

2018 IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team End-of-Year Report

21 December 2018

The IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team (HFTT) brings IASC members together to collectively define guidance to improve financing for humanitarian action. The HFTT contributes to the research on new approaches and formulates joint positions on specific technical issues related to humanitarian financing. The 2018-2019 HFTT work plan focuses on the following objectives:

Output 1: Promote system-wide approaches to closing the funding gap

Output 2: More effective, efficient and accessible humanitarian funding

Output 3: Improved contractual arrangements and management of risk across the humanitarian system

Output 4: Contribute to aid effectiveness by strengthening humanitarian development collaboration in particular in fragile contexts and protracted crises

Output 5: Improved decision-making by increasing the transparency of funding data

The HFTT works in close collaboration with other platforms including the Grand Bargain (GB) workstreams and the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative. Within the framework of its 2018 – 2019 work plan, the HFTT accomplished the following activities in 2018:

General achievements

- Channeled the IASC principals and ERC's vision on humanitarian financing (inspired by ERC's Casement speech).
- Served as a consensus building forum allowing IASC members to jointly explore, define and implement solutions to current issues affecting the humanitarian financing system.
- Enabled IASC members to jointly define common positions on the implementation of SG's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing' commitments and vision.
- Strengthened the cooperation between the IASC and the GB through exchange of information and coordination with respective GB workstreams.
- Contributed to the effective engagement between the IASC and GHD through information exchange and participation by the respective co-chairs in annual retreats of the two groups.
- Served as a discussion and information exchange forum on humanitarian financing between UN Agencies, NGOs and NGO consortia, the World Bank and Red Cross/Red Crescent.

Moreover, a collaborative briefing paper will be completed before the HFTT retreat in March.

Output 2: More effective, efficient and accessible humanitarian funding

- NRC and OCHA's Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) section launched a study, which follows up on HFTT's work on CBPFs done under the 2016 – 2017 work plan. The study examines the synergies between Grand Bargain commitments and CBPF operations, as well as challenges and opportunities highlighted by NGOs.
- NRC and FAO plans to start the follow up work on the study on Multi-Year Financing, aiming at collecting evidence of best practices and benefits of MYF. The follow up work focuses on the impact of MYF at operational level, looking at two specific contexts (Lebanon and Jordan).
- UNICEF and ICRC started the exchange of information with HFTT members on the visibility/recognition needs by donors in connection to un-earmarked funding to facilitate an increase of un-earmarked funding for the humanitarian system.
- Oxfam engaged with the GB localization workstream on behalf of the HFTT to develop guidance for IASC members on ways to support country-level financing solutions for local actors. This work will be coordinated with IFRC-led research carried out as part of the GB localization workstream activities.

Specific achievements/key products

Output 1: Promote system-wide approaches to closing the funding gap

- A Learning Lab on Innovative Humanitarian Financing was organized under the leadership of ICVA. The lab aims at peer-to-peer learning about innovative financing mechanisms and at exploring collective approaches to closing the humanitarian finding gap.
- ICVA, with support from Mercy Malaysia and an expert Steering Committee, organized the first module of the Learning Lab as a workshop on Islamic Social Financing in Kuala Lumpur on 28 and 29 November. The workshop was attended by IASC members and non-members from within and outside of the humanitarian sector, together with Islamic scholars and other experts. As a result, the experts to be part of a Working Group on Islamic Social Financing have been identified. Summary note from the workshop will be shared shortly and the Working Group will be set up.

Output 3: Improved contractual arrangements and management of risk across the humanitarian system

- In May and June 2018, ICVA distributed a partner survey assessing perceptions of UN agency Partnership Agreements to a sample of approximately 300 NGO partners of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and OCHA/CBPFs. ICVA shared the highlights of the survey with HFTT and will provide a detailed report at the beginning of 2019.
- ICVA completed the initial work on mapping existing risk management initiatives and is currently working on consolidating the results. The finalization of this work was delayed in 2018 due to resource constraints. However, ICVA will be able to increase resources available to support the work on risk in 2019. Once completed, the mapping will inform HFTT's work on risk management in 2019.

Output 4: Contribute to aid effectiveness by strengthening humanitarian development collaboration in particular in fragile contexts and protracted crises

- FAO, NRC and UNDP launched a study aiming at documenting how much predictable, multi-year, flexible financing is made available at country level and how it matches collective outcomes. The research covers Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DRC, Uganda, and Ukraine and will improve collaboration between humanitarian and development actors in fragile contexts and in protracted crises. The study started in September 2018 and is planned to be completed in April 2019.
- The study will inform the development of an HFTT paper translating crosscutting learning from case studies into recommendations for global policy discussion on the nexus.

