



## Humanitarian Financing Working Group Summary Meeting Notes

Tuesday 20 May 2019 15:00-16:30

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

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### NGO Member Participants included:

Christian Aid, HI, ICVA, NRC, Oxfam, Plan, Save The Children, VOICE, WVI

#### **1. Read-out on the 15 May Grand Bargain Co-convenor meeting and updates on the planning for the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting in June**

- One of the main agenda items was to identify the agenda items for the Annual Meeting on 27 June. Another item was the ODI independent report on the GB.
- There will be no statements during the June meeting, as the number of signatories is increasing, but there will be a way to catalogue and share them.
- There will be a new Eminent Person (EP) to replace Kristalina Georgyeva from the World Bank. The new EP is Sigrid Kaag, a minister from the Netherlands, who will be taking the role for 2 years. This takes off the table the question regarding the future of the GB.
- The Eminent Person is supposed to work at the political level and remove barriers.
- Can NGO participate or influence, or is it only through InterAction as they are in the GB Facilitation Group?
  - IA, SCHR and ICVA have discussed and have the intention to consolidate messages from NGOs in the coming weeks.
  - InterAction will be leaving the facilitation group this year, and will be probably replaced by SCHR.
- Is there a representation to local NGOs?
  - The only national level signatory is NEAR network, but as soon as there is a draft agenda we will try to reach to the local NGOs for feedback.
- There is an emphasis on risk as an issue that needs to be looked into in the GB. Central to the GB there is the idea that donors will be more trusting of NGOs if risk is addressed better, but it is not very developed yet. There is a need to make it clarify what we are talking about when we talk about risk in the GB.
- The ODI annual independent Grand Bargain report has now been circulated. The report looks at the implementation of the GB. One very interesting point that was highlighted is the discrepancy of how donors are viewing MYF and reduced earmarking vs. how NGOs see it. Donors report that more and more of their grants are MYF and unearmarked, but NGOs don't really see that. This might be because they don't go directly to NGOs but to the UN.
- Another point was the Excel sheet used for the GB reporting this year. It is a little bit unclear how valuable it was in the ODI report or for the facilitation group. A possible point for the annual meeting is to discuss the value and burden of this reporting matrix.

## 2. Discussion on the Pooled Fund Working Group meeting agenda items

- Next PFWG will take place on Friday 28 June in Geneva.
- We would like to be better coordinated and represent NGOs better with consolidated NGO positions. There are only 5 NGOs represented in the PFWG and it is important that we can represent the NGO voice better.
- There is the start of a draft agenda. NGOs will probably have 1-2 items to propose for the agenda.
- If you have top priorities that we can shortlist, please send them to us and we will bring them up towards the meeting.
- OCHA has proposed the next items:
  - Evaluation
  - Reporting
  - Management of Pooled Funds
  - CAR mission
  - A discussion with the Somalia HC
  - USG priorities:
    - Disability
    - Women and Girls
    - Education
    - Protection
- There is some confusion regarding the priorities and agenda items.
- It would be good reach to the different advisory boards for the points they would like to raise. And same for the NGO Fora. The advisory boards change often but working with NGO fora might solve this issue as the advisory boards are done in the forum.
- The CBPF are a good vehicle to drive localization. Is it the best they could do to advance localization? Some CBPFs are showing a very high funding of local NGOs, with an average of 25% that is the GB commitment, but there is inconsistency between the funds.
- Funding to PFs has increased significantly, among other things due to the ability to fulfil the commitment to localization and other commitments.
- Will there be a focus only on the CBPF or also on the CERF? It is the CBPF platform, so mostly CBPF. Although it is not the place to discuss it, it would be good to raise the issues with CERF.
- There is also a work being done to merge the two main groups regarding the pooled funds – the PFWG and the OCHA-NGO Core Group of NGOs. So far, the NGOs in the Core Group and in the PFWG were not the same. The idea would be to align the members of the two groups, on a 2-year basis. It implies adding 1 national NGO to the PFWG, where there are now 5 NGOs.
- The merge between CERF and CBPF and links in management – what will be the implications? We do not see many links in management. Lisa Doughten was heading CERF prior to her current position. The Somalia item in the agenda is partly there because Somalia is where the unified structure is tested.

## 3. AOB

- I. Learning Lab – next module ideas
- Focus on things relevant to Humanitarian work and to NGOs, including financing that can go directly to NGOs without passing necessarily by the UN.
- We would like to see ideas and priorities raised so that this can be relevant to members. If someone in your organization has an interest or expertise, please put us in touch.
- The Innovative Financing Learning Lab is an IASC HF activity, and so it went through a slowdown

during the restructuring period.

- The Learning Lab also requires identifying someone to step in and fund the Lab.

## II. Counter Terrorism measures

- March saw [a new UNSC resolution on Counter-terrorism measures](#). This caught some of us by surprise and we identified a gap in communication between the colleagues in NY, where the advocacy work was done, and Geneva.
- There is a reach to the other networks, especially InterAction, and we plan a briefing to discuss the implications and where we are on CT, with a date to be decided.
- Issues on CT have raised increasingly, and we are on the lookout to see how the HFWG can be following this.
- The new structure of the IASC has a Results Group 1 that is also tasked to look at bureaucratic impediments, including CT measures. RG3 on collective advocacy will also look at the topic from a perspective of modalities of advocacy.
- There is also a big move in the EU on CT measures, and the discussion on the UNSC resolution will be useful.
- ICVA has touched base with the GHD co-chairs on the topic.

## III. Voice GB workshop in Beirut to take place this coming Friday

Next Meeting: Monday 17 June 2019