

ICVA Humanitarian Finance Working Group Meeting summary, February 2023

Participants

(28 in total)

Save the Children, ACF, NRC, WVI, IRC, Oxfam, Trocaire, Terre des Hommes, ACT Alliance, HI, Care, Médecins du Monde, InterAction, DRC, CAFOD

Resources

<i>HFWG Decision tracker</i>	Link
<i>HFWG January 2023 retreat summary</i>	Link
<i>HFWG February agenda</i>	Link
<i>Grand Bargain Secretariat, How to implement the Grand Bargain commitments at country-level?, February 23</i>	Link
<i>A4EP, Putting Commitments into Action, February 15</i>	Link
<i>WFP, FLA Review Update email, December 2022</i>	Link
<i>WFP, APC 2023 survey email, February 23</i>	Link
<i>UNICEF, Revised Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA), January</i>	Link
<i>UN Sanctions App launch and panel discussion on UNSC R2664, January 30</i>	Link
<i>IASC TF3, Draft KMs Sanctions-CT and EQ response in Syria</i>	Link
<i>Screening Beneficiaries France decision Conseil d'Etat</i>	Link

Decisions and action items

1. Grand Bargain

- ICVA will convene an additional round of consultations of the Grand Bargain NGO constituency. *****Update post meeting: Grand Bargain NGO constituency update call held on March 15.**

2. Pooled Funds

- ICVA will convene interested HFWG members to hold an ad hoc discussion on the Syria and Türkiye earthquake response: funding and counterterrorism/sanctions-related considerations on March 2. *****Update post meeting: HFWG ad hoc meeting summary available [here](#).**
- ICVA takes note of members' interest in further discussing how the renewal of the [UNSC resolution on cross-border](#) has been affecting the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, the time lag between donor pledges and disbursement to PF, and the growing imbalance in the percentage of CBPF funds allocated to UN agencies vs. NGOs, and will convene additional ad hoc meetings as relevant.

3. Partnerships

- HFWG members are invited to provide inputs on the APC 2023 survey by March 10. *****Update post meeting: ICVA shared on Feb 23 the key points suggested to be collectively highlighted in the survey, focusing on ensuring a good consultative process.**
- HFWG members are invited to share their concerns and/or red lines on the revised PCA and UNICEF partnership documents.

Summary of discussions

0. Review of HFWG past discussions

- ICVA recapped of the main points of discussion from the January HFWG in-person retreat that focused on Pooled Funding and Data Transparency.
- On pooled funds, the lessons learnt report on the Regionally-hosted Pooled Fund for West and Central Africa has not been received yet. ***Update post meeting: report shared with HFWG members by email on April 6 and available on the [ICVA website](#).
- On UN partnerships, ICVA will be working on establishing a platform to compile and compare written feedback on UN agencies partnerships and donor conditions.
- On UNICEF, building on discussions with the HFWG and members in December and January around revised partnership documents, an update has been provided later in the meeting, see below.
- On COTER, an update on UNSCR2664 and TF3 work has been provided later in the meeting, see below.

1. Grand Bargain 2.0.

- ICVA as the Grand Bargain NGO Constituency co-chair updated HFWG members on the future of the Grand Bargain process. The NGO Constituency held two calls in February to discuss the (i) scope and timeline and (iii) structure, governance, and accountability.
 - On the future scope of the GB, there is a general agreement around expanding the focus of the agreement to include reducing burdens on the system (shrinking of humanitarian needs) and expanding the donor base.
 - On the timeline, NGOs generally agree to set a milestone in 2026, but are against the inclusion of language around opting out at that milestone point as this would weaken the process. For clarification, individual signatories can opt out of the Grand Bargain at any point. Many NGOs would prefer aligning the GB timeline with 2030 SDGs; however, the UN and donor constituencies are hesitant to commit to the GB beyond 2026.
 - On the structure, the NGO constituency discussed at length the parallel mechanisms of the Grand Bargain workstreams and the IASC Task Forces – noting the clear added value of the inclusion of all humanitarian stakeholders in the GB. While there is support for the continuation of the workstream structure, NGOs also shared key concerns around the lack of transparency in terms of leadership, decision-making and financing.
- ICVA and Caucus champions encouraged NGO signatories to endorse the caucus outcome documents on the Role of Intermediaries and Quality Funding. Their broad endorsement would be a critical signal of ongoing support for the Grand Bargain moving forward and caucuses as a relevant tool to resolve political blockages.
 - For the 2022 self-reporting cycle, the expectation of reporting on changes/activities related to the caucuses recommendations is low, due to the short timeline. ICVA would expect more significant revisions in the self-reporting exercise based on the structure that will be agreed upon in June 2023.
- The expected timeline for the Future of the Grand Bargain process is as follows:

- In February, constituency consultations will continue; ICVA will convene another round of NGO constituency consultation. The Facilitation Group will meet on February 27, which will give a clearer view of the status of negotiations.
- In March, on the margins of the European Humanitarian Forum, the Facilitation Group Principals will meet with the Eminent Person.
- In April and May, the different constituencies will go through discussions around the structure of the new GB iteration. Ideally in May, constituencies will reach a final agreement on the proposal.

