

## Grand Bargain Self-Reporting Explanatory Guidance

1. All signatories to the Grand Bargain are expected to complete the self-report annually.
2. Self-reports must be returned to the Grand Bargain Secretariat [gbsecretariat@un.org] no later than **Thursday 15 March, 2018**. Any submissions after this date may not be considered by the 2018 Independent Grand Bargain Report.
3. Reporting should reflect activities and progress that has taken place between January 2017 and December 2017.
4. The self-report requests information by work stream, however, in order to best track progress, signatories are asked to provide as much specific and relevant detail on progress made against each of the 51 individual commitments as possible. A full list of commitments for each work stream is included in the self-report template for reference.
5. The questions contained in this self-report are the same as in 2017, however some work streams include additional question for signatories, at the request of the work stream co-conveners. If you are unable to provide this information, please note the reasons for this.
6. Signatories who have not previously completed a self-report are asked to answer question one for each work stream, to provide a baseline of where your organisation stood when it became a Grand Bargain signatory. Existing signatories can complete questions two to five for each work stream, as your 2017 self-report will have already provided the baseline information sought by question one.
7. Please type your answers immediately below each question asked.
8. Signatories are encouraged to report both on progress made, and where they may have experienced obstacles or challenges to realising their commitments.
9. Signatories are encouraged, where possible and relevant, to reflect on their contributions to the Grand Bargain both as recipients of humanitarian funds and donors of humanitarian funds. This will allow us to capture the transfer of benefits accrued at higher ends of the value chain down to the frontline.
10. Signatories are asked to limit their responses to a maximum of 500 words per work stream.
11. Self-reports are public documents, and will be published as submitted on the IASC-hosted Grand Bargain [website](#) from 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018.

12. Self-reports will be used to inform the 2018 Independent Annual Grand Bargain Report, which will provide a collective analysis of the progress for each work stream, and for the Grand Bargain as a whole. The Independent Annual Grand Bargain report will be published prior to the 2018 Annual Grand Bargain Meeting on 18 June 2018, in New York.
13. The 2018 Independent Annual Grand Bargain Report is being prepared by [ODI/HPG](#). Signatories may be contacted by ODI/HPG as part of their research and preparation of the Independent Report.
14. If you require support or advice to complete your self-report, you may direct enquiries to the Grand Bargain Secretariat [[gbsecretariat@un.org](mailto:gbsecretariat@un.org)].

### **Gender Inclusion**

Signatories are encouraged address to the gender dimensions of their Grand Bargain commitments. For reporting on each work stream, consideration should be given to the guidance provided by the [Aide-Memoire on Gender Mainstreaming in the Grand Bargain](#) that addresses the gender dimensions of resources, capacity, evidence and data, participation, leadership, accountability and communication within the Grand Bargain. Signatories are also welcome to provide additional detail on how they consider they have, at a macro level, ensured their Grand Bargain follow-up is gender-responsive, and to include any examples of good practice that they wish to share. This data will assist in the preparation of the 2018 Independent Grand Bargain report, which will assess the extent to which gender has been considered by Grand Bargain work streams.



## 2018 Grand Bargain Annual Self-Reporting – [Name of Signatory]

### Contents

Work stream 1 - Transparency.....	5
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	5
2. Progress to date.....	6
3. Planned next steps.....	6
4. Efficiency gains .....	6
5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	6
Work stream 2 - Localization.....	7
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	7
2. Progress to date.....	8
3. Planned next steps.....	8
4. Efficiency gains .....	8
5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	9
Work stream 3 - Cash.....	10
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	10
2. Progress to date.....	11
3. Planned next steps.....	11
4. Efficiency gains .....	12
5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	12
Work stream 4 – Management costs.....	13
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	14
2. Progress to date.....	14
3. Planned next steps.....	14
4. Efficiency gains .....	14
5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	14
Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment.....	15
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	16
2. Progress to date.....	16
3. Planned next steps.....	16
4. Efficiency gains .....	16

5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	16
Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution .....	17
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	17
2. Progress to date.....	18
3. Planned next steps.....	18
4. Efficiency gains .....	19
5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	19
Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding .....	20
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	20
2. Progress to date.....	20
3. Planned next steps.....	21
4. Efficiency gains .....	21
5. Good practice and lessons learned .....	21
Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility .....	22
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	22
2. Progress to date.....	23
3. Planned next steps.....	23
4. Efficiency gains .....	24
5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	24
Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements .....	25
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	25
2. Progress to date.....	25
3. Planned next steps.....	25
4. Efficiency gains .....	26
5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	26
Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement.....	27
1. Baseline (only in year 1).....	27
2. Progress to date.....	28
3. Planned next steps.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
4. Efficiency gains .....	29
5. Good practices and lessons learned .....	29

