

Annual progress report, July 2010

Introduction

The three over-arching themes for the GHD group for the period, mid-July 2009 to mid-July 2010, were:

1. Enhancing Partnership
2. Strengthening the operational focus of GHD
3. Enhancing needs-based allocation and mechanisms for humanitarian financing

In addition, the co-chairs facilitated a process to more clearly define the group's priorities, parameters, and working methods, via the drafting of Terms of Reference.

The 12 months from mid-July 2009 saw the group continue its role as a forum for advancing good practice in humanitarian donorship and humanitarian action more broadly, within the broader framework of the GHD initiative. The various GHD meetings held over the course of the year¹ were well attended and productive in terms of experiences shared, learnings generated, and the advancement of key policy and practice issues within - and beyond - the humanitarian donor community.

Several of the issues and initiatives being advanced through the GHD group meetings and work-plan have yielded positive results. Many others are on-going and will require continued commitment from the group for the coming period. What follows is a brief overview of some of the main achievements over the year, with some indication of potential priorities for the period 2010-2011. A complete picture of the work of the group is included as Annex 1.

The 'Futures' work-stream

Estonia and Ireland built on the work of previous co-Chairs by assuming responsibility for the development of Terms of Reference for the group. These reaffirm the GHD's role as an informal donor-led forum focused on improving donor behaviour and committed to engagement with the wider humanitarian community. The ToR set out the objectives, organisation, and working methods of the GHD group, including the specific role of the (co-)chairs. The document provides important clarity for members of the group and for other donors interested in membership, while also facilitating a clearer understanding of the group's parameters among partners in the humanitarian community.

In a related exercise, the co-chairs have developed a new website for the group with the twin purposes of a) better communicating the GHD agenda and framework and b) facilitating more active engagement and collaboration across the group itself.

Enhancing Partnership

The rationale for the selection of this theme lies in the understanding that better partnership leads to more informed decision making, more efficient use of resources, and a more effective response to crisis-affected people. In this respect, a series of activities were undertaken by the GHD group over the course of the year in a bid to strengthen partnerships within and beyond the GHD group.

Strengthening partnership within the GHD group was prioritised through a variety of initiatives including a shared donor monitoring mission to Haiti, and the continuation of regular GHD-SHARE² meetings for purposes of orienting and mentoring donor personnel new to the humanitarian environment and to GHD in particular. It is intended that the re-vamped GHD website with its members' working area will further enhance communication and information sharing between GHD members in coming years, allowing for greater and more dynamic engagement between work-stream members and observers.

Building partnership beyond the immediate GHD group took a number of forms. In January, Estonia hosted a lunch for newer GHD donors and those not currently members of the group including countries such as Brazil, UAE, Singapore, and Turkey. In February, a dialogue was held with a representative of the Government of the Philippines – a country that recently experienced a major humanitarian crisis – in relation to national and international humanitarian response, while

¹ Including the four GHD general meetings, Day II of the Montreux Donor Retreat, and three GHD-SHARE meetings. GHD-SHARE refers to Sessions for Humanitarian Awareness Raising and Exchange

² GHD-SHARE refers to Sessions for Humanitarian Awareness Raising and Exchange

in May, a representative of the Government of Brazil presented on Brazil's approach to humanitarian donorship, including their role in responding to the Haiti earthquake. These exchanges proved very informative.

Relationships with non-donor entities such as the IASC have been consolidated and reflected in the GHD group Terms of Reference. Day two of the 2010 Montreux Donor Retreat, the traditional IASC-GHD day, proved valuable and productive in terms of advancing the selected discussion theme, safety and security.

The re-vamped GHD website will furthermore serve as a tool for better communication with partners and stakeholders beyond the GHD group and potentially contribute to the identification of common areas of interest and initiatives which can further strengthen partnership.

In relation to partnership with other entities, the relationship with the OECD/DAC, while maintained, was not advanced as much as would have been hoped - on all sides - due to capacity constraints. However, the desire to maintain and enhance that relationship remains and, as the current year closes, interaction with the DAC is gaining momentum as members of the Refining Indicators work-stream (2.4) engage their DAC counterparts in dialogue around options to develop the framework for monitoring GHD adherence. It is hoped that 2010-2011 will see a further strengthening of engagement with the DAC.

