

PROGRESS REPORT

April - October 2019

IASC Results Group 5 on Humanitarian Financing

Membership

Org.	Member	Position
OCHA	Ms. Marcy Vigoda	Co-Chair / Chief, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Branch
ICVA	Mr. Jeremy Rempel	Co-Chair / Head, Humanitarian Financing
IASC secretariat	Ms. Tanja Schuemer-Cross	IASC secretariat Focal Point / Humanitarian Affairs Officer
	Mr. Jonathan Brunggel	IASC secretariat Focal Point / Humanitarian Affairs Officer
FAO	Ms. Angela Hinrichs	Liaison and Operations Officer Emergency and Rehabilitation Division
	Mr. Rodrigue Vinet	Senior Advisor Programme Development and Humanitarian Affairs Liaison Office with the United Nations - Geneva
ICRC	Ms. Samar Al-Attar	Senior Adviser, Donor relations, Government affairs and Fundraising
ICVA	Ms. Mirela Shuteriqi	Director of Policy
	Mr. Alon Plato	Policy Officer Humanitarian Financing
ICVA - CAFOD	Mr. Howard Mollett	Head of Humanitarian Policy
	Ms. Lauren Tarrier	Humanitarian Funding Team Leader
ICVA - NRC	Ms. Cecilia Roselli	Head of Partnership and Humanitarian Policy Unit
	Mr. Luca Peciarolo	Senior Advisor, Humanitarian Financing
ICVA - Oxfam	Ms. Emma Cliffe	UN Partnership Manager
	Ms. Sarah Badju	Humanitarian Partnership Manager
	Ms. Anita Kattakuzhy	Humanitarian Policy Adviser
ICVA - Save the Children	Mr. Fernando Espada	Head of Humanitarian Affairs
ICVA - VOICE Network	Ms. Magali Mourlon	Programme Coordinator
ICVA - World Vision	Ms. Sherri Arnott	Director of Policy, Disaster Management
IFRC	Ms. Petra Demarin	Senior Officer, Multilateral & IFI Partnerships
	Ms. Victoria Stodart	Senior Officer, Inter-Agency Coordination (Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Activation, Coordination and Leadership)
InterAction	Ms. Priscilla Yoon	Programme Manager
InterAction -Concern Worldwide US	Mr. Kirk Prichard	Director of Humanitarian Programs
FAO	Mr. Rodrigue Vinet	Senior Advisor Programme Development and Humanitarian Affairs Liaison Office with the United Nations - Geneva
IOM	Ms. Angela Staiger	Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor
	Mr. Sam Grundy	Programme Advisor, Transition and Recovery Division
OCHA	Ms. Julie Thompson	Humanitarian Affairs Officer
OHCHR	Mr. Ennio Boati	First Donor and External Relations Officer
UNDP	Mr. Romano Lasker	Programme Specialist, Crisis Interface Team – Crisis Response Unit
UNFPA	Ms. Mira Ihalainen	Resource Mobilization Adviser
	Ms. Maryline Py	Humanitarian Specialist

UN-HABITAT	Mr. Andre Dzikus	Coordinator, Urban Basic Services Branch Acting Coordinator, Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch
UNHCR	Ms. Hiroko Araki	Chief, Humanitarian Financing and Field Support Section, Division of External Relations
	Mr. Nicolas Brass	Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Partnership and Coordination Service, Division of External Relations
	Ms. Sara Baschetti	Associate Reporting Officer
UNICEF	Ms. Marilena Viviani	Senior Advisor and Team Leader, Humanitarian Financing
	Ms. Jelena Jovanovic	Humanitarian Financing and Partnerships Manager (New York)
WFP	Ms. Bahar Zorofi	Donor Relations Officer, Government Partnership Division
	Ms. Marie-Helene Kyprianou	External Partnerships Officer
	Ms. Meghan Sullivan	External Partnerships Consultant
WHO	Mr. Aiman Zarul	Consultant, Grand Bargain coordination and Inter-agency support
	Mr. Jordan Ramacciato	Resource Mobilisation Officer
	Mr. Guillaume Simonian	Inter-Agency Focal Point
World Bank	Mr. Jos Verbeek	Special Representative to the WTO and UN, Geneva
	Ms. Lobna Hadj	International Affairs Officer
DI (special guest)	Mr. Angus Urquhart	Humanitarian Lead
	Ms. Sarah Dalrymple	Senior Policy & Engagement Advisor
OECD (special guest)	Ms. Rachel Scott	Head of the Crises and Fragility

