

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Relief International

Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to enable the consultants to contact you for an interview):

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(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than **4 pages in total** – anything over this word limit will not be considered. Please respond to all of the questions below.)

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?

Key achievements that exemplify RI commitment to progress are:

Our approach to needs assessment, programs design and implementation has remained focused on partnerships with local and national partners, as well as very community based and peoples centred. RI continues partnering and building and strengthening the capacity of local organizations and CSOs, with respect to their in organizational and technical capacities, through training, mentoring and grant / funding components.

Relief International increased the utilization of Cash & Voucher Assistance and Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance within its core interventions as well as to new countries. In particular it has increased cash for education components, Food security and livelihoods.

An updated Complaints & Feedback Mechanisms policy was rolled out which puts a premium on regular analysis and reflection of community feedback provided via CFM channels for designing and adapting programs. It details strategies for leveraging community-based structures and solutions for providing complaints/feedback and requires at a minimum community consultation for designing channels.

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

Enabling priority 1: A critical mass of quality funding is reached that allows an effective and efficient response, ensuring visibility and accountability.

(For ease of reference, see Senior Officials Meeting recommendations [here](#).)

Quality funding for RI and its partners in at the core of our advocacy agenda and strategy. While continuing to engage with our donors to this end, we have not been able to achieve our target, partly due to changes in donors' priorities and approach to this priority. However, in countries where the donors have provided such an opportunity, RI has always showcased applying it to partners, through multi-faceted partnership agreements as an example.

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

Enabling priority 2: Greater support is provided for the leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders and the participation of affected communities in addressing humanitarian needs.

As a grass root organization, RI works very closely with local partners and when / where possible, the jointly designed interventions are done with these partners or through them. RI has strong NGO/CSO/local partner capacity building program in a number of countries, focusing on institutional and technical capacity strengthening of partners to increase the quality of service delivery. Where possible or needed, RI partners with local organizations for delivery of activities.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

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? (Please outline specific initiatives or changes in practice and their outcomes/results). Please refer to the Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

RI continues to adopt and mainstream its Global Approach on Gender Equality Framework in all of its programming. RI’s approach focuses on reaching three outcomes, 1) Enhanced agency of girls and women to make decisions, 2) Enhanced quality of services (i.e. addressing differentiated needs in an age-and gender-responsive way) and 3) Improved national/local/ community/ family environments supporting girls' and women's empowerment. This is done through activities such as capacity building and awareness raising of girls & women, men and boys, capacity building for service providers and lastly capacity building of gatekeepers, influencers (e.g. leaders; Government representatives; caregivers) and community at large; establishment/review of systems & structures, advocacy.

Through these activities, RI has seen immediate results that range from increased knowledge, skills, and informed participation of women and girls, men and boys, service providers and facilities that are more welcoming and better positioned to respond to needs of a variety of clients (i.e. higher level of satisfaction of girls, women, boys and men), and increased knowledge and willingness of influencers, leaders and community to support women and girls; as well as overall improved systems and structures (e.g. protection), improved legal and policy framework.

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

Question 5: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments? Please explain how your institution has linked commitments 10.1 - 10.5 with other commitments from other workstreams.

As a member of CHS alliance, RI is committed to mainstreaming nexus within all of its interventions; in fact RI included nexus programming as a key strategic pillar in its next five-year strategic plan.

Nexus in Action Example: When RI responded to a devastating earthquake in 2019 in Iran, the intervention addressed the immediate needs arising out of the emergency as well as considered long-term solutions for the affected population. With Education in Emergencies funding, RI rebuilt and repaired schools so Afghan children could continue their education post-crisis; additionally RI collaborated with UNHCR and service providers, to ensure that children and their families secured legal documentation - which protected them from potential deportation and provided them with access to social services (e.g. education, health). In this way, RI ensured that the response provided a long-term and durable solution for the affected population.

Question 6: Has your institution taken any steps towards improving risk sharing with its partners? If so, please describe how. *(For ease of reference, please see a set of actions to enhance risk sharing as suggested in the Netherlands and the ICRC [Statement on risk sharing](#).)*²

In all countries where we work, RI stays fully engaged with NGOs and humanitarian coordination groups, where different aspects of programming and challenges are shared amongst partners and when feasible, a joint approach is adopted. This included clusters, OCHA lead humanitarian forums including civil military coordination groups, NGOs coordination's bodies, etc.

RI is a member of a cohort of iNGOs who are participating in a project / study, undertaken by CDA and Interaction. The project / study is analyzing the current approaches to risk in humanitarian action through a systematic review of relevant policy documents, interviews with key informants and survey of humanitarian practitioners as well as consultation workshops. In August 2021, CDA and Interaction facilitated a private workshop with RI Senior Management. The aim of the private workshop was to collect insights and experiences on current approaches to managing risk while ensuring program continuity in difficult operating environments. Following the workshop, RI was provided with a report which was reviewed by Senior Management and will be used to inform RI's thinking on risk management. RI

² During the 2021 Annual meeting and in consultation leading up to this Signatories have expressed a strong interest in advancing the risk-sharing agenda. As communicated, the Netherlands, ICRC and InterAction are in the process of setting up a Risk Sharing Platform. This work will benefit greatly from an inventory of Signatories' risk-sharing practices.

contributions and data will be integrated into the broader findings in InterAction's own report.