Humanitarian Partnership (HP) Watch Group: Work Plan 2024

Purposes of the HP Watch Group

- To work towards an effective, efficient, and quality EU Humanitarian Partnership.
- To represent all DG ECHO NGO partners in the monitoring, review and consultation of all matters related to the HP.
- To work towards a common interpretation and consistent application of the HP between DG ECHO and its NGO partners.

Commitments

Please refer to the Terms of Reference. The commitments include:

- To analyse any challenges working with the HP, as well as any planned or potential changes to the HP.
- To collect and structure feedback on any aspect of the HP, its potential improvement, and to communicate to DG ECHO any important issues that arise.
- To be the main focal point representing DG ECHO NGO partners to which DG ECHO may refer when wanting to discuss any planned or potential changes to the HP or any DG ECHO policy.

Means of work

1. *Meetings*: HP Watch Group members attend Watch Group meetings. The HP Task Force will meet internally at least once a month and will meet DG ECHO as often as necessary to discuss and negotiate issues and ideas that have arisen.
2. *Information sharing*: HP Watch Group members are the primary source of comments, feedback, and examples, concerning the practicalities of implementation of the HP. HP Watch Group members should actively seek examples and give comments on HP-related issues; either via e-mail, during Watch Group meetings or through the HP Watch Group members' Teams Chat. Information gathered by the HP Task Force will be shared with all HP Watch Group members regularly (through HP WG meetings, or in between meetings via e-mail).
3. *Sub-working groups*: sub-working groups' meetings focused on specific topics can be organised if need be.
4. *Papers/documents*: Consolidated comments on HP-related documents, internal working notes, HP Watch Group notes to DG ECHO, surveys and analysis, etc.

Topics	Activities
HIPs and contracting cycle	Monitor the HIPs 2024 process and provide evidence-based feedback and recommendations to DG ECHO. Though not limited to, the Watch Group will continue to pay specific attention to the rollout of the Programmatic Partnership and multi-year funding.
	Monitor and analyse the HIPs 2024 contracting timeline.
	Building on the HP Watch Group recommendations, advocate for good practices around the HIPs and the simplification of the contracting cycle, especially to ensure timely contracting while maintaining high-quality proposals.
Operationalisation of the Equitable Partnerships Guidance	Monitor the roll-out of the Equitable Partnerships Guidance and provide collective feedback and recommendations to DG ECHO.
	The HP sub-working group on the sharing of overheads will act as a collective learning and reflection platform on the way forward, to influence DG ECHO's approach to overhead costs.
Audits	Monitor and seek improvement of the audits, by pursuing regular dialogue with DG ECHO and by providing evidence-based feedback on any issues that might arise from audits' timeline, process, and auditors' interpretation and ways of working.
PSEAH	The HP sub-working group on PSEAH will continue to provide DG ECHO with its feedback on the rollout of the SEAH yearly reporting and will aim at influencing DG ECHO's overall approach to PSEAH.
E-grant	Work towards a smooth transition to e-grant by providing DG ECHO with a testing soundboard to develop in-depth feedback on the new system before its launch, from both a process and tools point of view, including potential opportunities for simplification.
	Ensure timely training for partners and support the design of the training or associated guidance if needed.
Partners' Segment	Influence the framing of the Partners' Segment and share feedback with DG ECHO after the event.
EU Humanitarian Partnership mid-term review	The Watch Group will take stock of the NGO – DG ECHO relationship, halfway through the EU Humanitarian Partnership 2021 – 2027, building on the VOICE Briefing "Partners in Humanitarian Aid" (2019).
HP Watch Group meetings	• 4 HP Watch Group meetings • Monthly internal HP Task Force meetings, and as many meetings as necessary with DG ECHO.
The Watch Group will participate in any relevant consultations and, if needed, will seek dialogue on any issue that may arise from new or current guidelines, processes or requirements.	