Strengthening the operational focus

The group continued its longstanding commitment to operationalising GHD, recognising the need to ensure the continued relevance of, and adherence to, GHD over time.

Several activities have been undertaken to advance this commitment. Critical to the operationalisation or application of GHD, has been its roll-out at field level; in that regard, work has continued to enhance field-level coordination in a number of countries including DRC and oPT. In the DRC, the GHD group continues to meet regularly while minutes, updates on GHD-relevant initiatives, and key documents are circulated to GHD HQ focal points. This serves well in the facilitation of information sharing for donors without field presence. The GHD group in the oPT has agreed its ToR and is meeting regularly under the EC and Swedish co-chairs.

A humanitarian donor group was established immediately following the January 12th earthquake in Haiti and while the group (similar to that operating in the oPT) does not define itself under a GHD banner, its existence and ways of working are a clear reflection of the GHD agenda, not least in terms of commitments around coordination and coherent messaging on key humanitarian policy and practice issues.

A recent joint donor monitoring mission to Haiti was very much informed by a desire to advance GHD commitments at field level. This includes not only a conscious effort to improve coordination, share learning, and reduce duplication, but also frank consideration of participant donors' own performance with regard to the application of GHD principles and good practice in a major humanitarian response. Donors that participated in this mission were Canada, Estonia, Ireland and the US.

In a separate initiative related to monitoring, the GHD group in DRC recently commissioned a scoping study to assess the impact of that country's Humanitarian Action Plan. The report of this exercise will be available in the coming months.

For the reporting period, the group elected to prioritise principles 8 and 9, enhancing approaches to and financing for LRRD with an emphasis upon national capacities for same. In this context Finland presented its experiences on developing a strategy for LRRD and Norway disseminated a study which examined the viability of developing a thematic CAP for preparedness Discussion around this issue led to the formation of a small group of interested donors, led by Sweden. . The dialogue with the Philippines, referenced above, also facilitated a useful reflection on how national capacities for disaster response can be developed, supported and enhanced.

An important consideration for the GHD group since its inception has been the necessity of measuring and monitoring adherence to GHD commitments. Over the reporting period, a group was convened with the express purpose of examining the existing frameworks for monitoring GHD and exploring options for the further development of same. Members of this 'indicators' work-stream have considered various options for taking forward the challenging process of developing meaningful indicators for GHD. The group is currently in the process of a consulting with OECD/DAC around options to develop the framework for monitoring GHD adherence. This project to refine the methodology for measuring adherence to GHD will continue for the coming period.

Needs based allocation & financing

Central to the GHD framework is the commitment to impartial and needs-based financing for humanitarian crises. For the reporting period the GHD group focussed its attention on a) supporting efforts to improve the quality of needs assessment methodologies while b) ensuring that donor mechanisms for financing are appropriately structured to respond to those needs.

In supporting efforts for quality needs assessments GHD donors have closely followed the work of the IASC Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF) over the year, attending workshops, stakeholder meetings and regular NATF meetings. GHD donors have also met implementing partner agencies to forge common positions on these issues on several occasions. Some concrete progress has been made in the development of the Humanitarian Dashboard/Strategic Humanitarian Assessment and Response Exercise (SHARE), and the establishment and integration of the ACAPS (Assessment Capabilities) project in the NATF. Progress has also been noted in the development of key humanitarian sectoral indicators and operational guidance. GHD donors are particularly encouraged by the commitment to field testing and by the support for this process shown by humanitarian country teams. Continued GHD donor engagement is a priority in order to follow this process through, to assure sound comparable joined-up needs assessment, as part of an effective humanitarian response.

As part of the effort to improve the equity of financing, Sweden continued its informal CAP financing meetings; two meetings were held in Geneva to consider the state of funding of CAP's, Flash Appeals and other coordinated appeals. The meetings considered in particular under-funded appeals and provided an opportunity for donors to informally exchange views on the quality of these appeals and other factors influencing funding decisions. In a bid to share learnings around more flexible and predictable mechanisms for financing partners, work-stream 3.3 comprising eight GHD donors has shared information outlining key elements of their NGO and Red Cross financing mechanisms to demonstrate how they meet GHD good practice recommendations on partner financing. This exercise will be finalised during the coming period.

Conclusion

The tragic and overwhelming event of the Haiti earthquake on January 12th and the challenges faced by the subsequent humanitarian relief operation demonstrated the importance of the implementation of GHD and the humanitarian reform agenda.

