

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: *International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*

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Grand Bargain in 2021

Question 1: Reflecting on the information you have provided in the Excel spreadsheet, please highlight the 2 or 3 key outcomes or results relating to the Grand Bargain that your institution achieved in 2021?

IFRC continued to champion **localisation** both within the IFRC network as well as within the humanitarian sector at large. We continued to co-chair the localisation workstream and **launched a political caucus on the role of intermediaries** together with SCHR and SDC. An IFRC longitudinal study completed in 2021 provides **evidence that long-term purposeful investment in National Society Development (NSD) including organizational development and capacity strengthening increased humanitarian impact** in challenging, diverse environments. IFRC also **re-engineered its Capacity Building Fund**, which compliments the IFRC-ICRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) to make it a more agile, flexible, easy to access mechanism for addressing acute and time-bound needs of National Societies (NS). This includes efforts to advance institutional protection, gender and inclusion capacities.

Cash preparedness of national actors continues to underline the cash agenda at the IFRC with now more than 70 National Societies globally being cash-ready, or on the way to being cash ready, and the delivery of cash across the membership at an all-time high. As cash and voucher assistance becomes more prevalent, so too does the collection of data to support cash programming. In light of this, 2021 also saw a **strengthening of cash and data management approaches** with the **development of data protection guidelines** for the use of CVA and systematic training for all National Societies across the IFRC network. We will continue to build strong systems to support our work and ensure full accountability and integrity to the populations we serve.

The IFRC network continues to make progress towards using **data and digital tools** to deliver humanitarian services faster, at larger scale, with higher quality and greater relevance to people in need. National Societies across the globe continue to use [IFRC's GO platform](#) reporting systems to **share disaster assessments and response actions**, including in anticipation of disasters and crises, to inform decision making. Last year, IFRC GO introduced [operational learning from over 300 operations](#) to drive improvements across the network, and pulled [together analysis of the pandemic, and its response by IFRC](#). In addition, work has continued to build a new **impact-based forecasting system** and integration of the DREF appeal process, with both set to launch on the platform in Q1 2022.

As of December 2021, the global IFRC **Community Engagement/Accountability** team was supporting dedicated initiatives with 43 National Societies throughout all regions, funded by 8 major donors. This number [will jump to 80 National Societies](#) by the end of 2022, based on confirmed resources. All initiatives are linked to different areas of intervention, from COVID-19 vaccine deployments to humanitarian emergencies, but will ultimately contribute to **institutionalize the Movement Commitments on Community Engagement & Accountability**. Together with the ICRC, IFRC launched a new version of its [Movement guide on Community Engagement/Accountability and toolkit](#), which is currently being translated into 10 languages. Funding was secured **to develop a "Trust Index"** to provide a metric to assess the preparedness and performance of humanitarian action over time to inform operational and policy adjustments. In 2021, **community engagement surge support was provided to 10 different emergencies**, across 4 IFRC Regions, with two thirds of deployments being women.

IFRC and the ICRC continued to work closely with National Societies through the **Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC)** initiative to enable a stronger, more coordinated,

and complementary RCRC Movement response to emergencies. This was particularly the case for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic with coordinated appeals launched in March 2021.

Question 2: Briefly explain how the outcomes contribute to achieving the Grand Bargain 2.0 enabling priority 1 (quality funding).

The success of the ESSN programme in Turkey paved the ground for the IFRC to negotiate a **Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP)** with ECHO in 2021. Under the PPP, the IFRC network benefits from **multi-year funding** issued through a single contract to the IFRC Secretariat, covering activities in up to 25 countries and flows this multi-year funding directly to its member National Societies. The IFRC Secretariat led a **new way of working with member National Societies** vis a vis ECHO, ensuring that they were **directly involved in the co-creation** of the PPP and had a seat at the negotiation table.

Two working groups were set up, one thematic working group dealing with the content of the proposal, and one working modalities working group dealing with reaching agreement on the management and governance structure of the programme. Although the process was at times heavy, it resulted in joint ownership of the PPP and set an important example for how to operationalize the Secretary General's Agenda for Renewal which seeks to empower IFRC membership. A six-month inception phase started in October 2021 (covering ten countries) and will be followed by a three-year rollout phase as of April 2022 (covering an additional 15 countries).