## Work stream 1 - Transparency

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Publish timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on humanitarian funding within two years of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. We consider IATI to provide a basis for the purpose of a common standard.*
2. *Make use of appropriate data analysis, explaining the distinctiveness of activities, organisations, environments and circumstances (for example, protection, conflict-zones).*
3. *Improve the digital platform and engage with the open-data standard community to help ensure:*
  - *accountability of donors and responders with open data for retrieval and analysis;*
  - *improvements in decision-making, based upon the best possible information;*
  - *a reduced workload over time as a result of donors accepting common standard data for some reporting purposes; and*
  - *traceability of donors' funding throughout the transaction chain as far as the final responders and, where feasible, affected people.*
4. *Support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data.*

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**Transparency work stream co-conveners reporting request:** How will you use the data from IATI within your organization including, for example, for monitoring, reporting and vis-à-vis other Grand Bargain commitments?

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### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

The reform of the Italian Cooperation created a new body, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo - AICS), in charge of managing development and humanitarian aid programmes since January 2016.

In May 2016:

1. AICS released a new web platform and opened profiles on social networks – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram in April/ May 2016; AICS opened a YouTube channel in May 2016;
2. AICS had not formalized its membership of IATI;
3. An open-source platform <http://openaid.esteri.it/> was on the web; this platform was not aligned to IATI standard;
4. Project documents: only Funding Decisions (*Delibere*) and call for proposals were published on our website. Most of the other project documents were not public. News on new programmes were published on AICS Newsletter “La Cooperazione Informa”;
5. Italy regularly published information on new humanitarian programmes on <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac> and, consequently, on <https://fts.unocha.org>.

## **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?

1. AICS web platform and social networks are updated with news and information on new and ongoing humanitarian programmes;
2. As IATI member AICS in 2017 has started to publish its data on the IATI register. In particular in June 2017 AICS has published the first organizational chart and budget data 2016-2018 with a break down for partner countries and in October 2017 has published the first activities dataset concerning a «pilot case» of activities in Ethiopia;
1. At the same time AICS has published its own Open Aid platform <http://openaid.aics.gov.it/> where following the IATI AICS will publish all the information regarding its activities. This platform uses the same files published on the IATI register in order to maximise the coherence of our data;
2. The platform <http://openaid.aics.gov.it/> is also used to publish all the related documents of our activities such as MOU, tender, and other official documents;
3. Italy regularly publishes information on new humanitarian programmes on <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac> and, consequently, on <https://fts.unocha.org>.

## **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)?

1. In February 2018 AICS has already published activities datasets of 14 countries on the IATI register and on Openaid. The target is to publish all our activities by the end of the 2018 and update these information quarterly;
2. Italy will regularly keep on publishing information on new humanitarian programmes on <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac> and, consequently, on <https://fts.unocha.org>.

## **4. Efficiency gains**

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**

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 2 – Localization

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Increase and support multi-year investment in the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response and coordination capacities, especially in fragile contexts and where communities are vulnerable to armed conflicts, disasters, recurrent outbreaks and the effects of climate change. We should achieve this through collaboration with development partners and incorporate capacity strengthening in partnership agreements.*
2. *Understand better and work to remove or reduce barriers that prevent organisations and donors from partnering with local and national responders in order to lessen their administrative burden.*
3. *Support and complement national coordination mechanisms where they exist and include local and national responders in international coordination mechanisms as appropriate and in keeping with humanitarian principles.*
4. *Achieve by 2020 a global, aggregated target of at least 25 per cent of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible to improve outcomes for affected people and reduce transactional costs.*
5. *Develop, with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and apply a 'localisation' marker to measure direct and indirect funding to local and national responders.*
6. *Make greater use of funding tools which increase and improve assistance delivered by local and national responders, such as UN-led country-based pooled funds (CBPF), IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and NGO-led and other pooled funds.*

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**Localisation work stream co-conveners reporting request:** What percentage of your humanitarian funding in 2017 was provided to local and national responders (a) directly (b) through pooled funds, or (c) through a single intermediary?<sup>1</sup>

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### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

1. **Before the 2014 reform of the Italian Cooperation and the establishment of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – AICS in 2016, the Italian law and regulation did not allow direct funding to local responders ;**
2. **In 2015 Italy funded IFRC programmes for a total amount of 1.695.000 Euro.**

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<sup>1</sup> The "Identified Categories for Tracking Aid Flows" document agreed through silence procedure ([available here](#)) provides relevant definitions. The detailed data collection form ([available here](#)) may also assist you in responding to this question. Returning this form with your self report is optional, but encouraged.

