

# Grand Bargain annual self-reporting exercise:

## Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

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## Work stream 1 - Transparency

### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

CRS has an internal system for maintaining data on our global programming, but is not currently reporting consistently through FTS or IATI.

### 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?

### 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)?

- Improve CRS' ability to easily provide input into global reporting systems including IATI and FTS.

### 4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

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

### 5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

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?

## Work stream 2 - Localization

### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Localization is a priority commitment to CRS and CRS has always had a focus on localization which is demonstrated in our investment in positive partnerships with local organizations (private and public) – based on mutual commitment, complementary purpose and shared resources.

CRS has also maintained and strengthened our focus on capacity strengthening over many years of learning. We have a defined approach (capacity building, institutional strengthening and accompaniment) and a suite of tested tools and guidance for our staff, partners and other organizations. Many of these tools/guidance can be found on our externally facing Institute for Capacity Strengthening ([ICS](#)).

CRS has consistently invested our own resources in partnership and capacity strengthening. Prior to the GB (2015 Fiscal Year) CRS:

- Had a total of 1,717 partners (1,372 local NGOs, 76 local private sector, 269 public)
- Total of 258 million in sub grants to local partners
- Program Expenses in Capacity Strengthening – 12.2 million

### 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?

- Continued investment in Partnership and Capacity Strengthening (PCS).
- Populating and promoting internal and external use of the Institute for Capacity Strengthening which include guidance/tools for effective PCS, as well as learning resources for local partners.
- Shared partner assessments with other organizations to reduce duplication and burden.
- Commitment of over 2 million USD private resources for multi-year humanitarian capacity strengthening with a particular focus on more than 40 partners in the Middle East and Eastern/Southern Asia.
- Focus on more robust MEAL for PCS.
- Commitment of resources (funds/staffing) to promote field level implementation of GB localization commitment within the Nigeria response.
- Participation in localization work stream consultations/forums – IASC HFTF, Charter 4 Change.
- Dedicated CS support to Caritas Africa through a position secondment and support to the development and roll out of the Caritas International Emergency Tool Kit that provides technical and funding guidance for the 165 member Caritas International Network.
- Development/Co-Chairing of a Caritas Sectoral Working Group on Shelter and Settlement with prioritizes southern membership, capacity strengthening and south/south technical assistance.
- In 2016 (Fiscal Year)

- Had a total of 1,962 partners (1,574 local NGOs, 97 local private sector, 291 public)
- Total of 295 million in sub grants to local partners
- Program Expenses in Capacity Strengthening – 26 million

### 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 addition to continuing with the activities outlined above, other areas of focus over the next two years will include:

- Sharing outcomes of field level GB localization work stream implementation through identified forums (PEER Project outcomes, Caritas Ukraine local partner case study, Nigeria field level implementation outcomes).
- Streamlining/consolidating capacity assessment tools and promoting flexibility in use based on context/type of partnership (organizational capacity assessment, sub recipient financial management assessment, Caritas Management Standards assessment).
- Accessing external funding for partner capacity strengthening, piloting innovation in MEAL for CS (using various methodologies like Sense Maker), and building the evidence base for CS.
- Partnering with other agencies with common localization objectives for greater impact and resource sharing.
- Promote integrated and area based coordination as a means of promoting local leadership/participation in coordination.
- Support localization focused initiatives within other work streams – cash, participation revolution, and humanitarian/development nexus.

### 4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

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

This is a work in progress. CRS is carrying out focused studies and using MEAL within projects to determine the impact of our capacity strengthening on program quality. We also want to look at improvement quality of partnership, improved visibility for local partners and impact of streamlining and sharing partner assessment outcomes.

### 5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

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?

## Work stream 3 - Cash

### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Cash programming when appropriate has been a priority for CRS under our current strategy which stated in 2013. Since this time, CRS has invested in building our/local partner cash readiness, contributing to the evidence base and supporting country level cash coordination. In 2015 (Fiscal Year) the value of CRS' CTP was estimated at over 30 million.

