

**Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

Name of Institution: UN Women

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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 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?

UN Women has established its role as a thought leader on issues related to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in crisis/humanitarian settings through its participation and contribution to the ***IASC Gender Reference Group; its leading role in the coordination of the IASC GRG Task Force dedicated to Gender Mainstreaming in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender (jointly with OXFAM and CARE); and the coordination of the Global Compact on Women-Peace-Security and Humanitarian Action***. Strengthened global advocacy and multi-stakeholder coordination with focus on increasing financing and prioritisation of Gender Equality Commitments across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus have been the key outcomes of UN Women led initiatives with a strong focus on localization and accountability for crisis affected populations.

Grand Bargain Friends of Gender: In June 2021, through UN Women’s co-leading role in the coordination of the Friends of Gender jointly, ***new commitments to GEEWG-Gender Equality and Empowerment of Crisis Affected Women and Girls were integrated in the Grand Bargain 2.0 Framework***. These commitments and priorities were highlighted by 16 Grand Bargain signatories during the 2021 Grand Bargain Annual Meeting¹: Germany, Denmark, Norway, US, Canada, UK, Ireland, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, FAO, IRC, ActionAid, OXFAM, CARE and UN Women².

In 2021, in **32 countries (representing some of the world’s most acute humanitarian crises), from Afghanistan and Ethiopia to Myanmar, OPT and Yemen, UN Women invested in strengthening capacities of local women’s organizations and networks to participate in humanitarian planning processes and access humanitarian funding**. Under the CERF Global Grant allocation for UN Women (February 2021-February 2023), *30 percent of the total funding* was allocated to local women’s organizations and networks in support of their programs and operations on protection, leadership, and livelihoods for crisis affected women and

¹ [Grand Bargain Annual Meeting 2021 - Summary Note | IASC \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)

² [Grand Bargain 2.0 Framework and annexes - DE/EN/ES/FR | IASC \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#) Several signatories acknowledged the role and contribution of Friends of Gender to the development of the Grand Bargain 2.0 framework. Commitments to advancing leadership of local responders, including local women’s organizations and networks have been integrated under the Pillar on ‘Prioritization and Coordination’. Strategic interventions on GEEWG have been integrated across the 4 Outcome Pillars as per the Friends of Gender recommendations

girls. Strengthening capacities of local WLOs/WROs in specific thematic areas, including GIHA, humanitarian funding, advocacy, and resource mobilization in support of sustaining their operations and engagement in humanitarian/refugee responses; and increasing their visibility and impact on humanitarian coordination platforms has been an integral component of UN Women supported interventions. In the context of the CERF Global Grant implementation, UN Women has been able to strengthen the leadership and access to resources of 71 local women’s organizations and over 100 community protection networks across six countries³ in their role as first responders in humanitarian crises. This support enabled them to scale up and improve the quality of delivered GBV and protection services; participate meaningfully in humanitarian planning processes and mechanisms with a view to strengthening accountability of humanitarian actors and government institutions to respond to GBV and contribute to gender equitable humanitarian outcomes across the cluster system.

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](#).)

In 2021, UN Women, as part of **the Generation Equality Forum initiative, established the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action**⁴. Based on existing policy commitments for the UN, members states, civil society, academia and the private sector, the Compact is based on five thematic priorities, including financing the WPS agenda and gender equality in humanitarian programming. Intended impacts of the Compact on financing are:

- Member States prioritize gender-sensitive budgets, funding contributions to WPS and gender equality in humanitarian action to meet existing and agreed targets.
- Significant increase in funding to local women’s rights and women-led organizations.
- WPS-HA commitments have adequate, sustained, flexible funding and local women’s rights and women-led organizations have sustained, core funding.

