

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

Name of Institution: UNDP

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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?

Localisation:

UNDP strengthened the capacity of institutions to deliver basic services in crisis-affected localities and to develop national and local level recovery plans to allow support to local priorities for preparedness, risk reduction, recovery and development. In 2020, many existing multi-year programme structures were leveraged to respond to needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in Bangladesh, the Disaster Response and Recovery Facility programme enhanced response to address humanitarian crisis such as the Rohingya influx in Cox's Bazar and supported and supported Government for policy directives, planning and dead body management for COVID19 response. Similar efforts were seen in countries such as Myanmar, Somalia, Lebanon, Iraq, and Nepal. In countries such as Nigeria (\$36.7 mil) and Niger (\$3.1 mil), new multi-year investments were launched to ensure adequate support to national crisis management for immediate and longer-term response to COVID-19.

Needs assessment

The extraordinary and unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences required a tweaking to the existing methodology of the RPBA and PDNA assessments. Together with the EU and WB, UNDP designed a COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment (CRNA) methodology with a specific focus on the right assessment tool for fragile contexts. Nine CRNA exercises are currently underway or completed and more planned to tie into the next round of CCAs and UNSDCF's (Finalized in South Africa, Azerbaijan, Ecuador and El Salvador; Ongoing in Cabo Verde, Dom Rep, Haiti and Eswatini; and Zambia upcoming).

Question 2: 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). Please refer to the Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

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

UNDP's commitment to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, particularly in crisis settings, took a step forward in 2020 with UNDP establishing a dedicated team in the Crisis Bureau. This team's role will contribute to ensuring inclusive and equitable recovery, towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

An internal evaluation of UNDP's support to conflict-affected countries recommended a number of areas where UNDP can use its expertise, capacities and resources, backed by strong gender-informed data and analysis, to move beyond simple gender targeting to address structural, systemic drivers of inequalities through our programmes. This will be carried out by establishing a new Gender and Crisis Engagement Facility in early 2021.

This facility will be a one-stop-shop to support UNDP's gender and crisis work (at global, regional and country levels) with expert technical capacity, knowledge management and training, data and analysis, and seed funding for catalytic and innovative activities. It will also provide support towards helping countries achieve transformational results as part of the WPS agenda.

UNDP also published a brief on the impact of "Economic Impacts of COVID-19 and Gender Equality" and made some key recommendations for policy makers that are of great relevance to crisis contexts in particular, where women and girls are often already marginalized and effectively left behind. The policy recommendations were centred around integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in (i) health systems support; (ii) inclusive and integrated crisis management and response; and finally (iii) in the Social and Economic Impact: Assessment and Response that have been undertaken. More information is available at https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/km-qap/undp-gpn-bpps-gender-Economic_Impacts_of_COVID-19_and_Gender_Inequality.pdf

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.

The Humanitarian-Development (and Peace) nexus is at the core of UNDP's engagement in responding in crisis and fragile contexts. From the run up to the World Humanitarian Summit, and in all of our engagement on the major processes of the last 6 years such as the 2030 Agenda, Sustaining Peace, Sendai Framework for Action, among others – UNDP has been one of the leading proponents on promoting the HDP nexus approach as a key way to promote greater programming and financing coherence to deliver on our collective global promise to Ending Need.

UNDP is leading it through its engagement and leadership in a number of forums across the H, D and P siloes, in order to bring coherence and momentum to the operationalization of the nexus. UNDP is the co-chair of the UN's Joint Steering

Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration, co-chair of the IASC's results group 4 on the HD nexus, co-chair of the UNSDG's task team 4 on Transitions and Recovery, co-chair of the OECD International Network on Conflict and Fragility – among others.

Indeed the COVID-19 pandemic has strengthened UNDP's resolve on the nexus, as we understanding the devastating impact that fragility can have on people's lives. UNDP is taking the nexus a step further, by addressing its focus towards tackling the drivers of fragility knowing that sustainable development will require rebuilding social contracts, preventing escalation of violence and conflict, protecting hard-won development gains and ending human need. This will be further cemented in the upcoming UNDP 2022-25 Strategic Plan for UNDP currently being developed.

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.

(Transparency). Since 2016, UNDP's strongest progress has been made in the area of transparency where the organization not only provides open, comprehensive public access to data on more than 10,000 UNDP projects, and publishes more than US\$5.8 billion in project data. This is all available on open.undp.org.

UNDP's transparency work concentrates on relevancy for national development planning, public financial management and mutual accountability at the country level and since Grand Bargain has also included humanitarian markers.

The 2020 Aid Transparency Index, produced by the campaign for aid transparency Publish What You Fund (PWYF), rated UNDP with a score of 96.6 out of 100. Increasing its rating by 1.2 points since the index was last published in 2018, UNDP continues to be a leader in transparency - topped only by the Asian Development Bank (98) and the World Bank (97.1).

(Localisation) As a development agency in crisis settings, UNDP has maintained its commitment to multi-year institutional capacity strengthening. UNDP has worked to strengthen the capacity of institutions to deliver basic services in over 80 countries and has worked in over 50 countries to develop national and local level recovery plans to support local priorities for preparedness, risk reduction, recovery and development. In 2019 alone, 84 countries were supported by UNDP to build resilience to shock and crises through 614 projects and over 878M USD.

UNDP acted as managing agent of Country-based Pooled Funds in South Sudan, CAR, DRC and Sudan until end of 2019. In 2019 98 % of the funds were allocated to NGOs; 2% to UN Agencies. Overall, share for National NGOs in these countries increased from 18% to 26.5% in 2016-19, reaching above the Grand Bargain

Commitment. Progress for this commitment continues through management of CBPFs in Afghanistan and Somalia.

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.

In UNDP's view, the most important achievement of the Grand Bargain has been its convening power, bringing together donors, UN agencies and NGOs around the same table, and somewhat breaking the donor/recipient barrier that has existed in the humanitarian system. It provided a more direct way for experts on both the donor and aid agency side to work side by side on key issues that can ultimately improve the accountability and effectiveness of humanitarian action.

While the process of convening and reporting has been burdensome, the dialogue that it has opened will hopefully last beyond the life span of the GB itself and be the way to interact in other key forums such as the Good Humanitarian Donorship, OECD-DAC and INCAF, as well as increased cooperation in the field. We would not that the Grand Bargain's wholehearted support for the localization agenda has been welcome and particularly in the difficult circumstances of 2020 have begun to prove that it was the right priority to focus on.

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.

Considering that the Grand Bargain stemmed from the recommendations of the 2016 report of the SG's High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, it may be argued that the GB has not succeeded in necessarily closing the funding gap (including the aim to "deliver an extra billion dollars over five years for people in need of humanitarian aid"). With \$35 billion being asked from the Global Humanitarian Overview in 2021, a saving of \$1 billion may indeed be a drop in the ocean – regardless of the possible mitigating circumstances of the unprecedented consequences of COVID-19.

While coordination, reporting, planning, guidance and meetings are necessary tools to get agreement between 50+ GB adherents, it may be argued that the payoff has not been substantive enough to significantly improve the humanitarian system. Similar processes that have been taking place on the HDP nexus approach may perhaps bode better towards the goal of reducing humanitarian needs in the future, and thereby addressing the key task set by the High Level Panel to "Shrink the Needs".

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?

In general, the Grand Bargain commitments have been relatively low risk from the UNDP perspective. As a primarily development agency, UNDP has been at the industry forefront of increasing its own accountability, particularly since joining IATI.

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

NTR