

Summary Note from Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP) Task Force Meeting, January 9, 2009

Participants:

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Ann Blomberg- UNHCR
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Apologies:

Dermot Carthy- UNICEF

Opening remark

The GHP TF agreed to work under the assumption that the GHP Principals meeting this summer would be the last, at least in its current format. Whilst most of the participants in the 2008 GHP meeting strongly supported the continuation of the GHP, the Principals did not agree on any continuation of the current three year process.

1. Strategic issues selected by the GHP Principals

The response from the GHP Principals to the request for identification of strategic issues was limited (approximately 30%). In addition the selection of topics has been quite varied and has not provided a focused response. However, generally there has been conglomeration around the topics of climate change, humanitarian space, humanitarian military relationships and humanitarian financing. It was generally agreed that the topics selected fall under two broad thematics: the first being natural disasters and the second complex emergencies.

It was agreed by the TF that one of the key challenges is to ensure that discussions held at the GHP Principals meeting, given their close linkages to IASC topics, have an added value. One added value is of course, the broader attendance at the GHP of non UN partners. Beyond this and to avoid overlap, it was also agreed that the IASC agreements and recommendations should be the basis or the starting point for any research for the GHP Principals meeting. This would also prevent the discussions becoming too broad.

Regarding a discussion around climate change, the added value of the GHP forum could be a broader endorsement of the humanitarian consequences of climate change (broader as compared to the organizations involved in the IASC). Given IFRC's prominent role on climate change, IFRC has agreed to take the lead in preparing this discussion.

UNHCR will lead the preparation of the discussion focused around complex emergencies that touches on humanitarian space, humanitarian- military relationships and the business model of humanitarian response.

SCHR has agreed to draft preliminary Term of Reference to frame the research and the GHP agenda (with support from OCHA).

Mention was also made of the possibility of holding a back-to-back session with member states. DFID have proposed a high level meeting between member states and the humanitarian community but have not confirmed which member states or the timing, although it most likely will be scheduled for this summer. If this were to happen, the agenda and research for the GHP meeting would be amended accordingly.

Action:

- SCHR to draft a Terms of Reference document that will provide an overview of the thematic issues that will be discussed at the GHP Principals meeting
- IFRC will take the lead in preparing the climate change session
- UNHCR will take the lead on the preparation of the discussion focused around complex emergencies that touches on humanitarian space, humanitarian- military relationships and the business model of humanitarian response.

2. Indicators

The value of the indicator is that it is down to earth, field related and qualitative. Given that the Humanitarian Country Team is not necessarily a co-chaired meeting, it was agreed that the wording of the indicator be changed slightly to reflect this i.e. *'Field coordination mechanisms are **possibly** co-chaired (UN/non-UN) and balanced (UN/non-UN) and based on facilitation, not hierarchy.*

Interaction is flexible and constructive and includes main operational humanitarian partners. Organizations are invited to participate according to open and known criteria. Meetings are focused on clear objectives, they are action-oriented, and produce reality-based decisions that will be followed-up.

NGOs on the mechanism represent a larger NGO community which includes national/local NGOs. Documentation and meetings are translated into local languages, when needed.'

Action:

The indicator needs to be monitored. The following opportunities to monitor were suggested but more need to be added by the GHP TF:

- At the HC retreat in May, OCHA proposes that the HCT be raised and discussed at one session with members of the GHP TF
- ICVA will ensure that the indicator be used by the focal points in the 'NGOs and reform' project led by a group of British NGOs and ICVA.
- The OCHA Humanitarian Reform Tracking Tool is being revised to include more qualitative indicators and may also be an opportunity to monitor the indicator
- GHP Task Force members to provide feedback on other opportunities to monitor partnership indicators

3. Humanitarian Country Teams

The March 2009 IASC Working Group meeting is due to discuss the terms of reference for Humanitarian Country Teams, as a means for a broader and more inclusive coordination mechanism to involve IASC organization and other national and local civil society organizations. The GHP's concept of Humanitarian Country Partnerships Teams currently reflects a broader partnership type meeting with more of a GHP structure than the HCT being discussed at the IASC.

In addition IFRC noted that it will be important to coordinate and make linkages to preparedness and between the HCT and DMT type structures.

Action:

- Further details on the above will be drafted in a note by OCHA for the GHP TF (please see note attached)

4. Logistics and dates for GHP Principals meetings

Ideas for speakers include: Jan Egeland; Gareth Thomas MP DFID; Gareth Evans, President, International Crisis Group (ICG); Dick Roche, Irish Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; David Nabarro, HLTF.

Action:

- IFRC have confirmed that it will be able to once again host the meeting in the IFRC meeting room (but this will of course be dependent on dates).
- Reception: An organization/agency needs to come forward with an offer to host the reception (UNICEF, OHCHR and WHO were mentioned as possibilities)
- National NGO attendance: ICVA and participating NGOs will identify how to increase the attendance of southern NGOs bearing in mind the limited seating space.
- Dates: Not yet confirmed, as ECOSOC is not yet confirmed, but before or after humanitarian segment of ECOSOC, IASC Working Group and InterAction meeting in the summer.
- Budget for review and completion is attached