## 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?

1. The new law 125/2014 on development cooperation allows for direct funding to local CSOs;
2. New procedures have been approved on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 to allow local civil society organisations to submit humanitarian project proposals to AICS. Local CSOs are eligible to funding if they had previous partnerships with CSOs registered in Italy (so called “graduation”);
3. In 2016 Italy funded IFRC programmes for a total amount of 3.300.000 Euro.
4. In 2017 Italy funded IFRC programmes for a total amount of 2.000.000 Euro.
5. In 2017 Italy directly funded three local NGOs, as follows:

Local NGO	Project Title	Country	Total project budget
LOST (Lebanon)	UNA SCUOLA PER TUTTI	Lebanon	€ 413.000,00
MAAN (Palestine)	Approccio di Protezione Integrato per aumentare la resilienza dei gruppi vulnerabili in Al-Buraj e Al- Nuseirat	Gaza Streep	€ 400.000,00
Amel (Lebanon)	Madrasati Ahla Il (la mia scuola e' piu' bella).	Lebanon	€ 329.906,00

All the above projects have been implemented in partnership with Italian NGOs.

## 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)?

1. We consider localization a key driver to enhance efficiency and sustainability of humanitarian programmes, especially in LRRD activities. However, we recognize that involving local actors as direct beneficiaries of funding is challenging. Besides new norms and procedures, concrete obstacles still remain to enable direct funding to local CSOs, such as language and simplification of administrative procedures. Monitoring system also need to be adapted in order to allow a sound assessment of the local CSOs capacity. We are planning to work on that.
2. We will also work to strengthen partnerships and consortia between international and local CSOs, which is fundamental to enhance the capacity of local CSOs and avoid competition. International actors should be responsible of enhancing the capacity of local responders.

## 4. Efficiency gains

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**

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 3 – Cash

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Increase the routine use of cash alongside other tools, including in-kind assistance, service delivery (such as health and nutrition) and vouchers. Employ markers to measure increase and outcomes.*
2. *Invest in new delivery models which can be increased in scale while identifying best practice and mitigating risks in each context. Employ markers to track their evolution.*
3. *Build an evidence base to assess the costs, benefits, impacts, and risks of cash (including on protection) relative to in-kind assistance, service delivery interventions and vouchers, and combinations thereof.*
4. *Collaborate, share information and develop standards and guidelines for cash programming in order to better understand its risks and benefits.*
5. *Ensure that coordination, delivery, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are put in place for cash transfers.*
6. *Aim to increase use of cash programming beyond current low levels, where appropriate. Some organisations and donors may wish to set targets.*

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### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

1. From January 2015 to April 2016, the Italian Cooperation - in partnership with Italian CSOs - implemented the Program “*Emergency initiative to strengthen the resilience of Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon*” with the aim of supporting selected municipalities in the construction or rehabilitation of public infrastructure through the temporary employment of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese in the host communities. The support provided to the municipalities and the employment of a large number of unskilled workers allowed the Italian Cooperation to foster social cohesion between the Syrian and host communities, it provided humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable groups and it helped to stimulate local economies.

The Program has adopted the *Standard Operating Procedures for Cash for Work Projects in Lebanon*, developed by the *Livelihoods working group* established in response to the Syria crisis. In line with these procedures, the Program employed unskilled workers for about 23 days of work in exchange of a financial incentive of 20 US\$ per day. In total, the Program involved in the temporary employment scheme 3,234 beneficiaries (65% Syrian and 35% Lebanese), out of which 14% were women. On average, each beneficiary received 460 US\$. The impact of the Program is shown by the fact that the monthly expenditure for the purchase of basic items for a family of five refugees in Lebanon is estimated at US\$ 435 (source: *Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon*, 2015). The Syrian refugees were more motivated to be involved in cash for work initiatives than the Lebanese citizens, who are

generally interested in more stable employment opportunities. The involvement of women was negatively affected by the social and cultural context in the program's catchment area and by the type of activities undertaken, which often require a huge physical effort. Children and people with disabilities were not directly involved in the temporary employment scheme, but their presence in the household was a criterion used in the selection of the direct beneficiaries. The financial incentive has allowed the beneficiaries to respond in the short term to their basic needs and has presumably reduced their negative coping mechanisms. The Program was implemented in partnership with nine Italian NGOs selected through a Call for Proposals.

