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WFP and the Grand Bargain

INTRODUCTION

Four years on, the Grand Bargain remains for a number of actors the reference for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian action, having a wider impact in terms of fostering a more cohesive and collaborative approach. WFP continues to play a constructive and strategic role in the implementation of the Grand Bargain, in particular through its co-leadership of the cash-based programming workstream which high performance stood out again in 2019. This update highlights the key actions taken by WFP on the Grand Bargain core commitments since our latest update in May 2019.

Reinforcing its progress towards Grand Bargain commitments, WFP continued its work to optimise the implementation of its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan in support to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to consistently integrate gender in its programming and to leverage the humanitarian-development nexus in country strategic plans.

In the past few years the gap between funding requirements and contributions has not changed, illustrating the need for donors and organizations to readjust expectations. WFP's perspective is to consider the issue of funding more holistically in order to be more consistent with the concept of "leaving no one behind" and to address root causes as well humanitarian life-saving needs.

In the current COVID-19 pandemic response, the Grand Bargain is more relevant than ever and can be an important catalyst to guide humanitarian actors through this period of adjustment. Some humanitarian "good practices of tomorrow" can be identified in the GB objectives from 2016 such as transparency, localisation, harmonised reporting, flexibility of funding or reduced management costs.

1. TRANSPARENCY

In 2019, 82 country offices and two multi-country offices were operating under the country strategic planning framework, which ensures WFP is strategically positioned in each country by defining the organization's role in accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WFP maintained its leadership role in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) summary statistics, achieving a record 99 percent compliance scoring in 2019. WFP also used the IATI development portal (d-portal) for data alignment and consistency with other internal and external reports.

The data portal for Member States and donors – launched in 2018 to include programme, financial and performance-related information for country strategic plans approved by the Executive Board – continued to provide greater



transparency on WFP's planning and results, to strengthen governance and oversight requirements and to facilitate funding decisions. The portal also contributed to building donor confidence in supporting increased multi-year, multilateral and results-based funding.

2. LOCALISATION

Recognizing the link between country capacity and the achievement of national development targets, and based on WFP's "whole of society" approach to country capacity strengthening, the first phase of a capacity strengthening initiative with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was developed and implemented between 2017 and 2019. This initiative focuses on sustainable organizational development. National societies in Burundi, Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Uganda and Zimbabwe benefited from increased institutional capacity in the areas of emergency preparedness, early warning and cash-based transfers.

WFP remained on track to meet its commitment to transfer 25 percent of its resources to national and local first responders. However, definitive trends are challenging to identify, particularly as WFP continues to scale up cash and involve multiple different actors, especially from the private sector.

3. CASH-BASED PROGRAMMING

In 2019, WFP transferred USD 2.1 billion to around 28 million people in 64 countries (through cash, value vouchers and commodity vouchers). This is a 23 percent increase from 2018, when WFP transferred USD 1.7 billion. Unrestricted cash accounted for 60 percent of the overall cash-based transfer (CBT) value in 2019.

Assistance through cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers continued to grow, reaching 40 percent of WFP's total assistance as compared to 35 percent in 2018. WFP also continued to strengthen its assurance and oversight framework, financial service provider procurement and contracting processes. A data assurance team was set up in 2019, working on risk mitigation in cash assistance.

WFP continued integrating gender in its cash interventions, including through the CBT and Gender Impact Evaluation Window which will support and track gender integration, in collaboration with the World Bank Group. Additionally, WFP prepared a multi-country [study](#) on the potential of cash-

based interventions to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment, informing programming.

4. REDUCING MANAGEMENT COSTS

To reduce costs and measure the efficiencies gained in delivering assistance harnessing blockchain and green technology, WFP advanced with Building Blocks project. Between 2017 and 2019, Building Blocks was used for processing USD 80 million worth of cash-based transfers through 5 million transactions, leading to savings of USD 1.2 million in banking fees. The project is serving 106,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan, while a pilot is being launched in Bangladesh and preparatory work is taking place in Colombia and the State of Palestine.

