requirements. It will be important for the HFTT to revisit its Work Plan and identify activities that respond to client's needs.

OCHA/co-chair agreed that the linkages between the HFTT priorities/Work Plan and the Grand Bargain workstreams are indeed important and that work of the HFTT should reinforce, rather than duplicate, the Grand Bargain commitments. Some preparatory work within the HFTT on these linkages has to take place from now leading up to the retreat. In terms of the nomination of new co-leadership of the Results Group on humanitarian financing, we need a certain level of continuity as well as substantial understanding of, and experience with humanitarian financing issues. Principals should be linked to the co-chairs and champion the issues and priorities, also reflecting diversity of the HFTT constituencies. Another question that remains unanswered is around the membership of the Results Group.

The Work Plan needs to be tuned towards results and it is therefore important that the leads, together with the co-leads of each Output in the Work Plan discuss and identify their results; timeframe for achieving these results; and the 'client' of planned activities (i.e., the Principals or the field?). Ideally, however, the Principals should already be focusing on activities aimed to serve and support the field.

ICVA/co-chair reiterated the importance to identify support for the Principals and clarify who the clients are, which will be helpful in the process of refining the HFTT Work Plan, keeping it output/outcomes focused. On continuity and planning of priority activities, the ICVA co-chair noted the task ahead to re-validate the current Work Plan and update/revise in line with the new priorities. This endeavour should not imply starting from scratch, also in view of the limited time available, but should rather focus on re-validation, keeping the pieces that work. External voices/partners can be brought in, as appropriate, to ensure linkages to other processes such as the Grand Bargain and the GHD.

The retreat will provide an opportunity to make these adjustments and having the retreat on 25 March will allow for the necessary arrangements and preparation and will be cost-effective as many HFTT members will already be in Geneva for the 26 March ICVA Annual Conference. Going forward, and in the lead up to/during the transition, the HFTT co-chairs will maintain a close dialogue with the IASC secretariat; monitor the co-leadership process; ensure continuity; and advocate for the importance of a new leadership with strong humanitarian financing background.

OCHA/co-chair remarked that under the current IASC structures, the nomination of co-chairs has traditionally been a democratic process, but queried if such similar process could be expected for the leadership nomination for the new Results Groups, or whether it would be more 'top-down'?

UNICEF noted that the HFTT needs to better understand the changes and rationale behind the restructuring as well as Principals' priorities. Further information about the membership of the new OPAG was also requested.

In response to the questions raised by HFTT members, the **IASC secretariat** noted that the new structures are still being discussed and pending approval by the Principals. While OPAG has been created, decisions around the setting up of the new IASC Results Groups are not yet finalized. Thus the need/request from the IASC secretariat to ensure continuation of current Task Teams until agreement and endorsement is reached on the new structures. The expectation is for these structures to be shaped and approved in the coming weeks. In response to UNICEF's question, the rationale behind the restructuring is to be 'fit for purpose' with a focus on key outputs previously identified.

The lead-up to the transition provides an opportunity to identify the workstreams and priorities of the HFTT to be taken forward by the new Results Group, and which workstreams to be discontinued for HFTT members to take forward outside of the Results Group. The new Results Groups will be reporting directly to OPAG which will therefore also endorse the new Work Plan, provide directives, and task the Results Groups. As for the process on the nomination of co-chairs; as soon as the IASC Work Plan and structures are endorsed, the call will go out. The aspect of ensuring diversity across the Results Groups will also be considered. As for the actual nomination process and how the new co-leadership will be identified, the IASC secretariat cannot provide further details at this point but will soon share further information on the process. Overall, there is anticipation that the new Results Groups will be 'tighter' and with a more limited focus. As for the membership of OPAG, it will comprise of IASC members. And while the new structures will indeed be new, there will be similarities to the current IASC Working Groups in terms of membership.

Action points:

- Each activity lead, together with co-leads, under the HFTT Work Plan to look at clients, priorities, timeline, and beneficiaries of deliverables.
- Identify the HFTT priorities and results that contribute towards the IASC Strategic Priorities and Grand Bargain commitments and how these fit into the larger financing framework and contribute to the work of e.g. the GHD and Connecting Business initiative.

2. Update on HFTT activities

UN Women: in terms of results, Output 1 of the HFTT Work Plan aims to promote system-wide approaches to closing the humanitarian funding gap, including for gender and empowerment focused humanitarian action. Linked hereto, UNFPA and UN Women have commissioned a complementary research study on the current funding levels for gender focused programming globally and at the field

level, as well as the impact and consequences of underfunding for humanitarian outcomes. It will look at Humanitarian Response Plans more broadly, as well as funding allocated from Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) and CERF more specifically. The terms of reference (ToR) has been finalised and the advert placed for a suitable consultant to develop a research methodology, including stakeholder consultations, and supporting tools to develop an overall paper - supported by advocacy and briefing materials. Deadline for applications is 6 February 2019.

The study aims, inter alia, to get a grasp of the perceived 'required' level of funding to deliver on global and inter-agency commitments to ensure gender equality, including commitments under the Grand Bargain and the World Humanitarian Summit as well as the IASC 2017 Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. An important bi-product to come out of the study is to develop a practical and more systematic tool to monitor funding levels, in addition to the currently used IASC Gender with Age Marker (GAM) endorsed in 2018. In light of the study, UN Women and UNFPA would like to see that a Steering Committee be established to provide oversight and inputs and are thus looking for 2-3 volunteers to join this Steering Committee.

