



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED
AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Humanitarian Financing Working Group Summary Meeting Notes

Tuesday 15 March 2019 15:00-16:30

ICVA Conference Room, 26-28 Avenue Giuseppe-Motta, Online webinar

NGO Member Participants included:

CAFOD, HI, ICVA, IRC, NRC, Oxfam, Plan, Save the Children

1. UN Contracts Group

- A group of NGOs led by Oxfam is meeting to analyse partnership agreements with UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP.
- The group is planned to meet with UN agencies to present some of their findings in Geneva on 28 March.
- A pre-meeting is planned to take part on 25 September, in Geneva as well, in order to make a coordinated voice.
- The group can still take input until the 25th by contacting Sarah Badju at sbadju1@oxfam.org.uk.
- The 28th meeting is scheduled for the afternoon to allow call-in from the US if needed.
- The 25th meeting will be in the Morning.

2. IASC Restructuring

- The previous Humanitarian Financing Task Team was co-chaired by OCHA and ICVA. It has been announced that they were selected again to co-chair the new Results Group (RG) that is replacing the Task Team (TT). OCHA is still determining who will be the co-chair internally. Jeremy Rempel will co-chair from ICVA.
- The RG will probably be similar to the TT but with a difference that it will be more focused on results, more field-oriented, and will go under an evaluation after a year.
- OPAG will be the oversight body over the Results Groups.
- The membership of the RG is still unknown. The idea is to have smaller and more focused groups, but the HFTT was already quite focused.
- Those that are interested in taking part in the RG and have not done so already are still invited to try and express their interest with the IASC and with ICVA.
- A mini-retreat of the HFTT will take place on 25 March in order to work on the transition of the work plan into the new RG work plan.
- The co-chair from OCHA is Lisa Carty, a very senior person. A question rises whether she will really engage in the RG or delegate. This is still not certain but a delegation is more likely. We are waiting for an announcement.
- Will the RG have restricted meetings with member-only call-ins? It is unknown, but for starters the list will be smaller. However, for now the idea is to have open access for those interested.

3. OCHA CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform:

- A meeting in Juba, South Sudan took place on 6 March. Work led by NRC and OCHA, together with local NGOs.
- Overall, the feedback was very positive and the impression is that the right people, 55 in person and 20+ online, were in the room – those applying for Pooled Funds (PF) and implementing projects.
- 3 main topics:
 - Governance – drew on some preliminary findings from the study on PFs. Mainly discussed what the allocation process is and what the perception is from the NGO side. The survey for the study shows that there is a problem with transparency regarding the procedure and funds allocation. Whether the problem is real or perceived, there is a need to address. The interaction with the Pooled Fund manager in the room was interesting. One takeaway is that transparency measures can help improve perceptions.
 - Localization – very hot topic, and especially in South Sudan as there is a vibrant and active NGO fora. Measures taken by OCHA to facilitate localization were discussed. Pooled Fund management in South Sudan decided to disallow sub-granting. This is a measure we should measure and see if it can be expanded to more locations. Important to improve capacity and information on managing the grants online to alleviate the difficulty and administrative barrier mostly for smaller organisations.
 - Harmonization and simplifications – also touched on the UN contracts group mentioned earlier with Oxfam speaking at the event. 40% of national NGOs access pooled funds, so harmonization can have great benefits.
 - 2-3 action points will be taken out of this meeting and shared.
- Notes will be sent soon.
- 26 June 2019 is a potential date for the next platform meeting in Geneva. 27 is the GB meeting and 28 is the PFWG. Maybe a half-day meeting, but more information will follow.
- This opens a possibility of having a 3rd platform meeting this year, perhaps elsewhere in Europe.
- As part of the core group – looking for a local NGO to be part of the group. One spot in the group has always been reserved for national NGOs. In South Sudan a national NGO approached the group and could be a potential member.
- Need to look into consolidating NGO engagement in the pooled funds beyond the existing platform and recipients.
- **ICVA to have follow up discussion with NRC.**
- A consultation firm is conducting interviews with different stakeholders regarding a pooled funds evaluation and might approach members for the evaluation.

4. AOB

I. UNFPA contracts on SEA

- ICVA has contacted UNFPA regarding the adoption of similar clauses to those included by UNICEF. There is not much to update, but UNFPA informed that they will get in touch with staff relevant for implementing partners.

II. UNHCR limitations on wages for IP staff in Uganda

- UNHCR has put limitation on what you could pay for local staff, potentially putting a discrepancy between what a UN and local NGO can get.
 - A number of IPs have written to UNHCR on that and received what they consider an unsatisfactory response. They were referred to the Geneva HQ for more details on their query.
 - It is noted that this is a trend, in a way, and will be flagged by the UN Contracts group, at least in the wider conversation.
 - If other members have such issues they are welcome to share with us.
 - Results of the meeting with the UN agencies will be shared in this group.
- III. The ICVA Annual Conference will take place on 26 March.

Next Meeting: Monday 15 April 2019