
Grand Bargain in 2019
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: *Relief International*

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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 2018?

- 1) In 2019, RI works extensively on its CASH portfolio growth and quality. While we looked into our tools and mechanism to support our country teams with their CASH programming, we championed CASH in many of our operations like Iran and Lebanon. RI employs the cash toolkit and systematically assess feasibility of cash modalities in all responses.
- 2) In 2019, RI launched its global MEL database to allow for appropriate data analysis practices and collection of quarterly People Reached data. This contributed to establishment of comprehensive and effective oversight at a global level of project progress toward indicators and ability to track global indicators and provides better oversight into where and how we reach people in fragile settings (according to gender, sector, child/adult)
- 3) In 2019, RI developed its position paper on Nexus programming and its approach to protracted humanitarian crisis and how to make sure elements of development are integrated into these types of programming.
- 4) In 2019, RI continued to focus on the four elements of the RI Way: Local Participation, Partnership, Integration (across RI's main sectors), and Civic Skills as our guiding principles for improving program quality and advancing long-term dignity and well-being of the communities we work with. The minimum standards for these are developed and rolled out in RI.

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

The results of aforementioned outcomes have already been translated into country level and global practices. RI's cash portfolio is growing and along with that, our partners and national stakeholders are becoming more acquainted with CASH programming and support us in developing stronger systems for CASH programming. RI has now a stronger MEL data base that not only contributes to better oversight, but

also increases our global transparency on RI's work ability to track RI programs and their impact. We are also now able to disaggregate data by gender in all proposals and reports, with gender specific indicators and targets; use of vulnerability criteria systematically including gender and looking at intersectionality.

With Emergency preparedness standards in place and executed at regional and country levels, RI is better positioned to use its resources and capabilities to shrink humanitarian needs over the long term and tries to introduce elements of nexus programming into our daily work.

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).

Gender considerations are strategically mainstreamed across Relief International's programming in all of our core sectors.

RI developed gender equality programming guidelines which includes gender equality analysis. Efforts are made to include gender analysis in assessments when possible, or, at a minimum to ensure that the assessment captures gender-based barriers for women and girls to access services and exercise their rights.

Safeguarding and protection considerations included in the majority of our work; target and indicators are gender segregated and reported against. Also, RI is looking at specific strategies/ incentives to attract, retain and support professional growth of female national staff, particularly in managerial positions. Capacity building provided to local committees promotes the inclusion of women in these committees. Specific capacity building activities target women and girls, in particular for enhanced livelihoods/ food security and agency of girls. An example of this is RI's economic opportunities program in Afghanistan where female members of household – usually bread winners- are trained and supported to establish and run their small businesses or the girls' education programs we are running in Pakistan and Somalia.

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

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

When it comes into Nexus programming, RI is not starting from scratch. We have many tools, processes and principles that support a Nexus approach – although we might use different terminology.

- ✿ RI promotes a “Systems Approach” to program design and implementation. This tool helps us understand both short term and long term needs and the overall system in which goods and services are delivered to the communities we partner with.
- ✿ The RI Way includes fostering Civic Skills, which we see as a critical force behind long-term development and stability. Working in fragile settings, RI strives to “bridge the humanitarian development divide” by strengthening systems and community engagement, contributing to resilience and overall preparedness.
- ✿ As a signatory to the Grand Bargain, RI has already reviewed some commitments to strengthening the Nexus.

However, in an attempt to institutionalize the concept more, RI has developed a position paper and is in the process of developing its nexus programming guideline for the field teams to follow. As RI considers a more strategic and intentional approach to the Nexus, here are three ways that we look at design and implementation of Nexus programs:

- Single programs that encompass the Nexus
- Parallel programs that complement the work of other actors (i.e. utilizing our comparative advantage)
- Transitional programs that shift deliberately from addressing immediate humanitarian needs to longer-term development or peace needs.

In these programs, Nexus essentials and any components of quality programming are taken into account including:

- **A Systems Approach** to context analysis → by understanding a system, we can look at addressing immediate needs while quickly understanding dynamics that must improve to secure long-term peace and development for communities and other actors in the system and plan the interventions accordingly.
- **Coordination** with local authorities, partners, clusters and other stakeholders → to ensure a response is based on the comparative advantages of different actors; covers needs holistically; transitions smoothly and without gaps; and demonstrates information sharing and advocacy.

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- **Funding** to resource better flexibility and planning → this could be funding that is adaptable to changing needs part-way through a project's lifecycle, and/or longer-term multi-year grants that allow us to plan and implement more complex, multi-layered Nexus programs.
 - **Working in partnership** with the community → to understand their relevant needs and engage them actively / learn from them in program design and implementation - thus making more sustainable progress toward underlying peace and development goals.