

**The Grand Bargain**  
**Harmonized and Simplified Reporting Requirements**  
**September 2016**

**1. What has been done so far (individually and/or with others) to address the commitments in this workstream?**

**Studies**

1. ICVA published [“A Comparison Review of UN Project Partnership Agreements for NGO Implementation of Humanitarian Projects”](#) (February 2015)
2. VOICE published [“Exploring EU humanitarian donors’ funding and conditions for working with NGOs: Building Evidence for Simplification”](#) (December 2015)
3. Humanitarian Outcomes published [“Donor Reporting Requirements Research”](#) with support from former GHD co-chair USAID/OFDA (Feb 2016)
4. The IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team, led by UNFPA and WFP, published a report on [donor conditions and their implications for humanitarian response](#), which included a section on reporting (March 2016)
5. ICVA members commissioned the [Less Paper More Aid](#) study with a proposed “Framework for Change” for reporting and other issues (published May 2016)
6. The EDG-Donor group, supported by Germany, commissioned a **GPPI study** proposing a harmonized reporting template (to be published in Fall 2016)
7. NRC commissioned the **Boston Consulting Group** to capture the impacts of different reporting requirements on NRC

**Processes**

1. UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP are exploring areas for harmonization, including reporting templates
2. GHD is considering a dedicated workstream on reporting as part of their 2016-2018 workplan
3. The U.S. Government is streamlining its various agencies’ requirements for NGO partners & exploring the use of cluster indicators
4. The Netherlands, UK and Belgium are exploring applications of the IATI data standard on the development side
5. ECHO is trying to standardize approaches around indicators, with less narrative

**2. What are you planning to do next to address the commitments in ‘your’ workstream and would this include e.g. studies, workshops, pilots? What do you hope to achieve in the next 6-12 months?**

We want a step-by-step path forward with a clear timeline for action that helps us achieve simplified and harmonized requirements by the end of 2018. It should consult technical experts (including from the financial side). It could bring together, a few times a year, GHD and IASC HFTT members. It should connect the various processes already underway.

ICVA anticipates recruiting a consultant to support Less Paper More Aid phase two. This individual would be available to support future processes associated with harmonized/simplified reporting.

The IASC HFTT and GHD will work together to host an experts workshop (tentatively planned for the second half of November 2016) to convene reporting experts from the donor, UN and NGO community to discuss the proposed GPPI template and articulate a path forward for various collective actions.

**3. Would you reach out beyond the Grand Bargain signatories (e.g. external expertise) in the process of implementing the commitments?**

Yes. Already an NGO task force on donor conditions (to steer Less Paper More Aid) and GPPI have been approached. We may consider also partnering with the OECD/ DAC, etc.

**4. What existing forums have significant work happening that is addressing the commitments in ‘your’ area?**

The IASC HFTT and potentially GHD workstreams.

**5. Have any institutions/organisations within or outside ‘your’ workstream expressed interest in monitoring of the implementation of the commitments within ‘your’ workstream?**

Not specifically related to reporting.

**6. What are the most explicit links of ‘your’ workstream with other Grand Bargain workstreams? (Please note that most of the areas are connected, so we are looking for the most explicit ones).**

- Transparency – promoting reporting to the IATI data standard and a yet-to-be determined reporting platform
- Management Costs – harmonizing partnership agreements, transparent and comparable cost structures
- Earmarking – jointly determine a way of reporting on unearmarked and softly earmarked funding
- Needs assessments

**7. If all the commitments in ‘your’ workstream would be implemented, how would “success look like” FOR YOU? How might you measure progress?**

- We could show that we have met our commitments, particularly related to common terminology.

- A survey carried out in 2018 or 2019 would demonstrate that aid agencies are spending less time/manpower filling out reports, and donors are pleased with the improved quality of the reporting they receive.