

**Grand Bargain in 2020:  
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution: UN Women**

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(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than **5 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.)

## **Grand Bargain in 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 2020?**

**Advancing gender responsive localization in humanitarian settings against COVID 19 pandemic:** Access to funding has been scarce for women's organizations working in humanitarian settings. UN Women worked to close this gap, including through the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund and the LEAP (Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection) flagship portfolio.

The UN Women LEAP portfolio is now adapted to the new global context in over 23 countries. Under these programmes, in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Nepal and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. UN Women has provided technical and financial support to local women's groups, organizations and networks, facilitating their leadership and meaningful engagement in coordinated response efforts. In Myanmar, UN Women mobilizes, empowers and equips women-led organizations, especially Rohingya women graduates of the Rakhine Gender Leadership Programme, to create community awareness and knowledge on prevention and response to COVID-19.

New modalities have emerged in the context of COVID 19, including the establishment of [Gender Monitoring Networks](#) to regularly gather information from community-based women's organizations, CSOs and gender-focused NGOs on the challenges faced by women and gender diverse people (Bangladesh); and [rapid assessments](#) with CSOs and women's organizations to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on their work and to hear their perspectives on the challenges they are facing and the solutions they are creating (Asia Pacific). UN Women also invested in charter of demands from grassroots organization in support of their advocacy on COVID-19 response (Nepal); and development of regional network of CSOs (Arab States Region). UN Women also engaged in inter-agency dialogue on the transformation of the role of civil society organizations in the delivery of humanitarian assistance (East and Southern Africa).

**Focus on data/analysis-**The Asia- Pacific Gender in Humanitarian Action (co-chaired by UN Women, UN OCHA and CARE) published [Closing the Funding Gap for Women-Focused Organizations Responding to COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific](#) which confirmed the paucity of funds available and includes recommendations on how this funding gap could be addressed.

**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. Through UN Women's analysis of the 2019 humanitarian planning processes, it was found that 53% of official Humanitarian Needs Overview planning documents demonstrated the use of sex and age disaggregated data and 68% of them use of gender analysis, only 47% of them demonstrated use of both. Furthermore, of the HNOs that did use SADD and gender analysis to identify specific needs of women and girls in their specific contexts, 23% of them did not include these needs in the final agreed, prioritized strategic response plan.

***Commitment to an intersectional approach and LNOB:*** The rights and needs of marginalized and at-risk groups -women with disabilities, adolescent girls, LGBTIQ women, refugees and migrants- have been at the centre of UN Women's rapid gender assessments and gender alerts (LAC, Asia-Pacific). The gender analysis and needs assessments have informed the design of programmatic activities in support advancing the rights of women with disabilities, gender diverse groups and LGBTIQ groups in different countries including Palestine, Lebanon, Nepal, Bangladesh, Iraq, Jordan.

***Participation revolution:*** UN Women continued supporting programmes and strategic interventions on promoting gender responsive participation and women's leadership in crisis contexts that have resulted in strengthened engagement of women and girls in camp management, national and local level decision making processes; as well as in strengthening gender responsive community level accountability mechanisms across humanitarian settings and protracted crisis, including Ethiopia, Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar), Cameroon, Colombia and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

With regards to evidence generation, UN Women published the results of its participatory research 'Who holds the microphone,' which focused on the voices of women's organizations and women beneficiaries in humanitarian contexts. The research integrated a strong intersectional approach examining the challenges, opportunities and enablers across gender, age, disability, ethnicity considerations in line with the principle and commitment of Leave No-one Behind. The research resulted in clear recommendations on how to engage different categories of women and beneficiaries in humanitarian planning and prioritisation using participatory approaches and to design "people and survivor-centred" interventions that respond to the lived realities of the population affected by conflict and/or crisis, particularly women and girls. In 2019, UN Women's analysis found that of the 28 UN led humanitarian contexts under the IASC's remit, 17 (61%) included direct consultations with local women's rights organizations in the planning process. The analysis also showed that the countries that had incorporated local women's contributions to the humanitarian planning process were more likely to include specific strategies on GBV mitigation and response,

women's livelihoods and sexual reproductive health in the finalized response plan.

