

Grand Bargain in 2022:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution:

International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

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Date of Submission: 16-February-2023

Grand Bargain in 2022

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 2022?

The key areas of focus for ICVA in implementation of the Grand Bargain in 2022 remained relatively unchanged from recent years. ICVA's role as a non-operational NGO network means that our Grand Bargain role is focused on facilitation, advocacy, and representation of the NGO voice more than direct implementation of commitments. ICVA continued in its role on the Facilitation Group throughout 2022, which became an increasing focus during the final quarter of the year as planning for the future of the Grand Bargain started to gain momentum. Other top focus areas included localization, quality funding, and transparency of data.

On localization, ICVA continued a long-term focus to improve engagement with local partners in the humanitarian sector. A key achievement for the year was the release of the "[Measuring Localization in Yemen Baseline Report](#)" in November 2022. This research, conducted in collaboration with ICVA, TYF, ISD, and HAG¹, is one of the few examples of a detailed methodical approach at the country level to measure the state of localization and provide recommendations to progress the localization agenda within a country context.

ICVA also has a long-term project to provide support to national NGO fora to improve their leadership skills and ability to engage with the humanitarian architecture at the country level. In 2022 this work included a leadership workshop in Geneva that encouraged peer learning and included briefings on humanitarian finance and the Grand Bargain. At the regional level, ICVA further engaged in West Africa and Asia, facilitating a session for national NGO fora in West Africa on the Grand Bargain, and co-leading a session for NGOs with A4EP and NEAR on the future of the Grand Bargain as part of the December 2022 Asia Humanitarian Partnership Week.

Quality funding was also a top priority for ICVA in 2022. Through March, ICVA continued to co-chair the IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group (RG5) with OCHA which included agenda items to extend funding flexibility measures between UN and NGO partners and to identify best practices for ensuring that all partners in humanitarian funding chains appropriately share indirect cost coverages (overheads). Although RG5 was formally closed in March, these efforts have continued to influence action during the year, with wider acceptance of flexibility measures (particularly 20% or greater budget category flexibility) and the endorsement of [IASC Guidance on the Provision of Overheads to Local and National Partners](#) in November.

¹ TYF is the Tamdeen Youth Foundation, ISD is Itar for Social Development, and HAG is the Humanitarian Advisory Group.

At the request of the Quality Funding Caucus leadership, ICVA facilitated a workshop between caucus members in June 2022 to come to agreement on how to move forward with donor visibility concerns that were blocking final endorsement of the caucus outcomes. This workshop also proved successful, with participants agreeing on common points to improve donor visibility both collectively and in bilateral funding agreements.

Finally, ICVA adopted a new focus on transparency of data following commitments made during the 2022 Grand Bargain Annual Meeting. Transparency of data is seen by most NGO constituents as a foundational issue to progress farther in access to quality funding and localization. Work in this area picked up significantly during 4th quarter 2022 and will continue in 2023. Before year-end, ICVA joined the Workstream 2 sub-group on Financing to plan and co-facilitate an event titled "Introduction to Humanitarian finance data systems" (final date for the event was January 2023). The ICVA Humanitarian Finance Working Group also identified transparency as a core area of interest among members and included the topic in planning for a January 2023 retreat to identify how to move forward.

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

As described above, quality funding was one of the key focus areas for ICVA Grand Bargain implementation in 2022. The work conducted during the mandate of the IASC Humanitarian Finance Results Group in particular continues to guide efforts to increase funding flexibility in funding partnership agreements and ensure that indirect cost coverages are appropriately shared among funding recipients.

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

Localization is part of the core ICVA strategic approach practiced through the Geneva headquarters and regional hubs. The localization-specific activities described above were designed to directly contribute to the ability of L/NGOs and fora representing local actors to improve understanding, participation, and ability to navigate the humanitarian system. ICVA's approach incorporates a mix of capacity-strengthening efforts where needed and facilitation of enhanced ability to engaged in leadership of humanitarian processes.

Question 4: Has your institution endorsed the caucus outcome document on quality funding, on the role of intermediaries, on cash coordination, Yes/No?