Overall, concrete progress was demonstrated through the definition and clarification of the group's role and parameters and the advancement and operationalisation of GHD commitments. In particular the group continued its commitment to partnership with GHD colleagues and other donors and stakeholders, and its support for the advancement of good humanitarian donorship at field level.

In terms of moving forward, a significant number of the initiatives reflected in the work-plan, such as the work around refining indicators and encouraging more joined-up needs assessment, will require sustained engagement from the membership over the coming year. Similarly, and amongst other things, there is significant scope to build upon and further advance the achievements noted around Principles 8 and 9: LRRD and enhancing donor support for national humanitarian capacities.

To put it simply, for the GHD group, the year 2009-2010 saw a lot done while the year ahead sees plenty more to do.

Annex 1: GHD Matrix of Achievements, 2009-2010

The 'Futures' Work-stream			
Rationale: To maintain the relevance and usefulness of GHD, this work-stream will build on the conclusions of the GHD options process undertaken by US/Se in 2008, and subsequent consultation process commenced by EC/NL in 2009			
Work-stream & Expected Outcomes	Activities & Outputs	Work-stream Members	Achievements
F.1 Reflection & agreement on scope, priorities, parameters, and appropriate ways of working for the GHD group	Building on GHD options paper prepared by US/SE in 2008, and subsequent consultation process commenced by EC/NL in 2009, and explore possible Terms of Reference.	Co-chairs	Reflection and consultation process completed, Terms of Reference for the group agreed GHD group ToR available here: insert hyperlink ³
F.2 More functional, representative and sustainable website	Overhaul including redesign of website to include (for example) members only areas for sharing field updates, domestic implementation plans, useful resources, and facilitating work-stream discussions.	Co-chairs	New GHD website developed, prototype presented for member feedback in July 2010, final site to go live late 2010 GHD website can be viewed here: insert hyperlink

Theme 1: Enhancing Partnership (Principles 7, 8, &10)			
Rationale: Better partnership leads to more informed decision making, more efficient use of resources, and a more effective response to crisis-affected people.			
Work-stream & Expected Outcomes	Activities & Outputs	Work-stream Members	Achievements
1.1 Strengthened partnership between Donors, NGOs, Red Cross and UN	Continued engagement between the GHD group and the IASC facilitated by OCHA as the liaison point for the IASC-GHD contact group. This will be informed by the 'futures' reflection process.	Co-chairs	Engagement has continued over the course of the year and reflected in the GHD group Terms of Reference GHD group ToR available here: insert hyperlink
	Agreement on purpose and format of engagement between GHD group and the OECD/DAC. This will be informed by the 'futures' reflection process.	Co-chairs	The engagement with the DAC has continued and the commitment to same reflected in the GHD ToRs, however actual engagement has been less than desired due to the absence of a humanitarian adviser at the DAC Secretariat. GHD group ToR available here: insert hyperlink
	Further exchange on the application of the Principles of Partnership and issues raised during the 3 rd meeting of the Global Humanitarian Platform (GHP)	+	IASC focal point provided update to GHD group on outcomes of GHP; No detailed discussion has yet taken place on future engagement of donors in encouraging the Implementation of the Principles of Partnership between UN and non-UN partners
1.2 Strengthened partnerships within GHD group	Encourage joint donor field mission(s) for monitoring &/or evaluation (cf 2.1) which may include newcomers	IE, EC, US, EE, CA +	Joint donor monitoring mission to Haiti completed, preliminary feedback provided at 2010 annual review meeting. Donors that would like to participate in missions monitoring capacity-building elements later in year with EC have been invited to indicate this.

Theme 1: Enhancing Partnership (Principles 7, 8, &10)

Rationale: Better partnership leads to more informed decision making, more efficient use of resources, and a more effective response

³ Hyperlinks will be inserted in due course

to crisis-affected people.