**Coordination of Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group:** In 2020, the Friends of Gender Group scaled up its advocacy and strategic engagement with a view to placing gender equality and empowerment of crisis affected women and girls at the centre of global discussions on the future of the Grand Bargain beyond June 2021, including through the engagement of local women's organisations and networks' representatives in formulation of priorities and key demands. The Group members published a group statement that informed discussions during the June 2020 Grand Bargain Annual Meeting and organized a meeting with the Facilitation Group representative and Eminent Person's office to articulate the group recommendations.

**Question 2: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment<sup>1</sup> 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).** Please refer to the Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

**Global policy engagement and analysis linked to COVID 19:** COVID-19 has further exacerbated gender-based inequalities and discrimination in terms of women refugees and IDPs being exposed to violence or lacking access to livelihood opportunities and productive resources. Immediately following the declaration of the COVID- 19 pandemic, UN Women scaled up efforts to support the United Nations System-wide efforts to address the spread of COVID-19 in humanitarian and crisis contexts. In March 2020 the Secretary-General launched the Global Humanitarian Response Plan COVID-19: United Nations Coordinated Appeal April-December 2020. UN Women has contributed to multiple iterations of this plan to strengthen the attention to gender-specific needs and engaged in key global, regional and country-level coordination spaces. Furthermore, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group for Gender in Humanitarian Action, UN Women developed the IASC Gender Alert for COVID-19 with input from Reference Group members in March 2020, followed by webinars in partnership with OCHA and CARE International to guide the IASC response to COVID-19.

UN Women participates in national and regional-level COVID-19 system-wide Humanitarian Response Plans and Cluster Coordination in over 18 countries with humanitarian coordination mechanisms. UN Women is engaged in Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) and Cluster Coordination in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Syria Regional, Zimbabwe. The State of Palestine (HRP and Regional, Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)); Iraq (HRP and 3RP); Fiji, Jordan, Libya, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Yemen (3RP); Egypt (3RP); Malawi, Turkey (regional). As part of the coordinated humanitarian and crisis response and its leading role in Gender in Humanitarian Action coordination

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

groups, UN Women provides gender expertise in the planning and response and partners with humanitarian actors, national governments and local women-led and women's rights organizations and networks to implement catalytic interventions that ensure that women and girls benefit from COVID-19 response efforts; are not exposed to additional risks; and most importantly, are empowered to lead responses and participate as decision-makers.

At the regional level, the Asia and Pacific Gender in Humanitarian Action working group committed to supporting new or reignited working groups, along with theme groups and task forces at the national level that are currently present in Afghanistan, Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar), Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines. The region is working to include persons with disabilities in all phases of humanitarian response (in line with the IASC Disability Guidelines), as well as safeguard GBV in programming with cash vouchers at the local and national levels. UN Women has also provided technical support to humanitarian stakeholders to strengthen the integration of gender equality in key COVID-19 plans and strategies in Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

UN Women has contributed to the development of Rapid Gender Analysis and Impact Assessments in 19 country offices and released programmatic and policy guidance covering humanitarian settings and protracted crises across the following regions/countries: Arab States, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, Egypt (mixed), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Field level engagement in humanitarian coordination – Despite not being members of the IASC or a formalized role in UN led humanitarian coordination, UN Women provided senior gender capacity to HCTs on an ad-hoc basis in 18 crisis contexts worldwide, promoting the integration of gender into local planning, including into assessment and analysis processes and facilitating the inclusion of local crisis affected women's voices.

**Question 3: 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 part of the Beijing +25 Generation Equality Forum, UN Women began the process in 2020 of establishing a Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. The Compact, based on existing WPS and gender in humanitarian policy commitments and standards, will develop a plan for the next five years to promote the integration of gender across the humanitarian-development peace nexus for member states, the UN, civil society, the private sector and academia based on action and concrete deliverables. Identified thematic priorities include funding, leadership, participation, localization and protection. The Compact will be launched at the Paris Generation Equality Forum in Paris, July 2021.

