

IASC Task Force 2 on Accountability to Affected People

06 June 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Agenda:

- Welcoming notes
- Donor engagement on AAP - Prioritization
- Framing of an exceptional TF2 meeting on links across Collective AAP, Localization, and the Humanitarian - Development Nexus
- Update on country led supported workshops/initiatives on Collective AAP (WS.1.2.1): South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Türkiye
- AOBs
- Conclusion

Participation: 35 presences, 30 absences.

Discussion:

1. Welcoming notes

TF2 Co-Chair, Jesse Wood, welcomed all the attendees and presented the agenda.

2. Donor engagement on AAP

TF2 Co-Chair, Tanya Wood, summarised recent donor engagement activities associated with [TF2 Workplan](#) deliverable 3.1.1, highlighting:

- The Report "[Supporting donors' responsibility for greater accountability to people in crisis](#)" was launched during HNPW in April.
- Exercise to develop a workplan for the donor engagement workstream will take place in this meeting.
- TF2 is organising an event at [ECOSOC HAS](#) on Wednesday, June 21st 13:15-14:45 (Geneva time), TF2 members are invited to participate and attend. A [concept note](#) will be circulated for the members to add comments and inputs as we target panellists and donors' participation (circulated on June 7).
- New Grand Bargain proposal launched, with changes to the format of the Grand Bargain. A new ambassador will be announced with renewed focus on ways to increase participation, representing opportunities to continue the good collaboration. Also, attention is being drawn to this topic with the Roundtable on 'Putting People First' facilitated by Jan Egeland, the Grand Bargain Eminent Person and Martin Griffiths, the ERC of the IASC. As donors are members of the Grand Bargain, it is important to have them participate in these discussions.

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There will be challenges with funding in the coming years and there are concerns that AAP and participation will be a 'nice to have' therefore it is important to keep advocating for donors to maintain this as a commitment.

Following the highlights Ms. Wood facilitated an exercise with the TF members using [Jamboard](#), to develop a workplan for the donor engagement workstream, by prioritising the recommendations articulated in the report. She called on the group to submit ideas and comments (see Annex A). This feedback will be reviewed to determine which elements the TF should take a deeper priority to develop. Taskforce members made the following points.

Individual Agency

Priorities:

- Work towards AAP being on the Director level [Global Humanitarian Donorship](#) (GHD) meeting in December.

Additional Ideas:

- Request reporting against GB Participation that can allow a more streamlined tracking of funding.
- Align with the new GB Ambassador for Participation Revolution to see where we can join forces.
- Push for CHS referenced in donor guidance.
- Engage with donors on value of CHS with a focus on supporting local actors.
- Ask donors to look seriously at making CHS verification mandatory - some will resist, but I think it's important and an enabler for those at country level.
- Separating reporting against GB participation from localization is emphasis seems to mainly be on funding to local orgs.
- Request reporting against GB Participation that can allow a more streamlined tracking of funding.
- Generate more evidence of how other donors supporting AAP and the good results if any.
- Take each recommendation and write it from the starting point of a national government and/or CSO and see how the emphasis would change and the ask to donors.
- Point 5 + draft up a menu of requirements that donors must adhere to in order to support orgs to implement AAP (i.e. - more flexible, unearmarked funding so orgs can adapt)
- Agencies make scoring against participation related CHS indicators a priority KPI overseen by the Board; & donors make this priority in decisions on core/strategic funding.
- Keeping an eye on moving from commitments and activity to measuring impact
- Use GHD to push for that standardized Menu.
- simplify the ever-growing process and compliance landscape to make space for actual engagement with affected people.

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Strategic Collective AAP

Priorities:

- On point 8 - clarify if and how donors are willing to fund collective AAP
- On point 9 - Fill the gap in evidence on flexible funding. With a focus on its effectiveness and the processes. In recent discussions, this is something donors mentioned they want to see.
- On point 10 - Use the evidence. These are equally important - much evidence exists on other topics but isn't being used. Need to be proactive and strategic for impact with new evidence.
- On point 11 - Establish a complementary gap filling methodology re. "Deeper understanding of capacity + inclusion gaps" - TF5 already implementing workstream on this.

