

**Grand Bargain in 2022:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

Name of Institution: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - IFRC

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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?

IFRC continued to champion localisation within the IFRC network and the humanitarian sector at large. It continued to **co-chair the Localisation Workstream** and was a caucus champion on the role of intermediaries and funding for localisation. IFRC has started to develop a certification process for National Societies that puts emphasis on local actor ownership and bottom-up approaches. More focus was also made on the development of National Society branches particularly around investment (Capacity Building Fund and National Society Investment Alliance) and approaches and tools for capacity strengthening such as the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment and establishment of Community of Practice platforms.

In 2022 IFRC continued to make **improvements to the functionality and governance of its Disaster Response Emergency Fund - DREF** - which has proven to be the simplest, fastest and most transparent way for National Societies to access reliable international, short-term emergency funding for community action in all kinds of disasters, when needs exceed the resources available at national level. In order to address the increased scale and greater volatility of humanitarian needs in response to climate induced disasters, the IFRC is calling on donors and partners to help grow the fund to CHF 100 million by 2025. In 2022, **IFRC with the support of AoN and the Centre for Disaster Protection (CDP) developed and validated a viable commercial insurance product** – the first of its kind in the humanitarian sector - to support DREF's strategic ambition. This insurance mechanism will expand the capacity of the DREF when the fund is most under pressure in high demand years. By reducing volatility, insurance will allow for better planning and more efficient budgeting.

In 2022 the IFRC network continued to scale up its use of cash assistance, including in the Ukraine response where **new digital solutions were used to facilitate self-registration, validation, and payment**. Learning from the domestic cash responses of the American RC and building on the concept of self-registration and use of mobile phones to transfer funds to bank accounts or cash agents, IFRC developed a new approach which also builds upon the feedback of Ukrainians in the US and is more appropriate for the Ukraine crisis. In cooperation with American RC and IFRC's existing partner, Red Rose, a data management service provider and MoneyGram Germany, a financial service provider, **IFRC launched a self registration cash programme in Romania**. IFRC's experience in Romania proved that the self-registration cash model is an extremely fast and effective way of reaching people at scale in the context of the Ukraine crisis.

In 2022, **IFRC provided direct support on community engagement and accountability** to [77 National Societies/countries through dedicated initiatives](#). Nearly all emergency appeals included a community engagement/accountability component, and several tools were revised and launched, such as [the Feedback Kit](#), to support IFRC and National Societies in setting up systematic feedback systems.

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

IFRC is increasingly moving towards initiatives and programmes that allow for improved funding flows and an overall better quality of funding in terms of predictability, duration, and flexibility, all while staying true to its localisation commitments.

Officially launched in March 2022, the Programmatic Partnership with DG ECHO the IFRC network committed to implement EUR 210M over three years via 24 National Societies located in the countries of implementation, with the technical support of 11 European NS and the IFRC

Secretariat. This new programmatic multi-year approach provides a greater degree of flexibility and predictability for the IFRC network's programmes and operations.

At the same time, the amount softly agreed per year with DG ECHO enables IFRC to commit to economies of scale and has allowed the IFRC to decrease the level of overhead costs usually charged to smaller grants. The significant volume flowing through the Secretariat also enables the IFRC to enhance its coordination role, support further alignment and harmonization of requests towards local actors and overall aims to decrease the administrative burden placed on them.

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

IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) is by-design a localized fund that focuses on supporting National Societies in their response or anticipatory actions. Of the CHF 58m mobilised in 2022, over 80% was allocated directly to National Societies in support of their response with the percentage raising to 92% for the Anticipatory Action window. The scope and flexibility of eligible expenses was expanded to guarantee that National Societies receive quality funding based on their own assessment of needs and can reprogramme quickly according to changing needs. This also allows for improved coverage and support of their operations management and structure.

IFRC new unified planning process, launched in 2022, brings together IFRC network members in each country (the National Society, the IFRC and participating National Societies) to prepare a joint plan that reflects international work to be undertaken in support of the host National Society, in line with its own plan. **By bringing together emergency appeals and longer-term work, unified planning provides a more holistic and complete view of the network's actions in a particular context.** Unified plans also contain a multiyear perspective with clear priorities and objectives for support. Unified plans will help the network to improve coordination to provide more effective assistance to host National Societies in need of support, increasing effectiveness and accountability to our members, partners and local communities, enhancing efficiency of our operations, and decreasing duplication and management costs.

The IFRC is co-chairing the [Inter Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Task Force on Accountability to Affected People](#) (created in 2022) together with WFP and the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance, which oversees until 2024 the implementation of strategic actions for increased accountability within the humanitarian sector. Over the past few years, IFRC has significantly invested in inter-agency initiatives at the global and regional levels, where it has thought leadership on recommendation papers, guidance and tools.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) has been a central component to the Ukraine response, focusing on providing lifesaving information, addressing community concerns and perceptions, with 21 surge deployments throughout the region. [Here is an example of a feedback report produced.](#) Furthermore, IFRC is currently developing a "Community Trust Index" to measure how people and communities trust the IFRC network, and what influences trust in humanitarian action.

IFRC also continues to co-chair the [Collective Service for Risk Communication and Community engagement](#) which is engaging over 60 Partners and supporting almost 30 countries globally deliver the greatest impact, reduce duplication and increase effectiveness of localized action during the COVID-19 pandemic and health emergencies. The [data dashboard](#) streamlined the analysis and use of socio-behavioural data, community feedback, social listening insights. With over 250 studies and 170.000 data, it continues to be a reference to understand the COVID data landscape.