2019 Priority Areas of Work

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK AS AGREED BY OPAG	CONCRETE DELIVERABLES	STATUS	LEADS	PARTNERS
<p>Map and promote financing instruments supporting humanitarian interventions with development co-benefits <i>[Ensure that this is done in collaboration with Results Group 4 on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration].</i></p>	Identify and promote policy recommendations for the improvement of financing instruments that support humanitarian interventions with development co-benefits. This will be conducted through a study 'Financing the Nexus' which maps financing instruments in Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Ukraine.	[COMPLETED] Published in July 2019.	NRC, FAO, UNDP	Good Humanitarian Donorship Grand Bargain WS 7+8 on Quality Funding
	Building on the findings of the 'Financing the Nexus' study, identify, review and document successful funding and financing instruments used at country level for joint humanitarian development programming and share findings with donors.	[ONGOING] Work is underway to identify top priorities and focus countries. To be completed by first half of 2020.	NRC, FAO	Grand Bargain, Good Humanitarian Donorship OECD
	Contribute to the financing element of the RG 4-led light guidance on collective outcomes.	[ONGOING] RG 5 has formally linked with the RG 4 sub-group focused on collective outcomes to participate in the development of guidance. To be completed by December 2019.	NRC, FAO	Grand Bargain, Good Humanitarian Donorship OECD
Facilitate the development of innovative approaches to humanitarian financing that deepen and widen the resource base.	Develop and disseminate a best practices/ lessons learned document providing guidance for IASC members on how to utilize Islamic Social Financing (ISF) tools and provide practical recommendations for collaborative approaches to scale up access to ISF.	[ONGOING] An initial draft of a guidance paper has been developed. As of October, a specialist in ISF has been engaged to assist in the final stages of drafting a guidance document with recommendations. To be completed by December 2019.	ICVA	Islamic Relief Worldwide
	Develop guidance for IASC members to support country-level financing solutions for local actors.	[OUTSTANDING] To be completed by first half of 2020.	Oxfam	RG2 in relation to localization and Grand Bargain
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 (in particular clustered Work Streams 7 and 8	Complete a briefing paper on barriers to multi-year and unearmarked funding in support of the Grand Bargain Workstream 7 and 8 multi-stakeholder workshop in September 2019.	[COMPLETED] Quality Funding workshop completed on 19 September in Geneva with UN, NGOs, and donor governments in attendance.	OCHA, ICVA, NRC, FAO, UNICEF and others	Grand Bargain WS 7+8 on Quality Funding Good Humanitarian Donorship
	Provide IASC messages for donors on tackling those barriers and encourage multi-year humanitarian planning and unearmarked funding in support of the Grand Bargain Workstream 7 and 8 multi-stakeholder workshop.	[COMPLETED] Recommendations paper completed on 17 September in advance of the 19 September workshop and distributed to all participants, in collaboration with RG 4.	OCHA, NRC, Oxfam, Save the Children, ICVA, UNFPA, WFP, IOM, UNICEF, UNDP	Grand Bargain WS 7+8 on Quality Funding Good Humanitarian Donorship

on Quality Funding) including on issues of predictable financing.	To support the GB Workstream 7 and 8 through a mapping of donor funding practices enabling multi-year and unearmarked financing in order to shape subsequent donor advocacy.	[OUTSTANDING] To be completed by first half of 2020.	OCHA, ICVA FAO and UNICEF (supported by UNFPA)	This work will be done in collaboration with Grand Bargain WS 7+8 as part of the follow up to the 19 th Sept workshop.
	Complete and disseminate multi-year study on benefits of multi-year and unearmarked funding drawing on multiple country contexts (Follow up work in 2020 likely to focus on addressing issues of cascading funding from UN to NGOs).	[OUTSTANDING] To be completed by first half of 2020.	NRC, DI FAO and UNICEF (support)	Grand Bargain WS 7+8 on Quality Funding Good Humanitarian Donorship
Facilitate the ongoing process of simplification and harmonization of UN systems to reduce burdens and free additional resources for humanitarian operations.	NGOs to present protocol for harmonization of cost classification and financial reporting.	[COMPLETED] Protocol presented on 25 September in Brussels to UN, NGOs, and donor governments.	NRC	Humentum Grand Bargain Good Humanitarian Donorship
	Advocate with UN agencies to adopt the protocol.	[ONGOING] As the Protocol was presented on 25 September, further consultations are taking place to advocate with UN Agencies. To be completed by first half of 2020.	NRC	Humentum Grand Bargain Good Humanitarian Donorship
	Establish a pilot project with donors and implementing organisations to test the protocols.	[OUTSTANDING] To be completed by first half of 2020	NRC	Humentum Grand Bargain Good Humanitarian Donorship
	Propose and negotiate revised 2020 partnership agreements between NGOs and UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA.	[ONGOING] Initial analysis of agreements was completed in April 2019 , final negotiations for agreements underway in October and to be completed by December 2019.	ICVA, other UN agencies	

