



## To All Signatories

**Subject:** New Year's message from the Grand Bargain Ambassadors

Dear Grand Bargain Signatories,

Dear colleagues,

We hope that all of you had a peaceful holiday and a good start into the New Year.

At the beginning of this new year, let us look forward constructively and confidently. We invite you to join us in this spirit.

The latest Global Humanitarian Needs Overview issues a stark warning that another difficult year lies ahead of us. We all know that it is time for transformative action within the humanitarian sector. We know what is at stake, how we can contribute and what is expected from all of us

Yet, most importantly, we know that change is possible and that we are able to work differently. We have heard so many inspiring examples of how some of you have changed in recent years in line with our collective Grand Bargain commitments. We are confident that we are able to put the needs of people affected by crises and disasters first; that the human element in humanitarian assistance remains strong; and that we can work together towards the best humanitarian assistance possible.

Our Grand Bargain commitments can be the standard guardrails that guide our work not only when humanitarian budgets increase, but also when they decrease. That is because these commitments aim to improve the way we work for the people we aim to serve, to get more means into the hands of those in need and to do so more efficiently and effectively.

The next 24 months will be crucial for Grand Bargain Signatories to achieve just that despite the challenges ahead. Allow us to summarise and paraphrase what the priority actions / levers are which we believe can very realistically be implemented in the next two years and which might yield the highest transformative impact:

- **For you as donors:** Increase flexibility of your funding; increase your contributions to those pooled funds that provide at least 25% of funding to local and national actors; increase investments in capacity strengthening of local and national actors; and promote innovative financing solutions.
- **For you as aid organisations:** Shift towards multi-year planning and budgeting in protracted crises and provide multi-year funding to your partners; provide more overheads to your local and national partners; improve your internal tracking and reporting of funding.
- **For both, donors and aid organisations:** Recognise existing standards, such as the CHS, in your due diligence processes; ensure that all pooled funds, particularly the country based ones, provide at least 25% of their funding to local and national actors;

increase cash-assistance; diminish the cost of humanitarian aid through anticipatory action; reduce your reporting requirements and compliance burden; apply the risk-sharing framework in your partnerships; push for *meaningful* participation of local and national actors in different decision-making fora.

We urge you to follow these commitments which we have collectively made, as captured in the Implementation Agenda 2026 as you outline your humanitarian priorities to parliaments, plan your humanitarian budgets and allocation channels, design your programmes and projects, sign and enter into partnerships, disburse and track your funding. Only when all of you as Signatories align your work with our collective commitments will we have achieved change at a scale that can be considered transformative.

In this phase, we, the Grand Bargain Ambassadors, are here to support you together with the Sherpas of the Facilitation Group. We are prepared to actively facilitate dialogues between large and small groups of Signatories, engage with relevant stakeholders and meet with decision makers like parliamentarians, government representatives and private actors as well as with National Reference Groups (NRGs); and the Secretariat stands ready to assist, ensuring that the Grand Bargain platform, including its NRGs, serves as a conduit for these exchanges.

While continuing to implement the commitments of the Bargain, we need to increase our focus on accountability and learning: making sure we measure, report, and learn how we progress. In 2025, we will have another self-reporting cycle between April and July. And we will meet again for our Annual Meeting on **8-9 October 2025**. Please save this date on your calendar. As Ambassadors, we will approach these milestones through stronger accountability and learning lens. We are committed to maintaining a high standard, ensuring that your actions lead to real, measurable impacts. We will not shy away from highlighting both successes and areas where commitments have not been fully realised.

To ensure continuous engagement, we are inviting all of you to a virtual Signatories Dialogue with the Facilitation Group and us on **Wednesday, 12 February 2025, from 14:30 to 16:00 CET**. This meeting will be an opportunity to hear from you about your plans and progress regarding the summarised actions listed above in line with the Implementation Agenda, and to discuss how we can support each other in achieving our shared objectives. We will have a similar call in June to discuss progress.

As we move into 2025, we as Ambassadors will take the initiative on some priority commitments. Our plans are detailed below. Please reach out to the Secretariat if you require further information or wish to discuss these in more detail. We also invite you to call on us as facilitators of complex conversations between constituencies. Call on us to invite you to and/or support you in meetings in different constellations to address challenges and help find solutions. That is the strength of our common Grand Bargain platform and of the roles envisaged for the Ambassadors.