Yes, ICVA has effectively endorsed the outcomes of all three caucuses. The outcome documents for the Quality Funding and Intermediaries caucuses were only endorsed in November 2022, so little direct action on the specific recommendations in the documents was taken before year-end, however, general contributions to quality

funding are described above. On Cash Coordination, ICVA participated directly in the caucus and then led the NGO effort following endorsement of the caucus outcome to identify and select candidates to represent the NGO voice in the agreed Global Cash Advisory Group.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 5: 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? (Please outline specific initiatives or changes in practice and their outcomes/results).

ICVA is not engaged directly with incorporation of gender equality and women's empowerment in implementation of humanitarian operations in the field due to its status as an NGO network. As part of a focus on global humanitarian policy and coordination issues, ICVA does maintain a significant focus on gender issues.

In June 2022 UNHCR and ICVA launched a third round of the Interagency Community Outreach and Communication Fund on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Now in its third round, the PSEA Fund was again met with considerable interest, receiving more than 1,000 applications. As in the years before, all eligible applications were reviewed and scored by an interagency steering group of PSEA experts, which in 2022 included representatives from IOM, UNICEF, Care International, World Vision International and the Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC) Network, as well as ICVA and UNHCR. The supported projects (summaries available [here](#)) aim to strengthen engagement with key groups such as adolescent girls, language minorities, persons with disabilities, persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), people in geographically isolated areas and communities where risks of transactional sex are known to be high.

ICVA is also Global Partner of the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies and is committed to ensuring implementation of this initiative's [Road Map](#). In April 2022, ICVA's [shared top commitments](#) to implement the Call to Action, including:

1. In partnership with members, ICVA will influence IASC policies, partnerships and practices to strengthen system-wide efforts on addressing GBV, promoting gender equality, PSEAH and ensuring accountability
2. ICVA will support NGOs through capacity strengthening to implement system-wide and institutional policies to address GBV, strengthen gender equality, and ensure accountability, including in key strategic humanitarian documents
3. ICVA will support local actors, particularly women's organizations, to lead and engage in GBV response and gender equality coordination at all levels

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

Question 6: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments?

As reported previously, ICVA continues to focus on building skillsets for practitioners to operate more effectively in Nexus contexts through support for the Nexus Community of Practice and the Nexus Academy. With the restructure of IASC bodies in 2022, ICVA also participates in the new IASC Task Force 4 focused on implementation of the Nexus among IASC members, including developing improved understanding of Nexus finance. Starting in 2022 ICVA also identified climate as a core strategic priority for the network. Climate action and finance in humanitarian contexts is closely linked to the concept of the HDP-Nexus in that close collaboration with development actors is required to understand how resources available for climate action can be channelled to reduce burdens on the humanitarian system. ICVA worked closely with NGO colleagues to [prepare positions](#) for the November COP27 conference, notably on NGO priorities for climate “Loss and Damage” funding.

OPTIONAL QUESTION:

Question 7: Has your institution taken any steps to share risks with its partners? If so, please describe how.

Although ICVA does not typically serve as an intermediary funder due to its status as an NGO network, risk management has been a core policy focus area over the past three years. ICVA continued its multi-year focus risk management practices in 2022, partnering with Disaster Ready to create [mobile guides](#) on “Risk Management in Practice” and “Risk Management and Funding Partnerships” for humanitarian responders to better apply risk management concepts and tools in operations and funding decisions. These guides contribute to the improvement of risk sharing by improving NGO access to the needed resources to understand risk management concepts and how to apply them to funding relationships and decisions.

The focus on risk management also expanded in 2022 to include support for NGOs to better engage with and navigate sanctions regimes affecting the humanitarian space. ICVA worked closely with other humanitarian stakeholders to advocate with the UN Security Council and its Member States for improved protections for humanitarian action. These efforts contributed to the December 2022 Security Council adoption of [UNSC Resolution 2664](#) which provides a “humanitarian carveout” – a standing humanitarian exemption – significantly reducing the financial and other restrictions imposed on humanitarian actors through UN sanctions regimes.