



A GLOBAL NGO NETWORK
FOR PRINCIPLED
AND EFFECTIVE
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Grand Bargain annual self-reporting exercise:

ICVA

This report provides an update on the ICVA Secretariat's efforts to implement the Grand Bargain. Individual NGO signatories of the Grand Bargain will submit their own self reports.

General Observation

Two key challenges in advancing Grand Bargain implementation are: 1) keeping track of the sheer volume of activities related to the 10 workstreams, and 2) raising awareness about the Grand Bargain beyond its signatories. ICVA's recent efforts to help address these issues were co-hosting with PHAP a 3 March webinar on the Grand Bargain with over 200 participants (recording available [HERE](#)), and producing "The Grand Bargain Explained: An ICVA Briefing paper," available [HERE](#).

Work stream 1 - Transparency

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Since co-chairing the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team starting in 2014, ICVA has supported the HFTT workplan's objective of increasing the transparency of aid flows.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Since the adoption of the Grand Bargain ICVA has engaged in bilateral conversations with the Netherlands, Development Initiatives (DI) and OCHA/FTS to explore options for NGOs to provide feedback on the roll-out of IATI-related initiatives. ICVA circulated to its members the notice for two DI webinars to better understand IATI. ICVA will support a DI transparency-related workshop on 29 March, on the margins of its Annual Conference.

To support linkages to the Grand Bargain reporting workstream, ICVA and DI hold monthly calls. ICVA has asked DI to analyze the proposed GPPi 10+3 reporting template to identify potential synergies/ duplication with the transparency workstream.

ICVA co-chaired with OCHA/CERF the 25-26 January retreat of the IASC HFTT, which included a special working session on transparency. Since then ICVA has circulated to its members a draft IASC HFTT "key messages" document on IATI and FTS.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

ICVA will develop and execute a plan, in partnership with DI and the Netherlands, to provide NGO feedback on the roll-out of the IATI initiative.

The HFTT “key messages” on interlinkages between IATI and FTS (why, when and how) should be finalized shortly.

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

Efficiency gains for the transparency workstream will not be demonstrated until donors substantially eliminate other reporting requirements as a result of IATI compliance.

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

N/A

Work stream 2 - Localization

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ICVA has long been promoting greater respect for, inclusion, and support for national and local NGOs – including through our “NGOs in the Humanitarian Reform” projects, our “Principles of Partnership” campaigns, our work on the UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Structured Dialogue on Partnership, our Spring 2016 conference on complementarity, and our investment in NGO fora at the country level. We promote locally-led humanitarian response to the extent it is possible.

With relation to the commitment on the better use of pooled funds, ICVA’s Humanitarian Financing Working Group provides feedback to the CERF secretariat on underfunded emergency allocations and the OCHA-NGO platform on country-based pooled funds.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

As co-chair of the IASC HFTT, ICVA has participated and supported the “IASC+” working group to develop a “localization marker.” ICVA supported translation into Arabic of the survey used to collect broad feedback on this survey.

ICVA is promoting greater investment in capacity through its partnership with UNHCR to systematically invest in its national NGO partners’ capacity. ICVA, APRRN, and Mercy Malaysia organized a strategic workshop held in Bangkok in September 2017 to take this forward. ICVA is planning with UNHCR to follow-this up in Africa, as well.

ICVA supports the Syrian national NGO representative serving in the Pooled Fund Working Group, including through covering flight/ accommodation to attend the December 2016 PFWG meeting in New York.

ICVA spoke at the 21 February IFRC-Swiss hosted workshop on localization to underscore linkages between the national and local responders workstream and other aspects of the Grand Bargain.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

ICVA will support an HFTT study, symposium, and proposed “Framework for Change” on how to make funding for NNGOs more adequate and accessible in some country contexts.

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

No efficiency gains can be directly measured and attributed to these efforts.

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Through the HFTT exercise on local actor engagement we want to replicate the experience of the HFTT product on [NGO challenges to accessing Country-Based Pooled Funds](#). These findings made a direct impact on the content of the OCHA-CBPF guidelines. We also want to produce a concrete “Framework for Change” as was appreciated in [Less Paper More Aid](#).