OCHA/co-chair reminded of the going NRC study/mission in five countries, and the need to make sure that we are not over-burdening the field, and asked NRC if there were any updates on these studies. It was further suggested that NRC and UN Women connect to further discuss the respective studies.

NRC provided a brief update on the planned field missions to Ukraine and Cameroon, respectively, and noted that one mission to Chad had already been conducted. Once all the missions have taken place and the ensuing studies/reports are finalised, NRC will compile notes and findings and get an overview of key findings and recommendations to use for advocacy purposes.

Oxfam referenced their study commissioned in the latter half of 2018 related to the HFTT Work Plan activity 2.4 to "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", in line with Grand Bargain Workstream 2 on localization. Oxfam will soon provide an update on the progress and noted the expectation to publish the note by the end of march/early April. If finalised by the time of the HFTT retreat, it will provide a good opportunity to share the guidance note with the HFTT.

In response to a comment made by the **OCHA/co-chair** about the importance during this time of transition to look at how much the HFTT priorities should link up with the Grand Bargain workstreams, while not duplicating efforts, and to move further towards implementation, **Oxfam** noted that there were already some ideas on how to take forward the recommendations coming out of the note. Oxfam further noted that they would update on the outcome of the two Grand Bargain demonstration missions to Bangladesh and Iraq at the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) meeting on 30 January.

ICVA/co-chair provided an update on the Learning Lab on Innovative Humanitarian Financing, focusing on Islamic Social Financing, that took place on 28-29 November 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The final draft of the meeting notes is in the process of being finalised and will highlight next steps. If feasible in terms of timing over the next two months, it would be good to finalise the themes in time for the retreat in March to discuss the focus of this workstream over the coming year, including the next Learning Lab.

OCHA/co-chair noted that there will be discussions on Islamic Social Financing and Development in the margins of the WEF as well a UN inter-agency discussion in New York on 30 January 2019 on mobilizing Islamic Finance for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Interest in, and discussions around the topic is now 'snowballing' following the Malaysia Learning Lab and seeing the final report coming out from the event will be useful, as will future Learning Labs as these will start new discussions and initiatives. In view of the 'faith neutral approach', we need to define some guidance to our members when implementing a new framework on how to accept Islamic funds.

WHO mentioned that they see the value of the HFTT in raising awareness around innovative financing like Islamic Social Financing. WHO is revamping its resource mobilization processes and the way funds are raised, including the Health Emergencies Programme, so these initiatives help inform resource mobilization priorities and potential.

Action Points:

- ICVA to share detailed notes from the 28-29 November Learning Lab on Innovative Humanitarian Financing with the HFTT once finalised (attached to email with the final meeting notes).

3. AOBs

World Economic Forum Humanitarian Investing Initiative

The Humanitarian Investing Initiative will be launched at the World Economic Forum (WEF) on 23 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. It will focus on how to better mobilise investments in humanitarian action, thinking out of the box to identify different ways of mobilise funds, and looking into innovative/new types of financing mechanisms such as structures closely linked to impact bonds. The Initiative is indeed still at the launching level so detailed information cannot be shared at this point but there is an expectation that the representatives present at the meeting will be engaged over the course of the year of the initiative.

In response to a suggestion from **UNICEF** for the HFTT to have some coordinated messages related to the WEF Humanitarian Investing Initiative, OCHA/co-chair suggested that the ERC's article (already shared with the HFTT) for the WEF called '3 ways to fix the way we fund humanitarian relief could provide suitable inspiration for talking points and preparation for Principals attending the meeting. The HFTT can further look at/discuss the Initiative at the retreat and potentially invite Andrew Andrea for an update and discussion around how it relates to the (new) Work Plan.

Anne Street, CAFOD noted that the meeting would be her last within the HFTT, passing on the responsibility to a new colleague, who might attend the retreat in March.

In closing, **the two co-chairs** highlighted the importance of continuity of the work and focus of the HFTT in view of the new Results Group on humanitarian financing and noted the work ahead to start planning the HFTT retreat, which will require a concerted effort.

Participants

Location	Name	Agency
New York	Antoine Gerard (HFTT co-chair)	OCHA/OAD
	David Coffey	UN Women
	Kristine Hansen (HFTT secretariat)	OCHA/CERF
	Mirna Loiferman	OCHA/CERF
	Fernando Hesse	OCHA/CBPFS
Geneva	Rodrique Vinet	FAO
	Yasin Samatar	OCHA/FTS
	Ysabel Fougery	OCHA/APMB
	Alon Plato	ICVA
	Mirlinda Pasoma	IASC secretariat
By WebEx/ Phone	Jeremy Rempel (HFTT co-chair)	ICVA
	Tanja Schuemer-Cross	IASC secretariat
	Jordan Menkveld	IOM
	Angela Staiger	IOM
	Marilena Viviani	UNICEF
	Mari Denby	UNICEF
	Jordan Ramacciato	WHO
	Anita Kattakuzhy	Oxfam
	Sarah Badju	Oxfam
	Hiroko Araki	UNHCR
	Sarah Dalrymple	SD Consultancy
	Cecilia Roselli	NRC
	Luca Peciarolo	NRC
	Julie Ann Thompson	OCHA/PRMB
	Anne Street	CAFOD
Marie-Helene Kyprianou	WFP	