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## IASC Results Group 5 – Humanitarian Financing

23 July 2019

### Summary Record

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#### Follow-up on Action Points and Adoption of Minutes

The Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing met on 23 July in Geneva to discuss follow-up actions of the *Financing the Nexus* study and finalize the workplan. Below is a brief record of the meeting:

#### NEXT STEPS TO THE FINANCING THE NEXUS STUDY

[The Financing the Nexus: Gaps and Opportunities from a Field Perspective](#) was launched in July 2019, led by FAO, NRC and UNDP. While the RG will have a further discussion presented by the study conveners, this was an opportunity to highlight the importance of the study findings in shaping work going forward.

One member highlighted that the notion of collective outcomes is still too focused on humanitarian issues and still not convincing enough to donors. That said, the approval of the [OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus](#) will provide leverage to convince donors to provide fund towards collective outcomes, with the potential for a huge impact on working across the nexus. By working closely together, RG5 and RG4 can ensure that the financing angle is given sufficient attention.

Members agreed to arrange a full presentation on this study during their meetings in August or September.

Following up on this study and agreement on the need for close collaboration with the Results Group 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration, the group agreed with a suggestion to form a joint sub-working group between the two. It also calls for close collaboration with related workstreams being taken forward outside of the IASC. Members agreed to ensure complementarities with ongoing initiatives and avoid duplication. In terms of collaboration with the Grand Bargain, particularly with the Workstreams 7+8, co-Chairs highlighted the GB workshop on quality funding on 19 September.

It was also noted that Development Initiatives (DI) is already planning follow-up actions: DI is currently conducting studies with SIDA and DfID looking at donor decision-making around financing collective outcomes. Studies are presently underway; reports are likely to be published in October/November. DI is in discussions with SIDA and DfID about sharing results and a possible roundtable in Q4. Findings of this research might be especially relevant as part of the follow up to Financing the Nexus paper. DI is also currently planning research to look in detail at how specific financing mechanisms are actually operating in practice and the extent to which they are effectively supporting delivery of collective outcomes. The World Bank's Global Concessional Finance Facility (GCFF) one possible option in this regard. Scoping / planning underway now, with research anticipated to begin end 2019 / beginning 2020. A donor briefing is planned for October/November. The Results Group will look at how to support and amplify these efforts.

It was also proposed to identify gaps from the [ODI Grand Bargain annual independent report 2019](#).

Members agreed to identify gaps in the above highlighted reports and address the barriers, rather than complement rather than duplicate ongoing work. This will have an impact on the delivery time frame of RG5 outputs.

#### Action Points:

- Share with RG5 members the independent GB Annual Report, the Financing the Nexus study, and the OECD DAC Recommendations on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. [see hyperlinks above]

- IASC secretariat to reach out to authors of the Financing the Nexus study to facilitate their presentation during the next meeting.

## WORKPLAN

Co-Chairs introduced the slightly revised RG5 workplan, which now hones in on a few key deliverables, calling on members to help identifying clear leads and milestones. They noted that all Results Groups are requested to report on their progress against the OPAG-endorsed priority areas of work by early September (this date is likely to change to early October, prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> OPAG meeting on 7-8 November) [*Note: Upon the approval of the OPAG co-Chairs, the IASC secretariat will circulate the exact reporting date and a revised reporting template in due course*]. The IASC will conduct a review of the effectiveness, relevance and necessity of IASC Subsidiary Bodies by March 2020.

- ***Map and promote financing instruments supporting humanitarian interventions with development co-benefits.***

Through a more detailed presentation on the Nexus study in the upcoming face-to-face meeting, the Results Group will identify and propose joint development and humanitarian financing solutions. Co-Chairs noted the need to identify clear next steps and agreed leads and milestones. This workstream will be taken forward in collaboration with RG4.

- ***Facilitate the development of innovative approaches to humanitarian financing that deepen and widen the resource base.***

The co-Chairs noted a brief discussion with the ERC in which the ERC advised on a range of ongoing workstreams on innovative financing solutions, indicating that RG5 may not need to look specifically at anticipatory action given other channels.