In terms of global funding mechanisms dedicated to advancing gender transformative localization, UN Women continued coordinating the *Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund*⁵ as well as the *Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women* (including a special grants window focusing on women refugees and IDPs)⁶. Under Outcome 5 of the new **UN Women Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 dedicated to Women’s Voice, Agency, and Leadership**⁷, UN Women will scale up initiatives to track the amount and type of

³ Bangladesh (Cox’s Bazar), Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Myanmar and OpT.

⁴ [WPS-HA Compact \(wpscompact.org\)](https://www.wpscompact.org/)

⁵ [Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund \(wphfund.org\)](https://www.wphfund.org/)

⁶ [UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women | Trust funds | UN Women](#)

⁷ [UN Women Strategic Plan 2022–2025 | Digital library: Publications | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

funding disbursed annually in support of civil society organizations with focus on local women's organizations and networks in humanitarian and crisis settings.

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.

Advancing **gender responsive localisation** has been at the centre of UN Women led global advocacy, regional coordination platforms and country level programmatic interventions in close partnership with other UN agencies, including OCHA, UNHCR and UNFPA, INGOs and local women's organizations and networks. In 2021, UN Women supported 1,241 women's organizations to provide life-saving humanitarian, protection services to women refugees and IDPs in crisis affected communities, improving gender-equitable outcomes and overall, accountability to affected populations⁸ Countries include: **Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali, Uganda, Ethiopia, Myanmar, South Sudan, Bangladesh, OpT, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq**, and others. In its role as the Gender Desk for the IASC Gender Accountability Framework, UN Women leads an annual review of the IASC's commitments to gender priorities. This includes a review of the extent to which local women's organizations were included in humanitarian decision-making across all Humanitarian Country Teams in a year.⁹

Focus on tools to track localisation through a gender lens: In Jordan, UN Women has led the development of a MEAL framework to track progress towards localisation commitments in close partnership with local women's organizations and networks¹⁰; while in Asia-Pacific, UN Women led the development of a tool to measure women's leadership and meaningful participation in COVID 19 responses¹¹.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment¹² in humanitarian settings through its implementation of the Grand Bargain? What results/outcomes have been

⁸ Including through the establishment of community- and women-led feedback mechanisms.

⁹ [The IASC Gender Accountability Framework Report, 2020 - World | ReliefWeb](#)

The 2020 Report (released in 2021) found that 68 percent of crisis contexts reported having consulted at least one local women's rights organization in the humanitarian planning process reflecting gradual improvement. Notably, in, in contexts with active gender working groups, 82 percent had consulted with WROs.

In 2022, UN Women will launch a global humanitarian project beginning with nine pilot crisis contexts to localize the humanitarian system's accountability to gender commitments. Across the nine locations (*Afghanistan, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Niger, oPt, South Sudan*), ensuring that the voices of crisis affected women and girls are meaningfully represented in the decision making and monitoring processes of humanitarian response planning and implementation.

¹⁰ [Meal Framework for Localisation of Humanitarian Action in Jordan | UN Women – Jordan](#)

¹¹ <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/03/framework-and-tools-for-measuring-womens-leadership-and-meaningful-participation-covid-19>

¹² Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

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.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian settings is at the core of UN Women's normative, coordination and programmatic mandate, reflected more recently *in the new Strategic Plan 2022-2025*. UN Women plays a leading role in the *Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group*, the *IASC Gender Reference Group Task Force dedicated to Mainstreaming GEEWG in the Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus*, the *IASC Gender Reference Group (by serving as the Gender Desk for the Annual Gender Accountability Framework Report)* and the *Global Compact on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action*. Increased multi-stakeholder dialogue on entry points and commitments to advancing GEEWG in crisis settings, increased availability of data and gender analysis to inform humanitarian and refugee response plans as well as strengthened coordination and global partnerships around GEEWG and the development/roll out of localized accountability frameworks to track implementation progress are among the key results of UN Women led/co-led coordination platforms.