In 2021, the IFRC also undertook important steps to **scale up its Disaster Emergency Response Fund** including working towards **important improvements in the fund's governance, visibility, transparency and reporting**. In October, the IFRC held its first-ever pledging conference in support of the DREF, co-chaired with EU/European Commission (DG ECHO). Twelve governments and one private sector company pledged financial support – in many cases providing **unprecedented multi-year, un-earmarked support to the DREF**. The IFRC reached close to CHF 32 million in funding commitments for 2021, and CHF 21 million future commitments for 2022. First-ever contributions to the DREF were made by USAID, Australia, South Korea and the global law firm White & Case and a remarkable multiyear contribution was made by Germany over three years.

Question 3: Briefly explain how the outcomes contribute to achieving the Grand Bargain 2.0 enabling priority 2 (localisation and participation).

For more than three decades, IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) has been the quickest, most efficient, and most transparent mechanism for donors to channel global funding directly to local humanitarian actors. **In 2021, 136 DREF operations were implemented directly by local actors, based on local plans, to assist more than 12 million people.** A total of 88 local National Societies benefited from DREF support to implement **community-based action**. The success of last year's pledging conference is testament to the effectiveness of DREF as a funding tool in support of local action. Last year **IFRC's leadership committed to scale up the DREF** and to work with donors to reach up to 300 million Swiss francs over the next three years. In anticipation of this scale up, the IFRC has already begun to make revisions to DREF operations to further increase its flexibility and make customizations for sudden onset, slow onset and/or protracted crisis and increase ownership at the local level.

In addition to leading community engagement across the IFRC network, **IFRC also co-led with WFP the timebound IASC Task Force on Accountability to Affected People**, putting forward **concrete recommendations for system-wide changes** within the international humanitarian sector, through consultations with over 40 organizations, National Societies and indigenous peoples' groups. The recommendations will be implemented as part of the new IASC Task Force structure. IFRC also

continued to host dedicated inter-agency capacity in support of the IASC Results Group 2 on AAP to deliver on several tools, including an AAP results-tracker for Humanitarian Country Teams.

IFRC continued to co-lead [Risk communication and community engagement Collective Service](#) (the Service), advocating for sustained and coordinated community engagement as part of the COVID-19 response, while bridging policy gaps between the health and humanitarian systems. Co-led by IFRC, WHO and UNICEF, the Service continues to create valuable spaces for a wide range of organisations and the Red Cross Red Crescent (over **60 partners engaged at global and regional level**) to scale up data-driven interventions, reinforce local capacity and coordination platform. Over the past six months, the Service has focused on developing [targeted guidance](#), providing timely technical support to countries and partners (**over 30 countries supported in Africa**) and joint capacity building efforts. The [socio-behavioural data dashboard](#) led by an interagency IFRC data analyst, is the only dashboard globally that compiles, structures and measures over 400 socio-behavioural data and evidence from across 200 countries. This crucial analysis brings attention and focus on the most critical socio-behavioural concerns and ensures people's voices and needs informs policymakers, funders, implementers response actions and priorities.

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment¹ in humanitarian settings through its implementation of the Grand Bargain? What results/outcomes have been achieved in this regard?

IFRC drafted a **new policy for Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)**. To support its implementation an **operational Framework for PGI** was also developed. IFRC revised and developed a stronger and more comprehensive **policy on Prevention and Response to Workplace Harassment and Discrimination**. We are committed to maintaining a person-centred approach to preventing and responding to harassment and discrimination, throughout all our systems. An **Organizational Assessment Toolkit for PGI** was finalized and piloted with 3 NSs in Africa to be rolled out to all National Societies and IFRC delegations. In addition, IFRC developed a **Self-Assessment Framework for Safeguarding** that guides a more focused and specialized review of the organization's Safeguarding policies, mechanisms and procedures.

