



Annual Report on activities pursued under the the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) Initiative (2008-9)

Introduction

Under the co-chairmanship of the European Commission and the Netherlands from August 2008-July 2009, the 35 donors meeting under the umbrella of the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative, agreed to work together on three over-arching themes:

1. Enhancing Partnership – reinforcing the humanitarian system model
2. Strengthening the operational/field focus of GHD – donor coordination
3. Humanitarian financing and allocation based on identified need

Donors pursued a range of work together under the GHD umbrella focussing on these priorities at the global level (meeting regularly in Geneva), and meeting also in Rome and in several locations in the field.

GHD donors reaffirmed the importance of mainstreaming of good donorship practice into individual donor behaviour and to this end donors' reported regularly to the group as a whole on major policy developments in individual donor countries/institutions. The GHD group also took note with interest of findings arising from the first 'Synthesis Report' on Humanitarian Aid from the OECD-DAC peer review process.

Finally, GHD-donors continued to encourage other donors to engage in dialogue on the application of the humanitarian principles and good donorship approaches.

Detail

The following detailed report (in table-format) follows the structure of the GHD work plan for 2008-9 and summarises activities conducted in the framework of GHD over the past year, with an indication of outcomes and areas of agreed follow-up, some of which are to be taken forward under the next period of the work plan.

Review of the GHD work plan 2008-9

1. ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP – REINFORCING THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM MODEL		
Summary	Activity	Outcomes /follow-up
Strengthened systematic dialogue between donors and humanitarian partner organisations in support of the Principles of Partnership.	<p>GHD co-chairs (on behalf of the group) have instituted regular contact with representatives of OCHA (focal point for the IASC-GHD contact group), ICVA and the SCHR on the GHD work plan and issues of mutual concern in relation to the overall humanitarian system.</p> <p>The Montreux IX retreat on the Consolidated Appeals Process and Humanitarian Financing 5-6 March 2009¹ brought together UN agencies, NGOs, Red Cross Movement and donors for a discussion on needs assessment and humanitarian financing mechanisms with a focus on UN-NGO financing arrangements.</p> <p>In July, the GHD invited IASC representatives (UN agencies, NGOs, Red Cross Movement) to its annual review meeting to discuss how the Principles of Partnership are being implemented and the role for donors in supporting this.</p> <p>The IASC-GHD contact group, chaired by OCHA, has been re-established as an inter-agency forum for liaising with the donors in GHD. The GHD co-chairs met with the contact group in May 2009 to explain the donor views on the work of GHD.</p>	<p>See: Montreux 'Convenors Conclusions' (<i>see annex 1 for ease of reference</i>). The conclusions include: 'A strong call for strengthened partnership in humanitarian response through a more joined-up approach to needs assessment and recognition of the complementarity of the different available financing mechanisms. UN agencies were invited to take action with NGOs to enhance UN-NGO funding partnerships'.</p> <p>A number of GHD donors (including one of the Co-Chairs) began contributing to the work of the new inter-agency Needs Assessment Group, which started meeting regularly from March 2009 onwards, to take forward joint efforts on comparable needs assessments. GHD donors wrote to the ERC underlining the importance of making progress in this area.</p> <p>GHD co-chairs recommend to future chairs to continue regular contact with representatives of OCHA, ICVA and</p>

¹ The second-day of the Montreux IX retreat was framed in consultation with the GHD co-chairs.

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		SCHR as well as with the IASC-GHD contact group.
'Newcomers to GHD' facilitation and GHD outreach.	<p>In Spring 2008, it was agreed to hold specific ad hoc 'introductory' sessions for newcomers to GHD. These are facilitated by the EC and co-hosted by a 'new' GHD member on a rotating basis. Further 'newcomers' sessions were held on 16 October 2008 (co-hosted by Hungary covering Hungarian humanitarian aid policy, Financial Tracking Service and ECHOs 14-point system; and an update by ECHO on EU consensus on Humanitarian Aid); and 2 March (co-hosted by Estonia covered Estonia's humanitarian aid policy and gave an introduction to the Montreux retreat).</p> <p>Estonia hosted an ODSG outreach event in Tallinn on 3 June 2009 at which the ERC participated. GHD co-chairs presented the GHD principles and good practices at this event, which included participants from 15 countries (10 GHD 'newcomers' and 5 others).</p> <p>GHD co-chairs responded to information requests on the work of GHD from the Republic of Korea, who were welcomed as observers to the GHD at the June 2009 meeting.</p>	<p>Additional issues have been identified and added to the list of themes for future newcomers sessions (see annex 2). In October 2008, the GHD group concluded that other donors with a clear interest in joining GHD (but not yet members) could be invited to newcomers sessions to become familiar with GHD. Next session planned for early Autumn 2009. (<i>EC convenor</i>)</p>