Additional ideas:

- Build more evidence on linkages and good practice on individual and collective AAP as a collective, guidance documents still keep us stuck in processes just share good principles to share.
- Many INGOs have unrestricted funds and not all are 'intermediaries' - are those INGOs doing things differently in terms of AAP - are they flexible - good to know?
- Recognize complementarity needed between donor and operational agency actions to make flexibility work for system responsiveness.
- Not sure we need a guidance note as such - but we do need to do better at "joining the dots" on collective AAP.
- Our findings in the Workstream noted that donor flexibility is generally there, at least in theory, so effort is needed to communicate that and give confidence to frontline colleagues.
- Be good to discuss the idea of donor flexibility for funding with them - it's always cited but different evidence / anecdotal evidence.

Operational level collective AAP

Priorities:

Nothing to report.

Additional ideas:

- Engaging networks or NGOs connected into global advocacy on localization at this time is challenging as we are all focused on the GB Annual Review. More outreach after that.
- Arrange as an IASC TF for a process of outreach at country level link to NRGs.
- Synthesize learning from different NGO led models of consortia to deliver on 15; identifying models that centre local NGO leadership or co-leadership and 'local only' funding.

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3. Framing of an exceptional TF2 meeting on links across Collective AAP, Localization, and the Humanitarian - Development Nexus

TF Co-Chair, Frank Mohrhauer, presented on the possibilities and opportunity to collaborate with other IASC taskforces in particular those working on [Nexus \(TF4\)](#) and [Localisation \(TF5\)](#):

The plan is to invite other TF co-chairs to a meeting to discuss possible cooperation, and Mr. Mohrhauer invited the TF2 members to respond to two questions:

1. **How can local actors be better supported / enabled to participate in decision making and engaging with donors?**
2. **Is our system ready to take on their priorities and concerns? We know that most of the feedback and concerns from communities are about prioritizing sustainable and durable solutions.**

The discussion focused first on localisation, local and national actors, and how we better connect and understand the broader issues beyond the humanitarian system.

Howard Mollett shared the summary of key issues and recommendations from Charter4Change HNPW session about question one - how local actors can be better supported to engage in decision-making and with donors (the pdf file can be accessed [here](#)).

The highlight of that session was that there are some good practices coming from some contexts such as Ukraine and Uganda. Having annual events to gather local actors with donors and encourage actors who already get funding, as well as those who haven't got the chance yet, in order to be as much inclusive as possible.

UN Women noted that the IASC gender group is identifying local actors and women-led organizations to help them participate in and engage in donors' discussions. They noted that they started with mapping exercises conducted by the gender humanitarian action working groups. Where these working groups exist, it is observed that gender participation and influence is greater.

Discussion addressed how to better involve local actors from the outset, so that guidance and documents fit their needs and capacities, and better integrate AAP activities for local actors and ensure that they are prioritized. Important to understand how AAP is considered in the development sector.

It was noted that some HCTs are developing localization strategy/frameworks which should be helpful in identifying contextual understanding and in developing commitments to be the basis of work on localization, these frameworks/strategies may include commitments on equitable partnerships. It was noted that it would be beneficial to involve the IASC/cluster NGOs/UN and donors in this conversation.

The Co-Chairs will take the good suggestions on board as they discuss with the Co-chairs of the other Task Force to develop an exceptional meeting to consider the common areas of collaboration.

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4. Update on country led supported workshops/initiatives on Collective AAP (WS.1.2.1): South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Türkiye

Ms. Rachel Maher of OCHA/IASC secretariat gave an update on the recent operational support and workshops on AAP.

