



Main findings of the FPA Watch Group's survey

Evaluation of the FPA 2014 and ways forward

FPA Watch Group
May 2018

Context and main features of the survey

- **Questionnaire:**
 - **28 questions** (open and closed questions)
 - 2 parts: 1) evaluation of the 2014 FPA, 2) prospective questions on the next FPA
- **Respondents:**
 - **34 respondents** from FPA holder organisations
 - Average seniority of FPA holder organisations represented: **17 years**
 - In total, **213 ECHO funded actions** have been implemented by the organisations responding to the survey (since 2014)





PART 1
Evaluation of the FPA 2014 -
Achievements and challenges

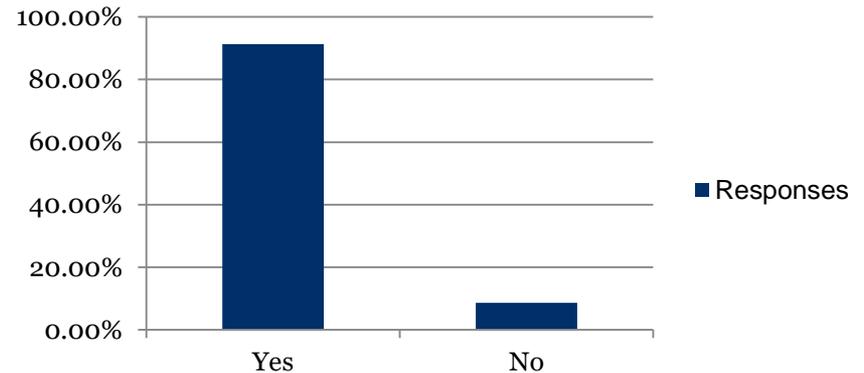
Relevance of the FPA

91% of respondents considered that this FPA has contributed to effective and quality delivery of humanitarian aid

The FPA has contributed to:

- **Constructive dialogue**
- **High quality standards**
- **Relatively quick contracting and deployment**

Thanks to this FPA, ECHO engagement with its NGOs partners is allowing effective and quality humanitarian delivery in comparison with other donors:



Achievements and most challenging issues

Elements most frequently mentioned as **achievements** under this FPA

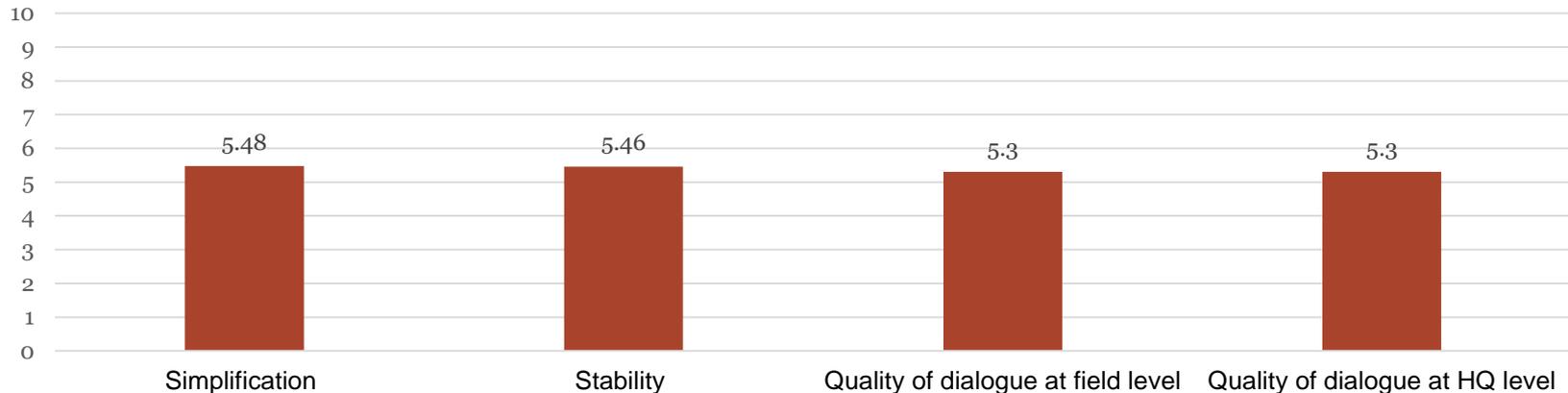
- Budget flexibility, possibility to adapt to changing humanitarian contexts
- Simplification and improvements to the eSingle Form
- Capacity building opportunities for partners, ECHO trainings and the helpdesk