Achievements

- **Achievement 1: Identify and promote policy recommendations for the improvement of financing instruments that support humanitarian interventions with development co-benefits.**
- **Overview of achievement/ deliverable:** Completed a study that identifies and promotes recommendations towards the improvement of financing instruments that support humanitarian interventions with development co-benefits: Financing the Nexus study (<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/results-group-5/documents/financing-nexus-gaps-and-opportunities-field-perspective-2019>). The findings draw on evidence gathered from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ukraine. This study complements a country analysis undertaken by the JSC, which focused on Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria and Somalia.
 - **Potential impact on the ground:** This workstream facilitates an improved understanding of gaps and challenges to financing the nexus, with an aim to strengthen financing instruments that support humanitarian interventions with development co-benefits. There are particular benefits to better coordination between humanitarian and development operations in contexts that suffer from ongoing protracted crises. In those cases, a focus on how to better finance work within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus can serve to both reduce overall humanitarian need, as well as ensure that a broader range of resource can be redirected to meet humanitarian need when it arises. The study concludes (and is consistent with outcomes of the Joint Steering Committee) that there is minimal attention to financing collective outcomes, and a need to better understand both traditional and non-traditional funding streams and instruments.
 - **Complementarity pursued with other Results Groups and/or IASC-associated entities:** RG 5 is contributing to the financing element of the RG 4-led light guidance on collective outcomes which is currently underway. It is already evident that effective action in this workstream requires close collaboration between RG 4 and 5, and the co-chairs of both groups have developed a good working relationship.
 - **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** The 'Financing the Nexus' study was enriched by the specific experience in five countries and presented to and discussed with a wide audience of donors, UN agencies, and NGOs. There is a particular need to engage better with development actors in order to achieve effective results, and the OECD has now been invited as a special guest to join RG 5 work on the Nexus.
 - **Follow-up plans:** RG 5 is planning to deepen the workstreams findings in a webinar with key humanitarian partners. Furthermore, RG 5 is now working with the activity leads (NRC, FAO, and UNDP) to define follow-up steps that build on the 'Financing the Nexus' study and the JSC country mapping. The aim is to identify and propose solutions in selected countries to strengthen funding and financing instruments for joint humanitarian development programming. In collaboration with RG 4, the recommendations from 'Financing the Nexus' will also contribute to the development of practical field guidance for how to better understand, finance, and programme in contexts within the Nexus space.
- **Achievement 2: Produce a business case showing the contribution of multi-year humanitarian planning and unearmarked funding to more cost-effective humanitarian assistance.**
- **Overview of the deliverable:** The Results Group has published several products that support the business case for increased use of quality funding (multi-year, flexible and unearmarked) as a key enabler of more efficient and cost-effective humanitarian response. This work contributed to and was developed in collaboration with the Grand Bargain workstreams 7 (Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding) and 8 (Reduce the earmarking of donor contributions). Deliverables include:
 - 1) A primary background document for the Grand Bargain Workstream 7 and 8 Multi-Stakeholder Accelerator Workshop in September 2019, analysing the barriers to increasing the provision and programming of quality funding.
 - 2) A study on Field Perspectives on Multi-Year Humanitarian Funding and Planning: How Theory has Translated into Practice in Jordan and Lebanon.

3) Recommendations to overcome identified barriers to quality funding and adapt humanitarian systems to absorb quality funding, cascading its benefits to implementing partners and facilitating a transition from humanitarian to development response (completed in collaboration with Results Group 4 on Humanitarian Development Collaboration).

- **Potential impact on the ground:** emerging evidence confirms that multi-year and flexible funding is needed to enable aid organizations to work in more effective and efficient, longer-term and adaptive ways. Particularly in protracted crises, more stable and flexible funding can significantly reduce the burden placed on staff to focus on developing funding proposals and agreements rather than delivery of aid. Appropriately flexible funding also contributes to the ability of practitioners in the field to adjust as needed to meet the greatest humanitarian need. More flexible multi-year funding should not be confused with reduced accountability. Rather, these characteristics of quality funding can make response more accountable to meet the needs of affected populations when implemented appropriately.
- **Complementarity pursued with other Results Groups and/or IASC-associated entities:** These deliverables entailed close collaboration with RG 4 on Humanitarian Development Collaboration. As identified in the 'Financing the Nexus' study, there is a close correlation between effective work in the Nexus space and improved quality funding as both areas typically focus on contexts with protracted crises.
- **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** Outside of the IASC, the Grand Bargain workstreams 7 ([Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding](#)) and 8 ([Reduce the earmarking of donor contributions](#)) and the Good Humanitarian Donorship group are key stakeholders with which RG 5 will partner.
- **Follow-up plans:** Since both the think piece and the associated workshop have been completed an outcome document will be drafted. It will contain links to the think piece as well as the deliverables and commitments of this workstream after the workshop. In the coming months, RG 5 will support the Grand Bargain in identifying and endorsing a multi-stakeholder definition of Multiyear Humanitarian Financing with key bilateral partners/donors in order to make progress on this work. RG 5 is also advocating with GB donors to identify focus countries where the evidence base can be better developed. In 2020, RG 5 suggests collaboration with the OECD, convening donors, UN agencies, and INGO regulators around compliance and risk issues and with the objective to identify and overcome barriers to quality funding. RG 5 will also convene a crisis financing round table in collaboration with the GHD and the World Bank (tbc) to expand collective knowledge and learning). This would help to address the technical barriers to quality funding, noting that other barriers are of a political nature.

