

**Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative  
Chairs' Summary  
EC Delegation, Geneva  
27 January 2009**

Co-Chairs: EC and NL  
Present GHD members: AUS, AUT, BEL, BGR, CAN, CHE, CZE, DEU, DNK, EST, ESP, FIN, FRA, GRC, GBR, HUN, IRL, ITA, LTU, LUX, NZL, NOR, POL, ROU, SWE, SVK, USA.  
Standing Invitee: OCHA

Power point presentations and other documents referred to during the meeting are circulated as background information.

**Morning 'thematic' session: Humanitarian aid allocation based on Identified Need**

**1. Presentation by OCHA to donors of on-going work on the Assessment and Classification in Emergencies project (ACE)**

Presentation by Niels Scott, chief 'disaster and vulnerability policy section' OCHA. The ACE project sets out to look at the panoply of needs assessment methodologies that exist, how they fit together and where there may be gaps. More specifically it aims to: 1) harmonise data collection, analysis & interpretation by establishing a framework for a common approach to allow comparability of multi-sectoral needs assessments and; 2) consolidate humanitarian data by developing a consolidated humanitarian situation and response analysis tool. In the process of finding a common indicator for needs assessments OCHA has started with the assessments that take place in the first 72 hours following a sudden onset crisis. The first results for a common set of indicators for this phase are expected at the end of March. Concerning the consolidated humanitarian data OCHA indicated that the mapping phase is expected to be completed in February 2009. These results will be circulated to GHD members once available. The GHD group welcomed the ACE-initiative and recognized the importance of having a clear and comparable basis for needs assessments. GHD chairs confirmed the need to maintain the momentum for this initiative with strong support from donors and underlined that the theme of needs assessments will be further discussed within GHD at the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Montreux.

**2. Needs-based decision-making:  
- DG ECHO presentation on its GNA - methodology and results 2009**

Presentation by Michèle Lebrun, DG ECHO. In order to identify the people with the greatest humanitarian need, DG ECHO uses a complementary two-track approach. Besides needs assessments at field level, ECHO conduct a comparative analysis of countries through its GNA (Global Needs Assessment) tool. A elaborate outline of GNA methodology (using the vulnerability and crisis index) and indicators can be found in the background documents. The presentation concentrated on the function of GNA as a decision making tool and its constraints. Constraints with GNA methodology are for example indicators which are limited to the national level which gives problems with (transborder) pockets of humanitarian needs. All donors are invited to consider how a tool as GNA might help in their decision making process and donors are welcome to

contact ECHO for any questions on GNA methodology or possibilities for further use of GNA.

### **- Update from Canada on the development of its Severity Indices approach**

Presentation by Pascal Desbiens (Permanent Mission of Canada).

As follow up on a presentation to the GHD group in 2008, Canada has been working on a Humanitarian Needs Index (HNI) as a tool to inform decision-making and to better allocate funding in accordance with humanitarian needs. It was expected initially that such index would cover a broad range of emergencies. However, calibrating protracted emergencies proved to be methodologically challenging. The HN Index was last updated in November 2008 and further work is required to deal with protracted crises. Meanwhile, Canada has focused on developing a method for comparing the severity of different natural disasters. This method is captured in a Calibration Table for Natural Disasters (CTND), which defines severity as number of people affected or number of people requiring life-saving assistance. In sharing its work on HNI and CTND with the GHD group, Canada sought to provide an example of how needs assessment tools can help donors' decision making processes.

### **3. Forgotten Crisis - how to ensure identification of all 'forgotten' crises? - DG ECHO presentation of its Forgotten Crisis Assessment**

Presentation by Michèle Lebrun, ECHO.

Besides GNA ECHO uses the Forgotten Crisis Assessment (FCA) to identify "severe, protracted humanitarian crisis situations where affected populations are receiving no or insufficient international aid and where there is no political commitment to solve the crisis, due in part to a lack of media interest."

Since these crises are neglected there is often not enough accurate data available. Therefore ECHO complements data with a qualitative evaluation. To guide this methodical analysis a questionnaire is being used; however some additional factors should be integrated in the scoring to improve the result. GHD members are invited to provide any input which could help improve the FCA. See action points under paragraph 11.

### **- OCHA on the CERF 'under-funded' window - allocation criteria and experience**

Presentation by Shelley Cheatham (OCHA).

One-third of the CERF grant facility is earmarked for underfunded emergencies and is distributed in two rounds per year. The selection of countries is based on indicators of the previous year, CAP-funding, advice given by the ERC and IASC country teams and other indicators like GNA, consultation of OCHA field offices, etc. The CERF evaluation of 2008 came up with some questions on the selection criteria for the CERF underfunded window to which GHD members are invited to comment. See action points under paragraph 11.