Elements identified as most **challenging** issues under this FPA

- Frequent and uncommunicated changing rules (indicators, visibility or support costs)
- Increasing constraints to work in consortia
- Growing emphasis on cost-effectiveness without enough consideration for operational constraints
- Delays and short deadlines in the HIP process

Simplification

Average mark received on simplification, stability and quality of dialogue (1 to 10)



Simplification

+

- Procurement procedures
- Introduction of eSF new format and APPEL improvements
- More budget flexibility and financial statement

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- Number of requirements at reporting and liquidation stage
- SAM potential if used ex-ante

Quality of dialogue and stability

Quality (and frequency) of dialogue

+

- Good and productive dialogue
- Frequent contacts initiated by both sides
- Opportunities to discuss contextual issues
- ECHO Partners Conference

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- Quality of dialogues varies greatly according to countries and contexts, be it at HQ or field level
- Non systematic HIP consultation
- Lack of feedback on rejection of proposals

Stability

- Dissatisfaction rather linked to the process than the substance of changes introduced during the FPA
 - Lack of consultation
 - new requirements introduced during HIP process
- **Main modifications mentioned:** transaction modalities, KRI/KOI, visibility requirements, SAM, alternative procedures, cash guidance note...
- Varying interpretation of guidelines across staff



PART 2
Towards the next FPA -
Main priorities of the FPA WG

I. Funding mechanisms

Main collective outcome of this FPA is the work on improving the HIP process and the achievement on having early publication and better spread deadlines

Main issues identified in the HIP process

- 1) Funding decrease for some HIPs
- 2) Short deadlines to submit project proposals
- 3) Concentration of HIPs publication and submission deadlines

Recomendations for improvements

Respondents reiterated the FPA WG recommendations:

- Spread of deadlines
- Systematic and inclusive consultations at HQ and field levels
- Feedback on rejected proposals to improve

II. Multiyear planning and funding

The majority of respondents align with the **VOICE Grand Bargain Task force** set of **recommendations on Multiyear Planning and Funding**.

MYF-MYP advantages:

- Provide efficiency gains and increase effectiveness at different levels (less multiple transaction costs, increase, reducing HR turnover, encourage harmonisation between partners)
- Mitigate issues due to misalignment between the calendar year and the grant implementation period
- Establish longer term relationships with the communities and thus improve accountability to affected populations

- ECHO should engage partners in an open discussion to select HIPs and or countries and contexts that could be best for implementing MYP-MYF.
- Planning for a three-year programme should focus on jointly agreed high-level humanitarian outcomes rather than detailed indicators.

III. Partnership Priorities

- Working in partnership requires ECHO and its FPA partners to **accept new ways of working while defending the importance of partners' diversity** to cover all of the **identified needs** and recognise **NGOs' diversity of expertise**.
- Regarding working in consortia, NGOs ask ECHO to **promote further the 'coordinated approaches'** at least as a first step towards consortia
- NGOs all want to be **compliant and accountable while remaining agile to provide life-saving assistance**. There is a need for risk sharing in different context (consortia, thresholds, RBA) to maintain a qualitative and effective partnership.
- Many NGOs already have **long-standing partnerships established with local and national actors** which ECHO has now a possibility to support in the frame of the GB and next FPA.

IV. Accountability and Flexibility

NGOs opinion on the use of KRI and KOI

- 50% of the respondent find the KRI and KOI effective
- The use of custom indicators should be maintained and the KRI and KOI should be flexible (be able to modify them)
- ECHO should share data on the use of KRI and KOI to be able to use it for internal and external reporting
- ECHO idea for further standardisation is quite positive but would recommend ECHO to align on existing internationally agree standards (Sphere, INEE)

NGOs opinion on the use of crisis modifiers

- NGOs find CM are a useful and flexible tool
- Need further clarity from ECHO on the way to use CM:
 - A clearer definition of the crisis modifiers
 - How should it be included in the proposals?
 - Exchange of good practices and lessons learned
 - Clarification on the activation process (modification request? rules if not used?)

Additional priority areas for simplification

- **Audit**

- *NGOs welcome the ongoing discussion with ECHO and the auditors*

- It should take place closer to the end of a project
 - Less documents should be requested, ECHO should rather develop a system based on trust and assurance rather than specific audit proof
 - Overlap with the periodic assessment should be avoided
 - Encouraging cross-reliance between donors on audits

- **Application**

- Parts of the partner assessment could be replaced by the recognition of other donors PCA
 - For grant application: the use of the simplified Single Form should be fully exploited
 - Avoid overlapping of requirements between PCA and periodic assessment

- **Procurement rules**

- More clarity on the eligibility of late procurement and the rule of 5% of leftover stock would be welcomed