

Grand Bargain annual self-reporting exercise:

UN WOMEN

Grand Bargain - annual self-reporting

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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?

UN Women's model of operation has always had the developing and leveraging the capacity of local women's organisations and facilitating their access to the decision making, planning and service delivery processes as central to its work based on overall mandate and comparative advantage. This is equally true for its contribution to humanitarian action. At the time of the Grand Bargain's signature, UN Women did this primarily through its existing programming providing a combination of technical, financial and political support (the latter including, for example, facilitating access of national women's ministries or women's NGOs to decision-making fora for humanitarian response).

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?

UN Women continues to expand its humanitarian portfolio and as a result its support to local women's organisations who contribute to humanitarian response – since its humanitarian operations began in 2013, UN Women's humanitarian expenditure has grown by over 800%. However, since the signature of the Grand Bargain UN Women has set up the *Global Acceleration Instrument* as a flexible and rapid financing mechanism that supports quality interventions by local organisations engaging in humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions. The GAI was officially launched in 2016 with a budget of \$7 million. To date, programmes have been identified for support in 20 countries, with the first round of funding dispersed in the last quarter of 2016.

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)?

In the next two years, UN Women plans to expand five-fold its operational presence in crisis affected countries, with a central focus on supporting the engagement and access of local women's groups to the planning and programming processes of response, recovery and resilience. It also intends to grow the volume of the Global Acceleration Instrument, and offer the Global Acceleration Instrument for external evaluation and consideration as a good practice for providing support to local responders in an effective way with a focus on gender equality.

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?

UN Women recognized the significant potential of cash based interventions as a pragmatic tool to facilitate the self-reliance, recovery and resilience of crisis affected women and their dependents. This was demonstrated by the results of its successful cash-for-work initiative for displaced women in Jordan since 2012, which led to the development of UN Women's response and recovery flagship programme (LEAP) which positions women at the heart of community resilience building. In addition, its research findings from its study on *The Effect of Gender Equality Programming on Humanitarian Outcomes* (2015) demonstrate how empowering women as the main recipients of cash based assistance had a multiplier effect of improved outcomes – such as education and health indicators - at the household and community level. However, overall, UN Women's actual role in cash assistance and contribution to thinking in the area was minimal at time of signature of the Grand Bargain.

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?

UN Women's Humanitarian Team in headquarters now includes a Cash-Based Programming Advisor who is developing UN Women's Humanitarian Cash Programming strategy and a response tool-kit, providing UN Women's country offices with practical guidance on how to utilize and advise on the use of cash for women's empowerment and effective humanitarian response. Since the Grand Bargain, UN Women has successfully utilized cash-based programming to support its LEAP flagship programme in immediate emergency response interventions for Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, the 2016 Ecuador earthquake and the Mosul emergency in Iraq.

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)?

As UN Women expands its country operations in response, recovery and resilience building programming, cash-based interventions will be one of the key tools to deliver effective and empowering service delivery. UN Women plans to equip partners with strengthened understanding on the ways in which cash-based programming can work better or worse in terms of meeting the needs of women and girls, as well as looking at how cash-based programming can be leveraged to achieve broader results in terms of livelihoods and identity management for women and girls. UN Women, drawing on its new cash strategy, will step-up the extent of cash assistance as an element in its response and recovery humanitarian programming prescribed in its LEAP flagship programme initiative. UN Women will also develop replicable best practice examples, through proof-of-concept piloting approaches, which will allow donors and other partners to identify ways in which to both integrate gender equality into programming and solutions.

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?

UN Women has long advocated for needs assessments to be based on the collection of sex and age disaggregated data and complimented by a contextual gender analysis to understand the impact of a given crisis on women, girls, men and boys so that their differing and specific needs can be identified and addressed. Furthermore, UN Women has advocated for the inclusion of gender expertise in all assessment coordination and data gathering teams. At time of signature of the Grand Bargain UN Women had worked to provide tools for gender-sensitive needs assessment and contributed technical expertise to a number of needs assessment exercises. This included developing the gender chapter for the PDNA Guidance resource, created in collaboration with UNDP, the EU and World Bank

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?

UN Women has been updating the IASC's *Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook*, providing specific guidance on how to conduct participatory and inclusive needs assessments and gender analysis that feeds in to the humanitarian programme cycle's process of developing a humanitarian needs overview and strategic response plan to guide response planning and programming. UN Women is also increasing its support to needs assessment exercises, including more frequent deployment of experts to joint assessment missions. In recent months, UN Women has provided gender capacity to assist in assessments for Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, the 2016 Ecuador earthquake and the Mosul emergency in Iraq.

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 handbook will be finalised and published in 2017 and will be followed with a multi-country roll out and training programme – both face to face and online – to ensure that the guidance is widely adopted by the humanitarian coordination system.

In addition, UN Women is establishing its internal Surge Capacity mechanism which will allow it to deploy gender expertise to provide the necessary capacity in the coordination of initial assessment, analysis and response planning for sudden onset emergencies.

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?

UN Women had developed its strategic and operational approach to humanitarian interventions through the development of its flagship programmes, to deliver effective, quality programming and coordination that incorporate gender equality considerations across the humanitarian, peace and security and development continuum. Specifically, the programmes are intended to increase prevention, mitigation and preparedness by developing the resilience of crisis affected women and girls by integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into the planning and programming and interlinkages of preparedness (*Gender Inequality of Risk*) and response and recovery (*LEAP - Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Prevention*) interventions. Based on this, at time of signature UN Women had a modest portfolio of programming designed specifically to bridge the humanitarian-development continuum through the provision of one-stop-shop centres providing a range of offerings to women and girls that could transition throughout the course of a crisis from emergency services to services more focused on establishing livelihoods.

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?

UN Women has been building on its strategic and operational developments by building strategic partnerships with key partners, including IFRC and UNISDR, in order to formulate solutions to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities, drawing on local resources to design local solutions, and engage women and girls as leaders and agents of change. These partnerships are forming the basis for scaled up programming to better connect humanitarian and development work through disaster-preparedness actions and through linking response to recovery through UN Women's LEAP programme. In addition, UN Women has co-chaired the group developing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidance for all UN Country Teams, and in that context has ensured that that guidance is clear on concrete ways in which UN Country Teams can best promote coherence between development and humanitarian assistance.

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)?

UN Women will work with its strategic partners to launch country level programmes based on its *Gender Inequality of Risk and Promoting Community Resilience to Natural Hazards in a Changing Climate*. Specifically, UN Women will work with IFRC in the context of IFRC's *1 Billion Coalition for Resilience* by promoting the role of women in community mobilization to advance the objective of 1 Billion people taking active steps towards their resilience. UN Women will also continue to scale up the LEAP programme, as a practical means to bridge support for women and girls in humanitarian context towards longer-term development solutions.

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.

The Grand Bargain commitments primarily represent potential effectiveness gains for UN Women. However, the Global Acceleration Instrument does offer a means to reduce transaction costs for providing support to local responders.