

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

Name of Institution: Christian Aid

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Question 1: Please highlight the 2 or 3 key outcomes or results relating to the Grand Bargain that your institution achieved in 2019?

- 1) Participation Revolution: Christian Aid is investing in a new global digital feedback system COMPASS which has the capacity to systematically collect and store feedback offline and then integrate the feedback with the online case management system. This will allow staff to respond, track, analyse, record, store and act upon feedback, providing projects, country teams and the global organisation with what we need to learn, adapt and improve our work for disaster-affected communities with partner organisations. The system supports multiple feedback channels and is designed to allow input close to the source of feedback. Evidence of how feedback has been responded to and used to adapt international programmes is an intrinsic part of the system. Conceptualisation and design was completed in 2019 with piloting of the system planned for early 2020.
- 2) Localisation: In collaboration with Action Aid, CAFOD, CARE, Oxfam and Tearfund, in Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria and S Sudan, we implemented the ECHO-funded Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships programme. Inter alia, this worked to support local NGO networks to raise their voice in the humanitarian system in their countries; it undertook research to identify best practice in partnership between local and international actors from the lens of local actors. The consortium members started to pilot the better practice in their partnerships in the 4 countries. It developed a guidance note for the Grand Bargain localisation workstream on best partnership practice. It worked with ECHO, IFRC and the Govt of Switzerland to organise the Grand Bargain localisation workstream Global Conference in Brussels in October. After the ECHO funding ended in October, the 6 consortium agencies agreed to self-fund continuation of the programme for a further 6 months to better ensure embedding of the results. We undertook a valuable external learning review which identified important lessons for future such donor-funded multi-country consortium localisation programmes.
- 3) Participation/cash/localisation/nexus: As we highlighted in last year's Grand Bargain self-reporting, it remains a major priority of our humanitarian work to work alongside ACT Alliance, ACT Church of Sweden, DCA, Local 2 Global Protection and multiple local NGO partners such as East Jerusalem YMCA (Palestine) and ECOWEB (Philippines) to develop, pilot, roll out, learn from and advocate for our survivor and community led response approaches, that as ODI mentioned in last year's reporting seek to put communities in the driving seat of designing and delivering their own response and recovery interventions. We believe this is an important and innovative manifestation of integration of the cash, localisation, participation and nexus agendas of the Grand Bargain. Arenas in which our L2GP alliance has now tested and learnt more about sclr include oPt, Syria, Myanmar, Kenya, Haiti, Gaza, and the Philippines.

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

The global digital feedback system will vastly improve and systematise our ability to obtain, listen to, analyse, act on and record how we have acted on feedback from communities in our humanitarian action as we roll it out over time.

The ALTP partnership best practices will serve as a valuable menu for our country teams to improve the quality of the partnerships they deliver with our local and national NGO partners as well as a useful advocacy tool to encourage the rest of the system down the same track, alongside our Charter4Change localisation advocacy allies.

To replicate and scale up our sclr actions to a more substantial level, we will need to convince some progressive donors to provide additional resources to expand this work. Our sclr donor resource mobilisation strategies remain a work in progress. Over time, Christian Aid has strong ambitions to up the proportion of its humanitarian work that is delivered via sclr approaches to honour our vision to maximise the agency of affected populations and put them in the driving seat.

Question 3: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings through its implementation of the Grand Bargain?

Christian Aid's teams continue to prioritise gender and inclusion (often inseparable in our emergency projects) across differing contexts and needs.

In Bangladesh Christian Aid has put women-led civil society organisations at the heart of the emergency preparedness and planning. When Cyclone Bulbul hit, Christian Aid's partners mobilised women-led CSOs and supported them with capacity building on understanding climate change, vulnerability, adaptation, mitigation and socially defined differences among men and women. Christian Aid developed a training manual for partners with a focus on skills development for women-led organizations and integrating them with mainstream development processes. Women-led CSOs played significant roles by facilitating community consultation meetings, beneficiary selection, communication with local government and distributions in target areas. Following this work, women were able to incorporate their own strategies for immediate recovery.

