

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

Name of Institution:

NEAR

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

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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?

NEAR (Network for Empowered Aid Response) is the only signatory to the Grand Bargain that directly channels the voice of NGOs from the Global South. NEAR is a non-operational actor, not implementing projects or directly delivering assistance to communities. Given NEAR's unique position, the network has focused its resources on being active in the localization work stream – and NEAR's commitments to the Grand Bargain are most in line with the localization work stream commitments.

Following are a few examples of results achieved by NEAR in 2019:

1 – Advocacy: Support Local and National NGOs engagement in the Workstream 2, Localization:

NEAR has taken a more active role in 2019, working with the localization workstream, by engaging with strong voices from local and national NGOs and ensuring a space. The network mobilised local and national NGOs and actors for a series of three workstream regional conferences (Asia, Africa, and Middle East), by organising and coordinating pre-conference meetings the day prior each conference, supporting different NGOs when and where required, and organising and coordinating post conference meetings and calls to continue the learning and ensure mobilization. This was done in cooperation with Charter4Change. More broadly, we have actively contributed in designing, shaping, moderating each of regional conferences, ensuring a balance of case studies and engagement of local and national NGOs. We have also contributed to the shaping of the outputs and preparations of the global conference.

As a representative of local and national NGOs in the Global South, NEAR has dedicated its time and resources of the Grand Bargain to focus on the localization workstream, thus far. During the final 18 months of the Grand Bargain, NEAR will begin to engage in other workstreams and coordinate with the Facilitation group based on its membership priorities and resources.

2- Innovative Financing & Organizational Sharing:

Since the inception of the Grand Bargain, as a nascent network, NEAR primarily focused its efforts on programmatic work, but in 2019, NEAR has begun to formalize itself and put down roots. NEAR Secretariat and Leadership Council have begun to formalize its governance structure and establish working groups in order to be able to more effectively advance the interest of its members (and

ultimately to expand its membership). Among the priority action items set by its leadership, NEAR continues to support its members and Global South civil society in fundraising and establishing national funds. NEAR has begun to work with members in Somalia and Nepal – both of which received financial and design assistance in 2018 (in line with Grand Bargain commitment 2.6). Another strategic action item is to continue to develop and launch a South to South learning platform in order to build and advance the institutional capacity of network members (which is in line with the core and other commitments of the localization workstream). After a limited testing period, its next iteration will feature webinars, evidence-based learning, tools (such as template policies), and online working groups for exchanges around specific subjects or matters.

3- Evidence Based Research: Testing NEAR's Localisation Performance Measurement Framework

NEAR began to pilot its Localisation Performance Measurement Framework (LPMF), its purpose to evidence progress made towards achieving localisation commitments. While our primary audience is local and national NGOs, the tool also targets International NGOs, UN agencies and donors as well as research and academic institutions that are studying or evaluating localisation. The development of the LPMF has been guided by the aspiration to offer an approach that is clear, practical, and that can assist in strengthening the evidence base for localisation and advance a common understanding of the progress that is being made towards achieving this, as well as identifying areas of weakness. The aim is to encourage measurement and research as a means of developing evidence on the progress of localisation and support local and national NGOs to engage and grow awareness. Piloting of the LPMF is currently being rolled out in Bangladesh, Kenya, and Somalia, with technical assistance from Action Against Hunger (ACF).

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

With respect to the first result described above, it is expected that NEAR will, over the long-term, provide opportunities for its membership to further develop their capacity in multi-dimensional ways, so that their collective *and* individual voices are heard and they will be able to independently advocate for their needs and access direct financial resources for their daily work.

Regarding result 2, the LMPF is intended for stakeholders in the humanitarian sector – local and national NGOs, international NGOs, UN agencies, and donors – to reflect on their achievements and shortcomings with respect to localisation agenda, and begin finding ways to change their behaviour, beliefs, and practices so as to better achieve medium-term localization targets.

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.

Although NEAR has not undertaken any specific initiative with respect to gender equality and women’s empowerment, NEAR continues to consider the gender perspective in its daily work – such as expanding its Leadership Council to achieve gender balance (currently NEAR’s Leadership Council is comprised of 38 percent women), or setting guidelines in national funds for advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the target countries.

In 2019, through our partnership with Women Deliver, NEAR engaged and participated in their Women Deliver 2019 Conference. This partnership is ongoing and focussed on capacity building and advocacy.

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.

Because NEAR is not an implementing body, this question is not relevant to the network.

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