

Grand Bargain in 2019:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: UNFPA

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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?

Since the agreement of the Grand Bargain in 2016, UNFPA has undertaken a number of structural changes to align its humanitarian actions with the Grand Bargain commitments.

In terms of localisation and participation, UNFPA continues to allocate a significant portion of its humanitarian funds to local and national responders – 38.6 % in 2019. Through the 25 % benchmark set for CERF funding and the corporate financial monitoring system, UNFPA monthly monitors country performance towards fast disbursement to implementing partners. Overall, UNFPA allocates an average rate of support costs for all IPs at 6,9%.

UNFPA is the global lead of the Gender-based violence (GBV) Area of Responsibility (AoR), the forum for coordination on GBV prevention and response under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee cluster approach in humanitarian settings. At the beginning of 2019, the GBV AoR launched the revised Coordination Handbook which provides information to strengthen operational effectiveness and includes guidance on inclusion, preparedness for natural disasters, partnerships with Women Led Organizations (WLOs), and engaging adolescents. In addition, in 2019 UNFPA together with partners launched the new inter-agency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming, a tool to enhance localization. When assessing the need for the standards, it was clear that they should help strengthen community/local involvement in GBV response. Local NGOs, including WLOs, have conveyed that the standards will be a useful tool for informing their work with survivors.

UNFPA is a founding member and chairs the [Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund](#) (WPHF) that allows women's grassroots organizations to access key funds for humanitarian and peace-related projects. In 2019, the number of donors including from the private sector supporting WPHF increased, as well as the number of WLO submitting applications for WPHF. WLOs in among others Jordan, Colombia, Iraq, Burundi, the DRC, Mali, the Pacific, and Palestine received key funds from WPHF to support the women's participation in decision making, give voice to protection concerns, and build their leadership and resilience in local communities.

Cash-based programming can when delivered correctly improve women's choice and access to essential sexual and reproductive services in a dignified manner, build resilience, reduce gender inequalities and violence and empower women and girls. In 2019, UNFPA made cash-based assistance in DRC and expanded its cash-based programming in Egypt to provide emergency CBA to around 900 refugees and asylum seekers subjected to GBV. UNFPA's support complements the package of services offered in safe spaces and addresses emergency and intermediate cash assistance that can be lifesaving and an important determinant in the future path of the survivor. Moreover, in East Africa, the GBV AoR has been working closely with WFP to better integrate women and protection issues into cash programming across the clusters.

As regards transparency and quality funding, UNFPA continues to fulfil and improve humanitarian funding reporting requirements using the IATI shared open-data standard as well as common data visualization

platforms. In line with its commitment on transparency, UNFPA has also further refined its reporting through the [UNFPA Transparency Portal](#) and the UNFPA's interactive data portal on its external website.

UNFPA has set up a *pooled* funding mechanism - the Humanitarian Action Thematic Fund - to provide donors with the opportunity to effectively channel un-earmarked or softly-earmarked contributions and throughout 2019 worked with donors to increase this as overall share of total humanitarian funding.

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

UNFPA worked to ensure that localisation is institutionalized in humanitarian prevention and response to address the needs of women and girls. The GBV AoR, under the leadership of UNFPA, continues to grow in membership and outreach. The Coordination Team now includes nine regional emergency advisors working in five regions who focus on strategic thinking, ongoing capacity building, and partnerships with local organizations, including WLOs. The UNFPA and the GBV AoR, as a partner of Call to Action on Protection from GBViE, led on the implementation of two National Roadmaps in DRC and Nigeria, bringing global efforts to the country level and engaging government authorities and WLOs into the Call to Action to ensure their voices are heard. In addition, UNFPA and GBV AoR have initiated academic partnership in Nigeria and Nairobi to prepare a new cohort of GBV professionals from the South.

UNFPA is also institutionalizing transparency and quality funding measures. Through internal reforms UNFPA is making its programming and budgeting more transparent, notably through the GPS and the Transparency Portal. In 2019, its first year of operation, UNFPA's Humanitarian Action Thematic Fund (HTF) disbursed more than \$2.5 million to provide immediate and long-term assistance in Colombia, Niger, the Philippines, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Turkey, Uganda and the Venezuela regional response. Canada, Denmark, Norway, and the Republic of Korea made contributions to the fund. The HTF operates in line with the commitment under the Grand Bargain to deliver flexible financing, reduce administrative costs, simplify reporting requirements, and enhance synergies between humanitarian and development work.

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? (please outline specific initiatives or changes in practice and their outcomes/results).

UNFPA's core mandate in humanitarian response revolves around the provision of sexual and reproductive health services to persons in need and the prevention of and response to GBV. While these initiatives affect all populations, they are especially important to women and girls, who are particularly in need of, for example, family planning and maternal health services and who are disproportionately subject to gender discrimination and violence in emergencies. UNFPA has therefore taken the lead among UN agencies in ensuring that the needs of women and girls are included in all humanitarian response plans and that these needs are prioritized in any response. Gender considerations are at the forefront of UNFPA humanitarian interventions.

Local women's groups and institutions at the national level are the primary recipients of UNFPA grants and for capacity building. Importantly, UNFPA has instituted in its humanitarian programs consultation with the women and girls affected by crisis to ensure that their needs are understood and that the response reflects those needs - and that they have a voice in program delivery. The engagement of affected women is a guiding principle in UNFPA's GBV in emergencies minimum standards and is core to UNFPA's programmes and can be seen clearly in Syria, in refugee countries affected by the Syria crisis, in Iraq, in Nigeria, and in Cox's Bazar.

UNFPA is the lead agency of the GBV AoR. At this year's Global Protection Cluster Annual Meeting, representatives from WLOs were included, and throughout 2019, three regional workshops were held as part of a focus on localization in Coordination. The aim is to support leadership and increase Co-Coordination of the Sub-Clusters by local women actors.

In 2019, UNFPA together with Norway and other partners co-chaired an international conference 'Ending Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Crises' to highlight the need for a stronger focus on GBV prevention and response in humanitarian responses.

In 2019, UNFPA with UN Women carried out a study analyzing the humanitarian funding flows allocated to humanitarian interventions focusing on women and girls. The study is making clear recommendations on improving the GAM marker and FTS reporting, including tracking mechanism for funding allocated to WLOs.

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.

UNFPA has longstanding development programmes in about 150 countries. UNFPA is on the ground, before, during and after crises. In 2019, UNFPA took further steps during the launch of CCA/UNSDCF process to ensure that humanitarian issues from preparedness and recovery perspectives are mainstreamed in UNFPA's work and that nexus-focused programming is well established. UNFPA will be focusing on strengthening results-based management approach for nexus programming including the related indicators to show progress.

Since humanitarian work is mainstreamed in UNFPA strategic plan (2018-2021), all UNFPA country programmes have been dedicating resources and capacity to support humanitarian action when needed. In 2019, UNFPA continued to invest in capacity building in development planning on the Minimum Initial Service Package for SRH and GBV to pave the way for better crisis response and transition to recovery, all in the contexts of health system resilience. Much of UNFPA's SRH and GBV emergency programming is informed by pre-emergency work.