

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: InterAction

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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?

Key achievements for InterAction relating to the Grand Bargain fall into two categories: women's empower and gender equality, and risk work. In the first, InterAction released the Gender-Based Violence Prevention Evaluation Framework (GBV PEF), which is publicly available for use and seeks to reduce the risk of gender-based violence in a measurable way in humanitarian work. In the second, InterAction continued its risk-oriented work through the Risk III program, which aims to establish a common understanding of risk and risk management for all stakeholders working in humanitarian response. More information on each of these achievements is outlined below.

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

InterAction continues to actively engage in quality funding and humanitarian financing discussions. As an active participant in IASC Results Group 5, the ICVA-led Humanitarian Finance Working Group, and in smaller consultations with our NGO members, InterAction promotes universal funding flexibility as well as harmonized and simplified costing approaches for NGO operations in line with the NRC-led [Money Where it Counts](#) initiative.

In 2021, InterAction emphasized the importance of engaging with NGO partners in ongoing and upcoming revisions of partnership policies and practices to support involvement of NGOs in the process as equal partners in humanitarian response. InterAction, along with other NGOs, reviewed the contract terms for funding humanitarian activities across UN agencies to determine major pain points and areas for continued advocacy on behalf of the NGO community. Throughout the year, InterAction coordinated and several discussions with WFP on the Field Level Agreement and its terms, including leading more than five discussions with WFP in 2021 to advocate for the NGO perspective on key finance, budgeting, and cost coverage concerns.

Furthermore, InterAction conducted the 8th annual UNHCR-NGO partnership survey to track partnership dynamics and continue to develop a body of evidence on perceptions of the UNHCR-NGO partnership; in 2021, the survey specifically focused on changes to the UNHCR Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) and COVID-19 funding flexibilities which were made permanent by UNHCR, to determine whether these changes address partnership issues and effectively contribute to quality funding efforts¹.

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

¹ For copies of any papers, briefs, or letters not linked here, InterAction would be happy to provide them upon request.

Since January 2021, InterAction has taken steps to advance conversation and action to expand localization efforts across our network of members, including the establishment of an advocacy working group that seeks to support USAID's recently-established localization agenda; positioning of InterAction's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Coalition Task Force to establish recommendations to improve locally-led efforts in the intersection of development, communications, and funding; focusing InterAction's September 2021 Strategy Meeting and other key CEO-level engagement opportunities on locally-led humanitarian action and development.

Another key achievement in 2021 is the launch of InterAction's publication [Mindshift: A Collection of Examples that Promote Protection Outcomes](#) to address an increased demand for more evidence of results-based approaches in action, through the lens of localization and the need for engagement by affected communities in protection outcomes. With inputs gathered through [InterAction's Results-Based Protection Good Practice Contest](#), local engagement, and the Results-Based Protection Practitioners' Roundtable, the publication highlights 13 case studies of humanitarian organizations' effective use of results-based approaches to promote protection outcomes via the participation of local communities and support for local responders. Furthermore, InterAction continued to engage in ongoing localization efforts in the humanitarian sector by establishing a collection of localization resources, such as [Power, Privilege, & the Realities of NGO Localization Efforts](#), and through the release of InterAction's report [NGO Coordination Structures and the Localization Debate](#), which outlines specific recommendations for INGO fora to improve inclusion of local/national NGOs in the humanitarian conversation within their operational contexts.

Finally, InterAction continued its National Leadership in Response Initiative, which seeks to localize preparedness, decision-making, response strategies, and recovery processes by conducting consultations among shelter and settlements, housing, and Disaster Risk Reduction practitioners around the world to determine opportunities and challenges for nationally- and regionally-led response and leadership. These consultations are ongoing and findings will be published by InterAction in 2022.

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment² in humanitarian settings through its implementation of the Grand Bargain? What results/outcomes have been achieved in this regard?