WFP – jointly with UNICEF, UNHCR and UNFPA – continued to work on harmonising and simplifying partnership processes through, inter alia, the UN Partner Portal (UNPP), contributing to identifying new partners more quickly and giving local actors equal access to tendering processes and harmonised due diligence procedures.

To simplify service provision among UN agencies worldwide, WFP continued to strengthen the Humanitarian Booking Hub, the largest booking system in the humanitarian world, bringing together 320 humanitarian partners in more than 50 countries. The Hub mobility services (an option to book drivers and vehicles) were rolled out in 82 WFP country offices and were used by 35,000 WFP passengers to book nearly 23,000 trips.

5. NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Along with other 17 organisations, WFP was actively involved in the development of the updated Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Manual 3.0, with a new section focusing on projections and forecasting. As a member of the Food Security Information Network (FSIN), WFP also worked on the third edition of the consensus-based 2019 Global Report on Food Crises. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO continued to join efforts on the 2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, reflecting the SDG agenda's broader view on hunger and all forms of malnutrition and the commitment to joint needs assessments and analysis.

WFP maintained an open data policy and continued to be a core supplier of data to the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX). In 2019, WFP launched [HungerMap^{LIVE}](#), a new global hunger monitoring system that uses publicly accessible data to predict and track hunger in near real-time.

6. PARTICIPATION REVOLUTION

In 2019, WFP started developing a new protection policy based on consultations with affected populations as well as a disability inclusion roadmap for WFP across functional areas and continued working with Translators without Borders on "Improving programme accountability and protection through communicating in the languages of affected populations".

WFP launched SugarCRM E-Learning modules – a software to manage and track recipients' feedback that users can access offline. This IT corporate solution for complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFM) was launched in eight countries – Afghanistan, Chad, Iraq, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Philippines and Uganda. In Afghanistan, the implementation of a new CFM improved communication and accountability to affected populations, increasing women's engagement and enabling WFP country office to make timely programme adjustments that best met beneficiaries' needs.

WFP also produced CFM corporate guidance, initially extended to 36 countries that established mechanisms for feeding back beneficiaries' feedback into programme design.

7+8. ENHANCED QUALITY FUNDING

WFP has adopted a multi-year strategic planning framework that facilitates multi-year contributions from donors and multi-year planning and quality partnerships with NGOs. In 2019, 24 WFP country offices signed multi-year field-level agreements (FLAs) with partners, while WFP signed 288 multi-year FLAs worldwide.

In 2019, WFP's multi-year (MY) income accounted for 17 percent, reaching a total of USD 1.4 billion. Confirmed MY contributions for 2020-2024 towards WFP's Programme of Work reached USD 1.3 billion.

WFP's un-earmarked funding remained stable, averaging USD 400 million per year, decreasing in relative terms from 12 percent in 2011 to only 5 percent in 2019.

WFP contributed a paper on "Enhancing Quality Funding - WFP Reflection [Paper](#) for the Grand Bargain Co-Convenors Group" and will continue to pursue a high-level strategic dialogue with donors on quality funding.

9. HARMONIZED REPORTING

For the 2019 reporting cycle, WFP continued to refine its web-based Annual Country Report (ACR) template, ensuring it was in line with the "8+3" GB reporting template (i.e. focus on programme results, resources and cross-cutting areas). The initial feedback from country offices for the web-based ACRs has been very positive and using new technology is regarded as a solid investment to increase visibility of the reports and as a good advocacy tool towards donors and other partners. The "8+3" reporting template has been included in the WFP's partner guidance manual since 2018.

10. HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS

In 2019, WFP made significant strides in addressing the humanitarian-development nexus through greater efforts in understanding the sequencing required of its emergency and resilience interventions and increased investments in building evidence to better understand current results. WFP's 2030 Fund, established in 2018, provided additional resources in support of country offices' operationalization of the triple nexus and the enhancement of new partnerships.

The partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) continued to build evidence on WFP's contribution to the "improved prospects of peace".

WFP also developed early considerations on "collective outcomes", outlining the linkage between food security and other related SDGs, as well as the required shift for a new humanitarian-development architecture, building on the UN development system reform.



Photo page 1: WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua
Photo page 2: WFP/Gaia Paradiso
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