Work-stream & Expected Outcomes	Activities & Outputs	Work-stream Members	Achievements
	Continuation of the GHD- SHARE ⁴ mentoring process including encouraging shared experience from more experienced donors (bilaterally and with the whole group)	EC (lead until March 2010), SI+ CZ,+ EE EE (lead from March 2010)+ PL	<p>3 meetings held over the course of the year, covering the following themes : -Overview of SI, CZ, POL, ECHO's humanitarian policies; ICRC briefing; Needs Assessment; Humanitarian Reform Process; and Montreux Retreat 2010;</p> <p>The group agreed a new title to update it from for the previous newcomers/"new donors" informal meetings. The group is now referred to as SHARE</p>
1.3 Strengthened partnership with development partners and host countries (cf 2.3)	Follow-up on GHD/Paris Declaration study	NO	Commitment to engagement with the DAC on this and related matters reflected in the GHD ToR. Substantive follow-up pending the appointment of a humanitarian adviser within the DAC secretariat
	Recipient country (ies) invited to GHD meeting for dialogue	Co-chairs	<p>Dialogue held with a representative of the Government of the Philippines at the February 2010 GHD meeting.</p> <p>Meeting report available here: insert hyperlink</p>
1.4 Strengthened dialogue with other donors	Other donor(s) invited to GHD meeting for dialogue	Co-chairs	<p>Representatives from the Government of Brazil participated in the May 2010 GHD meeting.</p> <p>Meeting report available here: insert hyperlink</p> <p>Estonia hosted an outreach lunch in January for new and emerging donors including countries such as Brazil, UAE, Singapore, Turkey. The meeting was attended by Deputy ERC and Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Catherine Bragg.</p>

⁴ Sessions for Humanitarian Awareness Raising and Exchange

Theme 2: Strengthening the operational focus of GHD (all Principles)

Rationale: A continued focus on operationalising the principles and practice of good humanitarian donorship is necessary to ensure continued relevance of, and adherence to, GHD

Work-stream & Expected Outcomes	Activities & Outputs	Work-stream Members	Achievements
2.1 Improved field level coordination	Humanitarian donor groups in oPT, Sudan, DRC and on Chad meeting regularly to ensure donor coordination on operational strategies and challenges - putting good donorship into practice in the field.	DK, EC, UK, +	In the DRC, the group is well functioning with minutes now circulated also to GHD HQ focal points to facilitate information share for donors without field presence. Achievements of the UK led donor group have included pursuing M&E of NGO projects funding from the Pooled Fund (c.f. 2.6) and ensuring standardised reporting for all projects (UN and NGO); oPT GHD group established under EC co-chair with SE, with ToR adopted and meeting regularly. In Rome, the donor group continues to coordinate around issues of common interest relevant to the GHD agenda
	Follow-up on donor coordination mapping study, including agreed action points and updating matrix of field presence	EC +	Better linkage between HQ and donor groups in the field, including through circulation of minutes and reporting back to the Geneva GHD group. This area to be taken forward further in 2010-11 if other donors indicate a continued interest
	Reinforced humanitarian donor coordination on at least one new crisis situation to be identified collectively	EC, DK (poss), +	At GHD level no new situation specifically identified, however ad-hoc donor coordination established for Haiti. Amongst the 28 EU donors a virtual 'Friends of Sahel' network of info-share has been established as a pilot
	Explore options for joint monitoring or evaluation – Conduct joint donor field mission(s) for monitoring &/or evaluation where donors funding the same agency for similar sectors (cf 1.2)	US +	Joint donor monitoring mission to Haiti completed, preliminary feedback provided at 2010 annual review meeting (c.f. 1.2)
2.2 Improved adherence to Humanitarian Principles	Commission study to examine varying perceptions of, and challenges to, the adherence of donors, UN agencies, Red Cross and NGOs to humanitarian principles – with recommendations for practical steps to improve donor adherence to same.	IE, US, +	No significant progress to report, project on hold due to competing priorities. There is commitment to re-visit in 2010/2011
2.3 Strengthened approach to Principles 8 & 9: enhancing approaches to, and financing for, LRRD/DRR*, with an emphasis upon national capacities (cf 1.4)	Presentation and discussion of Finnish baseline study on LRRD	FN	Presentation and discussion held during February 2010 meeting. See meeting report: insert hyperlink
	Dissemination of study on thematic CAP for preparedness	NO	Dissemination has led to the formation of a small group of interested donors, led by SE

