

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self-Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Global Affairs Canada

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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?

In 2019, Canada continued to move forward and achieve progress in implementing its Grand Bargain commitments. Of particular note are the key outcomes outlined below that Canada achieved against the enhanced quality funding, harmonized reporting, and participation revolution commitments.

First, Canada increased its provision of multi-year and flexible humanitarian funding globally. Humanitarian funding under Canada's Whole of Government Strategy in the Middle East exemplifies Canada's commitment to provide more flexible, predictable, quality humanitarian funding. As part of this Strategy committing \$1.4 billion in humanitarian assistance between 2016 and 2021, in 2019, Canada provided \$124 million in multi-year, lightly earmarked funding to partners responding to crises in Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. This builds on experiences providing multiyear funding to partners between 2016 and 2018, and provides partners with greater predictability and the ability to plan, improving the effectiveness of interventions. This approach is complemented by an additional \$89 million in regional, multi-year humanitarian commitments to partners that allow them to respond to new needs, emerging crises or critical funding requirements in the Middle East. Included in this is increasing the provision of regional, softly earmarked, multi-year funding to partners such as the World Food Programme, UNICEF, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Further, in 2019, Canada allocated approximately 60% of its humanitarian assistance through multi-year agreements. This represents a 4% increase from 2018 levels (56%) and a 5.2% increase from 2017 levels (54.8%). As part of this 60%, Canada continued to provide unearmarked long-term institutional (core) funding to its multilateral partners.

Second, Canada adopted the 8+3 reporting template globally for all humanitarian NGO projects beginning in August 2019. Prior to the adoption of the 8+3 template, Canada's approach already consisted of light reporting requirements in an effort to avoid creating an undue burden on its implementing partners. However, with the adoption of the 8+3 reporting template, Canada is supporting the Grand Bargain's efforts to harmonize reporting requirements.

Third, through its participation at the first-ever Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, in line with the Grand Bargain Participation Revolution commitments, Canada committed to supporting the meaningful participation of refugees in processes and decisions that directly affect them. Canada led on a joint pledge, with other like-minded stakeholders, to support the meaningful participation of refugees and host communities. Furthermore, Canada was the only member state to support and include a refugee advisor in its Delegation to both the preparatory meetings and the Forum.

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

The key outcomes noted above are part of, or will lead to, longer-term trends towards improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.

Regarding the first outcome, Canada's renewal of its Middle East Strategy, its increasing provision of multi-year humanitarian funding, and continued unearmarked support to its multilateral partners are all a part of a broader trend towards Canada's increased use of multi-year and flexible financing mechanisms. Through its work on the Enhanced

Quality Funding Workstream (7 & 8), Canada recognizes the importance of multi-year and flexible funding in achieving effective and efficient humanitarian responses. As such, Canada strives to advance its Grand Bargain quality funding commitments where possible and appropriate.

With respect to the second outcome, the 8+3 reporting template is now included in Canada's International Humanitarian Assistance Funding Application Guidelines for NGOs. Canada asked its NGO partners to use the 8+3 template for all projects. In adopting this template, Canada supports donors' efforts to harmonize reporting requirements. It is Canada's hope that the more donors and partners use this reporting template, the greater the reduction will be in workload for the humanitarian system.

Regarding the third outcome, Canada intends to build on its participation revolution pledges at the Global Refugee Forum by helping to mainstream meaningful refugee participation within future relevant events. In doing so, Canada hopes to create and encourage an enabling environment for more refugee input, leading to more informed decision-making.

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 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.

Through the implementation of its Grand Bargain commitments, Canada has contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings. For instance, in updating its institutional profile requirements and NGO humanitarian proposal guidelines in 2019, Canada requires NGO partners to conduct a rigorous gender equality analysis to inform needs assessment, project design, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Partners must therefore apply a gender lens at the beginning of the project design process, including engagement with affected beneficiaries to identify their needs and priorities. This requirement supports more effective programming by ensuring the consistent incorporation of gender equality considerations in all of Canada's programming.

Canada has also made consistent efforts to move towards gender-responsive humanitarian assistance through its policies and system-wide advocacy work. In April 2019, Canada launched its humanitarian sub-policy "[A Feminist Approach: Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action](#)", building on its *Feminist International Assistance Policy*. This sub-policy further articulates Canada's approach to gender-responsive humanitarian action, including through humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law; sexual and gender-based violence in the context of humanitarian crises; sexual and reproductive health during humanitarian interventions; and the empowerment of women and girls. As an example of this approach, in December 2019 at the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Canada co-sponsored three side events on themes addressing sexual and gender-based violence, the protection of health care through the reporting of gunshot wounds by medical professionals, and the protection of media workers in armed conflict. Canada's humanitarian sub-policy aligns with many of the Grand Bargain commitments, particularly those related to localization, the participation of affected populations, and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Looking ahead, Canada will remain

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

focused on implementation of the sub-policy, along with ongoing gap assessments to improve gender-responsive humanitarian action.

Furthermore, Canada is the global lead (2019-2021) of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (Call to Action). Through its leadership, Canada has advocated for the meaningful participation of local partners and worked to reduce the barriers to their participation within the Call to Action, in line with the Grand Bargain localization commitments. For instance, through the Women's Refugee Commission, Canada funded the participation of local civil society partners of the Call to Action to the Annual Partners Meeting in November 2019.

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.

One of the main commitments of Canada's 2019 humanitarian assistance sub-policy "[A Feminist Approach: Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action](#)" – is to support gender-responsive humanitarian action, if applicable, "in comprehensive collective efforts to bridge the humanitarian-development peace nexus". In order to achieve this, Canada committed to support gender-transformative humanitarian action, where and when possible, and build resilience and self-reliance capacities; recognize and support existing local capacities, systems and structures; and encourage long-term investments in livelihoods and inclusive access to employment for affected populations. These commitments align with the Grand Bargain localization and participation commitments, and take into primary consideration the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings.

Canada is already programming across the nexus. Two examples of this in conflict and refugee contexts are Canada's continued support for the *Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework* and its leadership during its 2018 G7 Presidency on the *Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls, and Women in Developing Countries*. Through its bilateral development assistance program, Canada is providing \$125 M over 5 years (2016-21) to Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). Complementing this development funding, to meet the food assistance needs of those who are unable to benefit from the PSNP, Canada also provides funding for humanitarian assistance, through WFP, based on need. This is an example of Canada's development and humanitarian programming streams working concurrently in the same context. As another example, Canada is investing up to \$3.5 billion through its renewed whole-of-government Middle East Strategy, which includes security, development and humanitarian dimensions.

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy defines an integrated approach to development, humanitarian and peace and security assistance as one that centres on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as agents of change. Further, Canada is an adherent to the 2019 OECD-DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and supportive of other global frameworks, including the World Bank-United Nations Pathways for Peace, the Sustainable Development Goals (Leave No One Behind), the Agenda for Humanity/Grand Bargain, and the United Nations Joint Steering Committee on the New Way of Working). Looking ahead, Canada will continue to explore how to take a more collaborative, coherent and complementary approach to its humanitarian, development, and peace planning and programming, including through ongoing work with the OECD-DAC on this issue.