

2016/17 IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team Progress Report

HFTT's 2016/2017 work plan has four objectives:

1. Adequate humanitarian financing that is context appropriate and accessible to operational organizations on the ground
2. Re-negotiate restrictive donor requirements
3. Contribute to aid effectiveness by reducing the humanitarian/development divide
4. Improve transparency through strengthening empirical knowledge base on funding flows

General Achievements

- Provided strategic and technical inputs and advice to the **High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing** and in organizing the **World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) High Level Roundtable on Humanitarian Financing**.
- Contributed financing-related technical inputs towards the **Grand Bargain (GB)**.
- Strengthened the **cooperation between IASC and GHD** through effective information exchange, participation by co-chairs of HFTT and GHD in annual retreats of the two groups and organisation of the joint **side event on financing during the 2016 ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment**.
- Facilitated **cooperation and information exchange between key humanitarian financing forums** through mapping interlinkages on specific activities and facilitating complementarity on humanitarian financing issues (please see the map of interlinkages between HFTT and other groups in the annex).
- Served as a discussion and information exchange forum on humanitarian financing between **UN Agencies, NGOs, the World Bank and Red Cross/Red Crescent**.

Adequate Humanitarian Financing

- HFTT formed a technical inter-agency group under the leadership of CAFOD, Development Initiatives and OCHA-FCS to develop the **localisation marker**. The group developed the **definitions of 'local and national responders' and 'as direct as possible' funding** ensuring that they are implementable across the humanitarian system. The definitions complement the work of the GB work stream on localisation. The next step is developing a baseline and tapping into existing tracking mechanisms.
- HFTT will also synthesize existing learning and research on country-level financing solutions for local actors and will engage in advocacy to make **funding for local actors more adequate and accessible**.
- HFTT completed the study "**Understanding Humanitarian Funds – Going beyond Country-Based Pooled funds**" to better understand and improve NGO access to pooled funds.
- HFTT completed studies on **Multi-Year Planning** (commissioned by OCHA) and on **Multi-Year Funding** (commissioned by FAO, NRC and OCHA). The studies explore when and where MYHF can have the greatest effect, and identify the investments and enabling conditions required at the organisational and systemic levels.
- OCHA-FCS and ICVA identified a consultant for the study exploring ways for country-level **Partner Capacity Assessments** to become more inter-operable, in line with the Grand Bargain commitment to reduce management costs. The study will be completed in early 2018.

Re-negotiating Restrictive Donor Requirements

- HFTT finalised and published the **Donor Conditions and their Implications for Humanitarian Response** study and presented its findings to the IASC Working Group and the GHD.
- HFTT published the findings of the **Less Paper More Aid** campaign, which was an NGO initiative aiming at identifying the impact of donor conditions on humanitarian action and on NGOs. Presented the findings of the campaign to UN Agencies and Member States at a Grand Bargain experts meeting and "NGO Forward" briefing.
- HFTT identified key emerging messages for the light **advocacy strategy on donor conditions** drawing from the GB and building on the findings of the Donor Conditions study (UNFPA and WFP), Less Paper More Aid campaign (ICVA) and **Donor Conditionalities** study (NRC and BCG).
- HFTT carried out the survey mapping out various **donor-conditions related initiatives**. Several HFTT members have volunteered to test with donors the **new 8+3 approach to harmonized reporting** in selected countries. Discussions are on-going to further test harmonised cost classifications and financial reporting templates.

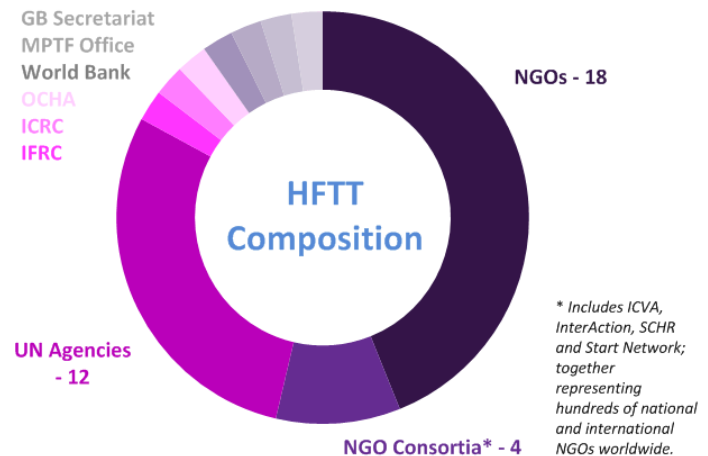
Reducing the Humanitarian/Development Divide

- The co-chairs of **HFTT and Humanitarian/Development Nexus Task Team (HDNTT)** explored **synergies and collaboration** between the two groups. The two TTs share information on regular basis and assigned selected staff to participate in each other's meetings and retreats.
- The HFTT engaged with **UNDG** on financing issues related to the humanitarian/development nexus.
- HFTT engages with **MPTF office in the work on financing solutions**.
- HFTT works on mapping **financial flows supporting joint humanitarian-development planning and programming**.

Improving Transparency of Funding Flows

- FTS is working closely with Development Initiatives on developing materials, **key messages and guidelines on using IATI for humanitarian reporting**, including clarity on differences between IATI, FTS and other reporting systems. As a result, the **background paper on improving humanitarian transparency with IATI and FTS** was published in July 2017 with inputs from HFTT. Development of a more technical guidance is underway and it will be released in 2018.

IASC Secretariat
GB Secretariat
MPTF Office
World Bank
OCHA
ICRC
IFRC



Co-Chairs: Lisa Doughten (OCHA) and Melissa Pitotti (ICVA)
WG Sponsor: Gordana Jerger (WFP)
Secretariat: Mateusz Buczek (OCHA)