

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: ActionAid

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(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than **3 pages in total** – anything over this word limit will not be considered by ODI in their analysis. Please respond to all of the questions below.)

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 2019?

1. Improved use of humanitarian data.

The Grand Bargain is contributing to better understand and use humanitarian data. Based on the core commitments of the Grand Bargain Transparency Workstream ActionAid is sharing data to IATI using the latest version of the standard, which allows publishers include more granular data about humanitarian activities, and it's publishing most of the recommended humanitarian IATI elements. Another review of its internal practices will be carried out in 2020 based on guidelines on publishing humanitarian data to IATI that should be released in 2020 and sector best practice. This allows ActionAid to make better use of the Humanitarian Data Portal.

2. Improved quality of needs assessments.

Related to the point above of quality data and to the need's assessment workstream, ActionAid has developed and tested a new needs assessment tool which is being piloted in different countries, in different types of responses (food crisis, floods, Ebola).

3. Localisation, women leadership and gender.

Finally, ActionAid has continued to be engaging and contributing to the localisation and cash workstream, with a strong gender and women's leadership lens.

Question 2: Please explain how the outcomes/results have or will lead to long-term institutional changes in policy and/or practice.

1. Strengthened coordination through data sharing.

The push to publish ActionAid humanitarian data using the latest version of the IATI Standard, will not only benefit ActionAid. It will mean also a more coordinated and efficient humanitarian system, in which data is more likely to be useful and used by others, including local and national organisations.

2. Strengthened and more efficient needs assessments.

The new needs assessment tool will improve the timeliness and quality of data that ActionAid will provide to the humanitarian system, focusing in the GBV sub-cluster and food security cluster.

3. Supported the prioritisation of localisation, gender and women's leadership as a strategic priority.

ActionAid has contributed with other signatories that localisation and cash continue to be a priority in the institutional changes that each signatory does. It has also contributed that gender and women's leadership considerations are included when implementing changes on localisation and cash.

Question 3: 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

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

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.

- ActionAid has supported women representatives from women led (WLOs) and women's rights organisations (WROs) so they were present in the localisation workstream regional consultations of Addis, Jakarta, Amman and Brussels. UN Women played a leading role and organised pre-meetings with WLOs and WROs, in which it was discussed the specific barriers and solutions for a localisation that consider the role of women and their organisations in humanitarian responses. The workstream has produced a guidance note on gender responsive localisation.
- ActionAid and CARE have led in 2019 the GBV area of responsibility (AoR) Localisation Task Team. The team hosted 3 regional workshops in 2019. The Middle East and Asia ones were managed by CARE and the Africa one by ActionAid. WLO and WRO actives in GBV prevention and response were consulted. A mapping study and synthesis report has been produced as well as country level action plans to implement a greater involvement of local women's organisations in the sub-cluster and as core members as global level. The lessons and plans are been shared as examples with other global clusters.
- ActionAid participates in the Global Protection Cluster, Cash for protection task team and has incorporated CVA (Cash and Voucher Assistance) in its Women Led Community Based Protection approach and toolkit.

Question 4: 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.

ActionAid's (AA) humanitarian response approach is underpinned by resilience. AA's resilience framework acts as the bridge between humanitarian and development work; with the aim of linking preparedness, response and longer-term resilience work. As an addition to this, AA has developed a new set of technical guidelines for building resilience in protracted crisis contexts to demonstrate how resilience can bridge perceived gaps between humanitarian and longer-term development work. AA is disseminating that approach and has developed guidelines for building resilience in protracted crisis contexts which have been used to develop a new guidance chapter for the Resilience handbook and were disseminated in key global spaces that discuss resilience building policy and operational matters. There has been a good reception to the guidelines and AA has become a reference on resilience in protracted crisis and women and girls.

The guidelines for best practice were presented at multiple spaces during the 2019 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Global Platform in Geneva by ActionAid international, ActionAid Palestine, ActionAid Lebanon and their local partner RDFL and local Syrian woman refugee. The World Humanitarian Action Forum (WHAF) invited AA to join its resilience working group and meeting in Istanbul, which was an opportunity to present the guidelines for building resilience in protracted crises. AA showcased its humanitarian approach and advocated for the need for all humanitarian work to be underpinned by resilience in order to address the

challenges and gaps in aid presented in the hum-dev nexus debate. In Palestine ActionAid shared practical experience both of how local women led resilience is essential for good practice and advocated for the need for DRR networks to include protracted crisis contexts in disaster risk reduction platforms, programmes and policy.