



2018 Grand Bargain Annual Self-Reporting – ActionAid International

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Work stream 1 - Transparency

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Publish timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on humanitarian funding within two years of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. We consider IATI to provide a basis for the purpose of a common standard.*
2. *Make use of appropriate data analysis, explaining the distinctiveness of activities, organisations, environments and circumstances (for example, protection, conflict-zones).*
3. *Improve the digital platform and engage with the open-data standard community to help ensure:*
 - *accountability of donors and responders with open data for retrieval and analysis;*
 - *improvements in decision-making, based upon the best possible information;*
 - *a reduced workload over time as a result of donors accepting common standard data for some reporting purposes; and*
 - *traceability of donors' funding throughout the transaction chain as far as the final responders and, where feasible, affected people.*
4. *Support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data.*

Transparency work stream co-conveners reporting request: How will you use the data from IATI within your organization including, for example, for monitoring, reporting and vis-à-vis other Grand Bargain commitments?

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ActionAid is not actively engaged with the Transparency work stream. However, ActionAid has an open information policy that ensures that information including transfer of resources is presented and available to the local partners. Implementation of the Core Humanitarian Standard by ActionAid also emphasises information sharing. ActionAid together with the communities we work with have developed and adopted transparency tools and mechanisms for sharing information in a useful way, and relevant information that helps communities participate in decisions that affect them.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

N/A

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

N/A

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

N/A

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

N/A

Work stream 2 – Localization

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Increase and support multi-year investment in the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response and coordination capacities, especially in fragile contexts and where communities are vulnerable to armed conflicts, disasters, recurrent outbreaks and the effects of climate change. We should achieve this through collaboration with development partners and incorporate capacity strengthening in partnership agreements.*
2. *Understand better and work to remove or reduce barriers that prevent organisations and donors from partnering with local and national responders in order to lessen their administrative burden.*
3. *Support and complement national coordination mechanisms where they exist and include local and national responders in international coordination mechanisms as appropriate and in keeping with humanitarian principles.*
4. *Achieve by 2020 a global, aggregated target of at least 25 per cent of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible to improve outcomes for affected people and reduce transactional costs.*
5. *Develop, with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and apply a 'localisation' marker to measure direct and indirect funding to local and national responders.*
6. *Make greater use of funding tools which increase and improve assistance delivered by local and national responders, such as UN-led country-based pooled funds (CBPF), IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and NGO-led and other pooled funds.*

Localisation work stream co-conveners reporting request: What percentage of your humanitarian funding in 2017 was provided to local and national responders (a) directly (b) through pooled funds, or (c) through a single intermediary?¹

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ActionAid works with local partners or directly with local community organisations in humanitarian responses. ActionAid has a 'humanitarian signature', one strand of which is 'shifting power to local actors', so it is part of ActionAid's strategic intent in all its

¹ The "Identified Categories for Tracking Aid Flows" document agreed through silence procedure ([available here](#)) provides relevant definitions. The detailed data collection form ([available here](#)) may also assist you in responding to this question. Returning this form with your self report is optional, but encouraged.

humanitarian and resilience work to support local actors to take greater leadership and ownership of humanitarian responses and take more decision-making roles.

ActionAid has been leading two projects that are about localisation in collaboration with a number of other humanitarian actors with DFID funding, under the DEPP funding portfolio. The Shifting the Power project has supported 55 local partners in 5 countries to self- assess against an agreed capacity self- assessment framework (SHAPE) to address their own capacities to take decisions and leadership in humanitarian responses, 10 of these local partners are ActionAid partners that have put in place capacity building plans to deliver against the gaps they have identified.

The Transforming Surge Capacity project supported Pakistan, the Philippines and the Asia region to localise surge capacity and build national and regional humanitarian rosters. ActionAid is also part of the Christian Aid led DEPP funded project called Linking Preparedness Response and Resilience. In addition, ActionAid has been working with Christian Aid, CAFOD, Oxfam, Tearfund and CARE to launch the Missed Opportunities reports evidencing the need for greater investment in local and national humanitarian actors in crises and we have worked with the Start Fund, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam and Tearfund to propose and develop a National NGO window of the Start Fund in some countries.

