

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: UN World Food Programme

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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?

WFP continues to play a constructive and strategic role in the implementation of the Grand Bargain, in particular through its co-leadership of the cash workstream with DFID. WFP is pleased that the cash workstream was again recognised in the 2019 Grand Bargain report as the best performing workstream.

In 2019, WFP transferred USD 2.1 billion in cash transfers to around 28 million people in 64 countries. This is a 22% increase from 2018, when WFP transferred USD 1.7 billion. Unrestricted cash accounted for almost 60% of the overall CBT transfer value in 2019. Assistance through cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers continued to grow, reaching 38% of WFP's total assistance as compared to 35% in 2018. WFP also continued to strengthen its assurance and oversight framework and financial service provider procurement and contracting processes. A data assurance team was set up in 2019, working on risk mitigation in cash assistance.

Beyond cash-based transfers, progress was made on many of the other GB commitment areas. WFP continues to strengthen its evidence base towards a more nuanced understanding of the realities, barriers and opportunities to improve the funding of the humanitarian system. In response to the commitment announced at the Annual Meeting in June 2019, WFP issued a reflection paper on enhancing quality funding, offering a number of benchmarks to improve the quality of earmarked funding. In 2019, WFP's multi-year income (USD 1.4 billion) rose to 17% of total contributions, as compared to 14% in 2018.

WFP also continued the work with sister UN agencies on harmonising and simplifying partnership processes. The UN Partner Portal has proven an effective platform for first level due diligence, global open calls and direct selection of NGO partners. In 2019, UNFPA joined the platform; efforts continue to engage additional organisations. WFP continued to strengthen the Humanitarian Booking Hub, to simplify service provisioning among UN agencies worldwide. It represents the largest booking system in the humanitarian world, bringing together 320 humanitarian partners in more than 50 countries. The Hub mobility services (an option to book drivers and vehicles within the Humanitarian Booking Hub) was rolled out in 82 WFP country offices and was used by 35,000 WFP passengers to book some 23,000 trips. Moreover, it resulted in 16% of total carpooled trips, saving 3,200 inefficient trips.

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

WFP has transformed in order to optimise the implementation of its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan in support to the SDGs. WFP found a method of leveraging the humanitarian-development nexus in its country strategic plans and adopted a whole of society approach to zero hunger. Thus, implementation of the Strategic Plan reinforces WFP's progress towards Grand Bargain commitments. A mid-term review

of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan was launched in 2019 to inform the development of the next Strategic Plan.

However, WFP encourages all signatories to be clear sighted on the costs and risks associated with parallel reporting of the commitments similar to the Grand Bargain that UN agencies and Member States have now signed up to through the UN reform, in particular the Funding Compact.

WFP encourages a focus on the real added value of the 'bargain'. The original purpose of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing – and the Grand Bargain as an efficiency accelerator – was to shrink the needs and narrow the gap. However, in the past few years the gap between funding requirements and contributions has not changed. This illustrates the overly optimistic expectations and that donors and organizations need to readjust these. WFP's perspective is to consider the issue of funding more holistically in order to be more consistent with concept of 'leaving no one behind' and to address root causes as well as humanitarian life-saving needs.

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, in line with its World Humanitarian Summit commitments, WFP continued integrating gender in its work. Investments were made in producing evidence-based research in various domains. In partnership with Gallup and the FAO Statistics Division, the "Gender Equality for Food Security" measure was implemented in ten countries, and the report of the multi-country study on the potential of cash-based interventions to contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment was issued, which in turn informed programming. Various gender studies and analyses were also undertaken as essential elements in the design of WFP multi-year Country Strategic Plans.

WFP expanded implementation of its main gender mainstreaming mechanisms, being the Gender Transformation Programme (GTP), the Gender and Age Marker (GaM) and the second iteration of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 2.0). In 2019, WFP country offices – including Nicaragua, Kenya, Rwanda and Sudan – continued to join and complete the GTP, progressing from a gender baseline assessment to the development and implementation of an improvement plan and on to a final assessment that measures their achievements against the 39 benchmarks on which the GTP is based.

WFP implemented the IASC-adapted Gender and Age Marker (GaM), coding – on a 0 to 4 scale – the extent to which gender and age are integrated into the design and implementation of WFP activities. Country offices apply the GaM through an online dedicated platform, supported with guidance materials and technical assistance. Applicable to all UN entities, UN-SWAP 2.0 comprises 17 performance indicators. In

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

2019, WFP exceeded nine, met four, approached three and did not report on one (due to non-applicability) of the performance indicators. In 2019, WFP continued its efforts to improve gender parity among employees, as well as gender financial resource allocation and tracking; however, there is still space for improvement.

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.

WFP has made significant strides in addressing the humanitarian-development nexus, with particular attention to fragile settings, through greater efforts in understanding the sequencing required of its emergency and resilience interventions. Operational models where success is evident – e.g. in Niger and Afghanistan - have generated a level of internal learning feeding into a refreshed approach to WFP’s programme design supporting also institutional capacity strengthening. This effort takes place alongside an increased investment in building evidence to better understand current results.

WFP’s management has commissioned a new methodology, expected to be endorsed in the first quarter of 2020, that focuses on WFP’s ability to support prevention and crisis mitigation efforts. Also, WFP’s 2030 Fund – established in 2018 – provides additional resources in support of country offices’ operationalization of the triple nexus and the enhancement of new partnerships guiding the Country Strategic Plans towards the SDGs.

The WFP 2030 Fund applications include actions addressing the recommendations from the partnership with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), established in 2018, and which aims at understanding WFP’s contribution to the ‘improved prospects of peace’, while also identifying opportunities to improve this contribution where feasible and in a principled manner. Key results include the need for greater context analysis as the basis for programme design; granular level understanding of conflict dynamics to ensure not only that WFP ‘does no harm’ but also supports the forging of new operational partnerships (especially at the local level) in ‘doing some good’; and setting the foundation for development action to take hold. This partnership supports WFP’s Humanitarian-Development-Peace Strategy and continues to build evidence across a five-year time-frame (2023).

WFP also developed early considerations on ‘collective outcomes’, outlining the linkage between food security and other related SDGs, as well as the required shift in approach from the cluster system to the need for a new humanitarian-development architecture building on the UN development system (UNDS) reform. WFP’s Executive Board is instrumental in both financing its operations and policy and standard setting. Ongoing discussions thereby continue to inform adjustments in investments against the Country Strategic Planning process.

Finally, WFP is taking a second look at its Corporate Results Framework, examining whether it supports enhanced programme design and subsequent contribution to the SDGs. The organisation has thus taken steps both across the programme cycle (from design to results) and at a strategic level.