

IASC Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing

Progress Report (November 2019 – April 2020)

2020 Priority Areas of Work – Reprioritized in light of COVID-19

[**Note:** Completed deliverables are highlighted in green. Recognizing that the COVID-19 calls for system-wide reprioritization and resequencing of priorities and has an impact on the ability of the Results Groups to deliver, any changes in light of COVID-19 are noted below in terms of: (a) areas of work that can be delivered as planned, (b) activities that will have to be postponed, and (c) new activities/ deliverables that will need to be taken onboard in support of the COVID-19 response.]

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK	“ORIGINAL” CONCRETE DELIVERABLES	REPRIORITIZATION	STATUS	LEADS	PARTNERS
Map and promote financing instruments supporting humanitarian interventions with development co-benefits [Ensure that this is done in collaboration with Results Group 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration].	1.1 In select countries, identify funding and financing instruments for joint humanitarian development programming and advocate with key donors on strengthening and bringing them up to scale. [This workstream builds upon the ‘Financing the Nexus’ study, Joint Steering Committee (JSC), DCO and OECD country mappings and RG5 outputs on promoting quality funding.] To include specific guidance to ensure global initiatives represent input from the country-level on how to best support context-appropriate programming	<u>POSTPONED & ADAPTED TO COVID-19</u> The timeline for this deliverable has been adjusted from Q2 2020 to Q3 2020. Country case studies continue being taken forward using desk reviews and virtual interviews and now incorporates questions on planning and coordination around COVID-19.	As a follow up to the work of the Financing the Nexus study, country case studies are being conducted. Initial key informant interviews have been completed for Cameroon, with results expected in June. Interviews have been adapted to include questions on planning and coordination around COVID-19 and the HDP nexus to collate emerging findings at country level. Work is now underway to complete initial desk-review work for Bangladesh and Somalia, to be followed by interviews. Initial planning is also underway for DRC in Q3-4. 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. 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. Due to COVID19 restrictions, work will continue using desk reviews and virtual interviews.	NRC FAO UNDP DI	GHD Grand Bargain Workstreams 7&8 on Quality Funding OECD financing the nexus paper and financing strategies
	1.2 Convene a crisis financing round table in collaboration with the GHD and the World Bank (tbc).	<u>POSTPONED & ADAPTED TO COVID-19</u> The timeline for this deliverable has been adjusted from Q1 2020 to Q2	A draft concept note has been developed. RG5 members are discussing the adaptation of the Round Table to the COVID19 response.	World Bank (tbc) UNDP (tbc)	GHD

		2020. This deliverable is being adapted to reflect COVID-19, especially regarding the intersection of various COVID-19 funding mechanisms.			
	1.3 Contribute to the financing element of the RG4-led light guidance on collective outcomes.	NA	[COMPLETED] This work is led by RG4 with contributions from RG5 on the financing side. The input has been provided to RG4 and the light guidance is currently in the process of OPAG endorsement. This deliverable is thus completed for RG5.	Save the Children	
Produce a business case showing the contribution of multi-year humanitarian planning and unearmarked funding to more cost-effective humanitarian assistance . In this regard, strengthen engagement with donor countries , including the OECD, GHD, and GB (Work Streams 7 and 8 on Quality Funding) including on issues of predictable financing.	2.1 Map donor funding practices with respect to multi-year and unearmarked financing in order to shape subsequent donor advocacy.	<u>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED & ADAPTED TO COVID-19</u> The timeline remains as Q2 2020. There is an emerging link between COVID-19 GHRP and HDP Nexus. It is important to identify elements of quality funding that are most relevant to link to the COVID-19 response.	The objective of RG5 for this deliverable is to ensure that existing work to identify best practice is synthesized and shared as practical guidance for the field. The timeline for this deliverable remains Q2 2020. The Grand Bargain 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 May for comments. After the release of the Grand Bargain 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.	OCHA WFP	OECD Grand Bargain Workstreams 7&8 on Quality Funding
	2.2 Provide a concrete business case for efficient and effective quality financing (flexible multi-year and unearmarked funding) and cascading benefits to local actors; advocate with donors.	<u>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED & ADAPTED TO COVID-19</u> The timeline remains as Q2 2020. This deliverable has a strong link to implementation of the COVID-19 GHRP with regard to the need to improve pass-through of funding to local and national	The tentative timeline for this deliverable remains Q2 2020. UNICEF updated that the interim findings of their study will be shared with RG5. Research is on the way to look at bottlenecks and how to engage local actors. Initial engagements completed for Jordan and Lebanon, including work with national partners. Draft finding will be shared with national partners prior to release. Further consultations between UNICEF and RG5 is planned.	UNICEF	