➤ **Achievement 3: Propose and negotiate revised 2020 partnership agreements between NGOs and UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA.**

- **Overview of the deliverables:** NGOs and UN agencies including UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA are currently discussing adjustments to language in partnership agreements for 2020. This discussion is built upon a detailed analysis completed in May 2019 that thoroughly reviewed the language in individual agency's partnership agreements and proposed specific new language with the goal of simplifying and harmonizing agreements across agencies. The analysis focused on 4 core areas of agreements: data privacy, protection, and intellectual property; misconduct and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; narrative and financial reporting; and financial management. As of October, discussion is ongoing to make changes to 2020 agreements.

Additionally, NGO members of RG 5 led by NRC have presented a protocol called 'Money Where It Counts' that aims to harmonize cost classifications and financial reporting across humanitarian donors, NGOs and UN agencies. Developed in cooperation with 9 NGO partners, detailed draft technical guidance for Money Where It Counts was shared with stakeholders on 25 September in Brussels.

- **Potential impact on the ground:** The core objective of this workstream is to increase efficiency in humanitarian aid by reducing the burden placed on field staff by existing systems for funding (agreements) and management of financial resources. This reduction in burden can be measured in thousands of hours of work saved at the field level – valuable time resource – which can be redirected toward better meeting humanitarian need.
- **Engagement/partnerships pursued with non-IASC bodies/partners for the completion of this body of work:** The Co-Conveners of Grand Bargain workstreams on transparency, reduced management costs, and reporting are

closely engaged in supporting rollout of Money Where It Counts and simplified and harmonized systems in general. Humentum is also a close external partner providing expertise in NGO financial management systems.

- **Follow-up plans:** For harmonization of partnership agreements, work will be completed before the end of October to secure any changes to be incorporated in to 2020 agreements between UN agencies and NGO partners. During 2020 it is anticipated that additional discussion building on the theme of harmonization and simplification can occur, potentially focusing on partner capacity assessment. Work on the Money Where It Counts protocol also continues. Following the rollout of draft technical tools for implementing the protocol, RG 5 will now support advocacy efforts with UN agencies (e.g. UNHCR) to adopt the protocol, and with donors and implementing organisations to establish a pilot project testing implementation in the field.

Forward-Looking Priority Areas of Work for 2020

At present Results Group 5 plans to continue the focus and conclude the 2019 priority areas of work in early 2020, while at the same time it is anticipated that there will be some changes in focus as 2019 deliverables are completed. For example, in relation to the priority area of work related to innovative approaches to humanitarian financing, this will likely be further developed in 2020 in partnership with the GHD group that also views this area as a priority.

For 2020, the Group will focus on the same priority areas of work as in 2019, however, the Group will focus on the following additional concrete deliverables:

PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK	CONCRETE DELIVERABLES	LEADS	TIMELINE	NON-IASC BODIES TO ENGAGE WITH (MUST)
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 (in particular clustered Work Streams 7 and 8 on Quality Funding) including on issues of predictable financing.	3.6 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.	TBD	First half of 2020	OECD and Grand Bargain WS 7+8 on Quality Funding
	3.7 Convene a crisis financing round table in collaboration with the GHD and the World Bank (tbc).	TBD	First half of 2020	Good Humanitarian Donorship

Key Dates

- Webinar on Financing the Nexus (November 2019): Broad humanitarian audience including field colleagues to share findings of study and validate planned follow up.
- Local Partner Webinar (January 2020): Outreach to national NGOs (using IASC member networks) to share the work of the Group, ground-truth focus areas, and ensure that concerns of local partners are reflected in priority work areas.
- Crisis Financing Roundtable (Q2 2020, Geneva): With World Bank and Good Humanitarian Donorship (tbc), discuss the broad range of tools that practically support protracted crises, and need to be considered when discussing financing.
- Event on practical barriers to quality funding (Q2 2020, Geneva): With OECD DAC and GB WS 7+8 (tbc), convene a meeting of regulators to discuss regulatory/legal barriers to quality funding and identify practical solutions to address them.