In 2021, InterAction released the [Gender-Based Violence Prevention Evaluation Framework](#) (GBV PEF), aiming to support the measurement and evaluation of GBV prevention outcomes in humanitarian contexts. Built on the [Results-Based Protection](#) framework, the GBV PEF included seeks to help practitioners, program staff, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) teams, and technical

² Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

experts reduce the risk of gender-based violence occurring in humanitarian settings. It consists of four different modules—Risk Analysis, Project Design, Measurement Considerations, and Evaluation Approaches—designed to create a comprehensive and effective approach to the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence as shown in the [GBV PEF launch webinar](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unforeseen challenges, including increased exposure to violence towards women and girls in humanitarian contexts. In response to this concern, InterAction's GBV Working Group hosted a webinar in early 2021, [The One Year Mark: What Works for GBV Program Adaptation](#), which brought together global practitioners and local organizations to discuss key strategies for response to these unique challenges, including more localized responses to GBV, improved remote service providers, and increased program flexibility to meet the needs of affected populations.

Despite the challenges of operating remotely, InterAction continued to update the [PSEA training package](#) (2010) via multiple roundtable events that brought together a wide range of stakeholders to streamline a survivor-centered approach to humanitarian action and share innovative PSEA prevention modalities. The final package of these materials will be translated into more than 5 languages to improve accessibility to this resource, which will be made available to the entire humanitarian community in 2022.

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

InterAction continues to facilitate dialogue between humanitarian and development actors, connecting technical expertise of the humanitarian community with broader development organizations. As the number of forcibly displaced people continues to grow and the crisis continues to deepen, InterAction recognizes the critical role of institutions like the World Bank Group (WBG) in supporting financing and policy improvements to assist host communities and refugees in many different contexts. In 2021, InterAction convened key NGO stakeholders to publish a series of [Thematic Papers on Fragile & Forced Displacement Contexts](#) that outline key issues affecting forcibly displaced populations, link immediate humanitarian aid to larger themes of development, and offer recommendations to strengthen their engagement in fragile and forced displacement settings.

Additionally, InterAction maintains regular exchanges with non-traditional actors, such as the U.S. Government. InterAction's 2021 achievements built off of the 2020 publication of the Civil Society Guidance for a Model Policy by expanding dialogue in civilian harm mitigation and response beyond the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to other U.S. government agencies, aiming to promote interagency coordination in safeguarding civilian lives, property, and infrastructure in military operations and security partnerships. Additionally, InterAction partnered with Brown University Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies (CHR&HS) and Security Assistance Monitor (SAM) at the Center for International Policy to develop [context-](#)

[specific factsheets](#) on U.S. security assistance and protection of civilians. Harnessing insights from its engagement with DoD, InterAction also [contributed](#) to the international process on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) political declaration in 2021 and submitted recommendations on [civilian harm in displacement](#) to the UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.

Question 6: Has your institution taken any steps towards improving risk sharing with its partners?

In 2021, InterAction carried forward the third phase of its risk program (Risk III), supported with funding from USAID/BHA. Drawing on findings from Risk I ([2016](#)) and Risk II ([2019](#)), Risk III uses a research methodology that builds a common understanding of risk management and generates new insights and learning on how current risk management approaches enable or hinder humanitarian delivery. InterAction and Risk III program partner [CDA Collaborative Learning](#) (CDA) conducted 10 virtual risk workshops in 2021, engaging almost 200 participants from more than 50 local and international NGOs from 39 countries, representing various roles and functions including leadership, operations, programs, and support services. Findings and outcomes will be released in 2022.

InterAction participated in the Risk Experts meeting in January 2021, and in late 2021 InterAction accepted a co-leadership of and commitment to expertise sharing with the Netherlands and ICRC-led Risk Sharing Initiative. InterAction closed the year with extensive collaborations alongside ICRC and the Netherlands for the planning and preparation of the Risk Sharing meeting in January 2022.