ActionAid's own WHS commitments also commit us to greater support to local women led and women's rights organisations in humanitarian responses. The Shifting the Power Coalition in the Pacific established by ActionAid is an example of this. The Coalition is designed to support local women's organisations engage in humanitarian response, building preparedness, response and coordination capacities and link with national coordination mechanisms. Coalition members include national women's organisations in 6 countries who work closely with the regional disability peak body to support inclusion.

In 2017, ActionAid responded to 17 new disasters across 12 countries, supporting over 500,000 people, in addition to ongoing responses from previous years. Of these new responses, the greatest in terms of scale, need and intervention were the East Africa drought and food crisis; the South Asia floods affecting Nepal, India and Bangladesh; the Kasai conflict response in DRC; and the Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Bangladesh. All responses promoted local actors, particularly women, to take leadership roles. Examples of direct funding to local partners, capacity building activities, and support to local actors to participate in coordination mechanisms for these responses can be found below.

Nepal floods 2017

- Funding: 93% funds directed to local partners.
- Capacity building: Local partners took part in orientations on women's protection, and training in psychosocial first aid. In 2018, building capacity of local partners on emergency preparedness and response planning is a priority.

- Participation in coordination mechanisms: Local partner staff attend district level cluster meetings. AA Nepal and partner organisation KMJS Bardiya are the lead support agencies for district level humanitarian coordination in Bardiya.

DRC Kasai response 2017

- Funding: 60% funds directed to local partners
- Capacity building: women's organisation members trained in preventing sexual and gender-based violence against women and young girls, development of protection plans, sustainable agriculture practices, leadership in humanitarian response, working with state agencies and collaborators.
- Participation in coordination mechanisms: Territorial administrators supported to organise coordination meetings at the territorial level for direct dialogue between affected communities and humanitarian actors. At the provincial level, ActionAid supported members of women's platforms to share their protection plans with protection cluster members. One member of the women's platform was also supported to participate in the national cash working group.

Rohingya refugee response 2017 – Bangladesh

- Funding: 25% funds directed to local partners
- Capacity building: Local partner trained in protection, site management, public services, they also co-created the emergency response plan, and attended orientations on ActionAid's humanitarian signature and resilience approaches.
- Participation in coordination mechanisms: Local partner organisation was connected to the various operational UN coordination mechanisms, including the GBV subsector and WASH sector.

East Africa food crisis 2017 - Kenya

- Funding: 66% funds directed to local partners
- Capacity building: ActionAid Kenya has built the capacity of local partners on disaster preparedness, hazard analysis, risk reduction and early warning for early action. Social audit and budget tracking skills have been enhanced and forums for accountability facilitated to build their confidence. ActionAid has also built their capacity to ensure accountability of resources available by putting in place models for sharing information through transparency boards in all central areas in the implementing LRPs, publicly sharing invoices and bills on expenditures incurred on the programme, sensitizing the community on the program activities, budgets and planned events, amongst others. Partners have also been trained in:
 - o Resource mobilization, proposal writing and fundraising strategy
 - o Protection of women and girls in emergencies
 - o Core humanitarian standards
 - o Development of disaster preparedness plans and contingency planning
 - o Advocacy skills.
 - o Needs assessments.
 - o Community based targeting and distribution.
- Participation in coordination mechanisms: ActionAid is working and supporting women-led disaster management and relief committees to design, implement and review humanitarian actions at county levels. The committees work with

partners and stakeholders on needs assessments and are connected to county decision making structures such as the county and sub- County steering groups to influence and participate in response decision making.