2. Italy supports multilateral programmes (ILO, WFP, Madad Fund) providing assistance through cash, especially in the Syrian crisis.

## **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?

1. From June 2016 to December 2017 the Italian Cooperation has implemented an initiative to support selected Lebanese municipalities in the construction or rehabilitation of public infrastructure through the temporary employment of vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees. The Program has been implemented in partnership with seven Italian NGOs selected through a Call for Proposals. The Program involved 2.762 direct beneficiaries in cash for work activities. Total amount - cash assistance: 1,1 million euro.
2. The Italian Cooperation funded in November 2017 a 12 months project implemented by WFP with the aim of increasing the access of displaced Syrian children to formal education. About 10,800 Syrian refugee children enrolled in primary schools will benefit from the monthly provision of cash to purchase school meals. Each beneficiary receives US \$ 6 per month. Cash is transferred to beneficiary households onto an e-card. Recipients can easily withdraw the cash using their e-card at any ATM throughout Lebanon. Caregivers sign an agreement indicating their commitment to use the cash to facilitate the child's school attendance and their willingness to receive a home visit if the child is absent for more than 10 consecutive days. Total amount - cash for education: Euro 431,593.
3. The Italian Cooperation funded in November 2017 a 12 months project implemented by UNRWA with the aim of preserving the resilience of the Palestinian refugees affected by the consequences of the Syrian crisis. About 400 PRS households receive 100 US \$ per month for a period of 12 months. Cash is transferred to beneficiary households onto an e-card . Total amount - Multi-purpose Cash assistance for PRS families: Euro 450,200
4. In Lebanon, the Italian Cooperation funded in November 2017 a 12 months project implemented by UNHCR with the aim of preserving the resilience of Syrian refugees. About 550 households receive 175 US \$ per month for a period of 12 months. Cash is transferred to beneficiary households onto an e-card. Total amount - Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance: Euro 1,000,049.

### **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)?

1. Starting from January 2018, the Italian Cooperation - in partnership with the French Cooperation (AFD) – will implement a 3 years project in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan) which includes a cash for work component benefiting 3,770 vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities involved in the rehabilitation of municipal infrastructure and services. The project is funded by the European Trust Fund “MADAD”. Total amount – cash for work: 2,5 million euro.
2. On 27 February 2018 the Italian Cooperation launched a Call for proposals for the implementation of cash for work projects in Lebanon. The deadline for submitting project proposals is 27 March 2018. The project proposals shall foresee the creation of rapid employment opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees for the construction or rehabilitation of public infrastructure and environmental assets in Lebanese municipalities affected by the economic and social consequences of the Syrian crisis. Through the cash for work methodology, the Program strengthens the capacity of Syrian refugees to provide for their own livelihoods during their stay in host communities, and creates short term income generation opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese. The direct beneficiaries will be about 1,600 persons (50% Lebanese and 50% refugees), out of which 30% are women. Each beneficiary will work on average 30 days with a salary of 20 US \$ per day for unskilled workers and 25 US \$ per day for skilled workers. On average, every unskilled worker will receive an amount of 600 US \$. The support provided to vulnerable municipalities and the engagement of a high number of unskilled workers fosters the social cohesion between Syrian refugees and host communities, and contributes to stimulating local economies. Total amount – cash for work: 1 million euro.
3. In 2018 the Italian Cooperation will fund cash assistance initiatives in response to the Syrian crisis. In line with the recently implemented projects, the methodologies of cash for work, cash for education and unconditional cash assistance will be considered as priorities.

### **4. Efficiency gains**

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**

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 4 – Management costs

*Aid organisations and donors commit to:*

1. *Reduce the costs and measure the gained efficiencies of delivering assistance with technology (including green) and innovation. Aid organisations will provide the detailed steps to be taken by the end of 2017.*

*Examples where use of technology can be expanded:*

- *Mobile technology for needs assessments/post-distribution monitoring;*
  - *Digital platforms and mobile devices for financial transactions;*
  - *Communication with affected people via call centres and other feedback mechanisms such as SMS text messaging;*
  - *Biometrics; and*
  - *Sustainable energy.*
2. *Harmonise partnership agreements and share partner assessment information as well as data about affected people, after data protection safeguards have been met by the end of 2017, in order to save time and avoid duplication in operations.*