Finally, IFRC **developed a comprehensive learning pathway for PGI** with the five dedicated training modules.² In addition, **PGI sessions and modules were embedded into key institutional training programmes** including the Induction to Humanitarian Emergency Response which is mandatory for all international Rapid Response delegates within the IFRC Network.

Question 5: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments?

The IFRC continued to expand the use for DREF for anticipatory action as one of our flagship initiatives. The importance of anticipatory action was further underscored in the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations which was jointly launched by the IFRC and ICRC](#) in 2021. IFRC made progress developing an Operational Framework for Scaling up Anticipatory Action to operationalize the scale-up idea into strategic priorities, measurable indicators, and the means to achieve the targets. Together with the German Red Cross, ICRC and the RC Climate Centre (RCCC), the

¹ Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

² PGI Foundations (90 minutes online course) For all staff and volunteers, PGI Core Training (3-day face-to-face and remote) For all operational staff and volunteers, PGI Core Training of Trainer Module (2-day face-to-face and remote), PGI Core Training for Operational Leadership (remote) and PGI specialized training for rapid response personnel (5-day face-to-face)

IFRC is working on a **Red Cross Red Crescent Resolution to garner the support of our 192 National Societies to strengthen anticipatory action as a way forward to anticipate crises**. IFRC also continued to lead external coordination, knowledge exchange and advocacy for early warning and anticipatory action through the [Anticipation Hub](#) and the [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership \(REAP\)](#) to ensure a harmonized and aligned collective approach across climate, humanitarian and development sectors.

At a local level, anticipatory action plans were developed together with communities, national authorities and other relevant stakeholders. Ten new Early Action Protocols were approved for funding by the DREF for different hazards and funding was allocated for readiness, prepositioning and for activation of early actions. In many local contexts, governments, such as [Zambia](#), have taken over early action protocols developed by the IFRC and incorporated these into their anticipatory action plans.

The joint IFRC ICRC **National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA)** two-stage funding approach provides an initial bridge grant to help National Societies prepare for increased investment and accelerator funding to support their long-term financial sustainability and impact for the communities they serve. In 2021, three National Societies (Armenia, Nigeria and Uganda) received significant follow-on investment for their income generating activities related to commercial first-aid services and other related income generating activities. In addition, bridge funding was awarded to five other National Societies (Ethiopia, Malawi, Myanmar, Niger, Pakistan and Yemen).

The IFRC continued to expand its partnerships with development actors. In 2021, the [IFRC signed an MoU with Africa Centre for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), which opened the door to move the partnership with the African Union Commission from a strictly policy-oriented relationship to one which increases operational engagement across all AU Member States through the establishment of an ambitious pan-African platform to develop 5 million community health workers over 5 years. [IFRC also concluded agreements with the World Bank in Lebanon and Iraq](#) to deliver Third Party Monitoring (TPM) of COVID-19 vaccination. Furthermore, IFRC is **leading the development of an innovative insurance product to expand the capacity of the DREF** through a public-private partnership with London's insurance sector. Prospective insurance models were developed last year and presented at the pledging conference with the firm Aon and the Centre for Disaster Protection (CDP), to complement and leverage DREF commitments.

Question 6: Has your institution taken any steps towards improving risk sharing with its partners? If so, please describe how.

The IFRC took a number of actions in 2021 to further improve its efficiency, including developing a draft risk management framework, so that our member National Societies can apply it to their respective contexts. Risk management is increasingly included in everything we do, and a number of capacity building sessions both within the Secretariat and also to support National Societies were held to build this capacity. The Secretariat provided regular support to National Societies to establish and review their risk management frameworks. Several initiatives were put in place to explore how to share risks related to humanitarian operations. As part of the COVID-19 response, IFRC introduced regular sessions to update National Society partners on the risks to the emergency appeal, providing an opportunity for risk information sharing both from the Secretariat to National Societies and vice-versa. IFRC began exploring how to establish Federation-wide (IFRC Secretariat and National Societies) risk registers to promote risk information sharing between all RCRC parties in a given operation.