2. Pooled Funds

- Save the Children, as CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform Advisory Group (PAG) co-chair, shared an update of the latest discussions of the PFWG, CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform and PAG.
 - The OCHA Donor Support Group will organise a field visit to South Sudan mid-March.
 - The PFWG will be planning Fund-to-Fund meetings to work on complementarity between PF.
- OCHA shared an update on the pooled funding situation in Syria, in the context of the Syria and Türkiye earthquake response, with the PAG as follows:
 - The **Syria Cross-border Fund** (SCHF) has launched a \$50 million Reserve Allocation for the response. It has been supported to that end by a loan from the CERF, which has allowed the Fund to initiate allocations ahead of anticipated donor funding. There are currently some \$62.5 million in donor contributions in the pipeline that will be allocated towards the earthquake response, once received.
 - Meanwhile, the **Syria Humanitarian Fund** (SHF) is scaling up ongoing projects in earthquake-affected areas, by immediately providing an estimated \$5-7 million in cost extensions to front line partners. These top ups are a first step to ensure funding can be immediately implemented. As additional donor contributions to the SHF are confirmed, the Fund will launch a Reserve Allocation. Currently, some \$17 million is in the pipeline.
 - The SCHF and SHF allocations are being implemented in close complementarity with the **Central Emergency Response Fund** (CERF). Within hours after the earthquake struck, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) announced a first \$25 million CERF allocation (\$15 million for Syria and \$10 million for Türkiye). Three days later, as the magnitude of the catastrophe became clearer, the ERC approved an additional \$25 million from CERF to boost aid efforts in the earthquake-stricken parts of Syria.
- The CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform requested a meeting of the PFWG to discuss the funding of earthquake relief efforts in Syria and Türkiye, including the complementarity between CBPF and CERF. Despite the initial agreement of Switzerland, OCHA seems unwilling to organise that ad hoc meeting and proposed to discuss this topic as part of the upcoming webinar on the CBPF Global Guidelines rollout (March 22).
- On the suggestion of members, the HFWG will hold an ad hoc discussion on the funding of the earthquake response in Syria and Türkiye and counterterrorism and sanction-related considerations. ***Update post meeting: HFWG ad hoc meeting on Syria and Türkiye earthquake response was held on March 2, you can find [here the final summary of discussions](#).
- In the [Türkiye flash appeal](#), a strikingly high percentage of requirements are for UN agencies (82%), despite the limited work currently done by the UN in the response, which is mostly carried by local actors.

- The Aid Fund for Northern Syria ([AFNS](#), formerly INSAF) has been setting up a PF for NGOs operating in northwest Syria through cross-border to replace the SCHF.
- ICVA takes note of members' interest in further discussing how the renewal of the [UNSC resolution on cross-border](#) has been affecting the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, the time lag between donor pledges and disbursement to PF, and the growing imbalance in the percentage of CBPF funds allocated to UN agencies vs. NGOs.

3. Partnerships

a. WFP

- ICVA has continued to work with InterAction on engaging with WFP, notably highlighting the critical need for better communications from the WFP NGO Partner Unit. ICVA members still facing issues in receiving WFP partnership-related communications are invited to send a note to ICVA.
- HFWG members are reminded of the WFP FLA Review – Round 1 webinar scheduled on February 28. *****Update post meeting: you can find the [WFP FLA Review, round 1 summary notes here](#).**
- HFWG members are invited to provide inputs on the APC 2023 survey by March 10. *****Update post meeting: ICVA shared on Feb 23 the key points suggested to be collectively highlighted in the survey focusing on ensuring a good consultative process.**

b. UNICEF

- ICVA and its members have been engaging with UNICEF DAPM to share NGO partners' red lines in the revised PCA which have been preventing the swift signature of the revised agreements, where/when needed.
 - HFWG members are invited to share their concerns and/or red lines on the revised PCA and UNICEF partnership documents.
 - Save the Children will share further updates on the revised PCA and updated procedures by email with the HFWG.
- *****Update post meeting: ICVA reached out to UNICEF DAPM and EMOPS colleagues to highlight key concerns regarding (i) the lack of communications from UNICEF on pending changes before the introduction/rollout of revised documents, (ii) specific clauses (notably GTC clause 4.2) that represented 'red lines' for NGO partners preventing PCA signature and (iii) opportunities for further NGO input on the various revision processes underway on guidance and procedures affecting partners (following up from June 2022 discussion).**

4. COTER

- HFWG members are updated on IASC TF3 discussions on the Syria earthquake response and partners' reported concerns of continued large-scale bank de-risking, lack of clarity from donors on permissible interactions with sanctioned companies and procurement challenges. Key messages and asks to governments available [here](#).

5. AOB



- HFWG members are informed of the ICVA leadership transition from the end of March until the appointment of a new Executive Director.
- ICVA shared the latest programme for the [ICVA 2023 Annual Conference](#). ***Update post meeting: recordings of the ICVA AC are now available [here](#).