

UN Women Grand Bargain Annual Report

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?

Localization— UN Women strengthened partnerships with local women's rights organizations around a gender transformative localization global agenda (through the regional consultations in Addis Ababa, Amman and Jakarta in close partnership with Friends of Gender Group). Consultations with over 90 local women's organizations resulted in identification of common priorities in relation to global advocacy on gender transformative localization in close partnership with the Localization Workstream co-conveners and members. Beyond its global advocacy and convening of the Informal Friends of Gender Group, UN Women strengthened its partnerships and interventions on strengthening institutional capacities of local women's organizations and networks to play a leading role and influence prioritization and strategic direction of humanitarian planning processes, local and national government DRR policies and frameworks in various countries including Colombia, Uganda, Turkey, Bangladesh, Kenya.

Cash – UN Women took the lead on building the capacity and shared understanding of the importance of integrating gender into cash-based strategies and interventions, though the development and publication of two key resources. Firstly, there was the discussion paper on [The Effect of Cash-Based Interventions on Gender Outcomes in Development and Humanitarian Settings](#) which presented an overview of the latest research on cash transfers, gender protection, and empowerment outcomes. Secondly, the guidance note on [How to Promote Gender Equality in Humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance](#), which provides hands on, practical guidance on how to effectively gender integrated CVA into humanitarian responses.

Building on its research and evidence building and to further promote its advocacy messages, UN Women also facilitated a Gender and Cash Workshop in Washington DC, in collaboration with CARE International which was attended by more than 40 stakeholders and came up with recommendations for the Cash Workstream. In addition, UN Women cohosted a side-event at the 2019 CSW on *Leveraging Cash Transfers to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence at Scale – Promise And Potential From Research Around The Globe* to highlight best practice and proven results from around the world.

Joint gender-responsive needs assessment and humanitarian planning – Due to the high demand and to ensure the maximum distribution of the IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action (2018), UN Women launched the [online version](#) of the handbook in Arabic, English, French and Spanish in 2019. This provided the worldwide humanitarian system access to practical guidance and examples on the integration of gender into all aspects of the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC), including needs assessments and humanitarian planning. In addition, direct training on HPC gender integration was provided to over 100 humanitarian staff from various UN, INGO, LNGO agencies in Turkey, Vanuatu, and Libya, as well as regional trainings in Asia and Eastern Africa.

In relation to country programming, UN Women contributed to strengthened gender analysis and partnerships over gender responsive needs assessments and data collection; as well as institutional strengthening among humanitarian actors, CSOs and government officials in gender responsive methodologies and tools in Opt, Myanmar, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria and South Sudan.

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

Localization- UN Women/Friends of Gender Group led advocacy on gender transformative localization resulted in concrete recommendations on changes in Grand Bargain signatory institutional practices in relation to financing and contributing to strengthening capacities of local women's rights organizations and networks. At country level and part of its normative and coordination work UN Women engages in policy dialogue with HCT members and local women's organizations on entry points to increase funding and enable the engagement of local women's organizations in humanitarian planning processes.

Cash –While there is emerging evidence from the development sector to suggest that cash transfers can positively impact women and girls across an array of protection and empowerment dimensions, the results are often mixed and poorly understood. The evidence base on gender and cash in humanitarian settings, where the use of cash is on the rise, is even more limited. Without proper gender considerations, there is a concern that cash transfers may fail to reach those left furthest behind, potentially limiting rather than generating opportunity for greater gender-transformative change.

UN Women's resource contributions and advocacy efforts are intended to further the discourse and build the evidence base for the merits of gender integration in the further enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of cash and voucher-based programming.

Joint gender-responsive needs assessment and humanitarian planning – UN Women's efforts to build the capacity of the humanitarian system on how to integrate gender into needs assessments and response planning is part of its long term strategy of working with the system to deliver on its gender in humanitarian action commitments and roles and responsibilities. In addition to its resource development and training outputs, UN Women monitors the crisis context deliverables, including the HNOs and HRPs at the field level to assess the degree that response plans and prioritization are based on gender analysis and the use of sex and age disaggregated data. This is done through the [IASC Gender Accountability Framework](#), which UN Women completed the first report on in 2019 covering the planning documents developed in 2018 (findings showed 90% of HNOs had gender analysis, 56% had adequate use of SADD but only 46% had both). UN Women continues to strive to embed long term institutional change on how the humanitarian system integrates gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls into its coordination and planning processes at country level, including in relation to resilience and refugee responses, humanitarian response plans and DRR policies and plans at local and national level.