*Aid organisations commit to:*

3. *Provide transparent and comparable cost structures by the end of 2017. We acknowledge that operational management of the Grand Bargain signatories - the United Nations, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the NGO sector may require different approaches.*
4. *Reduce duplication of management and other costs through maximising efficiencies in procurement and logistics for commonly required goods and services. Shared procurement should leverage the comparative advantage of the aid organisations and promote innovation.*

*Suggested areas for initial focus:*

- *Transportation/Travel;*
- *Vehicles and fleet management;*
- *Insurance;*
- *Shipment tracking systems;*
- *Inter-agency/common procurement pipelines (non-food items, shelter, WASH, food);*
- *IT services and equipment;*
- *Commercial consultancies; and*
- *Common support services.*

*Donors commit to:*

5. *Make joint regular functional monitoring and performance reviews and reduce individual donor assessments, evaluations, verifications, risk management and oversight processes.*

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**Management costs work stream co-conveners reporting request:** What steps have you taken to reduce the number of individual donor assessments (if a donor) or partner assessments (if an agency) you conduct on humanitarian partners?

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### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

1. CSOs are strongly encouraged to submit project proposals with management costs lower than 25% of the amount of the contribution requested to the Italian Cooperation (IC);
2. Indirect costs of CSOs projects cannot exceed 7% of the amount of IC contribution;
3. AICS has not established thresholds for multilateral programmes, however overheads are generally kept lower than 7% of the amount of the contribution requested to the IC.
4. AICS does not have thresholds for management costs in programmes directly managed by the IC.
5. The Italian Cooperation conducts assessments only on projects, while we do not have general assessments on humanitarian partners.
6. In case of CSOs, the Italian Cooperation can disburse the first instalment payment (50% of the total project budget approved) only upon reception of a bank guarantee. The value of the bank guarantee has to be worth exactly **the same amount of the sum anticipated** (50% of the total project budget approved).

### 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?

1. A new regulation was approved in December 2017 to reduce the value of the bank guarantee. The Italian Cooperation can disburse to CSOs the first instalment payment (50% of the total project budget approved) upon reception of a bank guarantee worth **30% of the amount of the sum anticipated** (50% of the total project budget approved).

### 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)?

None

### 4. Efficiency gains

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

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 5 – Needs Assessment

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Provide a single, comprehensive, cross-sectoral, methodologically sound and impartial overall assessment of needs for each crisis to inform strategic decisions on how to respond and fund thereby reducing the number of assessments and appeals produced by individual organisations.*
2. *Coordinate and streamline data collection to ensure compatibility, quality and comparability and minimising intrusion into the lives of affected people. Conduct the overall assessment in a transparent, collaborative process led by the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator with full involvement of the Humanitarian Country Team and the clusters/sectors and in the case of sudden onset disasters, where possible, by the government. Ensure sector-specific assessments for operational planning are undertaken under the umbrella of a coordinated plan of assessments at inter-cluster/sector level.*
3. *Share needs assessment data in a timely manner, with the appropriate mitigation of protection and privacy risks. Jointly decide on assumptions and analytical methods used for projections and estimates.*
4. *Dedicate resources and involve independent specialists within the clusters to strengthen data collection and analysis in a fully transparent, collaborative process, which includes a brief summary of the methodological and analytical limitations of the assessment.*
5. *Prioritise humanitarian response across sectors based on evidence established by the analysis. As part of the IASC Humanitarian Response Plan process on the ground, it is the responsibility of the empowered Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator to ensure the development of the prioritised, evidence-based response plans.*
6. *Commission independent reviews and evaluations of the quality of needs assessment findings and their use in prioritisation to strengthen the confidence of all stakeholders in the needs assessment.*
7. *Conduct risk and vulnerability analysis with development partners and local authorities, in adherence to humanitarian principles, to ensure the alignment of humanitarian and development programming.*

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**Needs assessment work stream co-conveners reporting request:** What hurdles, if any, might be addressed to allow for more effective implementation of the GB commitment?

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### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

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

1. We conduct project based need assessments. Our field offices cooperate with other donors, sharing information and data, but we do not conduct joint 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?

