

Grand Bargain Annual Meeting 2019

One in every four children in the world is living in a country affected by conflict or disaster and approximately 40% of the population in fragile contexts is under 14 years of age. Save the Children believes that the Grand Bargain has the potential to create positive change for children and communities by transforming the effectiveness and accountability of the global humanitarian system to people affected by crisis.

Save the Children became an independent signatory of the Grand Bargain in January 2018 following the completion of an internal review of the scope and change implications of the Grand Bargain commitments. In 2018, Save the Children revised our Humanitarian Policy and Humanitarian Response Strategy in line with the Grand Bargain commitments, developed an internal action plan to improve the organisation wide approach to participation, partnership with LNNGOs, needs assessments and cash transfers and integrated the Grand Bargain commitments in the organisation wide strategy for 2019-2021. Save the Children aligns the Grand Bargain to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) because it allows our organisation to benchmark progress against commitments with the external audit and verification process associated with the CHS.

In line with Save the Children's 2019-2021 strategy and findings of the Independent Review of the Grand Bargain, **Save the Children restates our commitment to undertake the following actions over the coming two years** to strengthen the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian action for children:

Save the Children commits to strengthen child participation; consultation and feedback mechanisms in needs analysis and programme design by:

- i. Increasing institutional investment in child participation and consultation mechanisms in line with children's right to be heard established in the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- ii. Consolidating learning and best practice from large scale children's consultation processes in eight countries to inform the development of inter-agency guidelines on children's consultation and participation. We will partner with child-centred agencies to develop guidelines and methodology to consult children in emergencies and ensure complementarity with inter-agency processes through our engagement in the IASC Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion.
- iii. Increasing the number of deployable Child Participation Advisers in the composition of Save the Children's response teams to support a step-change in our approach to participation and consultation of children in emergencies and support sector-wide participation and consultation processes in line with our role as the co-lead of the Global Education Cluster.

Save the Children commits staff time and technical expertise to strengthen the evidence base and needs analysis for child-focused, integrated programmatic response by:

- i. Establishing a Needs Assessment Task Team to implement internal change in Save the Children's approach to needs analysis and assessment. The Needs Assessment Task Team will be overseen by the senior humanitarian leadership team across Save the Children to ensure oversight by senior management.
- ii. Providing technical input to the ongoing work to develop and implement the new Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) in the updated Humanitarian Programme Cycle.
- iii. Ensuring that deployable; country and regionally based staff can access training and guidance on the outputs of the Needs Assessment workstream with a focus on the changes to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle in line with Save the Children's role as co-lead of the Global Education Cluster.
- iv. Reviewing the Multi-Sector Needs Analysis (MSNA) tools and methodologies and provide a child-focused lens to ensure the MSNA is fit for purpose to assess the needs of the largest and most

vulnerable crisis-affected group and share learning from the Basic Needs Analysis (BNA) and Response Analysis Options (ROAP) to ensure complementarity of needs analysis tools.

Save the Children will ensure that our partnership modalities enable LNNGOs to access quality funding and organisational capacity building initiatives according to their priorities by:

- i. Reducing the complexity and barriers for LNNGOs to access quality funding by including overhead costs in all partnership agreements to ensure that the true cost of operating in emergency contexts are reflected and passed through to LNNGOs.
- ii. Disseminating Save the Children's organisational policy on localisation and procedural guidance for response teams and country offices to ensure that LNNGOs can hold Save the Children to account for our commitment to localisation as a signatory of the Grand Bargain.
- iii. Share lessons learnt from the inception phase of Supporting Effective Humanitarian Partnership (SELP) between Save the Children and the Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA) which aims to establish a locally-owned learning platform to strengthen capacity of national and local actors that is independent of the interest of international actors. Phase 1 of SELP started in March 2019 in South Sudan involving 10-15 LNNGOs and managed by an in-country project coordinator to ensure that governance and ownership are locally driven with learning topics decided by local and national actors.

Save the Children will accelerate organisational efficiency and reduce duplication in the delivery of cash through our membership of the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) network by:

- i. Conducting joined up analysis for cash and voucher responses in 10 countries with CCD members.
- ii. Reducing management costs where possible by, where possible, centralising capabilities and sharing capacities.
- iii. Investing in the design and piloting of common tools to inform response management and collaborative decision-making to reduce duplication.
- iv. Reducing reporting burdens through simplified and harmonized models including finance reconciliation and reporting. We will collaborate to develop a common partner agreement framework and due diligence parameters for CCD members.

Save the Children will increase our engagement in initiatives to address challenges in the Grand Bargain that require collective access by signatories in the next twelve months including:

- i. Co-hosting a workshop with OCHA to enable NGO signatories to review and discuss changes in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) in line with the Grand Bargain commitments.
- ii. Conducting contractual analysis of fraud, waste and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) compliance requirements in all sub-contracting partnership agreements in coordination with NGOs to ensure that there is visibility of compliance requirements across the transaction chain from donors to INGOS to LNNGOs.
- iii. Allocating staff time of Finance, Compliance and Awards unit to define Multi-Year Funding (MYF) and flexible, un-earmarked funding to improve the visibility and tracking of multi-year and flexible, un-earmarked funding in our systems and adopt the same reporting mechanisms for LNNGO partnership agreements.
- iv. Supporting the initiative led by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to develop a common cost classification methodology and share internal lessons learnt from applying Cost Allocation Methodology (CAM) in all Country, Regional and Global cost structures.
- v. Allocating staff time and technical expertise to discuss the usability of IATI data and share lessons learnt and tools from transition from single member reporting capability (Save the Children Netherlands, Save the Children UK, Save the Children Denmark) to IATI capability across the Save the Children Association (members and Save the Children International).
- vi. Formally joining the Friends of Gender group under the leadership of Save the Children's Head of Gender Equality in Humanitarian.