

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Point of Contact (name, title, email): Petra Demarin, Senior Officer, Multilateral and IFI Partnerships, petra.demarin@ifrc.org

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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 2018?

Increase and support investment in local actors: At their 2019 statutory meetings, IFRC's members adopted a new 10 year strategy ("Strategy 2030"), which commits the network to a greater focus on the development of branches and National Societies, ensuring services are led and developed by local actors, and guaranteeing that National Societies have a stronger role in setting their own priorities and a stronger voice in any decisions being made about operations in their own territory. They also adopted a new "National Society Development Compact", which sets out a common commitment for locally-led and defined capacity strengthening work, with effective coordination among international supporters. The IFRC also continued to support the system-wide cultural changes needed for all GB signatories to achieve their localisation commitments through its co-convening of the very active localisation workstream.

The launch of the **National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA)** by the IFRC and the ICRC remains a positive example of efforts by global humanitarian actors to work with partners to build mechanisms that overcome the challenges that have made it difficult to ensure investment in well-structured and locally-led efforts to strengthen long-term capacity, helping National Societies to achieve their potential as principled humanitarian actors. The first funding round was completed in 2019 and around CHF 1.5m were allocated to ten National Societies.

Working more closely with affected communities: The Movement has increased its efforts to meet its commitments to improve how it engages with and is accountable to local communities through the Movement Commitments on Community Engagement and Accountability which were unanimously adopted as resolution at the 2019 Council of Delegates, following extensive consultations co-led by IFRC with 52 National Societies.

Even with a wealth of tools and commitments a variety of barriers and challenges still exist in institutionalizing a consistent approach that ensures that community engagement is an integral part of all responses and for all National Societies. To understand these gaps in application, the IFRC launched research titled All The Evidence We Need, which investigates the challenges that Movement members experience in institutionalizing a community-led approach and then uses this evidence to substantiate assumptions about the value and impact of community engagement and participation by providing a theory of change. IFRC also invested in building a sustainable network of 82 skilled community engagement experts (encompassing 45 nationalities, 50 per cent who are women) as part of its surge optimization process, who can be deployed in any emergency. Over 15 people were deployed in six countries in 2019.

IFRC continued to leverage the Red Cross Red Crescent's unique positioning within communities to collect and analyze different types of information from affected people (feedback, perceptions, rumors, concerns or complaints) using various tools and channels, which has elevated the voice of communities at the collective level. The large-scale IFRC community feedback system in the Ebola response in DRC has so far gathered over 530,000 individual feedback data in the form of free-text qualitative statements recorded by Red Cross volunteers, possibly the sole such extant database for an epidemic response. In Indonesia, over 2,500 individual feedback were recorded in Lombok and Sulawesi. In response, 43 weekly and bi-weekly radio shows were broadcast to the feedback collected. IFRC formally launched its feedback starter-kit which provides the basic tools to collect, analyse and visualize feedback from communities, which in turn should influence decision-making and create evidence for needed programmatic changes. The kit is publicly available for use by any humanitarian organization in any context (over 50 organizations and National Societies were briefed on how to use the kit). IFRC continues to lead this work as part of the IASC Results Group 2 workplan.

Cash Preparedness: In 2019 IFRC and its membership scaled-up the use of cash in emergency response, improving systems and tools and promoting National Societies as strong local actors that can effectively

deliver accountable and scalable cash assistance. The IFRC membership has accelerated investment in National Societies cash preparedness, supporting the cash readiness efforts of National Societies in over 40 countries and contributing to building the overall (national and local) capacity of the humanitarian sector to deliver more effective and efficient humanitarian assistance. Sharing learning, guidance and tools via the [Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Cash Hub](#).

Improved transparency through data literacy: In 2018, the IFRC launched the Data Playbook, which is a social learning tool for data literacy co-created by hundreds of people across the IFRC. The Playbook is a series of remixable content that includes games, checklists, slides, and scenario-based learning. In 2019 the project expanded to form a companion to the Playbook and includes a Microsoft Excel training called Cohorted Learning, eLearning modules called Data For Volunteers, and a research project called Decisions, Decisions. IFRC also convened a Data Literacy Consortium to connect other humanitarian actors and share best practices around data literacy. The next phase aims to reach more leaders with a new version that includes translations into multiple languages.

