

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

**Name of Institution: Syria Relief**

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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?**

Syria Relief has strived to the best of our ability to support the three relevant workstreams that are linked to our operations, namely the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> which are as follows:

Regarding workstream 2, which covers the desire for more support and funding for local and national responders, Syria Relief has continued our capacity development efforts for local CBOs and other Syrian civil society actors, in addition to the transferring of funds. Syria Relief believes strongly in the strength of localisation and strives to advocate for and practice it throughout our work. Thus, Syria Relief has begun several initiatives, such as:

1. Training on operational topics to support local CBOs and other civil society actors to establish the strong foundations that will allow them to secure funding from institutional donors, covering topics such as finance management, grant management, supply chain management, project management and partnerships management
2. Developing policies and procedures for those local CBOs and civil society actors in finance management, procurement management and project management, to ensure that the knowledge gained through our training is well utilised by organisations within their internal systems.
3. Launching Sphere 2018 in Arabic for the local CBOs working in the North of Syria for 5 days. This helped local CBOs ensure the best quality of their activities.
4. Conducting technical training for field medical staff working alongside local CBOs on specific health topics.
5. Transferring funds to local civil society actors to implement projects, despite Syria Relief being a subrecipient from prime donors. Even though this represents less <10% of the total funds received, this shows an organisational improvement and it will continue to increase year-on-year.

With reference to workstream 3, which covers the need to increase the use and coordination of cash, Syria Relief is working with partners (of whom we are the main recipient from prime donors) to conduct more cash and voucher distribution projects that were successfully implemented by Syria Relief to allow beneficiaries to freely select the items they most need. In addition to the development of clear procedures for voucher programming and participating in trainings lead by the CTWG, including Syria Relief.

Regarding workstream 5, which covers the need to improve joint and impartial needs assessments, Syria Relief has, along with other agencies, joined the Syria Multisectoral Needs Assessment led by OCHA and have been an active member for several years. This has aided the Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview's Annual Report. Syria Relief strongly believes in the ability for joint needs assessments to help fully and most efficiently utilise resources, as well as sharing

experience and knowledge with others. In addition to that, Syria Relief has supported other partners (as the main recipient from prime donors) with specific needs assessment conducted collaboratively with a number of NGOs in locations around North West Syria.

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

Syria Relief has adopted the localisation as a strategic goal within our three years strategy plan to ensure that we support local civil society actors at every opportunity. Syria Relief is benefiting from our memberships in Charter 4 Change, NEAR Network and local for a to deliver the voice of the local CBOs and actors to reach the design makers. Syria Relief is also developing its local partnering policy and procedures to reflect the Grand Bargain commitment as actions. With these new policies and procedures, local civil society actors will see a greater benefit.

**Question 3: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment<sup>1</sup> 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.

Syria Relief has participated in the clusters' gender planning events and have been selected as the gender focal point for some of them, such as WASH. Gender is now a crosscutting theme within Syria Relief's programmes, as we are striving to ensure that, throughout the project cycle, gender equality is reflected. Within the health and nutrition activities that Syria Relief is implementing, we have GBV centres to support women and girls as much as possible and we have similar goals for empowering activities through those centres as well. Within WASH, we are trying to raise awareness through sessions for gender equality, in addition to the other water and hygiene training. In the schools that we operate, gender is always mainstreamed to allow girls to participate more in education.

**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.

Syria Relief is not only responding to the urgent needs of the vulnerable people inside Syria and the neighbouring countries. Syria Relief is shifting to the next level of the response from just providing the essential humanitarian assistance such as distribution of aid (food, water, tents and non-food items) to more mid-term and early recovery support (such as rehabilitation of water sources, sewage networks

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

and public services buildings). We hope that we can start moving to long-term reconstruction and development interventions like improving health and other community infrastructures , etc).