

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: UK Department for International Development

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Date of Submission: 14 February 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?

The [UK Humanitarian Reform Policy](#) sets out our commitment to a more efficient and effective humanitarian system, and the importance of the Grand Bargain in achieving this. In 2019, we continued to focus on the commitments we see as critical to transformative change, and where the UK can add greatest value. These are 1) Transparency and Joint Needs Assessment (JNA), 2) Cash and 3) Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).

The UK has worked with other donors to put better and more transparent data, joint needs assessment and prioritisation at the heart of the reform of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). We continued to collaborate with OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) on a pilot to use IATI to provide timely and complete returns on all our humanitarian funding. We aim to have all DFID funding on FTS through IATI by mid-2020. We have encouraged other donors to do the same in order to provide the comparable data needed to improve funding allocations and response planning.

In June 2019, the UK submitted a joint donor letter to the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals setting out seven recommendations to improve data, JNA, prioritisation and AAP within the HPC. Our collective influencing has been supported by the Payment by Results (PbR) approach to DFID's core funding to UN humanitarian agencies. This includes PbR indicators on transparency (publication to the IATI standard) and the quality of Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs), including the extent to which they demonstrate they have been informed by JNAs. Our approach has informed the scoring criteria of HNOs and HRPs, leading to better data and needs assessments and improved prioritisation and quality in the HPC.

To scale-up quality cash assistance, in 2019, the UK focused on driving donor alignment to deliver change on-the-ground. We worked with our counterparts to secure agreement of the [Joint Donor Statement](#) (JDS) on cash, and we are now working with our fellow JDS signatories to put the principles in the statement into practice, with pilots in Bangladesh and Nigeria. The pilots encompass collaboration with our UN and NGO partners in the Common Cash System and Collaborative Cash Delivery Network, in Bangladesh and Nigeria respectively.

The UK has continued to push an ambitious agenda on AAP, expanding our funding to specialist technical organisations (Ground Truth Solutions and REACH) and our engagement with the IASC Results Group on Accountability and the Participation Revolution Workstream, as well as sharing our Humanitarian Guidance Note on AAP with other donors. Outcomes at the country-level include on-going data collection on perceptions and accountability in South Sudan, resulting in an AAP dashboard which allows the HCT to monitor perceptions on a regular basis and adapt the response accordingly.

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

The UK's work on data and needs assessment in 2019 contributed to driving long-term institutional change in the humanitarian system, with a focus on how partners work together to prioritise aid for those who need it the most. This is evidenced by the increased use of Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNAs), with 10 countries undertaking an MSNA in the development of their 2020 HNOs. DFID also commissioned independent monitoring and

evaluation of its PbR results framework for UN agencies and found significant progress on JNA. Improvements in HNOs were seen in 14 countries and HRP were found to be well prioritised, in line with JNAs, in 11 countries. Our support for improved inter-sector analysis is leading to better targeting and prioritisation of assistance in the 2020 HPC, with more precision in the identification of groups of people and geographic areas in greatest need.

Through our policy engagement on cash, DFID is helping to shift the narrative from why we should scale-up cash, to how we can do cash better, to empower affected people and encourage broader change in how agencies collaborate to deliver aid. As a Co-Convenor of the Grand Bargain Cash Workstream, we continue to facilitate the technical and policy discussions needed to do this. Moreover, the JDS pilots in Bangladesh and Nigeria were selected to maximise institutional change by harnessing synergies with the efforts of the UN, NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In all crises, we continue to learn from and adapt our programmes, recently commissioning longitudinal analysis of outcomes from cash in Jordan, for example.

We are driving change on AAP by bringing the voices of affected people into the institutional architecture. The Global Humanitarian Overview now has a section on AAP, and we are working towards HRP that are adequately grounded in the views of affected people. We are also supporting efforts to ensure that HCTs have the information and analysis needed to make effective decisions based on the priorities of affected people. Eight countries now have indicators on perceptions included in their HRP, including CAR and Iraq, a direct result of DFID support. In South Sudan, our support is enabling the HCT to act based on the views of affected people in real time.

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?

The UK considers the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to be integral to ensuring the humanitarian system is as effective, efficient and accountable as possible. DFID's approach to integrating gender equality within humanitarian action is captured in our [Strategic Vision for Gender Equality](#) and the UK Humanitarian Reform Policy. This approach has been at the heart of our delivery on the Grand Bargain commitments, for example on:

- **Localisation – DFID provides £21m to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women which supports women's rights organisations dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls, including in crises.**
- **Cash – DFID's What Works in Preventing GBV programme delivered research on cash and gender relations in north-east Syria, providing important insights for programme adaptation and design.** In November 2019, we announced a £67.6m second phase of the programme which will strengthen evidence on prevention of and response to VAWG, with a focus on conflict and humanitarian crises.
- **JNA – DFID supported WHO to build a global monitoring framework for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in crises.** This will be finalised in 2020. We are matching our support for monitoring with support for response, expanding Gender-Based

Violence (GBV) and SRHR programming for women and girls affected by crises, including through increased funding to UNFPA in crises in Bangladesh and Syria.

- **AAP – DFID is working with partners to drive forward system-wide accountability for GBV protection and response, serving as Co-Chair of the States and Donors Working Group for the Call to Action to Protect Women and Girls in Emergencies** and as a member of the Global Steering Committee for the GBV Accountability Framework. DFID also chairs the SRHR in Crises Donor Group.
- **Quality funding – We ensure that UK aid-funded organisations place gender equality at the centre of their work, in compliance with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014.** An evaluation of DFID’s multi-year humanitarian funding highlighted the need for more transformative approaches to gender relations as well as the limits of what humanitarian action can achieve. We are also testing innovative approaches to improving sexual and reproductive health services for crisis-affected populations through our £42m UK Aid Connect programme and have commissioned new research on Ending Child Marriage before, during and after crises.

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

The UK continues to support the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by trying to invest through development channels where possible, and humanitarian ones only when needs would otherwise not be met. In 2019, DFID used a blend of humanitarian, development and peace investments in 19 countries affected by protracted crises. In 18 of those, DFID implemented development programmes in at least two sectors to support long-term interventions for crisis-affected people. The following are selected examples of UK efforts to mainstream the nexus in our implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments:

- **Localisation – In 2019, the UK invested in social protection in more than 20 countries, helping to strengthen national systems to strengthen the resilience of poor and vulnerable people.** Through its Better Assistance in Crises programme (BASIC), DFID provided technical advisory services to increase the use of social protection approaches in crises, focusing particularly on fragile states. In Iraq, we supported the creation of a Government-chaired Social Protection Forum, bringing humanitarian cash and development partners together with the Government of Iraq. At the global level, DFID Co-Convenes the Grand Bargain Sub-Workstream on Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash.
- **JNA – The UK is supporting the £8.3m multi-donor Better Aid in Conflict facility in South Sudan.** This facility supports international efforts in South Sudan to be conflict-sensitive, providing donors and partners with high-quality advice, coaching and technical support. Through this investment DFID has been able to reduce risks and maximise opportunities for peace in its much large humanitarian portfolio in the country.
- **Quality funding – DFID supported a study on what wider policy shifts in humanitarian-action and development cooperation mean for our efforts to prevent and reduce under-nutrition in protracted crises.** The research is based on the premise that saving lives and meeting immediate needs in crises often overwhelms available resources, leaving insufficient funding to address underlying vulnerabilities to malnutrition.