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

After the first **National Society Investment Alliance** funding round, ten National Societies were selected to receive funding to further strengthening their own capacities to deliver relevant and effective humanitarian services. A central theme is National Societies' desire to improve their financial sustainability and independence: the largest investments, in Lebanon and Ukraine, both seek to increase income from private sources at the national level, while in Uganda and Nigeria funds are being invested to build revenue generating commercial first-aid initiatives aiming to increase income and impact in the long-term. By providing multi-year financing and support to National Society development, NSIA provides a unique mechanism for States to deliver on commitments to localization made as part of the Grand Bargain. However, the sustainability of this important mechanism depends very much on the increased support it will receive from donors in the coming years.

The **Movement Commitments on Community Engagement and Accountability** are now recognized as policy by the Movement, and IFRC has pledged to provide technical support to National Societies in operationalizing the commitments institutionally, ensuring that providing information to communities, enabling participation of affected people and acting on feedback is an integral part of all RCRC work.

IFRC's newly adopted Strategy 2030 commits the organisation to wholesale equitable digital transformation which will include improving data and digital literacy across the network to transform the way that we work so that we are more transparent, accountable and effective in our humanitarian and development action.

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? 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.

For several years, the breadth and depth of the programmes and services of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have been captured in its [Federation-Wide Databank and Reporting System](#). In 2019, **for the first time, IFRC reviewed its performance by analysing the number of women reached by Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes, as well as the proportion of women in staff and governance.** The sex disaggregated data at all levels of the network – from leadership and governing bodies, to paid staff and volunteers, and all the way to the people reached and supported by its activities – has been analysed and the results are published in the 2019 [Everyone Counts](#) report.

At their General Assembly, the IFRC's members adopted a new Gender and Diversity Policy, thoroughly updating and modernising the network's prior Gender Policy. The new policy includes specific commitments about integrating a gender and diversity approach (rather than solely a gender-focused approach) in their institutional arrangements, programming and advocacy.

Consistent with this approach, the IFRC secretariat announced in 2019 that, **by 2028, it will have gender parity at all staffing levels**. It is also working with National Societies across the world to help them set their own targets based on their own analysis of current staffing as well as projected growth and staff turnover. [A resolution on Women and leadership in the humanitarian action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement](#) was also unanimously passed both by the Movement and by the state parties to the Geneva Conventions at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2019, with commitments related to empowering women in programming and achieving gender parity, among others.

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.

With climate change featured as a top priority for IFRC's strategy 2030 and a key focus of the International Conference, the IFRC sought to broker linkages between the humanitarian, development and climate actors in order to scale up climate action to benefit the most vulnerable people already suffering the impacts. **The IFRC co-led the development of the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)** for the United Nations Climate Action Summit, an initiative which seeks to make one billion people safer from disasters by better connecting the humanitarian, development and climate actors (including governments, international organisations, and global funds like the Green Climate Fund) and enabling a shift towards acting earlier, ahead of the impact of anticipated extreme weather events. REAP will promote the scaling up of forecast-based (FbF) and anticipatory financing mechanisms, which IFRC has been supporting in 27 countries to date.

The long-term aim of IFRC is for **Forecast-based Financing (FbF)** to become a key role and responsibility of National Societies, well-embedded into their disaster risk management processes. Setting up FbF projects support investment in creating an enabling environment and readiness to act alongside the development of Early Action Protocols. In parallel, the same investments also contribute to greater capacity for response and for DRR. Aligned with the expected growth of FbF in the network, IFRC will continue to strengthen the FbA by the DREF as its internal mechanism to enable predictable funding for early action by National Societies. Moreover, IFRC will resume its role to support National Societies to advocate for and access diverse sources of funding for early actions at different levels.

A recent success story includes the governments of the Compostela Valley, Aurora, Camarines Norte, South Leyte, West Samar and Davao Oriental provinces of the Philippines which allocated budget in their Preparedness Fund based on Early Action Protocol developed by the Philippines Red Cross. Where FbF is implemented, National Societies closely collaborate with the National Hydrometeorological Services to develop triggers for early action using hydrometeorological data. IFRC continues to co-convene, together with German Red Cross, the Climate Centre and WFP, the annual Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (formerly Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action). In 2019 the Platform convened 200 experts and practitioners from over 40 countries.

IFRC is currently collaborating with the **World Bank Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program (DRFIP)** to test the viability, efficacy and sustainability of a new financing mechanism attached to the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) including an anticipatory trigger, based on a forecast. As SEADRIF is a sovereign risk pool, such cooperation aims at strengthening cooperation and encouraging stronger and more coordinated pre-event planning, facilitating faster, more effective response between National Societies and governments.