Afghanistan: A workshop was held in February in partnership with UNFPA and ACBAR who are the co-leads for the AAP WG. The workshop addressed the minimum standards to deliver on accountable programming and how to reach women, especially after the Taliban decree prohibiting Afghan women from working in international organisations. In May, the HCT-endorsed guidance and a [Collective AAP strategy](#) that was a result of the workshop and was subsequently developed with wide consultation with the clusters and other coordination groups. The guidance is being translated into Pashto and Farsi. The workshop also resulted in an [information sharing protocol](#) that specifically addressed data responsibility and security risks to frontline workers and affected people. This was developed in partnership with the Center for Humanitarian Data and the Afghanistan Information Management Working Group. The interagency group in Afghanistan, including the AAP working group and cluster representatives, agreed to collectivize cross-cutting approaches to ensure quality and accountable programming. The [minimum standards](#) were heavily informed by the outcomes of the AAP and Data Responsibility Workshop conducted in February and were complemented by the gender-responsive minimum actions from the Gender risk mitigation workshop held in March. These standards are already being used to support clusters and partners to improve programme quality and accountability and are being translated into Dari and Pashto. For additional information on AAP in Afghanistan please visit the [Community Voices Platform](#).

Türkiye: In May, the IASC provided the earthquake response team in Türkiye with dedicated support upon request of the HC. OCHA had deployed a Humanitarian Accountability Officer for three months who was assigned to coordinate a more deliberate cross-cutting approach on gender/AAP/and PSEA. We undertook consultations to identify challenges, including gaps in outreach and response, and look into the capacity needed to engage with communities in meaningful and effective ways. A key element was to understand how to complement the capacity of the Turkish authorities and national government. As a result of the mission, an [8-point action plan](#) was developed and endorsed by the HCT mid-May. It was noted that CDAC and GTS are planning to work over the coming months on broader AAP projects supported by H2H.

South Sudan: The IASC supported the operation in facilitating two workshops with the ICCG and HCT, in early May. This was part of dedicated efforts to support leadership in country and these workshops were planned as a direct response to the invitation of the RC/HC. Of interest to the TF members, was a request from the humanitarian donors' group and an action point that was identified by the ICCG in South Sudan for a baseline on AAP and in a broader sense the accountability of the humanitarian response. HCT agreed on a number of concrete action points for a more participatory approach, greater community engagement and their own mutual accountability and collective advocacy.

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5. Conclusion

TF2 Co-Chair, Mr. Jesse Wood, concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and participating, and praising the great results of the exercise to define next steps for the donor engagement workstream, as well as on the discussion about links across Collective AAP, Localization, and the Humanitarian - Development Nexus. TF2 Co-Chairs will digest all the inputs and plan meetings with TF4 and TF5 to jointly advance these agendas.

Mr. Wood also reiterated the TF2 participation at the "Putting people at the centre" roundtable on June 7, as well as at the ECOSOC HAS on June 21.