None

### **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)?

None

### **4. Efficiency gains**

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**

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



## Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution

*Aid organisations and donors commit to:*

- 1. Improve leadership and governance mechanisms at the level of the humanitarian country team and cluster/sector mechanisms to ensure engagement with and accountability to people and communities affected by crises.*
- 2. Develop common standards and a coordinated approach for community engagement and participation, with the emphasis on inclusion of the most vulnerable, supported by a common platform for sharing and analysing data to strengthen decision-making, transparency, accountability and limit duplication.*
- 3. Strengthen local dialogue and harness technologies to support more agile, transparent but appropriately secure feedback.*
- 4. Build systematic links between feedback and corrective action to adjust programming.*

*Donors commit to:*

- 5. Fund flexibly to facilitate programme adaptation in response to community feedback.*
- 6. Invest time and resources to fund these activities.*

*Aid organisations commit to:*

- 7. Ensure that, by the end of 2017, all humanitarian response plans – and strategic monitoring of them - demonstrate analysis and consideration of inputs from affected communities.*

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### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

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

**In relation to flexibility of the humanitarian programmes:**

- Programme budgets could be reallocated **within results** up to a maximum of 15% of the total amount of the budget. For bigger amounts, reallocations are allowed upon authorisation by HQ.**
- Programme budgets could be reallocated **between results** upon authorisation.**
- Temporal extensions were also allowed for a maximum project duration of 12 month, unless the crisis persisted.**
- Reallocations could not allow the increase of the maximum contribution authorised.**
- CSOs' project could also be amended to adapt them to the evolving circumstances and the related humanitarian needs. Reallocations could never include the increase of the maximum contribution authorised.**

## 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?

New procedures and project formats were approved by AICS in 2016/2017. This new formats:

- a. introduce more flexibility to adapt bilateral programmes to the evolving circumstances and to the related humanitarian needs. Programme budgets can be reallocated within or between **sectors** up to a maximum of 15% of the total amount of the budget. For bigger amounts, reallocations are allowed upon authorisation by HQ. Temporal extensions are also allowed for a maximum project duration up to 24 months, unless the crisis persists. Reallocations can never include the increase of the maximum contribution authorised.
- b. Project formats and monitoring reports have a specific focus on beneficiaries - with specific regard to women, children and people with disabilities - underlining the need to include them since the formulation of projects and throughout the implementation of activities.
- c. CSOs' project can also be amended to adapt them to the evolving circumstances and to the related humanitarian needs. Reallocations can never include the increase of the maximum contribution authorised.

Italy endorsed the Charter on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. We introduced specific markers to verify the compliance of proposals to the principles listed in our Vademecum on Disability and Humanitarian Aid; AICS identified 3 focal points at HQ level and 12 focal points at field level, in order to mainstream the issue of disability within humanitarian aid programmes and manage specific actions for people with disabilities.

In line with the *Charter on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action*, in 2017 Italy funded a new programme in Jordan for a total amount of Euro 700.000 (duration: two years) to include people with disabilities in humanitarian projects but also to collect quantitative and qualitative data, train humanitarian staff, raise awareness and advocate on the need of persons with disabilities. The active participation of People with Disabilities will be crucial in all programme activities and a scheme consisting of training and technical assistance will be developed.

## 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 January 2018 Italy updated the Guidelines on Disability and Social Inclusion in development interventions, including a specific framework on humanitarian aid.

An update of the current Italian Cooperation Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment is planned in 2018. The update will include specific provisions for gender based violence in emergencies and gender mainstreaming in humanitarian aid.

#### **4. Efficiency gains**

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**

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

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. Increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding instruments and document the impacts on programme efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that recipients apply the same funding arrangements with their implementing partners.
2. Support in at least five countries by the end of 2017 multi-year collaborative planning and response plans through multi-year funding and monitor and evaluate the outcomes of these responses.
3. Strengthen existing coordination efforts to share analysis of needs and risks between the humanitarian and development sectors and to better align humanitarian and development planning tools and interventions while respecting the principles of both.

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**Multi-year planning and funding work stream co-conveners reporting request:** Please report the percentage and total value of multi-year agreements<sup>2</sup> you have provided (as a donor) or received and provided to humanitarian partners (as an agency) in 2017, and any earmarking conditions.<sup>3</sup> When reporting on efficiency gains, please try to provide quantitative examples.

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### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Humanitarian programmes had a maximum duration of 12 months, unless the crisis persists.

### 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?

We extended the maximum duration of programmes implemented by AICS:

- Relief and emergency programmes: up to 24 months
- LRRD programmes: up to 36 months

The programmes' duration can be further extended in case the crisis persists.

We extended the maximum duration of CSOs' projects:

- Relief: up to 4 months
- Emergency programmes: up to 21 months
- LRRD programmes: up to 33 months

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<sup>2</sup> Multiyear funding is funding provided for two or more years based on a firm commitment at the outset

<sup>3</sup> For the Grand Bargain definitions of earmarking, please see Annex I. Earmarking modalities, as contained with the final agreement, available [here](#).