		partners. As activities are completed in support of the deliverable, RG5 will seek opportunities to highlight how quality funding practices are of benefit to local partners, and how cascading of benefits (pass-through) can be more effectively monitored.	Under this deliverable, RG5 has also sought to enhance direct participation of national partners, with the addition of Amel in Lebanon to the RG.		
	2.3 In collaboration with the OECD, convene donor/UN agencies/INGO regulators around compliance and risk issues and with the objective to identify and overcome barriers to quality funding.	<u>POSTPONED</u> The timeline for this deliverable has been adjusted to Q3 2020	A joint meeting is planned for later this year with planning led by Save the Children and OECD. To prepare for the event, the following actions are underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Financial Action Task Force showed interest in participating in the event. - Results Group 3 is joined, particularly with the colleagues who put together the key messages on the impact of counter-terrorism legislation for synergies between their work and some of the barriers to quality funding placed by financial regulators. - In contact with Human Security Collective, co-chairs of the Global Non-profit Organisations Coalition on the FATF who also showed interest in collaborating. - OECD have been in touch with the Grand Bargain secretariat to discuss the possibility of hosting this event in the margins of their annual meeting in June. 	OECD Save the Children	OECD Grand Bargain Workstreams 7&8 on Quality Funding Results Group 3 on Collective Advocacy Financial Action Task Force Human Security Collective
	NA	<u>NEW DELIVERABLE</u> 2.4. Develop collective advocacy messages to donors on how they can better support the pandemic response against COVID-19 and ongoing operations, especially in terms of flexible funding <i>[follow-up on the Principals action point agreed on 23 March ad-hoc]</i>	The key messages have been endorsed by the IASC Principals and a letter to donors (GHD) has been developed and sent. Follow up on letter is being explored. Identification of concrete areas of harmonization are being developed to be finalized in April, and this will then lead to update on key messages (see 3.1 below).	RG5 (led by co-Chairs)	

		<i>meeting on COVID-19 response]</i>			
Facilitate the ongoing process of simplification and harmonization of UN systems to reduce burdens and free additional resources for humanitarian operations.	3.1 Take stock of the progress to date to harmonize partnership arrangements between NGOs and UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA , and recommend next steps for action.	<u>TO BE DELIVERED AS PLANNED & ADAPTED TO COVID-19</u> Initial step to develop common guidance for funding flexibility within existing partnership agreements to ensure field operations are able to effectively respond to COVID-19 .	This deliverable has been updated and is being expedited to timely address the necessary adjustments of existing partnership arrangements in light of COVID19 and promote greater harmonization across agencies. Initial discussions started and an ad-hoc meeting of the sub-group took place on 7 April. In April, RG5 members collectively generated a table detailing current funding flexibility practices of members in budgeting, no-cost extensions, reprogramming, and due diligence/risk management processes. Donor practices are also mapped against IASC members. In coordination with the release of the updated GHRP, RG5 plans to release common guidance identifying where IASC members can commit to a harmonized approach to funding flexibility.	ICVA UNICEF (in collaboration with UNFPA)	Grand Bargain GHD
	3.2 Advocate with UN agencies to adopt cost classification protocol and establish a pilot project with donors and implementing organisations to test the protocols.	<u>POSTPONED</u>	In February, NRC agreed to conduct a desk-based pilot of the “Money Where it Counts” with UNHCR in two countries. The purpose of the exercise (that does not require any changes to current agreements) is to analyse the feasibility of larger scale piloting and create evidence to support broader adoption. Additional planned exchanges on the Money Where it Counts protocol with the Netherlands and ECHO had to be called off due to travel restrictions and subsequent shift in priorities. While NRC supports the short-term flexibility measures currently being introduced in response to the COVID-19 crisis, initiatives like the Money Where it Counts have the potential to change such flexibility for good, better preparing us (and our funding) for complex crisis like the current one.	NRC	Grand Bargain GHD