Nelson Mandela once said *“Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead”* and indeed, progress no matter how small and how slow, will lead us forward. It is now time to mobilise our best efforts to surpass and improve the status quo. Our collective efforts

in implementing all aspects of the GB 3.0 Framework are essential, and we are confident that together, we can achieve transformative change.

Thank you for your commitment and for the work you continue to do. We wish you an impactful year 2025 at the professional and personal level, with curiosity, courage and ambition to drive the changes we agreed to.

With all of our best and sincere wishes,

**The Grand Bargain Ambassadors**

Manuel Bessler



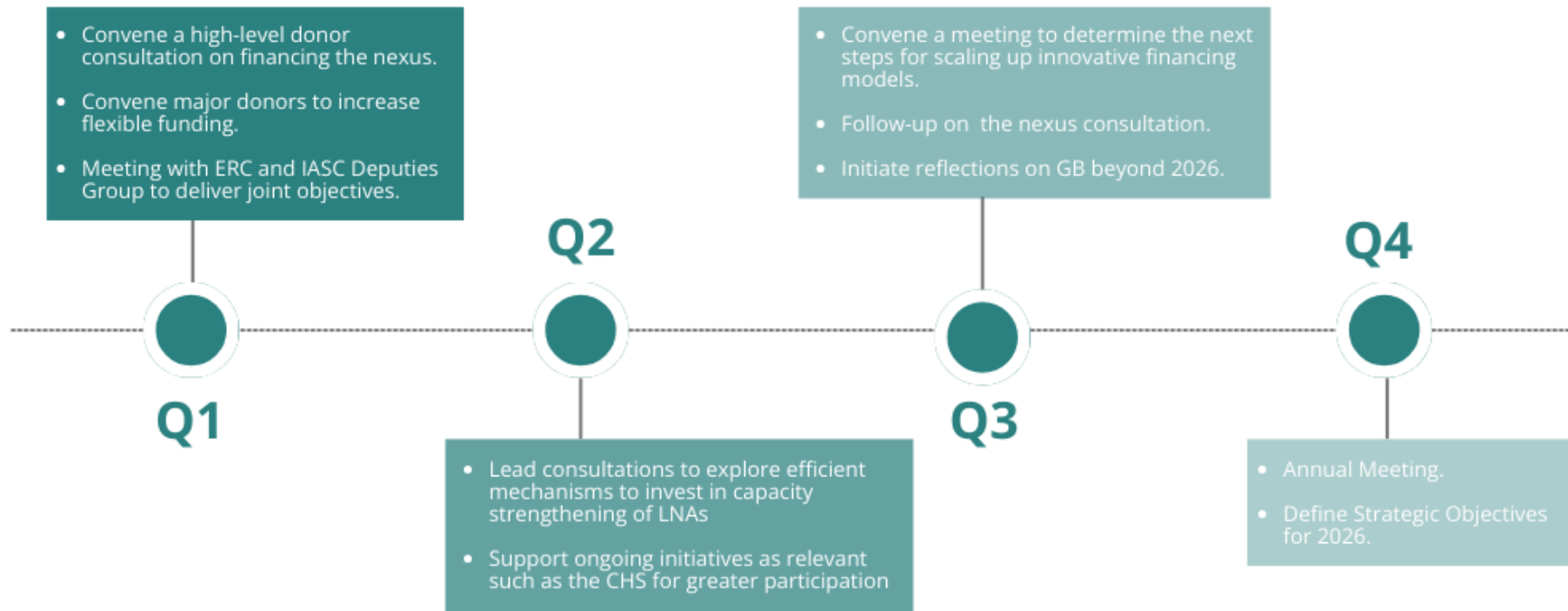
Michael Koehler



Jemilah Mahmood



## Grand Bargain Ambassadors' Quarterly Plan 2025



### Ongoing engagement

- Assess opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement on donor conditionalities, aid prioritisation, and humanitarian narrative as suggested by the GB Principals.
- Participate in events and initiatives as relevant (e.g. CHS Assembly, DIHAD, EHF).
- Support endorsement and implementation of commitments on anticipatory action.
- Engage with National Reference Groups.

### Engagement with Signatories

- Virtual meetings with GBA and Signatory Sherpas (February & June)
- Meetings with Principals as relevant (January to September)
- Facilitation Group Quarterly meetings (November, March, June, September)
- Grand Bargain Annual Meeting (October)