In 2017, the IC funded the Programme for Humanitarian Impact Investment (PHII) created by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC). The PHII is a new fundraising instrument aiming at finding additional ways to finance vital services for people with disabilities in conflict-hit countries. The programme reaches three rehabilitation clinics in DRC, Nigeria and Mali on a multi-year base (5 years).

The Italian Cooperation committed up to a maximum donation of 3 million euros.

### **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 adoption of the measures approved in 2017 will enable the Italian cooperation to implement an increasing number of multi-year projects

### **4. Efficiency gains**

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

### **5. Good practice and lessons learned**

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

*Aid organisations and donors commit to:*

- 1. Jointly determine, on an annual basis, the most effective and efficient way of reporting on unearmarked and softly earmarked funding and to initiate this reporting by the end of 2017.*
- 2. Reduce the degree of earmarking of funds contributed by governments and regional groups who currently provide low levels of flexible finance. Aid organisations in turn commit to do the same with their funding when channelling it through partners.*

*Aid organisations commit to:*

- 3. Be transparent and regularly share information with donors outlining the criteria for how core and unearmarked funding is allocated (for example, urgent needs, emergency preparedness, forgotten contexts, improved management)*
- 4. Increase the visibility of unearmarked and softly earmarked funding, thereby recognising the contribution made by donors.*

*Donors commit to:*

- 5. Progressively reduce the earmarking of their humanitarian contributions. The aim is to aspire to achieve a global target of 30 per cent of humanitarian contributions that is non earmarked or softly earmarked by 2020<sup>4</sup>.*

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**Earmarking/flexibility work stream co-conveners reporting request:** Please specify if possible the percentages of 2017 vs 2016 of:

- Unearmarked contributions (given/received)
- Softly earmarked contributions (given/received)
- Country earmarked contributions (given/received)
- Tightly earmarked contributions (given/received)

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### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

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

- **The Italian contribution to CERF was of 1 million euro**
- **To allow flexibility but also a prompt response in case of new emergencies, Italy uses the mechanism of the so called “Emergency Bilateral Fund” (EBF). The EBF is a revolving fund yearly replenished by the IC through voluntary contributions to specific International Organizations (ICRC, IFRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, OCHA, OIM, WHO). The EBF**

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<sup>4</sup> For the Grand Bargain definitions of earmarking, please see Annex I. Earmarking modalities, as contained with the final agreement, available [here](#).

mechanism allows timeliness and flexibility when supporting humanitarian action. The fund is jointly managed with interested agencies. In the case of new and unexpected crises, the organization can propose to the Italian Cooperation, or - likewise the IC can ask the organization - to use part of the fund for emergency interventions. Through this mechanism, Italy actively supports various humanitarian interventions in response to the Humanitarian Response Plans, Flash Appeals and other Response Plans launched by humanitarian multilateral actors.

<b>Humanitarian Aid Budget (core contributions not included)</b>		
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017</b>
Softly earmarked contributions	5190000	9,18%
Tightly earmarked contributions	3400000	6,01%
Unearmarked contributions	2000000	3,54%
Country earmarked contributions	45962406	81,27%
<b>Multilateral – total</b>	<b>56552406</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>
Softly earmarked contributions	2190000	4,38%
Tightly earmarked contributions	2450000	4,90%
Unearmarked contributions	2000000	4,00%
Country earmarked contributions	43310000	86,71%
<b>Multilateral - total</b>	<b>49950000</b>	

## 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?

- The Italian contribution to CERF was doubled in 2017 (2 million euro)
- In 2017, the IC contributed to the Palestinian OCHA Pooled Fund (500.000 euro)
- In 2016, the IC funded EBF for a total amount of 22 million euro
- In 2017, the IC funded EBF for a total amount of 17 million euro

## 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 Italian contribution to CERF will further increase in 2018 (2,5 million euro)

- Italy will investigate other ways to increase unearmarking, including ways to widen our support to pooled funds.
- In 2018, the IC will fund EBF for a total amount of 17,5 million euro

#### **4. Efficiency gains**

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**

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

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Simplify and harmonise reporting requirements by the end of 2018 by reducing its volume, jointly deciding on common terminology, identifying core requirements and developing a common report structure.*
2. *Invest in technology and reporting systems to enable better access to information.*
3. *Enhance the quality of reporting to better capture results, enable learning and increase the efficiency of reporting.*

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### 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 2009, the Italian Cooperation (IC) started a process to standardise its proposals and reporting formats, in order to simplify and harmonise them. Simplified project formats were available for CSOs projects and for bilateral programmes managed by IC field offices.

