

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

**Name of Institution: InterAction**

**Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to enable the consultants to contact you for an interview):**

**Ashley Augsburger  
Manager, Humanitarian Policy & Practice  
[AAugsburger@interaction.org](mailto:AAugsburger@interaction.org)**

**Date of Submission: February 14, 2020**

**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?**

InterAction served for the second year in a row on the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group. InterAction concentrated its engagement on areas where progress would drive overall change and realize meaningful gains, with a focus on those areas where progress is fundamental to all workstreams. InterAction has emphasized the importance of cascading efficiency and effectiveness dividends down the funding chain, ensuring greater accountability for results, and facilitating thinking and discussion on the challenges and bottlenecks that continue to stymie progress.

Throughout 2019, InterAction facilitated dialogue between NGO partners and UN agencies on aligning partnering practices with Grand Bargain commitments including on reduced reporting, increasing multi-year planning and funding, and harmonizing cost classifications. In line with these efforts, InterAction contributed feedback to and convened discussions with UNHCR on multi-year partner agreements.

With the release of InterAction's 2019 study [NGOs and Risk: Managing Uncertainty in Local-International Partnerships](#), InterAction leveraged the study findings through bilateral briefings and global webinars. The findings point to a need for co-ownership of risk and the roles donors, UN, INGOs, and L/NGOs must play in order to move towards more equitable risk sharing to ensure quality program delivery. These findings have been shared broadly with donors, used to inform a risk scenario exercises for more than 76 NGO CEOs, and disseminated in internal and external briefings for NGO teams that have reached more than 400 individual staff members, among which approximately 30% were local NGO representatives.

Following on the [CEO Pledge on Preventing Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, and Harassment by and of NGO Staff](#), InterAction continues to carry forward work to support institutional change and capabilities. [InterAction's 2019 Forum](#) included sessions on duty of care, mitigating the risk of sexual abuse throughout an organization's hierarchy, and addressing sexual harassment and discrimination through effective risk management. In conjunction with Forum, InterAction partnered with the Cigna Foundation to host a [full-day workshop](#) for 90 organizations focused on the organizational duty of care concerning sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation. The workshop targeted staff working at an operational level and promoted discussions on organizational cultural change and implementation of survivor-centered resources.

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

InterAction's work adopts longer-term change horizons through iterative and adaptive programming. This includes leveraging investments in thought leadership, such as the risk work, to continue to help organizations think, plan, and evolve to meet future challenges. Institutional evolution within InterAction's member organizations is inherently difficult to capture or measure, however there is anecdotal evidence that these efforts are advancing change.

For example, in relation to InterAction's risk work, multiple study participants have initiated internal discussions to consider [the study recommendations](#) and identify ways to adopt more equitable partnering approaches to better share risk.

In 2019, InterAction saw a significant increase in support related to the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse within the US and International NGO communities. InterAction [CEO Pledge](#) signatories grew from 126 to 138 and the dedicated working group expanded to 146 staff representing 115 organizations.

InterAction's [Results Based Protection \(RBP\) program](#), provides support at a field level and generates learning on the RBP approach, which prioritizes continuous protection analysis, , developing context-specific pathways or causal logic, program design for results and contribution across multiple sectors and disciplines. While the results of this work remain nascent, there are some initial indications that donors have begun to integrate RBP frameworks and concepts into their calls for proposals.

**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).**

In 2019, InterAction conducted a scoping exercise to determine what resources, programs, methods, and frameworks are available for evaluating the effectiveness of SGBV prevention programs. The initial scoping will inform a [framework for monitoring and evaluating SGBV prevention programs](#), which also links to commitment areas within the humanitarian-development-nexus workstream. The scoping research shows limited investments channelled to evaluating prevention activities as it relates to SGBV and a very narrow body of tools or methods to evaluate such interventions. Evaluative frameworks for SGBV prevention programs remain un-developed and this contributes to the challenges in measuring prevention. While difficult to measure a counter-factual (i.e. what didn't occur), determining an evaluative framework for prevention interventions will be crucial to identifying and scaling programs that effectively reduce risks to women and girls.

InterAction's PSEA work, which is closely related to the Participation Revolution workstream, looked at [the importance of language and culture in PSEA](#). In 2019, InterAction created a video related to PSEA that is uses accessible and plain language. The video will be launched in 2020. Additionally, InterAction began internal planning to stand up a reference group to support the upgrade of InterAction's [PSEA training package \(2013\) which is used widely in the NGO community to train and equip staff with skills to manage and mitigate sexual exploitation and abuse](#) . Earlier in 2019, InterAction also hosted a [webinar exploring the role of language in protective humanitarian action](#). That webinar looked at gender disparities related to information comprehension on simple communications and what this means for protection outcomes for affected people.

To continue to advance organizational change in relation to the CEO Pledge to Action to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Abuse, InterAction launched two funding opportunities for members and CEO Pledge signatories. In May 2019, InterAction launched [The Initiating Change grants](#). These grants, which provide up to \$15,000 over nine months, were created to support organizations to invest in small scale initiatives that facilitate their progress towards meeting the commitments of the CEO Pledge or their own strategic goals in strengthening safeguarding. InterAction received sixteen proposals, and seven organizations were awarded sub-grants. The [Piloting Solutions grants](#) were launched in July 2019 and are intended to support innovative solutions and test new approaches to prevent and respond to SHEA. In 2019, InterAction awarded \$195,000 to 11 NGOs. Due to the nature and size of these grants, InterAction designed the reporting frameworks for

simplicity with only four reporting categories. InterAction will examine how the 8+3 template can align to future reporting requirements as granting evolves.

**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.**

InterAction continues to step up its engagement with development actors particularly given their expanding interest and investments in fragile and humanitarian settings. This includes convening dialogue, facilitating information sharing between actors to inform decision making, and bringing to bear humanitarian expertise in settings where development actors are making investments. For example, InterAction facilitated discussion and information sharing with the World Bank on country level strategies and also engaged regularly with the World Bank at the global/strategic levels. For example, throughout 2019 InterAction convened dialogue and discussion between NGOs and the World Bank on the development of WB's IDP approach and its evolving Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Strategy as well as its IDA 18 Regional Sub-Window for Refugees and Host Communities. InterAction also developed and contributed significant thinking on behalf of the NGO community toward UNHCR, Member States and other stakeholders on implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (indicator development) and the arrangements for the first ever Global Refugee Forum (pledging guidance, pledging template and hosting the US Regional Consultation with UNHCR). The GCR and GCF are geared toward taking longer-term, more developmental approaches toward assisting refugees and the communities and countries that host them.

Further, InterAction continues to deepen its dialogue with non-traditional actors to exchange information and develop a common understanding of different interventions. This includes dialogue with the U.S. Department of Defense on risk associated with stabilization agendas.

In its field work, InterAction has stepped-up its consultations with both development actors and local organizations. For example, recent field research to the Philippines included consultations with local NGOs, local network such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, and other CSO coalitions. On recent protection scoping mission in Honduras, InterAction organized dedicated consultation with local NGOs and civil society groups to understand from their perspective how local organizations perceive and respond to levels of violence in Honduras. The underpinning goal was to ensure that any investment in additional resources to the Northern Triangle would be informed by local perspectives, needs and response capabilities.

Lastly, in November, InterAction convened 26 NGOs to galvanize discussion and leadership related to climate change and sustainability. The workshop was designed to explore how to integrate understanding of climate change and environmental sustainability into NGO operations, organizations and programs. The workshop recommendations provide an initial framing to encourage NGOs to initiate thinking about their own environmental impact, and how to adapt programs and operations for the future.