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

Cash Coordination: The IFRC joined in the unanimous endorsement of the 'Cash Coordination Caucus Outcomes and Recommendations' and has actively engaged with the Cash Advisory Group in follow-up to adopt the new cash coordination model outlined in the caucus recommendations. The IFRC strongly supports the transition to local leadership and commitment to have local co-chairs of the national Cash Working Groups (CWGs) and advocates for continued resourcing and support to facilitate local engagement and ownership in the CWGs.

The Role of Intermediaries: For the IFRC, empowering local action is not simply an option – it is at the core of our mission and our *raison d'être*. We were therefore quick to put up our hand last year to co-lead, together with SCHR and SDC, a caucus on the Role of Intermediaries in support of local action. We were joined by UNHCR, NEAR, A4EP, ECHO, UNICEF and later Germany. Our efforts resulted in a set of collective commitments for organisations with an intermediary role, donors and local actors and many organisations, including the IFRC have developed their own set of customized commitments in line with the collective ambition.

Quality Funding: The IFRC partially endorsed the outcome document on quality funding, partly due to incompatibility of internal systems with the information required, and partly because the most critical action needed for the success of the initiative – that is a significant increase of multi-year funding – is not within our control and should not be seen as conditional to other commitments, but rather an enabler.

Question 5: 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).

The IFRC's new policy for Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) was adopted by the General Assembly, formally committing the IFRC Network (192 members and their Secretariat) to ensuring an intersectional approach to gender equality and women's empowerment in their institutional capacity, in the entirety of their programmes and operations and in their advocacy, partnerships and learning. The adoption of the policy is supported by core tools for operational implementation, and an Organisational Assessment on capacity for PGI, carried out in four National Societies in 2022.

In 2022 we deployed 30 PGI Rapid Response Experts in various emergency- and crisis operations; providing technical guidance and support to all staff and volunteers involved in the operation under the IFRC umbrella, including strategic and technical advice to Heads of Operations and Operations Managers. PGI trainings were also provided at various levels of operational staff and volunteers in all our 5 regions. 1,272 people in the IFRC Network took the PGI foundational online course which covers issues of gender equality.

Each region has a range of relevant activities, a few examples: in Americas research and guidance was developed on equality in relation to socioeconomic impacts of Covid. In Africa a key focus was addressing gender issues in relation to climate change for Gender-responsive disaster risk management. In Asia pacific, a key focus was addressing SGBV in disaster response operations, In Europe, regional and national staff were deployed to support gender equality in the Ukraine operation, and in MENA the regional network of National Society PGI focal points was established, with training provided on how to mainstream gender issues (including SGBV) into the ongoing work of the societies.

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

A multidisciplinary IFRC team is in place to strengthen Safeguarding (preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH)), Child Safeguarding through i) working with National Societies to develop and implement safeguarding policies that align with good practice, ii) developing an organizational-wide safeguarding self-assessment and tool and mandatory online training and iii) improving operational support tools (investigations manual, risk framework) to better address PSEA cases with a survivor-centered approach (available through a dedicated Safeguarding hub). This supported an increase in National Societies adopting PSEA and Child Safeguarding Policies: thirty-one National Societies have now adopted PSEA Policies and thirty-three have adopted Child Safeguarding. As such, PSEA policies are at 60% of their target (50 policies) by end of 2025 and Child Safeguarding are at 55% (target 60).

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

Because the climate crisis will require mobilization of local efforts at an unprecedented scale, **the IFRC network launched the [Global Climate Resilience Platform \(GCRP\)](#)**, with the objective of catalyzing at least CHF 1 billion in investment and support for locally-led climate action that reaches the most vulnerable. The Global Climate Resilience Platform will serve as a means of incentivizing greater coordination and planning across the IFRC Network and will bridge the humanitarian-development divide, while focusing on supporting a scale-up in locally-led actions to address climate-related disasters. It will support the following three focus areas, selected based on their ability to deliver transformative adaptation in the most vulnerable communities: Early Warning and Anticipatory Action, Safety Nets and Shock Responsive Social Protection and Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

To this end, the IFRC continues to provide system-wide coordination and thought leadership on Early Warning and Anticipatory Action through the [Anticipation Hub](#) and the [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership \(REAP\)](#). IFRC is also the lead agency for the [Early Warning for All initiative](#) Pillar 4 "Preparedness to Respond" and a co-lead of Pillar 3 "Communication and Dissemination". We are working closely with UNDRR and WMO on an integrated partnership approach, spanning local to global levels to connect forecasts and meteorological data to community implementation. In 2022, the IFRC approved ten new Early Action Protocols, which connect extensive hazard risk analysis, capacities of local actors to forecasts of potential hazards, and identify measures before hazards turn into disasters. Seven of these EAPs were subsequently triggered for activation, distribution of cash and other emergency relief, critical to save lives and livelihoods.

The DREF also evolved in 2022 to ensure better relevance in protracted crisis and slow onset disasters through the creation of a longer funding track. The range of eligible costs was expanded to include more recovery related costs to ensure better transitions from humanitarian response to recovery.

IFRC continues to promote the [Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations](#), which has 335 signatories as of today, 125 of which signed the charter in 2022. Signatories include local and national actors, INGOs, UN agencies and 11 donor governments. IFRC hired a coordinator in 2022 to oversee the operationalisation of its commitments under the charter.

OPTIONAL QUESTION:

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

During 2022, IFRC approved its first Risk Management Policy, which outlines how the organization will manage risks across all its levels. This includes guidance on how to share risk information, risks and responsibilities both with external partners and its National Societies. Most programs and operations currently embed risk management from the start, and as a Federation, IFRC also provides technical expertise on risk management to its member National Societies.

In 2022, IFRC initiated a forum called the Circles of Collaboration, with the the purpose of collecting the individual experiences of National Societies in risk management to jointly improve the way the Federation manages risks.

Finally, IFRC is participating with other organizations in the risk-sharing initiative co-organised by the Netherlands and the ICRC.