

Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) – Steering Committee- Minutes of Meeting, 24 April 2008

Update on Progress

- Dissemination of the principles has been made to the field from ERC, Heads of Agency and CEO. Some countries, such as Indonesia are beginning to use the Principles of Partnership (PoP) in their daily work.
- In other contexts, the humanitarian community is not aware of the PoP. Creative tools need to be developed by organizations to ensure that PoP are taken seriously and integrated into everyday work.
- It was agreed by all participants the need to find ways to change behavior and build partnerships, particularly at the field level. Dissemination of the PoP requires not just dissemination, but requires a genuine institutional cultural change and approach to partnerships.

Regional Workshops and Practical Implementation of the PoP

- Three workshops are planned to discuss how PoP can be implemented in a practical way in the field. The workshops were endorsed by the SC:
- The workshop in Bangkok on the 21 May, 2008 will focus on relationships between NGO, Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement and the UN.
- On the 19 May in Amman, a discussion on the relationship between organizations when there is 'remote programming.'
- On the 9 and 10th June, a workshop will be held in Kampala to discuss how improved relationships can ensure more effective coordination.

All workshops are the product of Red Cross/ Crescent Movement, NGO and the UN working together. Two out of the 3 workshops are linked to humanitarian reform discussions and the third workshop in Bangkok is linked to a planned SCHR workshop.

It was agreed that after the regional workshops, discussions between partners should be held at the Headquarters level to look strategically at how better to inculcate the Principles- looking at issues such as communication strategy or joint trainings.

The discussions at the regional and HQ level will be reported back at the GHP July meeting. Representative from national organizations will be invited to the GHP July meeting to give feedback on the regional workshops.

Joint NGO/ Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement and UN Missions

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to carry out more joint missions. John Holmes, ERC invited the CEO of a NGO to accompany him for at least part of his upcoming trip to Afghanistan in late June.

Decision on submission of GHP outcome documents on 1 June

The 'outcome documents' are the reports from individual organizations on achievements since 2007 in terms of implementation of the PoP. It was agreed at the last GHP meeting that each organizations would submit an 'outcome document'. A template should be devised for this, as short as possible.

It is agreed that some general questions be sent to the GHP members by the 1 May to frame the reports on outcome by individual agencies. Although agencies are of course free to elaborate and extend reporting as they see fit. A summary of the reports could then be presented at the GHP July meeting.

Topics of Discussion at GHP July Meeting

On the 2 July, it was agreed that feedback from the regional workshops and integration of the PoP will be discussed, for example in the morning session.

A discussion on how the humanitarian community has so far responded to the *Perfect Storm* will be held (e.g. in the afternoon), with the aim of drawing out practical application of PoP i.e. has the humanitarian community worked in partnership to address the humanitarian concerns raised by increasing cost of food, high energy prices, increased production of bio-fuels, climate change and resulting natural disasters?

The issue of the *Perfect Storm* provides the GHP with the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern at a global level, but given that advocacy is already planned around the issue by the Global Humanitarian Forum, discussion at the GHP should focus on partnership.

Recommendation that location, attendance and participation at the meeting be as it was last year, amendments and additions to the list should be sent to OCHA.

Guest Speaker at the GHP July Meeting

On the evening of the 1 July, it was agreed to have a guest speaker that can describe in broad external terms and frame the debate of the discussion around the *Perfect Storm*.

Update on preparations for GHP July Meeting

- GHP meeting is planned for 1 and 2 July.
- Feedback from outcome documents and from regional workshops will be given at the GHP meeting.
- UNHCR has kindly offered to host the evening and IFRC to host the day.
- ICVA came forward to cover the costs of the guest speaker and facilitator. It was agreed to invite Dr. Elizabeth Ferris as facilitator.
- Budget was approved for GHP July meeting by the SC.

New NGO Co-chair

Tom Getman informed the meeting that he was handing over the function of co-chair for the GHP because of his upcoming March 1, 2009 retirement. Following a consultation with the non-UN agencies that are part of the Steering Committee, Dr. Jemilah Mahmoud of Mercy Malaysia had agreed to become the new Co-Chair on behalf of the non-UN agencies.