East Africa food crisis 2017 - Ethiopia

- Funding: 52% funds directed to local partners
- Capacity building: In 2017, ActionAid supported two local organizations to develop and implement an annual capacity building plan, including reviewing internal systems and policies in line with humanitarian principles and frameworks. With this support the partner organizations have revised their HR, financial and procurement policies and M&E systems. They also developed organizational preparedness plans and established emergency response team within their organizations.
- Participation in coordination mechanisms: Local partners were supported to participate in the 2017 mid-year multi-agency assessment which led to revision of the 2017 Humanitarian Requirements Document. This helped the local organizations to get experience and visibility in the humanitarian coordination system. AA Ethiopia with other consortium members of the Shifting the Power project supported the establishment of humanitarian forum at CCRDA local NGOs network to enhance their collective voice and influence in the humanitarian coordination system.

East Africa food crisis 2017 - Somaliland

- Funding: 24% funds directed to local partners
- Capacity building: Local partners including women's organisations were trained in the Core Humanitarian Standards, humanitarian principles, ActionAid's humanitarian signature, and on protection in emergency response.
- Participation in coordination mechanisms: Local partners were encouraged to participate in the international coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels, as well as government coordination meetings. Local partners also completed the 3Ws (what, when, who) matrix to take part in the UN coordination meetings. Local partners are now connected to all coordination platforms that exist in the country and they actively participate in the WASH, protection and food security cluster meetings at both national and regional levels.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

ActionAid only signed the Grand Bargain in February 2018 and has not yet worked in collaboration to deliberately implement the commitments of the work stream.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- To work in collaboration with other Grand Bargain signatories to support delivery of the commitments.
- To embed localisation into ActionAid's country programmes that have signed up to working on humanitarian and resilience work under our new global strategy, *Action for Global Justice*.
- To increase the organisational capacity to deliver against the commitments through the recruitment of a new global position (Local Humanitarian Partnerships Adviser) who will support countries to take appropriate actions.
- To build evidence of barriers to localisation and advocate for changes in new humanitarian responses as they arise.
- To actively track and promote funding for local and national women's organisations.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

We have not yet directly implemented the GB commitments, having signed the GB in February 2018.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

We have not put in place concrete actions that relate to the GB, having only signed in February 2018.

Work stream 3 – Cash

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Increase the routine use of cash alongside other tools, including in-kind assistance, service delivery (such as health and nutrition) and vouchers. Employ markers to measure increase and outcomes.*
 2. *Invest in new delivery models which can be increased in scale while identifying best practice and mitigating risks in each context. Employ markers to track their evolution.*
 3. *Build an evidence base to assess the costs, benefits, impacts, and risks of cash (including on protection) relative to in-kind assistance, service delivery interventions and vouchers, and combinations thereof.*
 4. *Collaborate, share information and develop standards and guidelines for cash programming in order to better understand its risks and benefits.*
 5. *Ensure that coordination, delivery, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are put in place for cash transfers.*
 6. *Aim to increase use of cash programming beyond current low levels, where appropriate. Some organisations and donors may wish to set targets.*
-

6. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

In 2016 ActionAid commissioned a comprehensive strategic learning review to look at humanitarian responses from 2011 to 2015, and identify successes, challenges, and areas to expand to operationalise our 'humanitarian signature'. Following one of the key recommendations to increase our cash programming, ActionAid committed to strengthen organisational capacity on and significantly increase the scale and scope of cash transfers in future humanitarian responses. ActionAid has begun to monitor the value of its programming through cash transfers, currently standing at approximately 19% of total humanitarian programming over the past 4 years (2014-17).

7. ActionAid Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

- ActionAid has recruited its first cash specialist providing technical support on capacity building and all aspects of cash programme design and implementation.
- ActionAid has become a member of Cash and Learning Partnership and has a representative in the Technical Advisory Group.
- ActionAid has participated in the consultation with European Commission on guidance for cash programming.

- ActionAid participates in the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection
- ActionAid systematically reviews its humanitarian proposals for feasibility and inclusion of cash modalities.

8. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- ActionAid will develop a feminist approach to cash, putting women at the centre of design, delivery and usage of cash grants in humanitarian response.
- We will conduct an organisational capacity assessment for cash programming.
- We will develop appropriate guidance and tools for our staff and partners to implement cash in line with our humanitarian signature (promoting women's leadership, increasing accountability to affected communities and supporting local led response).
- ActionAid will conduct global cash training for key staff and partners implementing humanitarian programming.
- ActionAid will integrate cash transfer programme tracking into its global Contract Management and Financial Management systems.
- ActionAid commits to gathering evidence on the effect of cash transfer programming on women and girls and wider gender dynamics in communities.
- As outlined in our strategy ActionAid is committed to innovation such as prioritising mobile money and encouraging women and girls' digital inclusion.
- We are committed to ensuring the intersection of cash with localisation and will advocate for the standards and practices on cash programming that are relevant and appropriate for grassroots women's organisations.

9. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

We have not yet directly implemented the GB commitments, having signed the GB in February 2018.

10. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

We have not put in place concrete actions that relate to the GB, having only signed in February 2018.

Work stream 4 – Management costs

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Reduce the costs and measure the gained efficiencies of delivering assistance with technology (including green) and innovation. Aid organisations will provide the detailed steps to be taken by the end of 2017.*

Examples where use of technology can be expanded:

- *Mobile technology for needs assessments/post-distribution monitoring;*
 - *Digital platforms and mobile devices for financial transactions;*
 - *Communication with affected people via call centres and other feedback mechanisms such as SMS text messaging;*
 - *Biometrics; and*
 - *Sustainable energy.*
2. *Harmonise partnership agreements and share partner assessment information as well as data about affected people, after data protection safeguards have been met by the end of 2017, in order to save time and avoid duplication in operations.*

Aid organisations commit to:

3. *Provide transparent and comparable cost structures by the end of 2017. We acknowledge that operational management of the Grand Bargain signatories - the United Nations, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the NGO sector may require different approaches.*
4. *Reduce duplication of management and other costs through maximising efficiencies in procurement and logistics for commonly required goods and services. Shared procurement should leverage the comparative advantage of the aid organisations and promote innovation.*

Suggested areas for initial focus:

- *Transportation/Travel;*
- *Vehicles and fleet management;*
- *Insurance;*
- *Shipment tracking systems;*
- *Inter-agency/common procurement pipelines (non-food items, shelter, WASH, food);*
- *IT services and equipment;*
- *Commercial consultancies; and*
- *Common support services.*

Donors commit to:

5. *Make joint regular functional monitoring and performance reviews and reduce individual donor assessments, evaluations, verifications, risk management and oversight processes.*

Management costs work stream co-conveners reporting request: What steps have you taken to reduce the number of individual donor assessments (if a donor) or partner assessments (if an agency) you conduct on humanitarian partners?

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ActionAid does not currently have specific actions planned against the Management Costs work stream. However, throughout our humanitarian responses we make conscious efforts to deliver cost effective programmes, and our national emergency deployment rosters in high risk countries help minimise costs of large international team deployments. ActionAid also welcomes innovation and seek efficiencies where possible, without negatively impacting the crisis affected communities we are supporting.

Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

- 1. Provide a single, comprehensive, cross-sectoral, methodologically sound and impartial overall assessment of needs for each crisis to inform strategic decisions on how to respond and fund thereby reducing the number of assessments and appeals produced by individual organisations.*
- 2. Coordinate and streamline data collection to ensure compatibility, quality and comparability and minimising intrusion into the lives of affected people. Conduct the overall assessment in a transparent, collaborative process led by the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator with full involvement of the Humanitarian Country Team and the clusters/sectors and in the case of sudden onset disasters, where possible, by the government. Ensure sector-specific assessments for operational planning are undertaken under the umbrella of a coordinated plan of assessments at inter-cluster/sector level.*
- 3. Share needs assessment data in a timely manner, with the appropriate mitigation of protection and privacy risks. Jointly decide on assumptions and analytical methods used for projections and estimates.*
- 4. Dedicate resources and involve independent specialists within the clusters to strengthen data collection and analysis in a fully transparent, collaborative process, which includes a brief summary of the methodological and analytical limitations of the assessment.*
- 5. Prioritise humanitarian response across sectors based on evidence established by the analysis. As part of the IASC Humanitarian Response Plan process on the ground, it is the responsibility of the empowered Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator to ensure the development of the prioritised, evidence-based response plans.*
- 6. Commission independent reviews and evaluations of the quality of needs assessment findings and their use in prioritisation to strengthen the confidence of all stakeholders in the needs assessment.*
- 7. Conduct risk and vulnerability analysis with development partners and local authorities, in adherence to humanitarian principles, to ensure the alignment of humanitarian and development programming.*

Needs assessment work stream co-conveners reporting request: What hurdles, if any, might be addressed to allow for more effective implementation of the GB commitment?

