

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: UNHCR

Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to enable the consultants to contact you for an interview):

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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

In 2019, UNHCR achieved its commitment to provide 25% of its programme expenditure to local/national partners. As of June 2019, all UNHCR's local implementing partners receive 4% of their contract amounts as their indirect support cost, something that was allocated only to int'l NGOs at 7% in the past. For the first time, NGO consultations were held at the regional level (Amman in June and in Pretoria in September), in line with UNHCR's decentralization movement with all regional bureau now located in the field.

Cash

UNHCR has met its commitment to double cash-based intervention (CBI) from the 2015 baseline of 11%. In 2019, over 25% of UNHCR's programme expenditure was for CBI (preliminary figures pending closure of the accounts).

Management Cost

UNHCR reduced its indirect support cost from 7% to 6.5%. All voluntary earmarked financial contributions (except for the operational reserve and JPOs) are subject to this cost.

Quality funding and transparency

To provide the most current funding data in a transparent manner, UNHCR continued to upgrade its reporting and transparency portal [Global Focus](#) which now includes a range of dashboards offering information on budget and income, as well as new situation reports (the term "situation" is used when referring to numerous countries that are housing the same refugee group, i.e. the Syria situation). Greater details are now presented in these situational updates, including operational context, population groups as well as funding details. This increased function was one of the reasons that a government donor has decided to keep its situational earmarking, in lieu of country level earmarking.

The summary of UNHCR's funding received in 2019, using Grand Bargain earmarking scale (except for CERF, where UNHCR considers it as tightly earmarked) is accessible on:

http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Funding%20Overview%207%20January%202020_0.pdf

Since 2019, UNHCR operations can enter into multi-year partnership agreements with or without having multi-year funding. Increasing number of operations are entering into such agreements with partners that have proven record. Currently there are 34 multi-year agreements in place. UNHCR now publishes regular update on the status of multi-year funding, also posted on the Global Focus and is accessible on: <http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/Multi-year%20Funding%20Overview%207%20January%202020.pdf>

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

With the regionalization move that took place during 2019, all the regional bureau are now located in the field, closer to points of delivery, local partners and the people we serve for. It is expected that the physical move will have great impact on localization agenda, combined with programmatic changes that UNHCR made such as provision of overhead cost to local partners. UNHCR has invested in improving the functions of the Global Focus in order to be able to provide greater funding information in a user-friendly manner, increasing transparency and to facilitate donors' efforts in maintaining/increasing quality funding.

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).

In 2019 UNHCR continued the roll-out of its updated [2018 Policy on Age, Gender and Diversity](#). The policy includes UNHCR's five commitments to women and girls: a) Women and girls' equal and meaningful participation in all decision-making, including management and leadership, b) Women's and girls' individual registration and documentation, c) Women's and girls' equal access to and control over management and distribution of food, core-relief items and cash-based assistance, d) Women's and girls' economic empowerment, including equal access to quality education and health services, e) Prevention and response to SGBV. As part of the 2019 roll-out process, 16 country operations in the Americas benefitted from technical support for the regional implementation of the policy.

Most operations reported efforts to increase women and girls' meaningful participation, including through focus group discussions in the annual participatory assessment exercises. Several operations engaged women in leadership structures and roles. Barriers to participation was addressed in many operations through safe spaces for women and girls offering life skills and leadership and entrepreneurial capacities. This was supported through growing numbers of partnerships with national level organizations. UNHCR operations established women's committees to foster mediation and conflict resolutions within families and communities, supporting distributions and the prevention and response to SGBV, sexual exploitation and abuse. Operations made specific efforts to provide individual registration and issue individual documents to persons of concern, with an emphasis on women, including through innovative means to ensure persons of concern were registered in remote locations (Jordan), and that registration covered indigenous communities (Venezuela).

In 2019, UNHCR also worked to ensure wider application of the IASC Gender with Age Marker across UNHCR programmes. Guidance on how to apply the marker was included in the instruction for 2020 detailed planning and budgeting released in October 2019.

UNHCR supported a gender audit of the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and the processes leading up to it, incl. three preparatory meetings. The audit was led

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

by refugee women from diverse backgrounds with the purpose of drawing attention to gender equality related challenges in refugee contexts and supporting integration of gender equality measures concretely through the GRF pledging process and in the identification of good practices.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20), UNHCR also released the report '[Tearing down the walls – Confronting the barriers to internally displaced women and girls' participation in humanitarian settings](#)'.

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.

As a protection and solutions agency, UNHCR has invested significantly over recent years in its ability to cooperate with development actors². In this connection, UNHCR continued its efforts to expand its collection and analysis of data on the socio-economic situations of refugees. The Joint Data Centre in Copenhagen, set up by UNHCR and the World Bank in October 2019, facilitates open data, promotes innovation around data and enhances sustainability of a global data collection system for forcibly displaced [Link with transparency and needs assessments workstreams].

UNHCR's efforts to strengthen the "humanitarian-development nexus" found concrete expression in the context of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), which was adopted in 2018 and of the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF), that took place on 17-18 December 2019. The GRF was organized around six areas of focus: arrangements for burden and responsibility sharing, education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions, and protection capacity.

Some 840 pledges were made and more than 400 examples of [good practices](#) showing how the GCR is making a difference in the lives of refugees. Building further on its ground-breaking work over the last few years, the World Bank Group announced a new funding and financing window of US\$2.2 billion for refugees and host communities. The Inter-American Development Bank similarly announced financing of US\$1 billion. OECD INCAF adopted the [Common Position on Financing for Refugee Situations](#), setting out principles for addressing humanitarian assistance, development, and peace interventions in refugee contexts.

Additional pledges of financial support from States and other actors came to over US\$2 billion, plus more than US\$250 million from the private sector. The private sector committed to bringing not only financial resources, but also technology, new business models, expertise, and investments to refugee responses. There were announcements of 15,000 job opportunities for refugees, more than 125,000 hours of pro bono legal services per year, and support for education and training, women's economic empowerment, connectivity, business development

² Please see UNHCR's Engagement in Humanitarian-Development Cooperation THINK PIECE ON RESEARCH PHASE 1 (NOVEMBER 2018 – JUNE 2019) OCTOBER 2019, available [here](#)

services, innovative financing, and Islamic philanthropy. [Link with the management cost workstream – innovation]