Participation revolution: UN Women supported programmes and strategic interventions on promoting gender responsive participation and women's leadership in crisis contexts have resulted in strengthened engagement of women and girls in camp management, national and local level decision making processes in countries like Myanmar, Haiti, Colombia, Mozambique and others.

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?

One of the key highlights of UN Women's work on the Grand Bargain has been the strengthened advocacy and scaled up partnerships and collaboration enabled through the Friends of Gender Group

coordinated initiatives. The focus has been on 4 priority workstreams: localization, participation revolution, cash and harmonized needs assessments.

Achieved through:

- Strategic engagement with priority workstreams co-conveners and members to scale up institutional commitments to GEEWG-Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls around common advocacy priorities;
- Strengthened commitments to gender responsive localisation emerging from the regional conferences on localisation of aid organised by the workstream co-conveners;
- Increased visibility of the work led by gender and cash sub workstream (with Care and UN Women acting as co-chairs) through statements and presentations in global events on cash and voucher assistance: for example, through participation in the Cash meeting in Rome (May 2019); and expanded expertise on the gender implications of CVA in crisis settings, increased availability of evidence as well as strengthened identification of evidence gaps and research to further inform the development and roll out of gender and cash interventions at country level.
- Increased knowledge/awareness on GEEWG related issues through the production of widely owned tools for enhanced capacity and awareness on issues related to GEEWG in the context of Grand Bargain priority workstreams.

Partnerships fostered by the FOGG in 2019 with workstream co-conveners and members, are expected to expand with time, therefore sustaining the advancement of the GEEWG agenda through Grand Bargain related processes and initiatives. Furthermore, it is expected that the FOGG's knowledge products will be further disseminated and socialized with key humanitarian stakeholders fostering discussions on the practical application of relevant Grand Bargain commitments and implications for transformation of signatory institutional practices, tools and initiatives on GEEWG.

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

UN Women continues to incorporate gender equality considerations across its global and field level work on the humanitarian, peace and security, and development nexus.

At the global level, UN Women advocated for a continued focus on the needs of refugee women and girls in the consultations and deliberations for the 2019 Global Forum for Refugees, ensuring they were in keeping with the gender focused language of the Global Compact on Refugees. Specifically, UN Women provided guidance documents across the focus areas, namely burden and responsibility sharing, energy and infrastructure, education, solutions, jobs and livelihoods and protection capacity.

Gender considerations over the humanitarian-development nexus has been mainstreamed across the different initiatives of the Friends of Gender Group, especially in relation to localisation, cash and needs assessments workstream engagement and advocacy. Consultations with local women's organizations on advancing gender responsive localization have highlighted the role that these organizations play along the Nexus and have resulted in in-depth discussions on strategies and funding sources that Grand Bargain signatories are using to support local women's organizations. Local women's organizations have enriched the FOGG's global advocacy messaging by sharing their concerns and realities, which cut across the nexus as they are often working before, during and after humanitarian crises take place. Women's

and women's groups increased leadership and participation in humanitarian action, peace-building and development efforts is a precursor for effective, accountable and sustainable strategies. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is an area of work that spans across the nexus divisions as it can create conditions that improve the preparedness, response to and resilience among crisis affected populations.

Similarly, the global advocacy of Friends of Gender Group also highlighted the need to improve the quality and extent of needs assessments, data collection and analysis along the Humanitarian-Development and Peace Nexus to inform strategic frameworks, policies and responses in countries in protracted crisis. Furthermore, the global advocacy on cash and voucher assistance highlights the need for social protection system transformation to respond to the needs of women and girls, men and boys along the nexus. At the same time, UN Women -through its operational mandate- advances commitments to gender equality and empowerment of crisis affected women and girls along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in more than 40 countries, including Mali, Fiji, Turkey, South Sudan, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Haiti.