UNDP is looking specifically at crisis financing and will reach out individually or arrange a group briefing for inputs.

UNFPA has completed two consultations and mapping on current use of humanitarian financing that depict great synergies with the Islamic Financing. The Results Group could also look at insurance-based instruments to build them into the guidance for HCTs.

UNICEF proposed to follow up on the learning lab on Islamic social financing conducted last November to ensure the recommendations of the previous learning lab are being actioned and the policy papers are working at field levels, rather than planning another lab. UNICEF will contribute, but not as a lead.

Oxfam has been in discussion with IFRC who is leading on guidance on ways to support country-level financing solutions for local actors through the Grand Bargain Workstream 2 and suggested adding IFRC as lead with Oxfam as support lead. Otherwise, Oxfam suggested changing the wording to say "Support developing guidance for IASC members on ways to support country-level financing solutions for local actors."

### Action Points:

- Revise the workplan, moving the work on anticipatory funding and the learning lab to the area of related workstreams; this makes the workplan lighter and cleaner.
- ***Produce a business case showing the contribution of collaboration multi-year humanitarian planning and unearmarked funding to more cost-effective humanitarian assistance.***

The Results Group needs to define concrete complementarities to add value to the work of the Grand Bargain and other actors. The Grand Bargain Workstreams will run till mid-2021 and they are to develop an annual

workplan in August. The Grand Bargain Eminent Person supports the IASC and has asked for a two-year actionable plan. The Results Group will have a discussion to ensure that the Grand Bargain Workshop in September delivers an IASC perspective – noting that the RG is able to have in depth discussions that can contribute to the broader GB work -- and that members put forward a collective IASC message. Development Initiatives will also deliver against this priority, undertaking multi-year research/country studies in collaboration with NRC. Outcomes of this research to inform synthesis paper to frame discussion in 19<sup>th</sup> September at GB Quality Funding workstream workshop. Development Initiative's global multi-year funding research is ongoing, with final data collection this week and analysis of data underway. Findings ready to share ahead of the September workshop.

UNFPA expressed interest to be part of this discussion along with the co-leads.

#### **Action Points:**

- Schedule a discussion prior to the GB workshop on 19 September to identify collective messages.
- Following the GB workshop identify gaps and clarify RG5 deliverables around this issues.
- ***Facilitate the ongoing process of simplification and harmonization of UN systems to reduce burdens and free additional resources for humanitarian operations.***

Co-Chairs noted that this workstream follows closely upon work delivered in 2018 by the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team and the RG5 should now follow up on those recommendations. The first deliverable around the partnership agreements is progressing with active involvement of NGOs. The co-leads suggest to finalize the guidance on harmonization of data protection clauses by October 2019 to enable influencing the 2020 partnership agreements.

In regard to the second deliverable around harmonizing cost classification and financial reporting, NRC is finalizing a protocol on what it means to have a harmonized classification reporting system, particularly for INGOs. This protocol is expected to be endorsed and launched into pilots in September.

#### **Action Points:**

- UNFPA to share details on their ongoing relevant work.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Regular monthly RG5 meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. Next meeting on 20 August.
- Regular RG Co-Chairs meetings, which offer an opportunity to identify synergies (next Co-Chairs meeting on 11 September).
- Discussion in the run up to the GB September meeting (tbc)
- RG reporting: likely around 11 October (officially September 7)
- Country Based Pooled Funds evaluation will be the subject of the RG5 meeting in October. There will also be a presentation on OCHA/NRC study on Pooled Funds.
- OPAG meeting 7/8 November

#### **AOB**

Co-Chairs reported on the UNHCR annual consultation with NGOs.

#### **Action Points:**

- Members will revert to the IASC secretariat on the membership list in case of any omissions or errors.

- The IASC secretariat will update the IASC webpage, including the Results Group's meeting schedules and materials.