In 2021, UN-Women contributed to humanitarian and refugee coordination mechanisms in over 40 country and regional contexts in a range of capacities including as members of the Humanitarian Country Teams and leads of GiHA working groups. On behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Reference Group, UN-Women continues leading efforts to maintain accountability for gender equality in humanitarian action by monitoring adherence to gender commitments across 31 crisis contexts as captured in the Annual IASC Gender Accountability Framework Reports. The Entity supported capacity building of 2,600 humanitarian actors, civil society representatives and other partners on gender in humanitarian action across 21 crisis-affected countries. UN-Women also piloted a new global virtual training programme to further expand its capacity building efforts internally and externally as the demand for gender-expertise grows.

In 2021, UN Women increased its corporate investment in gender analysis in protracted crises and humanitarian settings in partnership with other UN agencies, INGOs and local women's organizations and networks with a view to informing humanitarian planning, collaboration across humanitarian-development and peace actors under UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks as well as COVID 19 socio-economic responses; and increasing relevant commitments and funding for GEEWG (for example, in **Lebanon, Jordan, OpT, Afghanistan, Haiti**¹³).

¹³ [Afghanistan: Tip Sheet Strengthening Women's Participation in Assessments \[EN/Dari/PS\] | HumanitarianResponse af-giha-wg-guidance-on-womens-safe-participation-oct2021.pdf \(un.org\)](#)
[Development of Rapid Gender Analysis for Haiti | UN Women Caribbean](#)

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.

UN Women in close collaboration with OXFAM and OCHA, **co-leads the IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Reference Group (GRG) Task Force on Gender mainstreaming in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus**. The Task Force is a voluntary community of UN and non-UN technical experts dedicated to integrating gender equality and women's empowerment into the HDP Nexus approach, including relevant planning/coordination frameworks and funding mechanisms at country, regional and global level¹⁴.

The Task Force -composed of representatives from OCHA, UNHCR, FAO, ILO, DPPA/PSBO, UNFPA, WFP, WRC, UNDP, and other organizations- co-ordinates work on gender mainstreaming in the triple nexus processes by reviewing relevant research, frameworks, guidance, and tools with a view to developing minimum standards on gender and nexus for country level application and testing.

HDP nexus programming

In several countries, including **Kenya, Jordan, Mozambique, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Egypt, Mali, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Cameroon, Nigeria, Brazil, Guatemala, Niger**, UN-Women leveraged its resources to scale up the scope, outreach and increase the quality of programming on humanitarian-development-peace nexus, advancing the self-reliance and resilience of crisis-affected and displaced women and girls by addressing food insecurity, gender-based violence, supporting women's livelihoods and peacebuilding and social cohesion at community level through the implementation of the Leadership Empowerment Access and Protection (LEAP) flagship framework, programming models like the 'Oasis/Women's Empowerment Centres,' the Second Chance Education (SCE) as well as creating synergies with Women Peace and Security programming.

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](#).)¹⁵

¹⁴ Review of Progress on Mainstreaming Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls (GEEWG) into the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus Agenda, May 2021 | IASC (interagencystandingcommittee.org), As a complement to the 2020 Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls, a Review was carried out that assesses progress made in mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEEWG) into the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus agenda. Following the recommendations of the Review, this Task Force was constituted under the IASC Gender Reference Group in July 2021 to advance the review recommendations.

¹⁵ 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

As part of UN Women's humanitarian programming in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, Myanmar and Ethiopia, UN Women engages in joint risk assessments with partners, including local women's organizations and networks that shape risk mitigation strategies and approaches embedded in partnership and funding modalities. Women led CSOs are continuously consulted and engaged in the development of projects and appropriate risk management frameworks. UN Women and partners monitor -for example- security risks to women human rights defenders in crisis settings and adapt programmatic approaches and modalities contributing to their protection and safety in line with do no harm principles and commitments.

process of setting up a Risk Sharing Platform. This work will benefit greatly from an inventory of Signatories' risk-sharing practices.