

## **FINAL – Summary Record of IASC Results group 5 on Humanitarian Financing**

18 February 2020

The Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing met on 18 February 2020 in Geneva to discuss the following agenda:

- 1) Review of last meeting minutes
- 2) Involvement of local organizations in RG
- 3) Workplan update from all subgroups/leads
- 4) RG5 events
- 5) AOB

### **1) Review of last meeting minutes**

- High level events: EU announced a Syria conference to be held in Brussels in the first half of 2020. No date has been set yet for the planned high-level event on Yemen nor the development-focused event on Sudan
- The meeting minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **2) Involvement of local organizations in RG**

The RG5 co-chairs provided a brief overview of the discussions in RG5 and OPAG on efforts to better include local actors. There should be a direct participation in the RG and proposals on who should join are welcome. OPAG currently includes three national actors which might be suitable candidates, however, some additional NNGO or consortia representation might be a good match to join RG5.

Furthermore, when defining concrete deliverables that include country-specific activities in RG5, planning for engagement with national partners should be included from the start of the work. CAFOD commented that engagement with local actors to go beyond inclusion in data collection, and they should participate and in planning, field visits, workshops, etc. conducted within their context.

The group discussed building on the work underway by UNICEF and the Grand Bargain (GB) WS7+8 on cascading funding to local actors. Feedback from RG5 members included that local actors are engaged more in areas where they have expertise on humanitarian finance, such as local leadership, blockchain technology or other topics that are relevant to the wider system, noting the need to align with the agreed workplan. RG5 could also link with the GB workstream on localization. UNICEF highlighted the importance of fully flexible quality funding, which currently only makes up 1% of their funding and that this was part of the issue regarding the cascading to local actors. It was agreed that before the next call we should identify at least one national partner to be invited. ICRC and the Dutch Government are going to convene an event on Risk Sharing in April. Although the timeline is short, interested agencies can approach CAFOD directly regarding common messages for this event.

Action points:

- ➔ Identify at least one local actor to join RG5 in the next call.
- ➔ The sub-group focused on local engagement to provide an update in the next call.

### 3) Workplan update from all subgroups/leads

- 1.1 Joint humanitarian development programming: Following the circulation of TORs on the follow up work to the Financing the Nexus study, the connection with the HC in Cameroon has been made. NRC updated RG5 that the idea is to bring back findings from the planned field missions to this group and translate those into key messages from the IASC perspective. DI added that the study is around financing the nexus, including on understanding how development actors engage in the different contexts and what restrictions and barriers they face in better engaging humanitarian actors.

The research has started for Cameroon and the field mission will take place during the second week of March. Other countries that are being considered include Bangladesh, Somalia, and either Uganda or DRC. Development donors will be engaged for this study and inputs from peace actors will be sought as well.

CAFOD complemented that the goal of the study is to look at countries with a humanitarian response, looking at the humanitarian needs and mapping the development activities. RG5 members enquired whether the study will also include tools of development donors such as the OECD tracking tool. It was clarified that the study is not tracking the flow of funding from development into humanitarian aid and aims to look beyond the classic nexus discussion to analyze whether humanitarian actors are taking into account existing development activities and include them in their future programming.

It was also mentioned that some organizations are multi-mandated and a key question the study will look at is the collaboration between different parts of individual agencies. Furthermore, the study will look at questions of localization and funding by World Bank and other development donors to government rather than civil society. RG5 members also mentioned the need for trend analysis, information on crisis modifiers and the inclusion of the work conducted within the JSC and RG4. The importance of including local actors was highlighted.

Action point:

- ➔ Include debrief from Cameroon work in the next RG meeting.

- 1.2 Crisis financing roundtable: The RG5 co-chairs met with the GHD co-chairs, who have a focus on innovative financing. The GHD is planning to hold a series of Webinars before the term of the current co-chairs ends in June this year. Some RG5 members signaled interest to help shape a webinar on crisis financing in the last meeting. The importance to develop a concept note was mentioned as well as the timeliness of the engagement with GHD since the co-chairs will change in a few months. UNDP volunteered to develop a concept note by the end of the month, to further the discussion with GHD and also WB.

Action Point:

- ➔ UNDP and ICVA to present concept note by end of Feb.

- 1.3 RG4 light guidance on collective outcomes: The guidance is planned to be endorsed by OPAG but has not been submitted yet.

- 2.1 Mapping of donor funding practices regarding quality financing to strengthen advocacy (linked to Grand Bargain workstream 7&8): The GB co-conveners started with their best practices paper on quality financing, building on the work from WFP and others. A first draft will be shared with RG5 in early May for comments. After the release of the GB paper, RG5 will decide on common messages and dissemination of the paper, noting that the objective is to target advocacy on quality funding in an appropriate way. It was agreed that NRC, WFP and OCHA will liaise to assess whether the envisioned mapping will be reflected in this work or whether additional effort is necessary
- 2.2 Business case /cascading funding: UNICEF updated that the interim findings of their study will be shared with the group. Research is on the way to look at bottlenecks and also how to engage local actors. The RG5 co-chairs complemented that a briefing to the group could be conducted to give feedback and discuss the study in more detail.
- 2.3 Compliance and risk issues and overcoming barriers to quality funding: A joint meeting is planned for later this year with planning led by Save the Children and OECD. The conference by ICRC and the Dutch Government on risk sharing (mentioned above) also could give interesting input to this topic.
- 3.1 Harmonization of UN partnership agreements: A joint UN-NGO meeting took place on simplification and harmonization of UN systems in Geneva on 27-29 January. More than a dozen NGO representatives (including national partners from Asia and Africa) plus UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, OCHA, UNFPA, and UNWomen participated. As a result of the consultation, UNHCR is developing a workplan for implementing changes to partnership agreements in 2020, and the other agencies engaged agreed to continue the dialogue on how to simplify and harmonize. It was clear that there is openness regarding the design of partnership agreements and on how costing is done. Progress was also made regarding privacy and data security questions around these agreements. The importance of continuing that dialogue with the right actors was highlighted and the RG5 co-chairs also recalled that the OPAG co-chairs emphasized the relevance of this work and called on agencies to ensure adequate representation.

#### **4) RG5 events**

- 26 February: Briefing on key questions and considerations for donors at the triple nexus: lessons from UK and Sweden, co-organized by the IASC Results Group 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration and Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing.
- It was suggested that our next meeting is postponed by one week to 24 March due to overlap with other events.

#### **5) AOB**

- SG report on humanitarian coordination: The current draft needs to be shortened, however a line was added on the financing the Nexus study. There might be other inputs RG5 members want to make on financing, the report was circulated to IASC focal points, with inputs due until Monday 24 Feb.
- There are changes in the JSC that are relevant to this group and UNDP will give an update in the next meeting.

- A call took place between the World Economic Forum (WEF) and ICVA. The work of WEF on innovative financing provides an opportunity to engage, especially regarding crisis modifiers and nexus financing, amongst other topics. There is also an opportunity to engage the broader private sector through this.

Action points:

- ➔ Update on JSC (see above)
- ➔ Possibly update on the Cameroon mission