



Humanitarian Financing Working Group Summary Meeting Notes

Tuesday 22 July 2019 15:00-16:30

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

NGO Member Participants included:

CAFOD, HI, ICMC, ICVA, Intersos, NRC, Oxfam, Plan, Save the Children, SCUK, VOICE

1. Update on UN partnership agreements harmonization work

- Following the analysis of partnership agreements between UN agencies and NGOs and a meeting on March 2019, there is an agreement for a quarterly virtual meeting with the UN agencies in order to discuss each time one of the analysis topics, in addition to an annual face to face meeting to follow up on the harmonization process.
- In the last HFWG call we discussed having the first quarterly meeting by the end of July. Unfortunately, the UN agencies were slow in giving feedback to the analysis, besides UNHCR which gave a good feedback.
- Therefore, the next meeting, will probably take place in September.
- The idea was to have a quicker pace and have more changes for the 2020 PCAs, but with the response being slow from the UN side and the fact that at least in the UNHCR feedback some of the language changes were directly answered, maybe the September meeting can include more than one topic.
- The UNHCR response was a good one, with detailed feedback where they accepted some language changes, explained why they wouldn't accept some changes and noted where they are following-up internally.
- ICVA is contacting the other UN agencies in order to ensure they send a response.
- For the communications on the UN contracts work going forward, ICVA has set up a specific contact list for those communications. Detailed communication will go through that list and only general major updates will be sent on the HFWG list.
- **ICVA will send HFWG an email with the option to join the UN Contracts mailing list**
- There is a suggestion to link the UN harmonization discussion with the localization work through Charter for Change (C4C), where the C4C advocacy working group could approach UN agencies and propose they open dialogue with CSOs on developing agency-specific localization action plans. The work of the UN harmonization group can be relevant.
- **ICVA to get in touch with CAFOD on C4C collaboration**

- Fatima Sherif-Nor, who was head of IPMS, part of the controller's office, has finished her time in the position and Robert Hurt replaced her. He is coming from UNHCR in Kenya and worked on risk management and compliance issues.
- ICVA had a meeting with him and made an initial introduction at the UNHCR Annual Consultation. During the meeting the idea to invite him to a meeting with NGO colleagues was suggested.
- **ICVA to plan meeting with Robert Hurt, and invite him to talk with the HFWG.**
- Regarding the "NGO network group" that used to meet about twice a year with IPMS to discuss relations with UNHCR: The structure going forward is uncertain, but Robert Hurt is tasked with coming with recommendations regarding the partnership structure of UNHCR and the future of the NGO network group. ICVA had asked to be consulted when coming up with those recommendations.

2. Readout from the Grand Bargain annual meeting

- With the increasing number of signatories, this year there was a good decision to avoid statements.
- The focus was on successes and weaknesses during the first 3 years of implementation, and how to remove roadblocks and maintain political will.
- The participants were introduced to Sigrid Kaag, the Dutch minister that is the new Eminent Person for the next two years.
- A question regarding the NGO participation and representation was raised – what came out of this GB meeting that is relevant for NGOs, and how is the GB facilitation group handover from InterAction to SCHR going.
 - Regarding the Facilitation Group, NGOs will now be represented by SCHR, taking over from InterAction. ICVA has indicated its willingness to give support. SCHR is likely to continue the NGO briefings that IA used to do. We only have one NGO seat at the group, so it is a big task.
 - Regarding the NGO perspective on the GB meeting – there is still a focus on localization, mostly around the need to link it to the field. The duplication and transparency workstreams could be interesting to focus on going forward.
 - The main message is that the GB is still alive.
- Will the Netherlands together with ICRC continue working on risk management and risk sharing as part of the GB?
 - It did not come up as a topic in the meeting itself, but we know they both have a continued interest in that. Risk management and sharing are popular topics to bring up these days, but it is difficult to agree what these words mean, and it is time to maybe encourage them to be more precise. This needs to be linked to the Facilitation Group.