In 2020, UN Women implemented HDP nexus programming in over 30 country contexts with focus on humanitarian settings and protracted crises where

displacement if fuelled by various factors, including conflict, disasters, violent extremism. UN Women developed comprehensive partnerships with national governments, humanitarian actors, INGOs and local women led and women rights organizations with a view to advancing gender equality and empowerment of crisis affected women and girls, including advancing their leadership in peace building and humanitarian planning and processes, safe and inclusive participation as well as livelihoods and protection from violence, sexual exploitation and abuse. UN Women's programming focuses on resilience and self-reliance of crisis affected women and girls by addressing food insecurity, women's livelihoods, women's leadership and protection/gender-based violence (GBV) in the humanitarian and refugee settings across different countries including Uganda, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Colombia.

### **Grand Bargain 2016-2020: Overall achievements and remaining gaps**

**Question 4: What are the 2-3 key achievements/areas of most progress by your institution since 2016?** Please report on your institutional progress for the period 2016-2020, **even** if your institution did not become a signatory until after 2016.

Through the establishment of the IASC Gender Accountability Framework, UN Women has been able to establish a benchmark and an ongoing monitoring review and analysis on the delivery of existing gender in humanitarian action commitments, including those on planning, needs assessments, localization and participation. Close collaboration between UN Women, CARE, Action Aid, UNFPA, Canada, ECHO as well as local women's organizations and groups under the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group resulted in:

- Increased visibility and global dialogue on GEEWG related issues and priorities across different workstreams with focus on tracking of commitments, accountability and localisation through the active engagement of Friends of Gender Group membership across the different workstreams (cash, localisation, participation).

- Strengthened partnerships between Friends of Gender Group and local women's organisations and networks over joint advocacy priorities and objectives with focus on increasing commitments among GB signatories on the following issues: increase direct funding to local women's organizations and groups, including through country based pooled fund mechanisms; placing local civil society organisations at the centre of global governance and decision making over the Grand Bargain; and strengthening accountability and tracking of the implementation of GB commitments through a gender lens.

**Contribution to gender responsive localisation:** UN Women developed partnerships with over 500 local women's organisations and networks and linked country level programming with global advocacy, normative/coordination engagement and evidence generation to bring gender equality issues at the centre of the global agenda.

**Question 5: What, in your institutional view, have been the main achievements of the Grand Bargain signatories, as a collective, since 2016?**

Please indicate specific commitments, thematic or cross-cutting issues or workstreams where you think most progress has been made collectively by signatories.

Strengthened global partnerships, evidence generation and dialogue on localisation and cash, including through a gender lens.

**Question 6: What has the Grand Bargain not been able to achieve in its five year tenure? What outstanding obstacles, gaps, areas of weakness still remain after five years, in terms of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action?** Please indicate specific commitments, thematic or cross-cutting issues or workstreams where you think there remain key gaps or obstacles.

With a lack of investment in the systematic integration of gender into the coordination of humanitarian action means that crisis contexts struggle to fulfill their policy and GB commitments to gender. The recently published IASC's evaluation on gender focuses on the lack of formalized senior gender capacity to advise HCs and HCTs as a major impediment. The evaluation goes as far as to cite a "gender funding myth" where it is assumed donors and coordination bodies that the resources required for integrating gender into humanitarian coordination will somehow manifest themselves without direct financial support and this is clearly manifested in the capacity gap. As per UN Women's own analysis, in 2019 only 13% of IASC managed crisis contexts had appointed senior gender capacity on a sustained basis. The rest were dependent on ad-hoc capacity as supplied by the likes of UN Women, UNFPA, or international NGOs such as IRC and CARE.

Furthermore, there is also a lack of funding being made available for targeted services for crisis affected women and girls. In its 2020 Funding for Gender in Humanitarian Action study conducted with UNFPA, UN Women found that services for women and girls are not being prioritized, with only 39% of funding requested for targeted services for women and girls in crisis settings being received compared to 69% being received for overall appeals. In addition, local women's rights groups are not being supported in a sustained manner which would allow them to build their capacity to contribute to humanitarian planning. As per OECD data, local women's organisations in fragile contexts received only 0.39% of gender focused aid in 2017.

### **Risk and the Grand Bargain**

**Question 7a: How has risk (financial, operational, reputational, etc) affected your institution's implementation of the core commitments since you became a signatory to the Grand Bargain?**

**Question 7b: How has your institution sought to mitigate or address these risks to enable implementation of the core commitments?**