### **4. Update from Sweden on follow-up to the Pilot training on Needs-based decision Making**

Update by Jakob Hallgren from the Swedish Permanent Mission. In follow up to the conclusion of last year's training in June 2008. A training session will be organized before July 2009. A manual is being developed. The GHD group will be informed on further

developments. Donors are requested to consider beforehand who will be best suited to participate in this training.

#### **Afternoon session: on-going business**

### **5. Montreux - preparations: update from the Convenors**

The first day of Montreux will focus on refining core elements of the CAP process. Discussions will take place about humanitarian system issues and the CAP with a focus on relations with host governments and the role of the HC and Clusters in the CAP process. Another topic for discussion will be the improvement of the quality of the CAP with regard to managing funding, presentations and cycles. The second day of Montreux is devoted to a strategic discussion of humanitarian policy issues concerning the GHD group, UN agencies, NGOs and the Red Cross family. The overall emphasis will be on partnership in humanitarian response. During the morning the focus is on a shared understanding of needs assessment frameworks and the afternoon will focus on partnership and humanitarian financing, especially concerning the challenges arising from humanitarian financing mechanisms.

Ireland presented a study on *Approaches to NGO financing for humanitarian interventions*. The intention is to share information on different approaches to NGO financing among GHD members. Donors are requested to look at the ToR and provide recommendations. A particular question in this regard is whether the study should look at NGO's only or also include the Red Cross family (non-UN actors in stead of NGO's). Donors are also invited to present a case study.

### **6. Chairs feedback on the GHD input to OECD-DAC revised humanitarian assessment framework and info from Norway on the on-going study on the relevance and applicability of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness in Humanitarian Assistance.**

Reference was made to the paper that has been sent by the chairs to the DAC on 19 January on the basis of comments from the GHD group. The paper highlights a few areas of general convergence and key concerns and gives para by para comments in an annex. The discussion was to continue during the OECD-DAC meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February in Paris. The GHD chairs kindly requested all OECD-DAC members to prepare their colleagues in Paris for this meeting.

Related to this theme Norway gave an update on their assessment of the relevance and applicability of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in Humanitarian Assistance. The study will address synergies between the Paris Principles and their relation with GHD and also elaborate on more thematic issues that appear on both sides like DRR and Early Recovery. A presentation of the final results will be given at a following GHD meeting.

### **7. Report from US on the work of the sub-group on IDPs**

The working group on displacement in emergency settings met a day before the GHD meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. A draft version of their study has been discussed on the basis of a desk study done by Overseas Development Initiatives and undertaken field visits to Sri Lanka and Sudan. First recommendations and prioritization have been formulated and will be shared with the broader group after feedback from the consultants. A group of donors might visit Sri Lanka to follow up on the recommendations.

## **8. Donor-mapping coordination study: launch information from the EC**

The study will provide a factual base as to the what, where, why and how of field coordination. The study was launched by the EC and has a steering group consisting of EC, UK and NL. A summary project description will be shared with the GHD group. Feedback and comments are very welcome at any stage in the project. In practical terms a briefing meeting has been held and the study will now continue with two sets of questionnaires for headquarters and field level. GHD members are requested to be aware of these upcoming questionnaires and consider appropriate contact persons for both the field and HQ level. A presentation and further follow up are envisaged for June.

## **9. Outline proposal for a GHD lessons learned exercise - exchange of views**

The aim of the 'lessons learned exercise' is to highlight a practical application of GHD principles and practices in the field. The proposal is to take DRC as a country case but feedback on this choice is welcome. The format will be to look at GHD principles and practices grouped around five topics: joint action at country level; donor relations to broader community and host government; funding; CIVMIC and IASC guidelines; learning and accountability. Donors are invited to volunteer to lead and give their perspective on a specific topic (e.g. a small 'lessons learned' conveners group was desirable to take this forward and volunteers are sought). Preliminary comments given during this GHD meeting (e.g. possible overlap with items discussed under IDP working group) will be reflected upon by DG ECHO.

## **10. Updates from individual donors on 'domestic implementation' plans/humanitarian aid policies**

- USA is updating their internal policy with a series of internal guidance papers.
- UK is formulating an update on their existing Humanitarian Policy Action Plan.

## **11. Any Other Business**

1. GHD indicators – GHD members were invited to consider whether the GHD indicators need updating.
2. New donors facilitation - the group was informed that a 'newcomers group' meeting will be held as a preparation for upcoming Montreux. This meeting will be organized by Estonia at the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March - venue EC Delegation Geneva.