2018 Grand Bargain Annual Self-Reporting – Mercy Corps

Contents

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.*

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. 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

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)? NTR

3. Efficiency gains
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
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

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.*

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?[1]

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

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[1] 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.

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? NTR

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. 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 July 2017, cash transfer programming made up 34% of Mercy Corps' humanitarian programming. Between January 2017 and June 2017, Mercy Corps submitted over 27 proposals (total value of over $60 million) which included CTP. During 2017, Mercy Corps also:

- Joined the Smart Communities Coalition and ID2020 Alliance to help refugees and displaced populations gain access to sustainable services and income-generating opportunities.
- Drafted a Cash Transfer Implementation Guide to provide internal guidance on CTP.
- Started a research partnership with Tufts University, funded by USAID, on markets, cash, and social capital in South Sudan and Uganda.
- Completed Mercy Corps' approach paper on market-driven approaches in crisis, "Beyond Cash: Economic Inclusion During and After Crisis."
- Produced and tested Payment Mechanism Assessment guidance for the ERC consortium. Pilot tests of the tool and approach were conducted in Nigeria and Ethiopia.
- Started cash transfer programs in the US and Puerto Rico.
- Trained over 40 Central Bank regulators on how their laws impact cash transfer programming with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion.
- Cash was considered and integrated into Emergency Preparedness Planning exercises and called out as an area of focus in nine countries.

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)?

Mercy Corps will develop cash transfer program minimum standards and recommendations for a "whole of agency" response plan, and address the growing concern in the cash transfer community regarding data protection threats. Mercy Corps will also continue its research on how CTP can contribute to market-driven development in crisis contexts. One of the upcoming research projects will be to understand why digital payment systems are not already functioning in prime humanitarian response areas and what the global community can do to foster them. Mercy Corps will continue to support multi-agency collaboration and initiatives, primarily through participation in the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Platform and CaLP and leadership of the Electronic Cash Transfer Action Network (ELAN). Mercy Corps will also work with WRC to develop tools which take into account GBV and protection concerns in cash programming.

3. **Efficiency gains**
   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**
   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

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.*

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. **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

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)?

   - Under the ELAN umbrella, produce a 5-week online course on Digital Humanitarian Cash that will be offered publicly by the Digital Frontiers Institute.
   - Cisco, Microsoft, and Tableau Foundation are currently funding efforts to help Mercy Corps better manage client information, with an initial focus on cash-based responses. CTPs were chosen because of the need to exchange data with multiple actors, including UN agencies, peer organizations, and financial service providers (e.g. mobile network operators, banks). The effort brings together key technology providers to develop a "plug-and-play" ecosystem of complementary components, relying on an open standards integration approach wherever possible. The goal is to avoid building any new products, platforms, or project-specific integrations. Rather, the focus is to pre-integrate (and preposition) **existing** products through reusable data schemas, with hopes to add new products to the ecosystem over time. More responsive contracting mechanisms and capacity building efforts are also under consideration as part of this work. Pilots will initially occur in Uganda (early Fall 2018) and at least one other country in Middle East. Engagement with WFP and UNHCR product teams is occurring at country and HQ levels, as well through external venues such as ID2020 and World Bank's ID4D.

3. **Efficiency gains**

   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**

   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

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.*

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. **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

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)? NTR

3. Efficiency gains

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

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

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. **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

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)? NTR

3. **Efficiency gains**
   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**
   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

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.*

Multi-year planning and funding work stream co-conveners reporting request: Please report the percentage and total value of multi-year agreements[2] you have provided (as a donor) or received <u>and</u> provided to humanitarian partners (as an agency) in 2017, and any earmarking conditions.[3] 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? 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**
    Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries. NTR

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? NTR

Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility

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[2] Multiyear funding is funding provided for two or more years based on a firm commitment at the outset

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

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[4].*

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

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[4] For the Grand Bargain definitions of earmarking, please see Annex I. Earmarking modalities, as contained with the final agreement, available here.

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? NTR

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? 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**
   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**
   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

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.*

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. 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 Nigeria Strategic Resilience Assessment (STRESS) team is documenting the perspectives of more than a thousand people of different backgrounds, locations, age, and gender living in Borno State, the first time we have applied STRESS to an active conflict setting. The Asia Hub shared its research findings through a webinar with the Africa Hubs on understanding the role of market systems, social norms, and networks on building resilience in fragile contexts. Mercy Corps participated on a high-level panel at the second Regional Resilience Forum in Uganda. Organized by the Resilience Analysis Unit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), this event brought together member states, donors, key NGOs, and others to reflect on the practice of resilience in the Horn of Africa and on the impact of development investments on resilience over the past five years.

Mercy Corps builds community resilience to conflict by strengthening social cohesion among divided groups and enhancing conflict resolution mechanisms, in partnership with local government. In Ethiopia, through the USAID-funded 8-year, £8.5-million, Strengthening Institutions for Peace and Development program, we worked with pastoralist communities and government to facilitate dialogues and develop agreements to manage natural resources, thereby strengthening the linkages

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between customary and state institutions. The evaluation found that pastoralists with the knowledge and skills to resolve disputes and build peace were more likely to employ effective livelihoods coping strategies, reducing their vulnerability to and aiding their recovery from drought.

Mercy Corps' USAID-funded Advancing Reconciliation and Promoting Peace program is helping Malians secure a more peaceful future through a people-to-people approach in northern Mali that brings together male and female adults and youth across the Bamanan, Tuareg, Arab, Fulani, and Songhai ethnic communities. The program strengthens community resilience to **recover from violent conflict shocks** by empowering 60 women to serve as psychosocial counselors to provide the first level of support to trauma victims. The program also strengthens transformative capacities to **prevent violent conflict shocks** by:

- Empowering women's peace committees to educate diverse communities about the peace process and advocate at higher levels for meeting local needs to increase public support for the accord and enhance development institutions' ability to address community grievances.
- Enhancing the conflict resolution capacity of traditional, elected, and religious leaders and supporting their efforts with early warning systems, resulting in increased stability and inter-ethnic reconciliation.
- Using Sports for Change activities and sports clubs to restore social relationships among adolescent males and females from various ethnic communities and serve as a bridge between at-risk youth and their communities, thereby reducing youth vulnerability to violence.

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)? NTR

3. Efficiency gains
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
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