

## Statement for the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting Operationalising Joint Needs Assessments

### Statement

1. The Grand Bargain has revitalized discussions between UN Agencies, NGOs and donors and created a space to reflect upon progress implementing previously agreed approaches, lessons learned over the past several years, and how the changes in operating and data environments is affecting how we do needs assessments and analysis.
2. At the working level, significant progress has been made. Approximately 25 UN Agencies, Donors and NGOs actively participate in this Grand Bargain workstream. They have collectively produced a package of tools that outline the core principles which guide how we work together, share data, undertake joint analysis and engage with people we seek to assist.
3. The package *Tools and guidance for advancing coordinated needs assessment and analysis through the Grand Bargain* is available on the web page of the Inter-Agency Standard Committee <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/node/38579/view>
4. As has been cited in the Grand Bargain Annual Reports over the past two years, these tools and guidance are only the first step. Responsibility now lies with the individual agencies to prioritize the operationalization of these products. This includes not only messaging that encourages their use but also prioritising internal resources as necessary to ensure sufficient and appropriate capacity is dedicated to doing so.
5. Similarly, the role of donors cannot be ignored. Donor actions are critical to achieving the Grand Bargain on Needs Assessments commitments. Donors are uniquely positioned to incentivize this work by providing funding to strengthen agencies' capacities, requiring funding proposals to be based on a comprehensive inter-sectoral analysis, and allocating their funding consistently based on this evidence.
6. This Grand Bargain work has been incorporated into the enhanced 2020 Humanitarian Programme Cycle - HPC - approach. At the center of the approach is an emphasis on encouraging efficiency through data maximization, or using data already available through Governments, NGOs, UN Agencies, and others, to inform a holistic analysis of a crisis undertaken jointly by humanitarian actors with the involvement of governments and development actors as relevant.
7. Following the publication of the package, and the revision of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle approach, humanitarian actors have now the opportunity to operationalize coordinated needs

assessment and analysis. This joint endeavor will contribute to informing an effective and efficient humanitarian response, being people-centered and inclusive, and allowing for an iterative improvement process based on lessons learnt and on the evolution of operating environments.

8. Coordination of assessments is crucial to ensuring solid inter-sectoral analysis during humanitarian crises and therefore better decision-making and planning. Success can be assured only through the recognition that this is a collective responsibility, under the leadership of Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, and Humanitarian Country Teams. Appropriate instructions, resources and incentives must be provided by decision makers in this respect.