

**Global Humanitarian Platform
Working Level Group Meeting
31 March 2008- 15h00- 17h00
Geneva**

Summary Notes

1. Update on Progress made by Individual Agencies/ Organisations

Each agency listed progress made to date on integration of Principles of Partnership (PoP) into organisational structures and systems for behavioural change: OCHA have distributed the PoP and proposed guidance and indicators to Heads of Field Offices and Humanitarian Coordinators. UNICEF are discussing internally how to disseminate the Principles so they can be integrated into everyday work. The PoP have been included into the revised Cooperation Agreements. UNHCR have made efforts to ensure integration of the PoP internally; Training Focal Points have been briefed on PoP, and the Principles have been integrated into training modalities. A matrix on activities and policies has been developed and reviewed against the PoP; management strategies in terms of PoP have also been examined. UNHCR information and materials have been looked at in terms of PoP. ICVA have been travelling extensively and have discussed and presented the PoP. The level of awareness has been encouraging. WFP have made reference to the PoP in the online training tool on Emergency Preparedness and Response. Reference to the PoP should be standard practice at the field level including in relationships with NGOs. Following requests for more concrete examples, some SCHR members have provided leaflets with practical/ concrete examples to encourage use of the Principles within their own “families”. SCHR will also go back to consultation countries plus Kenya and Bangladesh to gain a better understanding of practice at field level. The PoP will be discussed next at the regional meeting in Bangkok.

Action: OCHA agreed to develop a PoP poster. The poster will be distributed for comments to all members of the WLG before finalization.

Themes for GHP July Meeting

The concept note on *Building and Sharing Capacity* was discussed, and, concerns were raised why the theme of capacity building had been chosen. Capacity building looks at more durable and sustainable partnerships and builds on national knowledge. Some of the other themes, suggested in the GHP meeting, such as financial accountability, has already been discussed by the IASC and GHD, and safety and security of staff has also been discussed within the IASC. However, capacity building at the national level has not been considered despite its importance. There was some concern that the term ‘capacity building’ may not be appropriate, as it does not reflect the fact that there was expertise and sharing of knowledge in more than one direction.

Discussion on how to strengthen the relationship between the three families was another point of discussion, and it was agreed that it should be given time in the GHP July meeting.

It was agreed that at the day-long GHP meeting in July, topics/ thematic could include:

- Building and Sharing Capacity- focusing on the ‘bottom up’ approach and how organisations/ agencies can share knowledge, experience and expertise.
- Discussion on strengthening relationships between NGOs, the UN and the Red Cross/ Crescent Movement, led by InterAction.

Reporting back on the Implementation of the Principles of Partnership at the field and institutional level and feedback on discussion of the PoP at the regional level (Amman, Kampala, Bangkok and possibly Panama) are also key items for the GHP July meeting.

Action: WLG members to send comments on the concept note on *Building and Sharing Capacity* to OCHA by **15 April, 2008**. Efforts will be made to amend the title to reflect the spirit of the intent i.e. not to look at a top down approach to capacity building but to provide a sense of partnership and sharing of expertise and knowledge. OCHA and ICVA will consolidate the comments and revise the document accordingly.

- InterAction to take the lead in looking at the presentation of the partnership process between major NGOs, Red Cross/ Crescent Movement and the UN.

- OCHA to provide feedback from HC retreat to inform the discussion on PoP implementation on the ground.

- Relevant co-chairs could provide feedback from the Regional Workshops to the GHP meeting in July. In addition, local NGOs attending the Regional Workshops should be invited to attend the GHP July meeting to provide concrete feedback.

- InterAction will contact Beth Ferris to inquire about her availability to facilitate the July meeting if agreed by the SC.

GHP Regional Workshops

John Holmes, ERC and Catherine Bragg, DERC are very supportive of the GHP process and have expressed their readiness to co-chair one of the planned GHP Regional Workshops, if their schedules permit. The aim is to show commitment to the GHP process at the most senior level. This offer was welcomed by the WLG.

It was agreed that field workshops should be used as a listening process to better understand what PoP mean for national and local organizations. There has been quite an intensive process from HQ to field and now a more 'bottom up' approach needs to take place. It was also added that it is important for discussion to take place in relation to 'roll out'. There was some concern that how themes identified such as *Building and Sharing Capacity* could translate into the substance of a workshop.

Action: OCHA and ICVA to send a note to WLG regarding the content, purpose and attendance at the Regional Workshops. The note should be shared with relevant UN Heads of Agency and CEOs in order for them to engage more effectively in the process.

GHP Steering Committee

The next SC meeting will be held on 24 April 2008. The agenda is expected to focus on guidance to the WLG on the issues raised in this meeting, as well as planning and logistics for GHP July Meeting.

Action: OCHA to prepare draft budget for the GHP meeting to be present to the SC for approval and financial commitments.