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Work-stream & Expected Outcomes	Activities & Outputs	Work-stream Members	Achievements
2.4 Shared accountability, enhancing the process of monitoring donor adherence to GHD	Annual reporting on work-plan and stock-take	Co-chairs	Stock-take report on GHD since inception written and circulated. This report has been updated for the July 2010 Annual Review Meeting and is available here: insert hyperlink . Annual report on 209/2010 work-plan prepared and presented at July 2010 annual review meeting, copy available here: insert hyperlink
	Refining indicators for GHD	AU, BE, CA, DE, NL, UK, +	The Working Group defined options for moving forward on this work-stream, discussed by the GHD Group on May 11. The Working Group undertook to consult further with the OECD/DAC, finalise TORs for a review of GHD indicators and report back on the way forward to the GHD Group in the fall of 2010
2.5 Shared learning for effective response and accountability (principle 21)	Share findings from study(ies) mapping the humanitarian system (US commissioned, ODI to undertake)	US	Part of rolling work-plan, scheduled for late 2010
	Humanitarian Crisis – Drivers for the next decade. (US commissioned, Humanitarian Futures undertaking)	US	Part of rolling work-plan, scheduled for late 2010
	Presentation on study commissioned by Australia: "Analysis of International Humanitarian Architecture"	AU	Part of rolling work-plan, scheduled for late 2010
	Facilitate a lesson- learning agenda item on a specific crisis which will reflect on applicability of GHD principles/good practices/themes in practice	Co-chairs	The preliminary findings from the joint donor monitoring mission to Haiti, which include inter alia a consideration of adherence to GHD principles and good practice, presented during the July 2010 annual review meeting
2.6 Promoting standards & enhancing implementation (principle 15)	In DRC carry out monitoring, reporting and evaluation in support of OCHA against projects within CAP on outputs & outcomes. Replicate in two further contexts by end 2010	UK	Phase 1 of a scoping study on impact assessment of the Humanitarian Action Plan is underway (final report due third quarter 2010). Findings of the first phase will determine follow-up (c.f. 2.1)

Theme 3: Enhancing needs-based allocation (Principle 2 & 6) and systems for humanitarian financing (Good Practice points 11 – 14).

Rationale: To ensure impartial and needs based financing, there is a need to improve the quality of needs assessment methodologies and mechanisms to compare relative severity of need. There is equally a need to ensure financing mechanisms are appropriately structured for meeting humanitarian needs (i.e. predictable, flexible, etc)

Work-stream & Expected Outcomes	Activities & Outputs	Work-stream Members	Achievements
3.1 A more joined-up approach to needs assessment and classification	GHD group encourage more joined-up needs assessment , including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support and provide input to the Needs Assessment Task Force • Coordinate closely the position of donors and funding to the HUNASP/ACAPS project • support and provide input to the UNDAC conceptual revision process • coordination on funding for common needs assessments & related initiatives 	CA, EC (lead), DK, IE, SE, UK, US, +	GHD donors have closely followed the work of the IASC Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF) over the year, notably by attending ad hoc workshops, stakeholder meetings and regular NATF meetings. GHD donors have also met without agencies to forge common positions on these issues at several occasions. Though the process has been slow, some concrete progress has been made in the development of the Humanitarian Dashboard/SHARE and the establishment and integration of the ACAPS (Assessment Capabilities) project in the NATF. Progress has been noted in the development of key humanitarian sectoral indicators and operational guidance. GHD donors are particularly encouraged by the commitment to field testing and by the support for this process shown by humanitarian country teams. Continued GHD donor engagement is a priority in order to follow this process through, to assure sound comparable joined-up needs assessment, as part of an effective humanitarian response
3.2 More equitable humanitarian financing	Building on work commissioned in 2008, additional analysis on humanitarian financing & diversity of mechanisms	US	On hold for 2010-2011 work-plan
	Continuation of bi-annual informal CAP financing meetings	SE (lead), +	During the year two informal meetings were held in Geneva to consider the state of funding of CAP's, Flash Appeals and other coordinated Appeals, one in October 2009 and the second in June 2010. These meetings especially looked into the Appeals funded less than the average and it also provided an opportunity for donors to informally exchange views on the quality of these appeals and other factors influencing funding decisions.
3.3 Improved NGO & Red Cross financing mechanisms (for flexibility, predictability etc)	Donors uphold diversity of funding mechanisms and explore options for greater flexibility & predictability NGO/Red Cross - financing paper completed and disseminated	EC, IE (lead), IT, LU, NL NZ, SE, UK	The paper has yet to be finalised, in advanced draft stage by July 2010, likely completion date end 2010.