

Grand Bargain - Mercy Corps Self Report

March 27, 2017

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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?**

When the Grand Bargain was signed, Mercy Corps was already submitting information to IATI for all DFID-funded grants, as well as other grants if this is a donor requirement.

- 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?**

Nothing to report (NTR)

- 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)?**

Mercy Corps will consider whether it can submit information to IATI on additional grants besides DFID-funded ones.

- 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.**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

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?**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

- 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)?**

NTR

- 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.**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

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?

Cash transfers, where appropriate, have long been Mercy Corps' preferred response mechanism in humanitarian contexts. However, we wanted cash transfers to be more mainstreamed and institutionalized in order to normalize their use and ensure consistent program quality and impact. In addition, we wanted to improve our ability to reach scale, with accompanying efficiency and effectiveness gains. Finally, Mercy Corps wanted to capitalize on the opportunity to reduce the negative impact of humanitarian responses on markets and increase linkages to longer term economic self-reliance and recovery programming.

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?

- Started cash programs in Haiti and northern Uganda.
- We were the primary NGO contributor to the WEF [Principles on Public-Private Cooperation in Humanitarian Payments](#)
- Joined the ERC consortium to encourage uptake of multi-purpose cash assistance
- Mercy Corps' ELAN released a report on the use of prepaid cards in humanitarian programs

Mercy Corps has changed our financial tracking to better calculate and report out on the volume of humanitarian programming that is cash based, disaggregated by cash methodologies. Mercy Corps is committed to tracking the percentage of our humanitarian assistance that is cash programming. Cash programming is at least 15% of all humanitarian assistance. In Greece our CTP programs reached over 20% of the refugee/migrant population in the country.

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 will build towards greater institutionalization of cash programming across Mercy Corps, including hosting CaLP trainings and supporting initiatives like the Fritz institute training materials for operations staff. We will roll out additional internal toolkits and SOPs to ensure cash is systematically considered in response analysis and program design. We will continue to engage with initiatives like the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Platform, ERC grants, and CaLP that contribute to the broader industry approaches and uptake of cash programs. Mercy Corps will complete our internal process to reliably and routinely report on the cash transfers portion of humanitarian programming.

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.

NTR

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?

NTR

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?

Mercy Corps used electronic cash transfer technology in many country programs and designed [internal guidance](#) for its use, as well as published a [cost efficiency comparative study](#).

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?

- Developed [guidance on assessing mobile networks' technical and agent network quality](#) to inform program selection of delivery mechanisms and develop stronger partnerships.
- Provided feedback to private sector providers on key features of services for humanitarian payments, such as prepaid cards.
- Convened Electronic Cash Transfer Learning Action Network (ELAN), which seeks to support the supply (quality of options and cost) and demand (NGO readiness to procure and use) sides of e-transfers.
- Researched uptake and use of digital financial services as a result of emergency electronic cash transfer programming in [Bangladesh](#), [Ethiopia](#) and [Zimbabwe](#).

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)?

- Test and improve mobile money assessment guidance and form preferred supplier agreements with mobile operators on DRC and Mali.
- Continue work to share information about e-transfer providers and services and offer feedback to improve quality and encourage appropriate pricing at larger scales.

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.

NTR

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?

NTR

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?**

Mercy Corps is working on establishing internal forms to be used for emergency 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?**

Mercy Corps drafted a transect walk assessment for early emergency response (within the first 24 hours) as well as a 72 hour market assessment and household assessment tool. These tools are in the early stages of field testing. We are building off of previous experience and tools; the value added through this process has been streamlining current tools into robust, standardized templates for mobile data collection.

- 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)?**

NTR

- 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.**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

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?

Mercy Corps has mechanisms to consult and encourage participation from a wide range of local stakeholders, including hard-to-reach cohorts in both the design and implementation of emergency programs. To promote accountability, we require that all our complex programs have a CARM (Community Accountability Response Mechanism). This should include a complaints mechanism to record any complaints arising from the emergency program.

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?

NTR

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 plan to further refine and adapt our community engagement and mobilization guide for emergency contexts. This guide will integrate community mobilization principles in emergency response process, equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to identify, mobilize, and advocate for needed resources and services. Underlying these changes is the fundamental transformation of individuals' perceptions toward a sense of responsibility and agency as active participants in time of need.

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.

NTR

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?

NTR

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?**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

- 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)?**

NTR

- 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.**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

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?**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

- 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)?**

NTR

- 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.**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

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?**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

- 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)?**

NTR

- 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.**

NTR

- 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?**

NTR

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?

We completed two studies: “Critical Choices,” which provides CVE impact evaluation data on Somali youth’s propensity for violence, and “Gifts and Graft,” which explores Boko Haram’s recruitment mechanisms. We also have presented this work in multiple fora in Washington DC, Lagos, New York City, and London. Mercy Corps is developing tools for our country teams in Syria, CAR, and South Sudan to analyze the root causes of conflict. We advocated for the conflict prevention transfer authority to be passed from DoD to DoS to increase conflict prevention funding.

2. 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 will work with our CAR team and the Middle East regional team on their root causes strategies. We also will do a case study of the Gaza and Nigeria teams on how to implement both humanitarian and development programming simultaneously. We are planning to publish two more CVE studies and a synthesis piece. We are also working in Niger, and later Burkina Faso, to create a set of tools to identify vulnerability at the community level with regard to CVE. These tools will help practitioners advance their ability to focus on the communities most at risk of VE. We are also planning on giving talks or hosting events in Paris, Tunisia, Nigeria, DC, London, and Ottawa.

Our Policy and Advocacy team is a leading efforts on increasing conflict prevention funding in both the US and Europe.

3. 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.

NTR

4. 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?

NTR