



Oxfam Statement to the 2019 Grand Bargain Annual Meeting

Oxfam signed the Grand Bargain in February 2017 and remains committed to the agreement. Grand Bargain discussions – at national, regional, and global levels – have created a new and sustained momentum addressing significant issues in the humanitarian architecture. Yet, the scale and scope of the commitments, as well as a growing appreciation of how the commitments relate to each other, require a complex implementation process. **If we are to maintain and sustain progress, overall, we must extend the Grand Bargain deadline and integrate commitments into other reform processes and initiatives** e.g. UN Sustaining Peace Agenda and Global Refugee Compact.

Moving forward, Oxfam recommends:

- **Strengthened political will to deliver.** We have doubled the number of data publishers on IATI from three to six; we have introduced monitoring on our localization commitments in our regular management information system for planning and reporting. In the 2017-18 fiscal year, 20% of Oxfam's humanitarian programs (or 20% of the humanitarian spend) were delivered via cash and voucher assistance. These investments have taken funding, effort, and time. Without concerted political support for challenging issues within the GB, like cash coordination through Workstream 3 or publishing humanitarian project information to the latest IATI standard through Workstream 1, and the necessary funding and action, signatories will fall short of our effectiveness and efficiency aims.
- **Prioritization of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG):** Signatories must prioritise the focus and investment in GEEWG as a matter of effectiveness, and efficiency in the delivery of humanitarian action. This requires and includes sufficient investments and commitments to close capacity gaps.
- **Collaboration between workstreams to find immediate ways to link outcomes.** Firstly, as has been stated by the Friends of Gender GB Group, we must deepen dialogue and coordination amongst workstream co-conveners on advancing gender outcomes across their respective workstreams. Oxfam has committed to lead linking Workstream 2 (Localization) and Workstream 3 (Cash). Other links can and should be made, for example, adopting localisation as a key selection criterion when reviewing multi-year funding proposals (linking Workstream 2 and 7). We believe Commitment 10, *to enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors*, can be delivered in part through stronger collaboration between workstreams.
- **Greater local and national representation:** For the sustainability of change, we must build on the work of Grand Bargain Workstream 2's regional consultations and demonstrator country mission processes to engage local/national NGO participants, particularly from women's rights organisation, in the wider Grand Bargain process. Each workstream should articulate steps to substantively engage local actors and catalyse a wider shift within the sector.
- **Emphasis on country level implementation of collaborative workstreams.** Oxfam has conducted internal evaluations to assess our progress to deliver GB commitments in 6 countries – and the analysis is clear: we, and others, are not able to make uniform progress without more investment at the country level, including clear milestones for individual signatories, and the GB community. More must be done to promote the Grand Bargain and foster inter-agency discussion on the commitments at country-operation level to increase awareness, foster inter-agency learning and dialogue to embed good practices.
- **Broaden engagement in successful GB initiatives:** For example, Oxfam welcomes the positive results of Workstream 9's 8+3 template pilot and encourages other donors and UN agencies to introduce the use of the template. Oxfam research in Uganda and Bangladesh found parameters on compliance, due diligence and risk management have acted as a barrier to ensuring greater local actor access to funding. We support calls from the Charter4Change to harmonise and simplify compliance approaches aligned around reasonable common minimum standards. Due diligence and risk management assessments conducted by one donor should be accepted by others towards reducing the burden on frontline responders.