### 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?

- In October 2016 new formats have been approved, introducing more flexibility in the selection of indicators but – at the same time – requesting a better definition of the same indicators in order to improve the analysis of results achieved by programmes / projects.
- Regarding multilateral programmes, Italy does not request multilateral organizations to use a specific reporting format; however a narrative report is highly recommended, according to templates used by different partner's organizations. Project amendments are also allowed upon request.
- Italy is taking part at the “Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot” for all the three countries proposed (Myanmar, Somalia and Iraq). The first two call for proposal (Iraq and Somalia) with the 8+3 Template were launched in January 2018.

### 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 continue working with the Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot.
- Italy is planning to set up an on-line platform to manage Call for proposals and to fill in CSOs project proposals and monitoring reports. Moreover, the IC is planning to further simplify and harmonize procedures and formats.

#### **4. Efficiency gains**

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**

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

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Use existing resources and capabilities better to shrink humanitarian needs over the long term with the view of contributing to the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals. Significantly increase prevention, mitigation and preparedness for early action to anticipate and secure resources for recovery. This will need to be the focus not only of aid organisations and donors but also of national governments at all levels, civil society, and the private sector.*
2. *Invest in durable solutions for refugees, internally displaced people and sustainable support to migrants, returnees and host/receiving communities, as well as for other situations of recurring vulnerabilities.*
3. *Increase social protection programmes and strengthen national and local systems and coping mechanisms in order to build resilience in fragile contexts.*
4. *Perform joint multi-hazard risk and vulnerability analysis, and multi-year planning where feasible and relevant, with national, regional and local coordination in order to achieve a shared vision for outcomes. Such a shared vision for outcomes will be developed on the basis of shared risk analysis between humanitarian, development, stabilisation and peacebuilding communities.*
5. *Galvanise new partnerships that bring additional capabilities and resources to crisis affected states through Multilateral Development Banks within their mandate and foster innovative partnerships with the private sector.*

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### Humanitarian-Development engagement work stream co-conveners reporting request:

What has your organisation done to operationalise the humanitarian-development nexus at country level?"

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#### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

- The reform of the Italian Cooperation (IC) created a new body, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), in charge of managing development and humanitarian aid programmes since January 2016.
- AICS organizational structure includes an office with both humanitarian aid and development cooperation tasks – called “Office for humanitarian aid and fragile situations” – which works not only to respond to crises but also to tackle fragility and building resilience with medium- long term perspective.

## 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?

- Following our commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit - where Italy subscribed the Grand Bargain – Italy started a reorganization process to improve synergy between humanitarian and development actions, assigning a development portfolio to the Office in charge of humanitarian response.
- Italy approved new procedures to finance LRRD (Linking Relief and Rehabilitation Development) programmes with development funds.
- Thanks to this new configuration and procedures, in the immediate aftermath of an emergency, IC can launch response initiatives using both humanitarian and development instruments. It is the case of the emergency response to El Niño and the programmes activated in response to the Syrian crisis in Lebanon and Jordan.
- As part of the new architecture of the Development Co-operation we have also introduced the possibility to fund local NGO's with a view to localize as much as possible the humanitarian response.

Moreover, we extended the duration of the humanitarian interventions as follows:

Programmes implemented by AICS:

- Relief and emergency programmes: up to 24 months
- LRRD programmes: up to 36 months

CSOs' projects:

- Relief: up to 4 months
- Emergency programmes: up to 21 months
- LRRD programmes: up to 33 months

The programmes' duration can be further extended in case the crisis persists.

With regard to CSOs' projects, we also extended the maximum budget allowed, as follows:

- Relief and emergency programmes: up to 1,8 Million Euro
- LRRD programmes: up to 2,5 Million Euro.

With regard to the involvement of the private sector, in 2017 the IC funded the Programme for Humanitarian Impact Investment (PHII) established by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC). The PHII is a new fundraising instruments aiming at finding additional ways to finance vital services for people with disabilities in conflict-hit countries. The Italian Cooperation committed up to a maximum donation of 3 million euros. The outcome funders made a conditional pledge to pay ICRC for concrete results achieved in five years: the higher the efficiency in the new centres the higher their contribution. Social investors (mainly commercial banks and foundations) make their investments since the start. The funds paid by Outcome Funders to the ICRC in line with the results achieved will in turn be used to pay back the social investors.

## 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)?

- IC is planning to adopt Strategic Guidelines on the Humanitarian Development Nexus

#### **4. Efficiency gains**

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**

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?