2. STRENGTHENING THE OPERATIONAL/FIELD FOCUS OF GHD – DONOR COORDINATION		
Summary	Activity	Outcomes / follow-up
GHD donor coordination mapping study	With the aim of providing a basis for further work on enhancing GHD donor coordination, the EC (DG ECHO) commissioned a baseline mapping study of GHD donors' field coordination practices in all major humanitarian crisis countries ² . The study was undertaken December to June and presented during a	A provisional list of follow-up action points came out of the June session (see annex 3) for taking forward in the coming year. This work stream will continue into 2009-2010 (<i>EC lead</i>).

² where a HC has been appointed and where the cluster approach is being implemented and in a forgotten emergency.

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	'lessons learned' session reviewing in particular the experience of donor coordination in DRC, oPt and on Chad. This session highlighted added-value of donor coordination and replicable elements of good practice in coordination (<i>see June GHD Chairs' summary for further details</i>).	The donor group on Chad is to be reconvened before the summer break (<i>UK convenor</i>). All donors are invited to circulate widely, including to their field representatives the GHD Donor Coordination mapping study. (<i>All</i>)
GHD in DRC	This GHD field group continued to meet regularly convened by the UK.	GHD donor group DRC minutes to be made available to capitals GHD focal points.
GHD in oPt	The Dutch representative has initiated a local GHD initiative in the oPt. GHD donors met in February 2009. Aside from discussions on substance for coordination in oPt, the group also discussed the added value of GHD as an umbrella for donor coordination in oPt in light of the other coordination fora in place.	On-going reflection on added-value of GHD as an umbrella for donor coordination in oPt, including the possibility of introducing donors-only meetings linked to the Humanitarian Task Force coordination mechanism is under consideration (<i>EC/NL</i>).

3. HUMANITARIAN FINANCING AND ALLOCATION BASED ON IDENTIFIED NEED		
Summary	Activity	Outcomes / follow-up
Needs based decision making	In January 2009, there was a thematic GHD session at which the EC presented its vulnerability assessment methodology (GNA) and its Forgotten Crisis Assessment. Canada presented an update on its Humanitarian Needs Index (HNI) methodology and Calibration Table for assessing natural disasters. OCHA outlined how 'under-funded' window of the CERF was allocated. This fed into to a further discussion with IASC representatives at Montreux IX (see above).	

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	Sweden (SIDA) hosted the second session of training on needs-based decision making for GHD, in Härnösand on 10-12 June 2009 and disseminated a draft of 'guidelines for decision-makers to the participants of the training.	
Discuss complementarity between humanitarian financing mechanisms	The afternoon session of the 2 nd day of Montreux IX (<i>see above</i>) specifically looked at partnerships and humanitarian financing with a few to discussing complementary financing modalities. (<i>See also below under 'other items' for donor review of CAP-funding at mid-year</i>).	See Montreux Convenors' conclusions (extract): <i>'Donors should uphold diversity of funding mechanisms (with a view to complementarities) and look into the possibility of making bilateral funding more flexible and predictable and explore the possibilities for multiyear framework agreements'</i> Ireland are leading on preparation of a GHD paper highlighting a number of donors' approaches to financing of NGO/RC partners (to be finalised Autumn 2009)

4. OTHER AREAS OF ON-GOING INTEREST TO GHD		
Summary	Activity	Outcomes / follow-up
Enhance awareness of International Disaster Response Laws	The IFRC was invited to make a presentation on International Disaster Response Law to GHD members in May 2009. Australia shared its experience from the donor perspective underlining the importance of IDRL in the Pacific region.	IFRC requested GHD donors to support IDRL through advocacy efforts in particular with regional organisations and in bilateral contacts with disaster affected countries.
Study Humanitarian Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Emergency settings	US AID has commissioned a study by Overseas Development Institute on Humanitarian Aid to IDPs in Sudan and Sri Lanka (interim report presented to a sub-group of GHD donors in July 2008). The report was finalised in February 2009. A joint donor mission to Sri Lanka was under consideration in follow-up but	Recommendations and follow-up to be discussed further under next period of the work plan and likely to be linked together with further work on strengthening coordination in the field