3. Readout from PFWG and CBPF OCHA-NGO platform meetings

- Both meetings took place at the end of June in Geneva.
- CBPF June meeting:
 - Somalia was the focus country for this year's meeting. There was a discussion whether there is "pilot" fatigue because so many new initiatives are tested in Somalia. The team

there seemed quite happy to have innovative approaches to the work as long as there is understanding of the burden such initiatives can place on staff.

- The leadership of the PF section at OCHA is in transition. Fernando Hesse is Officer in Charge for now but the leadership position is to be filled by the end of the year. The way forward with OCHA Pooled Funds will depend significantly on the candidate that takes the position and the tone they set for engagement with NGOs.
 - The topic of the CBPF and Nexus funding was raised during the annual meeting, and some donors were questioning this idea of development approaches in pooled funds and want to keep a distinction, while other want to investigate the idea. The reality is that in most countries where CBPFs are applied there are protracted crises and a need to address the grey areas between humanitarian and development anyway.
 - Results of the global evaluations were shared, which somewhat overlaps with the review done by NRC.
 - 6 CBPFs managed by UNDP will transition to OCHA management by 1 January 2020. UNDP will continue to handle certain aspects of administrative support of the funds through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund section, but day-to-day operational management will be consolidated under OCHA leadership. This will hopefully increase the consistency in management across the funds.
- OCHA-NGO Dialogue Platform meeting:
 - The meeting was shorter this time, half day. There was a presentation of the OCHA-NRC study on the PFs. The study is being finalized and probably launched in September, but a [summary is available](#).
 - A senior evaluator conducting global evaluation work on the PFs conducted by OCHA was invited and presented some preliminary results. The presentation will be shared together with the general minutes of the meeting by NRC.
 - There is an overlap between the CHA-NRC study and the global evaluation, but the study is an important opportunity to make sure feedback is shared from the broader NGO perspective.
 - There were no national NGOs present, despite one being invited. We need to find ways to bring them to the table and ensure that the NNGO voice is better represented in discussion on pooled funds.
 - This is related to the idea that moving forward the NGOs in the advisory groups – those on PFWG and those on the Core group – will be the same in order to create more coherence and add one seat for a national NGO.
 - On another note, ECHO will now fund 2 OCHA Pooled Funds for the first time.
 - PFs are deemed to be more efficient in the amount of money getting to beneficiaries and more consistent in terms of the management processes, despite some discrepancies.

4. AOB

- UFE – CERF consulted with ICVA to get NGO inputs on underfunded emergencies, giving a list of countries to fund on the second half of the year.
 - The deadline was very short notice and we asked that next round NGOs will get a longer time and the procedure be more structured.
 - Despite this, we have received several good inputs and shared them with the CERF.

- Update on IASC RG5 on Humanitarian Financing, co-chaired by OCHA and ICVA:
 - It has been a slow process. Next meeting is tomorrow, 23 July, and there is a final draft of priorities to the group.
 - UN contracts harmonization is on the list, which gives an opportunity to keep the discussion on this in the Results Group with the UN agencies.
 - There is a priority on innovative financing, with Islamic Social Financing continuing to be a focus for ICVA.
 - The workplan will be sent to OPAG, which will hopefully approve it.

- Education Cannot Wait, a kind of private pooled fund, has recently opened a presence in Geneva, hosted in the NRC office, and the Chief Humanitarian Liaison has arrived. They will be 3-4 people in Geneva.

- ECHO 2021 FPAs – ECHO published on its partnership website the [criteria for the 2021 FPAs](#) for NGOs that want to be partners. Candidate NGOs need to submit their Independent Auditor's Final Report to the Commission before 1 July 2020 in order to be considered for funding in 2021.

Next Meeting: Monday 19 August 2019*

*from now on IASC RG5 meetings will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, so there will be a better link between the groups