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ActionAid does not currently have specific actions planned against the Needs Assessment work stream. However, in line with ActionAid's Emergency Preparedness and Response Handbook, ActionAid conducts rapid need assessments within 72 hours of a disaster where there is operational presence to inform decisions on whether to respond and what the immediate priorities should be to support the most affected women, girls, boys and men. Within one month of a disaster, a detailed need assessment is conducted, and is a participatory process in collaboration with ActionAid's local partners. ActionAid and partners support women to lead the need assessments, and the findings are shared with other INGOs, government and clusters.

ActionAid uses set checklists for both rapid and detailed needs assessments, and a cadre of staff are trained needs assessment specialists within our internal surge capacity roster. ActionAid also regularly participates in Multi Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessments.

In 2018, ActionAid plans to review its emergency toolkits, including the assessment checklists, with an increased focus on protection of women and girls, protracted crises, Core Humanitarian Standard and suitability of cash transfer programming.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Having only signed the GB in February 2018 no concrete actions or commitments have been made.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Having only signed the GB in February 2018 no concrete actions or commitments have been made.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

N/A

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

N/A

Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

- 1. Improve leadership and governance mechanisms at the level of the humanitarian country team and cluster/sector mechanisms to ensure engagement with and accountability to people and communities affected by crises.*
- 2. Develop common standards and a coordinated approach for community engagement and participation, with the emphasis on inclusion of the most vulnerable, supported by a common platform for sharing and analysing data to strengthen decision-making, transparency, accountability and limit duplication.*
- 3. Strengthen local dialogue and harness technologies to support more agile, transparent but appropriately secure feedback.*
- 4. Build systematic links between feedback and corrective action to adjust programming.*

Donors commit to:

- 5. Fund flexibly to facilitate programme adaptation in response to community feedback.*
- 6. Invest time and resources to fund these activities.*

Aid organisations commit to:

- 7. Ensure that, by the end of 2017, all humanitarian response plans – and strategic monitoring of them - demonstrate analysis and consideration of inputs from affected communities.*

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ActionAid's unique programmatic approach, the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) puts strong emphasis on strengthening the leadership of communities in their own development decisions. We have embedded this approach into our humanitarian work, which prioritises saving lives and protecting rights.

In 2015, ActionAid developed its 'humanitarian signature' which commits to increase women's leadership in humanitarian response, increase accountability to disaster affected communities, and strengthen locally led humanitarian response. ActionAid has a strong partnership policy that requires the federation to work with local partners and has always worked with national and local partners at the community level to deliver all its work including humanitarian response.

In 2014, ActionAid produced an Accountability in Emergencies Resource Book to support staff and partners working on emergency preparedness, response and recovery to integrate accountability to disaster-affected communities into their programmes.

ActionAid is a founding member of the CHS Alliance and is also implementing the Core Humanitarian Standard which has nine commitments that bring communities affected by disasters to the heart of the response and take part in decisions that affect them. The CHS commitments are;

- Communities and people affected by crisis receive assistance appropriate and relevant to their needs
- Communities and people affected by crisis have access to the humanitarian assistance they need at the right time
- Communities and people affected by crisis are not negatively affected and are more prepared, resilient and less at-risk as a result of humanitarian action
- Communities and people affected by crisis know their rights and entitlements have access to information and participate in decisions that affect them
- Communities and people affected by crisis have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaints
- Communities and people affected by crisis receive coordinated and complimentary assistance
- Communities and people affected by crisis can expect delivery of improved assistance as organisations learn from experience and reflection
- Communities and people affected by crisis receive the assistance they require from competent and well-managed staff and volunteers
- Communities and people affected by crisis can expect that the organisations assisting them are managing resources effectively, efficiently and ethically