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	was put on hold in light of subsequent developments there.	(US convenor)
Rome-based GHD group	The Rome-based GHD representatives met three times (December 2008, May and June 2009) to discuss issues of wider interest and to review the matrix on donor conditionalities for FAO, WFP and IFAD. They also had a meeting with Steve Darvill, DAC/OECD on the issue of Humanitarian Aid in DAC Peer Reviews.	
Aid effectiveness	In May 2009 a 'Study on the relevance and applicability of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in Humanitarian Assistance' commissioned by Norway was presented and discussed in GHD. This highlights distinctiveness of humanitarian aid but complementarities that could be strengthened with the development aid effectiveness agenda.	Further reflection envisaged on practical follow-up to this report for GHD - link also to OECD-DAC (Norway convenor)
Continued discussion on future GHD working arrangements	Scope of GHD and practicalities of working arrangements have been highlighted by the co-chairs' as requiring further clarification.	Preliminary reflections now underway by past, current and future chairs' to be presented to whole group later in the year.

5. MAINSTREAMING GHD INTO INDIVIDUAL DONOR ACTION

Summary	Activity	Outcomes
Donors intending to review/ put in place GHD implementation plans	A summary report of the 'FRANZ desktop exercise' was disseminated to the GHD group in January 2009. The following donors indicated that they have updated their humanitarian policy documents or GHD implementation plans in the last year: ESP, GBR ³ , LUX, USA ⁴	The following donors have indicated that presentation or updates of their GHD implementation plans are in the pipeline: EC, SWE, NL.
Continued monitoring of donor performance on GHD	The GHD group provided a paper with composite views to a draft version of the OECD-DAC revised assessment framework in January 2009. The revised framework was approved in Paris	Overall DAC peer review framework to be looked at in 2010 - which would provide an opportunity for further 'fine-

³ updating of the existing Humanitarian Policy Action Plan

⁴ supplementing policy with updated internal guidance papers

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	<p>in May and a new round of peer reviews (humanitarian) has begun on this basis.</p> <p>The DAC peer review synthesis report (2008) was presented by the DAC humanitarian advisor to GHD in October.</p> <p>'Development Initiatives' finalised and presented its annual report on progress made against the GHD indicators.'</p>	<p>tuning' on the humanitarian assessment framework. Practical ways of strengthening linkage between DAC and GHD to be reflected upon further.</p>
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Other activities pursued in 2008-9:

- The GHD group heard a presentation on the work of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions' working group on accountability for disaster-related aid.
- Norway has commissioned a feasibility study on a thematic CAP for Disaster Risk Reduction. A concept note was circulated to the GHD group in May and the study is expected to be finalised in November 2009.
- In conjunction with OCHA and on the basis of analysis papers, Sweden facilitated an ad hoc donor-session in early June to review the status of current funding to the CAPs. Further ad-hoc donor session on the CAP to be convened (Sweden) in the autumn.
- In response to the NGO expulsion from Sudan, at the field level, Canada initiated weekly donor meetings. To complement these efforts, Canada held a meeting in New York in April to bring together donors at the capital level to coordinate their efforts on related issues (e.g. NGO assets/severance, accountability and monitoring of humanitarian assistance, communications - development of common messages) and to collectively support OCHA in its efforts to ensure a predictable, accountable, and efficient aid delivery system in Sudan.

For future consideration:

A small number of issues that have been raised under the GHD umbrella in the past and that have not been taken up in the 2008-2009 work plan are to be carried-over for consideration of follow-up in future work plans:

- Cumulative Overhead Costs: this has previously been highlighted as an issue (for example in the 2008 CERF evaluation) and is currently under review in a Study on Transaction Costs of Humanitarian Pooled Funds conducted by Dirk Salomons, commissioned by UNICEF/WFP/UNHCR/FAO/WHO, with funding support from Norway, Denmark and Ireland (report finalised 15 June, discussion at Common Humanitarian Fund working group meeting in July).
- Good practice on local participation in internationally-funded Humanitarian Action: this was the subject of a study conducted by URD and commissioned by France, finalised in July 2008. There has been no further follow-up in GHD though donors as a whole recognise this as a continued challenge.