In Cox's Bazar, Christian Aid partners supported the development of women and child friendly centres providing psychosocial support, training, and a safe space to meet and socialise. Community kitchens benefitted women specifically, where spices and cooking facilities were provided, along with hygiene and child nutrition advice. As part of the Protection Cluster Working Group Christian Aid helped to develop standard operating procedures for protection-related referrals.

Christian Aid's partner organisation in Indonesia, YEU, has been responding to the 2018 earthquake. YEU has been supporting access to breast and cervical cancer screening and follow up for women. After the initial needs assessment, women took part in separate focus group discussions and stated that this was an urgent priority in terms of their specific health care. Thanks to the project monitoring and verification process, it was found that only a small number of women targeted for the information sharing about the screening went on to have the procedure – mainly due to women requiring consent from their husbands to attend. YEU was then able to adapt its programming and provide awareness raising sessions on the importance of cervical and breast screening to men and religious leaders in the community. As a result, the project saw an increase in women attending screening. Christian Aid's response in Indonesia was successful in setting up robust complaints and feedback mechanisms for both male and female beneficiaries. The latest data shows that 45% of women and 54% of men participated in providing feedback on the response programme. This demonstrates that women can participate and voice their concerns equally and safely.

In Zimbabwe as part of the response to Cyclone Idai, one of Christian Aid's partners, PADARE, continues to work with men and boys to prevent and report gender-based violence. This includes raising awareness of GBV and actively identifying cases of GBV and linking them to the referral system. This has increased the number of cases reported by men in the target

areas. Christian Aid ensured that all vulnerable groups were included in the design of the Cyclone Idai response. Those groups included women, pregnant and lactating mothers, children, older people, people living with disabilities and host communities. Women and girls were consulted about their needs, the gaps, and where services could be improved and were asked for feedback on the programme design. In Buhera and Chipinge districts, project implementation committees (PIC) were established. These were built on existing structures of 'gender champions'; community-based men and women who were working to raise awareness on gender-based violence, and included representatives from the affected people, community leadership and local extension workers.

Organisationally, Christian Aid made progress this year in framing gender responsive/equality work as part of their Programme Quality Framework. A handbook was developed for Christian Aid country programme offices and partners with a whole chapter dedicated to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. This ensures partners and country programmes have a dedicated resource and guidelines to deliver gender responsive/transformational programming in emergency and development programmes.

Question 4: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments?

CA has mainstreamed the organisational Resilience Framework across its work which helps link localisation, humanitarian-development and peace into one approach. Therefore, any intervention is based on a risk informed participatory process (PVCA) as a starting point for community development. We have included DRR into development programmes to make them risk proof. Action plans developed by target communities include risk management. For example, we linked health work with resilience in the Health Legacy in Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Burundi and in the USAID CASE-OVC in Kenya. Our market work is merging Participatory Market Systems Development (PMSD) agricultural work with climate services. In humanitarian response we are exploring survivor/community-led response (sclr) paired with cash programming as a way to strengthen and not undermine community resilience and smooth transition between humanitarian and development programming. In fragile settings we have added the Integrated Conflict Prevention and Resilience methodology to make programmes conflict-sensitive and explore options to improve conflict prevention as part of resilience. Action research on this method raised some reflections on a 'localised nexus' – how local partners may engage with, and be supported in, the nexus. Being a partnership-based organisation, our resilience work is implemented by partners which strengthens our localisation commitments. The Resilience Framework has been developed based on practice and is based on participatory and inclusive PVCA, PMSD and sclr processes (Participation Rev./Needs Assessment/Gender); implemented by local partners for contextualisation and sustainability (Localisation), CHS informed (Participation Rev/Transparency). This approach has shown results by empowering communities to assess their risks (Needs Assessment) and design their interventions.

In 2019 CA has started a project to integrate conflict sensitivity into Christian Aid humanitarian action with the support of Peace Nexus. Review and learning Sessions have been conducted in DRC, South Sudan and Myanmar as well as in UK to develop an action plan for capacity building.