The Start Network DEPP [Shifting the Power consortium project](#) co-led by ActionAid since 2015, enabled ActionAid to fully focus on the localisation agenda and explored how power (capacity, resources and systems) can be shifted to the local partners.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

ActionAid has undertaken a Core Humanitarian Standard self-assessment against the nine commitments that seek to strengthen decision-making, transparency, accountability and limit duplication by improving coordination and complementarity of the response.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- ActionAid is currently undergoing the CHS external verification process conducted by the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative against the nine commitments.

- Share lessons learned and integrate the learning from the CHS implementation and Shifting the Power project.
- ActionAid will document experiences of women's leadership and involvement in humanitarian response and bring this learning to the work stream.
- Continue to strengthen the capacities of local partners and facilitate opportunities for them to represent themselves in global fora.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

We have not yet directly implemented the GB commitments, having signed the GB in February 2018.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

ActionAid only signed the GB in February 2018, but the following good practice and lessons are evident from our focus on participation and accountability over recent years.

ActionAid has worked to establish women-led disaster management and relief committees to lead local level response and this has yielded benefits for the wider communities. The women-led disaster management committees are able to mobilise, conduct need assessments, plan, make decisions on the implementation of the humanitarian response and monitor programmes, with support from ActionAid and local partners.

The women-led disaster management and relief committees are also holding their governments and other humanitarian actors to account.

Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. Increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding instruments and document the impacts on programme efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that recipients apply the same funding arrangements with their implementing partners.
2. Support in at least five countries by the end of 2017 multi-year collaborative planning and response plans through multi-year funding and monitor and evaluate the outcomes of these responses.
3. Strengthen existing coordination efforts to share analysis of needs and risks between the humanitarian and development sectors and to better align humanitarian and development planning tools and interventions while respecting the principles of both.

Multi-year planning and funding work stream co-conveners reporting request: Please report the percentage and total value of multi-year agreements² you have provided (as a donor) or received and provided to humanitarian partners (as an agency) in 2017, and any earmarking conditions.³ When reporting on efficiency gains, please try to provide quantitative examples.

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ActionAid was the recipient of multi-year funding (3 years) from DFID under the DEPP portfolio for the Shifting the Power and Transforming Surge Capacity Projects. We also have secured multi-year humanitarian funding from DANIDA for progressing protection and resilience work in protracted crises. We also finalised a resilience framework for the ActionAid Federation that supports our country programmes to work across the humanitarian and development sectors.

ActionAid is also the recipient of multi-year funding through DFAT, including the Australian Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme focused on building resilience and food security for communities affected by recurrent disasters and conflict. This project is moving into its second phase over 2018-2020. We also have multi-year funding through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership Pacific Disaster Ready Programme, in collaboration with other agencies to support long term preparedness and resilience building in Vanuatu (2018-2021). Furthermore, through DFAT's Gender Action Platform, ActionAid has multi-year funding to support women's leadership in responding to disasters and climate change (2017-2019).

² Multiyear funding is funding provided for two or more years based on a firm commitment at the outset

³ For the Grand Bargain definitions of earmarking, please see Annex I. Earmarking modalities, as contained with the final agreement, available [here](#).

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Having only signed the Grand Bargain in February 2018 we have not yet taken concrete actions towards this.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

ActionAid will continue to roll out its resilience framework and approach and update it to include protracted crises contexts. We will continue to seek multi-year funding, and to support our local partners to access multi-year funding.

In 2018, ActionAid will also conduct an impact assessment of the Australian Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme which will provide lessons for future work and highlight the value of multiyear funding in insecure and fragile contexts.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

We have not been monitoring this having only signed the GB in February 2018.