Work stream 3 - Cash

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

N/A. ICVA is not operational and cannot deliver cash-based assistance.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

N/A.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

N/A.

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

N/A.

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

N/A.

Work stream 4 – Management costs

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ICVA has long advocated for the UN to come together with regard to its approaches towards NGOs, including through the commissioning of a [study comparing UN partnership agreements with NGOs](#).

ICVA has also long advocated for improved approaches to partner capacity assessments, including through its [study on PCAs](#) and [Less Paper More Aid](#).

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

On 25 January the HFTT held a session to decide on next steps to improve the interoperability of partner capacity assessments. Since that meeting, a TOR for the study has been drafted.

On 31 January ICVA hosted the first-ever workshop bringing together UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA and NGOs so UN agencies could brief NGOs on their ideas to harmonize partner selection, due diligence, agreement templates, budgets, reporting, shared audits. They strategized a process to consult a broader range of NGO partners.

ICVA and UNHCR co-presented this effort at the 23 March UNHCR-Japan hosted workshop on reducing duplication and management costs.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

A study will outline options for more inter-operable partner capacity assessments. A survey will be circulated for NGO feedback on options for UN harmonization.

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

Too early to tell.

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Coming together to improve collaboration and understanding.

Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

N/A. ICVA is not operational and does not participate in needs assessments.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

N/A

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

N/A

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

N/A

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ICVA commends the work of SCHR and other NGOs to advance this workstream.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

N/A.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

N/A.

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

N/A.

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ICVA has long advocated for multi-year funding, including through NGO statements at the UNHCR Executive and Standing Committee meetings.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

ICVA co-chaired with OCHA/CERF the 25-26 January HFTT retreat, which included a working session on multi-year planning and funding.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

HFTT members (FAO, OCHA and NRC) are launching a study, whose preliminary findings will be available by June.

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ICVA supported the production of an HFTT analysis of "[Donor Conditions and Their Implications for Humanitarian Response](#)," which included a chapter on earmarking.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

ICRC has circulated, including through the IASC HFTT, a survey.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

We would like to create linkages between the earmarking workstream and the reporting workstream, particularly related to reporting on unearmarked contributions.

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

When the Grand Bargain had been signed ICVA, with support of members, had published [Less Paper More Aid](#) which included proposed Frameworks for Change related to reporting, partner capacity assessments and audits. ICVA and Germany had hosted an April 2016 workshop with Grand Bargain Sherpas to learn from this study and craft commitment language.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

ICVA and Germany, workstream co-sponsors, co-facilitated the 19 November workshop reconvening Grand Bargain signatories to learn about a proposed harmonized reporting template (by GPPI) and design a way forward.

They convened donors, UN agencies and NGOs interested in the pilot in Berlin on 24 March, where 3 pilot countries were selected and next steps agreed.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Germany and ICVA will circulate: 1) a meeting report with action steps; 2) a one-pager to facilitate communication with potential pilot participants; 3) separate conference calls with donors, NGOs and UN agencies to address outstanding issues.

4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

Too early to tell.

5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ICVA participates in the IASC Humanitarian-Development Nexus Task Team meetings. ICVA co-chairs the IASC HFTT, which includes the humanitarian-development nexus as one of four objectives.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

ICVA participated, and recruited NGOs to participate in the November 2016 joint IASC HDNTT-UNWG retreat on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, which focused on joined up analysis and planning. ICVA co-chaired with OCHA/CERF the 25-26 July HFTT retreat, which included refining its workplan to deliver elements related to the Grand Bargain. ICVA's Executive Director participated in the 13-14 March Copenhagen event on the "New Way of Working."

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

The HFTT at its retreat refined its workplan to deliver the final products by the end of 2017:

- Map financial flows and pooled fund mechanisms which support the HDP nexus by country.
- Develop a concept note on addressing financial fragmentation and develop a proposal for country-level financing assessments
- Determine areas of engagement with donors to reduce financial fragmentation – target of Copenhagen meeting organized by UNDP and Denmark
- Prepare for engagement in the next UNDG-IASC retreat, which will focus on financing
- Take up the MPTFO offer of engaging in their work on financing solutions