Output 5: Improved decision-making by increasing the transparency of funding data

- OCHA/FTS, DI, IATI, and the Centre for Humanitarian Data launched a pilot exercise exploring the use of data published in IATI format to fulfil FTS reporting obligations. The aim of the exercise is to improve the availability of timely and accurate data on global humanitarian funding flows through (i) reducing the manual reporting burden from partners; (ii) ensuring a more regular and granular reporting; and (iii) improving efficiency. The pilot includes the US, DFID, The Netherlands, IRC and CBPFs.
- OCHA/FTS/CERF/CBPFS started the exercise of categorizing over 8,000 organizations recorded in FTS, CERF and CBPF databases. The categorization will allow for developing an OCHA-wide list of humanitarian organizations and standardized reporting on global funding reaching local/national organizations. This reporting will allow for assessing the progress made towards the GB commitment of providing 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to national/local actors.
- Once the exercise will be completed, the HFTT will consider the appropriateness and feasibility of developing a system-wide process of classifying humanitarian organizations to be used by all humanitarian actors. If deemed appropriate, HFTT will develop recommendations on the next steps in consultation with the Grand Bargain localization workstream.

Pending projects or opportunities for follow up

- The development of the Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategy to influence decision-makers to sufficiently resource humanitarian action and close the funding gap planned by HFTT for 2018 and 2019 has not started yet due to organizational challenges. The activity will be taken forward by OCHA PRMB, UN Women and ICVA in 2019. The creation of OCHA’s Humanitarian Financing and Resource Mobilization Division in 2018 represents a major opportunity for accelerating this activity in 2019.
- Limited progress has been made on mapping donor visibility/recognition needs in connection to un-earmarked funding for the humanitarian system and developing guidance for IASC members on ways to support country-level financing solutions for local actors. These activities will

be taken forward by UNICEF/ICRC and Oxfam respectively in 2019.

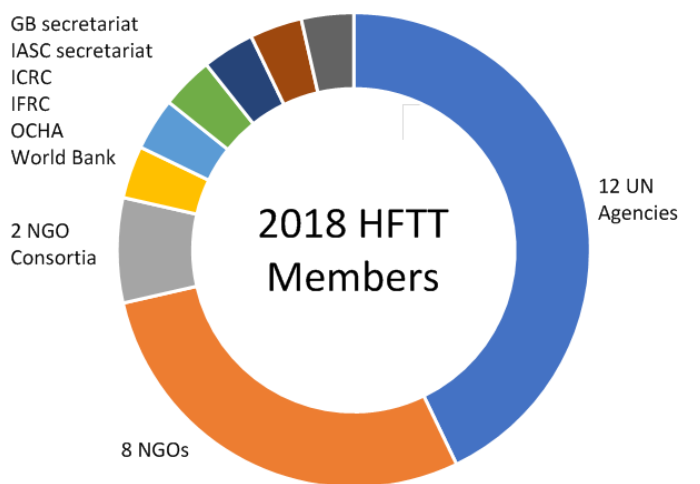
- The study launched by FAO, NRC and UNDP aiming at documenting how much predictable, multi-year, flexible financing is made available at country level and how it matches collective outcomes represents a major opportunity for providing valuable inputs into the global policy discussion on the humanitarian development nexus in 2019.

Suggested priority activities envisaged for 2019

Since HFTT activities have been developed for a two-year period under the current 2018/2019 HFTT work plan, the HFTT plans to focus on the continuation of ongoing activities in 2019 with specific emphasis on accelerating the activities that have been postponed to 2019. The HFTT also envisions ensuring the transition of its priorities and activities to the new IASC Humanitarian Financing Results Group and emerging new IASC structure. The 2019 HFTT transition retreat, tentatively planned for March 2019, will aim at making necessary adjustments to HFTT’s ongoing activities to achieve these objectives.

Members

Given that the Terms of Reference for HFTT stipulate that participation in HFTT is open to interested humanitarian organizations, bringing together NGOs, UN, Red Cross/Red Crescent and other international organizations, many organizations join HFTT meetings on ad-hoc basis depending on subjects under discussion. It is therefore difficult to accurately represent HFTT membership. However, a consolidation of participant lists from HFTT meetings over the course of 2018 revealed the following participation:



NGOs: CAFOD, CARE, Christian Aid, DI, NRC, Mercy Malaysia, Oxfam, World Vision

NGO Consortia: ICVA and Interaction (representing hundreds of international and national/local NGOs worldwide)

UN Agencies: FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNMAS, UN-Women, WHO, WFP