

Grand Bargain in 2022:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution:

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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 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?

Quality funding and harmonisation

NRC promoted and facilitated the discussion across constituencies both bilaterally and through existing networks, largely contributing to influencing the continuing UNHCR partnership reform agenda. In relation to OCHA CBPFs, through the adoption of the Covid-19 flexibility guidance and the update of the Global Guidelines, NRC advocated for inclusion of important elements of flexibility and multi-year funding.

NRC also continued its advocacy work on quality funding, including through the production and dissemination of several reports. NRC published the report, "[Pooled funds: the new humanitarian silver bullet?](#)", to identify ways to improve pooled fund efficiency, including through the use of quality funding. Following the release, NRC organised workshops with interested donors on the findings. Together with AAH and IRC, NRC also released the report, "[Quality Funding: From pilot to practice](#)", with key lessons learned on the Programme-Based Approach (PBA). NRC is supporting donors in promoting the PBA for wider use across the system.

Localisation

The role that NRC's Secretary General (SG) plays as Eminent Person of the Grand Bargain offers an opportunity for NRC to support the commitments for efficiency, effectiveness, and locally led action, and to ensure new tools are aligned to caucus outcomes. NRC's Global Strategy 2022-2025 includes a dedicated sub-objective on collaboration and exchange of expertise with local actors. To support this work, NRC staffed and resourced a global level implementing partnership helpdesk, advising NRC offices on how to establish and manage quality partnerships with implementing partners. NRC has also started to develop an internal policy on cascading overheads to local and national NGOs (LNNGOs).

Furthermore, NRC is contributing to the localisation agenda by promoting greater participation of local actors in the Global Protection Cluster as co-chair of its Strategic Advisory Group and as Housing Land and Property Rights AoR lead. This is also supported at field level through the co-coordination of nine 9 national protection clusters.

Hosting

NRC's expert roster NORCAP continues to support the Grand Bargain through the provision of two experts to the Secretariat, hosted on site by NRC.

Eminent Person

In 2022, NRC's SG remained in his position of Eminent Person of the GB. In this role, he is chairing the caucus that looks at funding to local actors, and he and his team have supported the work across other caucuses.

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](#).)

NRC continued to highlight the link between quality funding and other humanitarian policy issues, including localisation, transparency, risk-sharing, and financing the nexus. In 2022, NRC played a key role in the OCHA NGO – CBPF Dialogue Platform and in the Pooled Fund Working Group, advocating for the implementation of multiple Grand Bargain commitments including localisation, simplification, and the flexibility of funding.

NRC continued to promote common cost classifications, as defined in the Money Where It Counts protocol, and to gather evidence and learning on the impact of the PBA. NRC released [a report](#) on key lessons learnt from the PBA and partnerships with Sida and NMFA, supporting donors in promoting the PBA for wider use.

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.

In 2022, NRC conducted two consultancies to inform its work on Community Engagement and Accountability: One looking at trends regarding Community Engagement in the sector and within NRC and a second looking at Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms. With these reports, NRC is enabled to build the necessary changes to better engage with and be more accountable to people we work with. NRC is committed to develop approaches, systems, guidance, and tools to support its operations in efforts to find new and better ways to provide information, increase participation and gather, respond and analyse feedback. The focus for 2023 will be on strengthening policy, guidance and support to country offices on Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms.

NRC is also developing a policy to provide overheads to local and national implementing partners to enable more fair and reliable partnerships, recognising that access to overheads is critical for an organisation's operations, overall management, and development. NRC will aim to ensure that all local implementing partners receive overhead on their share of a project budget and will undertake targeted donor advocacy to push donors accept to provide overhead to both intermediaries and local partners. NRC was also engaged in the work of the now closed Task Force 5 aiming to research best practices on cascading of overheads to LNNGOs.

At field level, NRC's Youth Solidarity project is implemented in partnership with local youth-led organisations in Romania and Moldova, to engage Ukrainian youth who have fled the war to socially engage and access education and livelihood opportunities, improving their overall wellbeing. In addition, NORCAP's CashCap project provides tailored CVA technical and mentoring support to Red Cross/Red Crescent national societies in Ukraine and Syria to enable national actors' engagement and leadership in strategic cash coordination. At the end of 2022, the Ukrainian Red Cross was elected as the co-chair of the Ukraine National Cash Working Group. Furthermore, NORCAP's Lake Chad Localisation and Capacity Strengthening project works with approximately 60 CSO partners to strengthen their institutional capacities, and with UN agencies to enable

meaningful participation of local and national Actors in coordination and decision-making mechanisms.

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

NRC has endorsed the caucus outcome documents on quality funding, on the role of intermediaries, and on cash coordination. To ensure the commitments on quality funding and on the role of intermediaries are applied within NRC, we have mapped all relevant commitments and are following up internally to decide on next steps. We have also developed a tool aiming to monitor and remain accountable to our application of the outcome commitments in practice. On cash, NRC has continued to foster the routine use of cash where it is the most appropriate modality, for example, through the roll out of modality decision-making tools to inform the design of new programmes. Additionally, NORCAP's CashCap project played a technical advisory role in the development of the new cash coordination model.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

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).

NRC's Programme Policy outlines how NRC integrates a gender perspective into all activities by ensuring equitable, safe and meaningful access to our services, and supporting the inclusion of women, men, boys, girls and groups most at risk in relevant decision-making processes.

In 2022, NRC introduced its new *Safe and Inclusive Programming (SIP)* Minimum Standards (field-testing version), going beyond concepts of 'do no harm' to incorporate a full range of protection mainstreaming elements, gender sensitivity, and inclusivity practices. In addition, NRC's new Response Policy, published in May 2022, highlights the importance of those standards as part of our commitment to quality programming. SIP is the responsibility of all NRC staff, to be mainstreamed in their daily activities, across all functions. Country offices have included a focus on gender-sensitive humanitarian programming in their action plans and capacity building.

In NORCAP's Lake Chad project, gender in humanitarian action is mainstreamed across all actors. Institutional support is provided to women's rights and women-led organisations by gender and organisational capacity strengthening experts, leading to increased participation, coordination, and strategic planning by networks of gender organisations.

Question 6: 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 - 10.5² with other commitments from other workstreams.

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

² Refer to the original Grand Bargain agreement, available [here](#).

In NRC's 2022–2025 Global Strategy, the organisation confirmed its commitment to supporting self-reliance and durable solutions for people in protracted displacement. In 2022, NRC continued to engage with various Durable Solution Platforms and finalised the recruitment of a Nexus policy adviser. NRC has committed to develop an internal approach to the Nexus, forming the approach through extensive consultations both internally and externally with key humanitarian stakeholders, including donors. In addition, NRC is conducting research in five contexts on the impact of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus on Principled Humanitarian Action.

Furthermore, NORCAP continues to provide Nexus experts to HCTs, aiming to strengthen national authorities and local NGOs serving the population irrespective of designated phases of response.

OPTIONAL QUESTION:

Question 7: Has your institution taken any steps to share risks with its partners? If so, please describe how. *(For ease of reference, please see a set of actions and recommendations to enhance risk sharing as suggested in the report [Risk Sharing in Practice](#), June 2022, commissioned by the Netherlands and the ICRC).*

In 2022, NRC began following up internally on the recommendations highlighted in its internal report, "Risk Sharing for Hard-to-Reach Areas" and has recently re-joined the ICRC-InterAction-The Netherlands Risk Sharing Platform.