Annex A – Jamborad Exercise

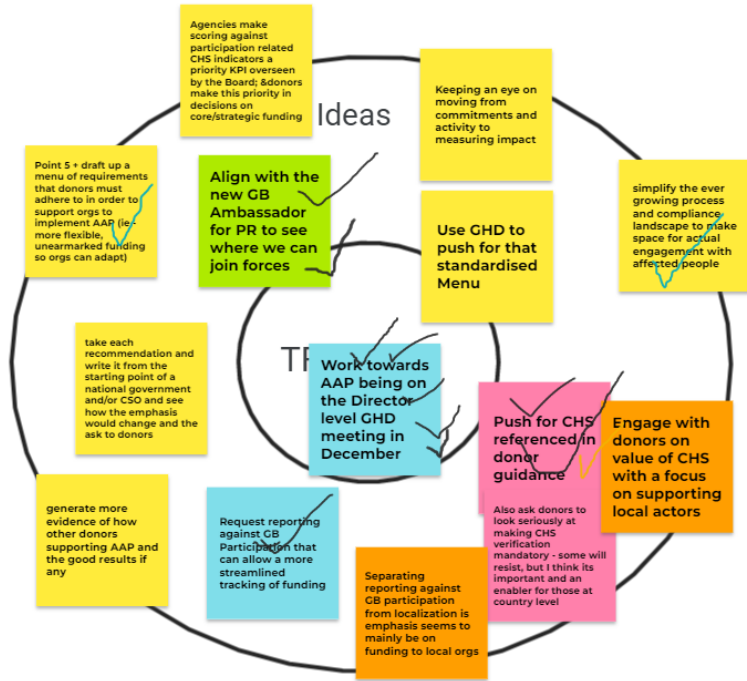
Individual Agency

DONOR COMMITMENTS – Failure by some donors to meet signed-on AAP commitments - AAP lacks prominence and incentives are insufficient

1. Update references to AAP in GHD Principles for consistency with CHS, GB Participation Revolution and IASC Collective Accountability Framework.
2. Ensure AAP has greater prominence in the GHD Principles in line with the Commitments made by GB donor signatories
3. Request reporting against GB Participation Revolution commitments are separated from localisation to identify specific progress that has been made.

DONOR REQUIREMENTS - Donor AAP requirements for their funded partners lack consistency and coherence.

4. Adoption of CHS and IASC collective accountability framework for donor funding guidelines to improve consistency and raise the collective bar
5. Lobby for a standard menu of donor AAP requirements suitable for different donor capacities.
6. Lobby donors to make CHS verification mandatory for grantees (Exploring solutions to potential challenges for local actors (consider passporting or other low cost solutions).



CLARITY AND PREDICTABILITY - Lack of conceptual clarity among donors about what collective AAP is, how links to individual agency AAP and how they might fund it.

7. Prepare a guidance note to show linkages between a) individual agency AAP, b) collective AAP, c) the ERC's Flagship Initiative to bring clarity among donors.
8. Engage with donors to gain greater clarity on their intentions, capacities and modalities to support and fund collective AAP. Use the findings to prepare funding guidance for RC/HCs and HCTs when fundraising for collective AAP

FLEXIBILITY - Lack of clarity and evidence about donor flexibility. To be addressed as a first step to ensuring that humanitarian agencies can more routinely adapt their programmes based on feedback received from affected people.

9. Fill the gap in evidence on shortcomings in flexible funding through country case study research;
10. Use evidence from the above to promote change in a) the practices of operational agencies to request flexibility when feedback requires course corrections, and/or b) advocating for donors to meet their commitments on flexible funding

CAPACITY – Gaps in capacity for global and country-level AAP. Gap of greatest concern linked to local actors and important role they should play in leading, informing and engaging in collective AAP. Lack of funding for technical support and surge capacity.

11. Given that both localisation and AAP are GB priorities - an important opportunity to systematically address gaps. To do this at a country-level will require a deeper understanding of the capacity and inclusion gaps that exist among local actors. The solution will need to address issues of both power and funding.
12. Develop a clear proposition for global surge for collective AAP and include it as part of global discussions about donor funding for collective AAP.



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Operational Level Collect AAP

COLLECTIVE AAP OUTCOMES AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT - Significant progress has been made in articulating a Collective AAP Framework and implementing in a range of contexts. External research has gone some way to distilling key lessons about implementation and funding needs and modalities.

13. At a country-level, RC/HCs and HCTs need to play their leadership role in outlining costed proposals for submission to donors. Where donors have a country presence, support the development of Action Plans and use their influence to hold leaders to account for implementing the Plans.
14. Acknowledging different donors have different aspects of collective AAP that they can fund, country-level donors (bilateral, multilateral, pooled funds and intermediaries) coordinate their financial support for collective AAP in such a way as to provide predictable funding for all the activities associated with it.
15. The evidence suggests that local actors may lack funding, access and capacity to play their full role in collective AAP. Donors, particularly the CBPFs should identify the barriers (funding, influence, human resources etc.) and use their funds, influence and support to overcome them.



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