

**Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative  
Chairs' Summary  
EC Delegation, Geneva  
17 October 2008**

Co-Chairs: EC and NL  
Present GHD members: AUS, BEL, BGR, CAN, CHE, CZE, DEU, DNK, ESP, FIN, GBR, HUN, IRL, LTU, LUX, NZD, POL, ROU, SWE, SVN, USA.  
Non-donors and observers: JPN, OECD-DAC, OCHA

## **I. Opening**

The chairs welcomed the group. Main topics of the meeting are the presentation and discussion of the GHD work plan and feedback on OECD-DAC meeting by Steve Darvill, Humanitarian Advisor of OECD-DAC. The agenda was adopted with DARA's Humanitarian Response Index and participation in GHD meetings to be discussed under Any Other Business in a donors-only setting (agenda item 7).

### **1. Summary of main outcomes of July meeting**

Jakob Hallgren (SWE) gave a short overview of the annual GHD meeting of 18 July 2008. See also chairs' summary of 18 July 2008 (disseminated by mail on 6 October and will be placed on GHD website).

### **2. Outline of forward plans and working methods**

A draft work plan on the three priority themes outlined in July has been prepared for discussion today. Chairs will send out the revised work plan after the meeting. Comments on the work plan can be given for a limited period of time after which the work plan will be considered final. However, the work plan is a living document that can be further updated and completed during the year.

Two thematic meetings on topics emerging from the work plan would most likely be held in January and April. In addition to these two thematic GHD meetings, a Montreux retreat will most likely be held at the end of February. The first day is likely to have the traditional focus on CAP/financing issues, and chairs welcome the idea of having a second day of Montreux with a GHD focus (following last year's approach). In June a general GHD meeting including preparations for the annual GHD meeting will be organized. The annual meeting itself will be held in July close to ECOSOC week in Geneva as usual. In the spirit of partnership (one of the priorities for this year) the chairs are looking at logistical possibilities to organize the annual GHD meeting back to back with the annual meeting of the Global Humanitarian Partnership (GHP).

### **3. Discussion of draft work plan**

In general the work plan seeks to bring more focus into the range of GHD activities in support of the principles and tries to make GHD more operational, including at field level. Previous work will be followed up upon where agreed on certain activities (eg. new donors facilitation) and chairs intention is that the work plan also provides a brief overview of previously agreed outcomes and next steps to facilitate continuity of GHD activities and smooth transfer of chairmanships. To take forward the proposed activities

in the work plan chairs invite the group to volunteer to lead particular activities and to provide comments and seek clarifications where necessary on the draft work plan.

On the different sections of the work plan:

### 1. Partnership

The partnership activities seek to strengthen the dialogue with other partners in the humanitarian system (NGOs, UN and Red Cross family), building on work of previous co-chairs. The former linkage with IASC/GHP will be maintained during Montreux and possibly by organizing the annual GHD meeting back to back with the GHP meeting (format is being explored). In general the co-chairs and members of the GHP task force, with whom informal discussions have taken place, agree on the need for better sharing of information. Through ICVA and the Steering Committee on Humanitarian Reform (SCHR) NGOs have floated several themes of common interest: role of donors in moving forward the Principles of Partnership (PoP); involvement of NGOs in follow up to the financing study by Abby Stoddard; enhanced field coordination.

Outreach within the donor community will build on contacts with potential donors by previous co-chairs and in coordination with other initiatives by OCHA and ODSG. Finland, as chair of the ODSG, welcomes GHD as one of the thematic themes for outreach which will focus on the wider European area. Estonia will be co-working with Finland on an outreach event planned for May 2009. For the purpose of outreach the website could be useful. Use of the website has been delayed due to some technicalities but updating this will be taken forward in the coming months.

In addition to outreach there will be a focus on 'in-reach' to maintain the dialogue within the GHD group with the new members. The new donors sessions will continue, with thanks to Hungary for hosting the most recent session on 16 October and presenting their humanitarian aid policy. Hungary proposed to keep the new donors and GHD meetings back to back where possible.

Sweden, as one of the conveners of Montreux for the coming year, gave an update on recent preliminary discussion. The agenda has not yet been set. Most likely the CAP will be the overarching theme for day one but the conveners are open to suggestions. Conveners for Montreux 2009 are UK, CH, SWE, NOR, USA and NL.

