

**Grand Bargain in 2018:**  
**Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution:** [ActionAid](#)

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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 2018?**

**The three key outcomes that ActionAid has achieved in 2018:**

- To build consensus among signatories on the need to ensure greater focus on gender in the Grand Bargain workstreams going forwards. This has been achieved via the CARE and ActionAid publication of the briefing paper “Not What She Bargained For? Gender and the Grand Bargain”, co-leading with CARE the GBV Area of Responsibility localisation task team and participating actively in the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender group.
- To increase the transparency and monitoring of the humanitarian preparedness, response and resilience funding to local and national partners, disaggregating on how much goes to women’s rights organisation. This has also helped to disseminate information on the Grand Bargain within ActionAid staff. In November 2018, AAUK has recruited a Senior IATI Specialist who will develop a strategic plan to embed and implement IATI reporting across all AAUK funding. ActionAid is setting a mechanism to monitor the humanitarian funding that goes to local and national partners in each year's humanitarian responses.
- To mainstream cash transfer programming into then humanitarian response oversight mechanisms of ActionAid. This means cash is routinely considered at decision making ActionAid systematically vets its humanitarian proposals for feasibility and inclusion of cash modalities. In 2018, more than half of the fifteen humanitarian responses (54 %) used cash transfer programming.

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

The Grand Bargain 2018 outcomes will lead to ActionAid setting internal and external guidance on how to operationalise women-led localised responses in sudden and slow onset disasters as well as in protracted crisis. The Grand Bargain agreement – mainly via its transparency, localisation, cash and participation workstreams -, together with other global commitments (such as the World Humanitarian Summit and Call to Action on Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies), are being instrumental to guide and monitor performance of ActionAid’s preparedness, response and resilience work.

The aim is to have all humanitarian and resilience work in the organisation women-led, localised and responding timely to community needs on

protection and livelihoods. ActionAid will also produce evidence and research showing the positive impact for affected communities of an increasingly women-led and localised humanitarian system. It will support punctual as well as systemic initiatives, such as the recently created Feminist Humanitarian Network, to increase the voice and power of local women leaders and women's organisations in the international humanitarian system and its coordination mechanisms.

**Question 3: 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.

As indicated above, one of the main objectives and outcomes for ActionAid since joining the Grand Bargain has been to contribute to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings. This has been done through mainstreaming gender across the agreement and focusing in the transformative potential of three workstreams: localisation, cash and participation revolution. ActionAid has been active producing guidance on women-led localisation and monitoring its implementation in its responses. ActionAid participated with CARE and WRC in the Gender Cash event as part of the CaLP cash week in 2018. In 2019, it aims to operationalise a feminist approach to humanitarian work, with specific focus on localisation, participation and cash work. The first research will be about women-led localisation in the 2018 Indonesia Central Sulawesi response.

**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.

The humanitarian-development nexus is being strategically mainstreamed at a conceptual level, rolling out in 2018 ActionAid's resilience framework and toolkit. We have established a new community of practice within ActionAid where colleagues working directly with affected women and young people can share learning about how to effectively build women and young people's resilience in protracted crises situations. This community meets once a month. Two webinars have been held for the group, facilitated by the Resilience Programme Coordinator, with attendees representing the international humanitarian team, AA Denmark, AA Palestine, AA Lebanon, AA Jordan, AA Nigeria, AA Bangladesh, AA Kenya and AA DRC.

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

**This background work is being accompanied by practical measures to ensure that there is multi-year support to local women and youth-led organisations capable of responding to slow and sudden disasters and protracted crisis while building the communities' resilience. Donor and UN funding to emergencies continues to be punctual, reactive and fragmented. ActionAid unrestricted funding, mainly through its Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund (DPRF), is not enough nor is it design to ensure long term support to partner organisations. ActionAid Arise is a pilot initiative for a global fund directly supporting women-led emergency preparedness and response:**

**<https://actionaid.org.au/arise-women-are-leading-crisis-response/>**

**ENDS**