5. Good practice and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

See above

Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

- 1. Jointly determine, on an annual basis, the most effective and efficient way of reporting on unearmarked and softly earmarked funding and to initiate this reporting by the end of 2017.*
- 2. Reduce the degree of earmarking of funds contributed by governments and regional groups who currently provide low levels of flexible finance. Aid organisations in turn commit to do the same with their funding when channelling it through partners.*

Aid organisations commit to:

- 3. Be transparent and regularly share information with donors outlining the criteria for how core and unearmarked funding is allocated (for example, urgent needs, emergency preparedness, forgotten contexts, improved management)*
- 4. Increase the visibility of unearmarked and softly earmarked funding, thereby recognising the contribution made by donors.*

Donors commit to:

- 5. Progressively reduce the earmarking of their humanitarian contributions. The aim is to aspire to achieve a global target of 30 per cent of humanitarian contributions that is non earmarked or softly earmarked by 2020⁴.*

Earmarking/flexibility work stream co-conveners reporting request: Please specify if possible the percentages of 2017 vs 2016 of:

- Unearmarked contributions (given/received)
- Softly earmarked contributions (given/received)
- Country earmarked contributions (given/received)
- Tightly earmarked contributions (given/received)

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

In designing the Shifting the Power project, we tried to ensure that budgets were as decentralised in their management, and therefore decisions on flexibility and earmarking, as the donor would allow. Otherwise, this has not been an area of focus for ActionAid.

⁴ For the Grand Bargain definitions of earmarking, please see Annex I. Earmarking modalities, as contained with the final agreement, available [here](#).

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Having only signed the GB in February 2018 no concrete actions or commitments have been made.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Having only signed the GB in February 2018 no concrete actions or commitments have been made.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

N/A

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

N/A

Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

- 1. Simplify and harmonise reporting requirements by the end of 2018 by reducing its volume, jointly deciding on common terminology, identifying core requirements and developing a common report structure.*
 - 2. Invest in technology and reporting systems to enable better access to information.*
 - 3. Enhance the quality of reporting to better capture results, enable learning and increase the efficiency of reporting.*
-

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ActionAid requires one overarching report against all appeal income to humanitarian responses to reduce reporting requirements. However, currently different institutional donors and the DEC require separate and different reporting requirements, so these are still additional reports. We have not invested in technology and reporting systems to date to better capture reports. We often update our internal reporting templates to respond to different information and learning requirements and to ensure multiple different reports are not requested from countries and partners.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Nothing to report, having only signed the GB in February 2018.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

In 2018, ActionAid plans to create a global monitoring matrix that captures information required for various reports, including progress against the Grand Bargain, CHS, Call to Action against GBV, and WHS commitments.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

Nothing to report, having only signed the GB in February 2018.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

N/A

Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Use existing resources and capabilities better to shrink humanitarian needs over the long term with the view of contributing to the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals. Significantly increase prevention, mitigation and preparedness for early action to anticipate and secure resources for recovery. This will need to be the focus not only of aid organisations and donors but also of national governments at all levels, civil society, and the private sector.*
2. *Invest in durable solutions for refugees, internally displaced people and sustainable support to migrants, returnees and host/receiving communities, as well as for other situations of recurring vulnerabilities.*
3. *Increase social protection programmes and strengthen national and local systems and coping mechanisms in order to build resilience in fragile contexts.*
4. *Perform joint multi-hazard risk and vulnerability analysis, and multi-year planning where feasible and relevant, with national, regional and local coordination in order to achieve a shared vision for outcomes. Such a shared vision for outcomes will be developed on the basis of shared risk analysis between humanitarian, development, stabilisation and peacebuilding communities.*
5. *Galvanise new partnerships that bring additional capabilities and resources to crisis affected states through Multilateral Development Banks within their mandate and foster innovative partnerships with the private sector.*

Humanitarian-Development engagement work stream co-conveners reporting request:

What has your organisation done to operationalise the humanitarian-development nexus at country level?"

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

ActionAid International has developed and begun to roll out a comprehensive Resilience Framework and strategic plans (3 years and 10 years) to implement this. The integrated Framework is based on 6 parameters including humanitarian response, DRR, climate change adaptation, accountability, natural resource management and livelihood, and women and young people's leadership. ActionAid is also piloting a number of projects to explore how to strengthen community resilience in complex contexts such as urban and protracted crises contexts, as well as in gender sensitive ways.