### 2. Strengthen donor coordination

To make GHD more field-oriented and tangible, strengthening donor coordination at the field level remains a priority theme. A first activity in this regard will be to perform a baseline 'mapping' of existing donor coordination. The outcome of this mapping is intended to be used to discuss where to reinforce and how to add value to donor coordination, building on existing means without creating new groups. Furthermore, the useful Danish field guidance paper may be supplemented and will be further disseminated. A lessons learned activity will be organized, which will not go through all stages of crises response but look at what happens with the principles and good practices of GHD in a specific case. The success of this activity depends on the time and willingness of the whole group to participate. Comments on what would constitute an appropriate case for a lessons learned activity are welcome. Lessons learning could be an approach to carry forward into future years of GHD work. To avoid overlap with OCHA's coordination

activities, the lessons learned will concentrate on GHD principles and coordination amongst donors.

### 3. Humanitarian Financing and allocation based on need

Section three of the work plan contains (ongoing) initiatives that remain important. The Global Needs Assessment and Forgotten crisis assessments will be discussed in a thematic meeting. In Montreux the theme of humanitarian financing and needs based allocation in general is likely to be on the agenda.

### 4. Other areas of ongoing interest

The EC, as facilitator of the new the donors sessions, invites rotating hosts to step up to hold the following session. USA will send out an update on the IDP working group. Ireland expresses its interest in the partnership arrangements (twinning) with new donors. EC indicated that it would facilitate further action on the latter, probably in the EU context (European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid - Action Plan).

### 5. Mainstream GHD into individual donor action

Chairs recalled the importance of mainstreaming GHD commitments into individual donor behaviour. Donors are requested to send all information on new and updated implementation plans to the co-chairs so these can be shared as appropriate with the group. LUX, SWE, ESP and EC provided oral indications that they are currently working on new or updated implementation plans/Humanitarian Aid strategies mainstreaming GHD.

In overall reaction to the draft work plan several donors gave their general approval of the work plan and welcomed in particular a stronger operational focus and implementation of GHD at the field level. All comments and amendments were noted by the chairs and will be incorporated into a revised version of the work plan. NB. A revised version of the draft work plan taking into account this discussion was circulated by co-chairs on 22 October 2008 with final invitation for review to end October.

#### **4. Updates from individual donors on ‘domestic implementation plans’.**

See discussion above under section 5 of the work plan and action points below. Further indications and updates welcome at future meetings or by email to the chairs.

#### **5. Feedback on OECD-DAC meeting of 16 October by Steve Darvill**

On 16 October in Paris, the DAC met to discuss the draft Humanitarian Aid peer review synthesis report, the revised humanitarian assessment framework and the relation between DAC and GHD. In absence of a specific thematic network on humanitarian aid within the DAC, GHD has become the reference group on humanitarian action. The synthesis report would shortly be adopted following the OECD-DAC meeting with some minor amendments. The synthesis report will then be formally transmitted to the GHD co-chairs after revision for circulation to the full GHD membership. The revised assessment framework for humanitarian peer reviews was discussed but not yet adopted during the DAC meeting. The DAC invites the GHD group to provide if possible a consolidated set of comments on the revised assessment framework. This feedback is needed by 1 December so that it can apply to the second generation of peer reviews, beginning with Ireland, Austria and Sweden. On the linkage between DAC and GHD the DAC group responded positively to closer linkage and invited GHD to explore further format of this linkage. However it was noted that generally DAC-documents can only be shared with the

GHD group as a whole after their approval by OECD-DAC members. For the full PowerPoint presentation by Steve Darvill on the synthesis report, see attachment.

In order to see if a common or compiled GHD position could be put forward, the chairs invite GHD members to get in touch with their DAC delegates and to send their responses on the revised assessment framework to both their DAC delegates and to the GHD co-chairs. The EC noted in particular that there had been some discussion on the proposal to include a number of cross-cutting issues in the revised review framework. Several donors expressed their approval of maintaining and strengthening linkages with the DAC. The DAC humanitarian advisor was invited by the GHD chairs to provide further information on the OECD-DAC outreach programme for non-DAC members.

## **6. Conclusion and next steps**

The GHD work plan for 2008-2009 would be recirculated with revisions for final approval by end October. Ongoing initiatives and the work on financing mechanisms and needs based allocation will also be taken forward in addition to the priorities of partnership and field-oriented approaches to GHD. The chairs thank GHD members for volunteering to take forward work in several activities.

For the OECD-DAC revised assessment framework the GHD group is invited to share positions with the co-chairs who will try to formulate a shared position document on that basis. On the partnership theme chairs will continue the discussion with GHP but also stay in close contact with the UN and Red Cross families on behalf of GHD. Chairs will liaise closely also with the Montreux conveners, especially regarding the second day of Montreux. An early indication of forthcoming (provisional) meeting dates will be circulated together with the updated contacts list within a few weeks.