

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Global Affairs Canada

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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?

In 2018, Canada continued to implement its Grand Bargain commitments. Of particular note are Canada's actions taken against the commitments within the localization and enhanced quality funding workstreams, as well as regarding cross-cutting commitments such as enhancing the humanitarian-development nexus and better incorporating gender equality considerations.

First, Canada increased its support to flexible funding tools that improve assistance delivered by local and national responders, such as the UN-led Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs). In 2018, Canada contributed to 11 CBPFs for a total amount of \$19.05 million. In comparison, Canada contributed to 7 CBPFs in 2017 for a total of \$10.95 million. Canada's 2018 contributions thus represent a 57.4% increase from its 2017 contributions.

Second, in 2018, Canada expanded its implementation of the humanitarian-development nexus programming from the Middle East to other contexts, and also supported several resilience-oriented and capacity building initiatives to enable greater food security in poor rural areas. For instance, Canada demonstrated leadership by working with the World Bank and the Government of Bangladesh to implement an innovative mechanism in support of health, nutrition, and basic education services for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. Canada also continued to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) in the North of Central America (NCA). As part of the MIRPS, in 2017, Canada committed almost CAD \$45 million for various projects aimed at reducing the causes of violence, and increasing legal capacities of NCA countries over a five-year period.

Third, Canada continued to champion a gender-responsive approach to humanitarian action. Globally, this included bringing gender issues to the forefront of international meetings, for example through the G7 Development Ministers' "Whistler Declaration on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action". Examples of this approach at the country level include, in partnership with UN Women, launching a "Gender Hub" in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. This Hub is at the core of Canada's plan to advance gender-responsive humanitarian action in the Rohingya context, and will offer technical support and training to the sectors and humanitarian actors, including local women's organizations. Canada is also supporting complementary projects to promote gender-responsive humanitarian action in the Rohingya context, for example by increasing the integration of gender in needs assessments.

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

All three outcomes noted above are part of, or will lead to, longer-term trends towards improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action.

Regarding the first outcome, the increased support in 2018 to the UN-led CBPFs is part of a broader trend towards Canada's increased use of flexible financing mechanisms. For example, over the last several years, Canada has increased its use of draw-down funds to provide financial support to organizations to respond quickly to small and medium-scale humanitarian crises. For instance, there has been an increase in Canada's financial contribution to the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund (EDAF), administered by the Canadian Red Cross, from the 2012-2013 to the 2018-19 fiscal years. Similarly, Canada's recent financial contribution to the NGO-administered Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund (CHAF) has increased from \$9.5 million over three fiscal years (2015-16 to 2017-18) to \$10 million over two fiscal years (2018-2019 to 2019-2020).

With respect to the second outcome, by applying a nexus approach in a greater number of geographic contexts, Canada is changing its approach to ensure that systematic collaboration between its humanitarian, development, and stabilization teams becomes the norm for major crises, and that, while respecting different mandates, these actors support collective outcomes. Enhanced cooperation between these actors will ensure a more coherent response to conflict and crisis situations, which ultimately supports the alleviation of suffering, the maintenance of human dignity, and better outcomes for crisis-affected populations. Furthermore, ensuring a greater coherence between humanitarian, development, and stabilization programming will enhance the opportunities for crisis-affected communities to build resilience and to implement durable solutions.

For the third outcome, by applying a gender-responsive approach to humanitarian action, Canada is determined to ensure the full participation of women and girls at all stages of the humanitarian assistance process, from consultation to decision making and implementation. This approach will guide Canada's humanitarian assistance, and will support Canada's efforts to make the wider humanitarian system more gender responsive. At a country level, Canada is piloting this approach in the Rohingya response. Canada will evaluate the successes and identify lessons learned from this pilot, with the aim of implementing a similar approach for other humanitarian contexts. In doing so, Canada hopes to advance a broad gender-responsive approach to humanitarian action, and will emphasize the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all crisis contexts.

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). Please refer to the

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

Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

Through several Grand Bargain workstreams and in the implementation of its Grand Bargain commitments, Canada has contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings. For instance, in updating its NGO humanitarian proposal guidelines, Canada requires a rigorous gender equality analysis to inform needs assessment and project design, and the activities and expected outcomes partners expect to achieve must directly relate back to the activities proposed. Partners must therefore apply a gender lens at the beginning of the project design process. This requirement supports more effective programming by ensuring the consistent incorporation of gender considerations. Furthermore, Canada is actively integrating gender considerations in its humanitarian-development nexus programming. In doing so, Canada will work to advance gender equality through targeted programming.

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.

In 2018, Canada has continued to mainstream the humanitarian-development-peace/stabilization nexus in the implementation of its Grand Bargain commitments, in particular with regards to the mutually-supporting areas of: (i) localisation; (ii) the use of cash; and (iii) enhanced quality funding. For example, in response to the Syria crisis, Canada continues to implement a three year strategy to address the immediate needs of crisis-affected populations and to help build their resilience. Flexible and multi-year humanitarian financing in this response has enabled stronger engagement between humanitarian and development partners, and has enhancing coordination and effectiveness, including through the increased use of cash assistance, and through greater support to local partners. Notably, the longer-term planning horizons allowed by flexible funding has facilitated the integration of revenue generating activities into programming, which then promotes continuity of services by local partners after projects end. Canada is also applying the nexus approach to the Rohingya response, with a particular focus in leadership and accountability for gender-responsive humanitarian action. In this context, Canada has coordinated its humanitarian and development nexus programming with local partners and authorities from the outset of the response, with the objective of supporting local capacity. Using enhanced quality funding to support organizational capacity enables national and local actors to play a full role in both the humanitarian and development system, as many NGOs in this response have dual mandates.