Resilience is a core aspect of ActionAid's humanitarian signature, as well as our wider international strategy, and all humanitarian and development programmes should encompass resilience building.

ActionAid has been working in number of countries with internally displaced people, refugees, and host communities with both humanitarian as well as long term development interventions. For example, in Jordan in 2016 ActionAid began a community programme to support Syrian and Jordanian women to build their resilience by promoting protection, women's leadership, women's livelihoods, accountability and advocacy. In Kenya, AA's current resilience programme includes a focus on displaced, host and cross border nomadic groups. Here, AA focuses on education, access to water, healthcare and food, promotion of women's rights and women-led organisations, protection, diversification of livelihoods, improved access to markets, community disaster risk reduction plans, and advocacy and linkage to key decision-making. In Palestine, resilience is focused on long term and sustainable livelihoods for the internally displaced populations to increase women's income and decision-making power over income earned. Furthermore, in Bangladesh, AA is working with both the 'forcibly displaced Myanmar Nationals' and the host communities focusing on the transfer of skills and knowledge relating to alternative, resilient livelihoods.

ActionAid also has major activities in terms of social protection, with a focus on protection of women's rights centred around women's agency. It takes a Human Rights Based Approach and includes assessing risk, creating safe spaces, empowerment, building capacity and knowledge, partnerships, alliances and policy influence. This is a core part of ActionAid's humanitarian signature and is being integrated into all humanitarian programming.

ActionAid's Resilience Framework is strongly aligned with multi-hazard risk and vulnerability analysis. It works through the participatory Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Assessment methodology, which supports community members to map out risk, vulnerability and capacities, empowers women leaders to have their voice heard and aims to strengthen the capacity of local government and other actors.

ActionAid recognises that the private sector can also play an important role in development by driving new technologies, providing goods and services, creating jobs and paying taxes. The social economy is growing, with new forms of social enterprise and cooperatives enabling sustainable livelihoods. Many private sector actors share concerns about inequality and environmental destruction, with some re-examining their policies and practices as a result. Recognising the diversity of the private sector and the contribution it can play in development, ActionAid is committed to promote responsible and sustainable corporate behaviour. We will continue to challenge the negative impact of corporations on human rights and ecological sustainability and advocate for safeguards and binding legislation to

ensure businesses are accountable to human rights, labour and environmental standards and that they pay their fair share of taxes in all countries of operation.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

ActionAid currently has 20 countries that have committed to prioritising resilience building in their three-year country strategies. This includes: Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Somaliland, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Liberia, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Nigeria and Brazil.

In addition, ActionAid has five fundraising countries that are prioritising resilience building in their three-year country strategies including Australia, UK, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands.

ActionAid's new resilience framework has been rolled out in three countries to date. A plan is being developed to ensure all countries implementing resilience work have rolled out the framework.

ActionAid is also working with Monash University under DFAT's Gender Action Platform to develop a framework that integrates gender equality outcomes with humanitarian, development and security frameworks. This is designed to avoid siloed approaches and ensure consistent application of the principles of UNSCR1325 of women's participation, prevention and protection across multiple humanitarian contexts.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- Roll out the Resilience Framework globally; including all ActionAid countries that have prioritised resilience building in their three-year country strategies listed above.
- Implement a DANIDA funded pilot programme of resilience, economic empowerment and social protection in protracted crises in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, and capture lessons and best practice.
- Strengthen our women-led preparedness work across 12 countries through a DFAT funded programme under the Gender Action Plan with deeper multi-year investments in Cambodia, Kenya and Vanuatu
- Conduct and share research on loss and gain of refugees.
- Scale up and disseminate learning on urban resilience work.
- Scale up and promote gender-sensitive resilience building work.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

Nothing to report, having only signed the GB in February 2018.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Whilst ActionAid's resilience framework and toolkits outline a comprehensive approach to building resilience and aligning humanitarian and development work, as the GB was signed in February 2018, we have not yet documented specific lessons learnt against each priority.