

Summary Note from Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) Task Force Meeting, 5 November, 2008

Participants:

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Johanna Grombach Wagner- ICRC
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Jamie McGoldrick- OCHA
Dermot Carty- UNICEF
Bernard Doyle- UNHCR
Ed Schenkenberg- ICVA (Acting co-chair)
Manisha Thomas- ICVA
Jim Bishop- InterAction
Mohamed El-Kouhene- WFP
Heiko Knoch- WFP
Gwyn Lewis- OCHA

Apologies:

Eva von Oelreich- SCHR (co-chair)

1. Strategic Discussion Proposals for GHP Principals

It was agreed at the first GHP Task Force held on 23 September, 2008 that a paper of proposed issues for strategy discussion at the GHP in 2009 would be compiled with inputs from organizations present at the September Task Force.

The document has been compiled and will be re-circulated to the Task Force for final approval with the following amendments:

- It will be suggested to the Principals that issues three, four and six could be combined under one heading for discussion at the next GHP Principals meeting, as could topics number two and number seven.
- The heading of topic number four should be changed to: ‘Growing Complexities in Humanitarian- Military Relationships.’
- For topic number seven, private sector and civil society will be added to the list of suggested emerging humanitarian partners.

2. Input from GHP Task Force members of Humanitarian Country Team ToR and SCHR Revised indicators

Humanitarian Country Team

Various substantive issues were raised by participants to the HCT ToR. These included:

If the HCT ToR are to be endorsed by the GHP, the HCT should be co-chaired;

The HCT need to be distinct from humanitarian reform rather than within the humanitarian reform architecture;

The HCT should not be preoccupied by representation of the humanitarian community on the ground but rather by ‘relevance’ of actors;

There should be a stronger reference made to supporting national governments;

The ToR should indicate a broader responsibility including risk reduction, preparedness as well as contingency planning. Security is also a task of the HCT, as there are operational and security requirements at a country level.

There was also broad agreement that the GHP should not submit papers to the IASC for approval, but rather once the IASC had endorsed the concept of drafting ToR for HCT and a document had been prepared, then the ToR could be circulated to the GHP TF for further comments. A possibility could be also to circulate to the GHP Principals.

Action: OCHA will present the HCT ToR concept at the IASC WG meeting in November 2008, with possible future circulation of the ToR to the GHP Task Force.

SCHR Revised Indicators

In OCHA's attempt to make the indicators presented to the GHP Principals meeting in July more measurable, the indicators have become too closely linked to humanitarian reform. As a result it was agreed by the TF to review the indicators again. The indicators should be as concrete as possible, however most likely quantitative measurement was not possible.

Action: SCHR, ICRC and VOICE will take the lead in commenting and presenting 3-4 new indicators that can be circulated to the Task Force before 30 November. The indicators will be then circulated to the Principals with a request to monitor implementation and report back before the next GHP Principals meeting.

3. Role and Future Objectives of the GHP including possible role in support to the Field

There is a possibility of holding partnership workshops in the field, but also to use the GHP and the PoP to attempt to resolve partnership problems in the field. OCHA will hold seven workshops in 2009 that will focus on improved coordination at the field level. Capacity building, leadership and partnership will be fundamental elements of the workshops. In addition various HC and RC strengthening trainings will be held throughout the year. The GHP and PoP do not necessarily have to be promoted within separate GHP events. Although this was generally agreed by the TF, it was still felt that further efforts to promote the PoP still need to be made. ICVA have funding for three GHP related events in 2009. It was proposed that the events could be held on the thematic issues identified by the Principals. Field discussions on partnership related to the strategic discussion would provide strong material for the GHP Principals meeting in 2009.

Action: Each GHP Task Force member to provide list of dates and events of their organizations where partnership can be promoted. This list can be circulated directly to the Task Force or sent to OCHA for circulation.

4. Agreement on date of next meeting, and how to broaden attendance of national NGOs

It would be useful to combine the GHP Principals meeting with an already planned event in Geneva. A proposal to combine the event with the GHD was not agreed upon as it could impact on the GHP aspiration to be a global platform rather than a western- donor driven platform. It was agreed that having the GHP event close to ECOSOC would ensure a better attendance of Principals.

When the Principals are asked to save the date for the GHP meeting, they will be also requested to invite one or two partners with whom they work at a national level to the meeting. This will provide a higher number of NGOs, CSOs and National Societies from the South, but will also ensure involvement of appropriate partners in the humanitarian field.

Action: OCHA to find out ECOSOC dates and propose possible dates to Task Force, bearing in mind the week of the 7 July is problematic for InterAction.

5. AOB

ICVA has developed a small brochure/ dissemination booklet on the GHP and PoP, that can eventually also include the global indicators and can be translated into more languages. The booklet will be published by the end of the year.

Action: UNICEF and OCHA to see if support can be provided for layout of the booklet.

Next Meeting: 1 December, 15:30- 17:00