### 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?

- CRS is a member of the CaLP TWG.
- CRS is working with up to four (4) CRS country program teams on a one-on-one mentorship program to support better market monitoring in country (MARKit mentorship program) – through September 2017.
- CRS has signed a global agreement with Red Rose for a central Cash and Asset Transfer (CAT) system that can manage all cash and asset transfers across the CRS world, as needed, and data can be viewed and tracked centrally.
- CRS is “co-champion” with Save the Children to coordinate 14 NGOs plus CaLP to develop an NGO platform for delivering cash effectively and at scale, the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) platform. The team has 15 members, regular steering committee calls, an approved concept note, and is beginning to identify countries to implement preparedness and improved collaboration activities. The CCD is working with CaLP and an ongoing ERC program to develop and contribute to a model for measuring efficiency and effectiveness of cash consortia and other models of collaborative cash programming.
- CRS has drafted a cash preparedness strategy and will be rolling out cash preparedness activities in 2 countries through September 2017; this includes researching and developing global agreements with regional or global service providers that can delivery cash in the most appropriate way (i.e. mobile money, remittances, prepaid cards) quickly. CRS has renewed its global agreement with Swift prepaid Visa.
- CRS maintains an active global Cash WG across headquarters departments, to improve cash preparedness through coordinated and streamlined policies, systems, and support. CRS has created operational guidance for cash programming.
- CRS/ Somalia is implementing a NetHope learning project to test and research different CTP delivery modalities.
- CRS continues to work with the Electronic Cash Transfer Learning Action Network (ELAN) and Mercy Corp in developing good practices in electronic data management. CRS contributed to a report on data privacy and protection in Nigeria that is now available publicly ([ELAN](#))
- CRS is working with CaLP and Samaritan's Purse, through a USAID TOPS grant, to research good practices in multiple modality or flexible programming – through summer 2017.
- At least eight CRS Country programs are using Electronic cash/voucher platforms or Mobile Money.
- Partnering with Johns Hopkins University on operations research on the use of cash in meeting the needs of at risk women and girls within the Europe Refugee/Migrant Response.
- \$31.3m in cash/ vouchers transferred in Fiscal Year 2016 in 45 countries.

### 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 addition to continuing to move forward on efforts mentioned above:

- Serve as a key member of the NGO Cash Platform – potential in country lead role for a focus country or the role of host for the Platform.
- Continue to contribute to evidence base in coordination with other cash actors as well as building cash readiness of CRS country programs and local partners.
- Contribute to in country cash coordination through a co-lead role or technical role.
- Make use of the CAT within both development and humanitarian programming as a means of contributing to data sharing.
- Revise systems and policies as a means of enhancing CRS' ability to effectively/efficiently implement cash programming.
- Contribute to efforts focused on developing indicators for cash programming.
- Update, enhance based on learning and share CRS' MARKit tool.

### 4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

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

### 5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

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?

## **Work stream 4 – Management costs**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

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

### **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?

### **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)?

### **4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)**

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

### **5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)**

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?



## Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment

### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

### 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?

- Promoting field level coordination for assessments amongst CRS teams and partners.
- Promoting area based coordination (multi sectoral) which would contribute to better coordination of assessments within a given target area.

### 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)?

Continue with the above, as well as provide field level input into global discussion on coordinated needs assessment.

### 4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

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

### 5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

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?

## Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution

### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Accountability to affected populations is at the center of CRS' humanitarian programming. This is demonstrated through the requirement of all programs to have beneficiary feedback mechanisms (part of the CRS MEAL Policy), a commitment to Protection Mainstreaming which includes ensuring participation of affected populations. CRS' sectoral interventions are context specific and build on local input and capacity. In addition, our efforts to promote area based coordination is expected to contribute to greater participation, leadership from and accountability to affected populations.

### 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?

- Participating in the PRM and SCHR led discussions on PR. Provided feedback on definition and Plan of Action.
- Providing leadership in the updating of the MEAL section for the new SPHERE manual.
- Developed an online training module on MEAL in Emergencies that includes a section on Accountability. This Module is available on Disaster ready and the CRS ICS.
- Working in coordination with three other Caritas Agencies (CAFOD, Trocaire, Caritas Australia) in the development of tools/guidance on Protection Mainstreaming which has Accountability as one of eight core components.
- Developed and field tested a multi project beneficiary feedback system in the DRC.
- Prioritizing capacity strengthening in Core Humanitarian Standards for CRS and Partners.
- Have presented in a number of forums the benefits of area based coordination.

### 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)?

Continue with the efforts noted above with a greater emphasis on progress at the field level and sharing of learning and best practices.

### 4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

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

### 5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

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?

## Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding

### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

### 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?

- Contributing to discussions on the benefits of multiyear funding, especially in terms of the contribution to the sustainability of local organizations.

### 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)?

- Continue with the efforts outlined above.

### 4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

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

### 5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

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?

## **Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility**

### **1. Baseline (only in year 1)**

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

### **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?

### **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)?

### **4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)**

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

### **5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)**

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?

## Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements

### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

### 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?

### 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)?

- Provide input into discussion on how to streamline reporting as a means of allowing for more time for program implementation.
- Serve as a pilot agency for testing new reporting requirements under efforts in the planning by ICVA and donors.

Identify opportunities to streamline reporting requirements for local partners.

### 4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

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

### 5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

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?

## Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement

### 1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Not consistently, but CRS has been able to effectively link our humanitarian and development programming in several contexts. We have ensure the flexibility in shifting towards recovery and resilience as soon as possible and integrated preparedness into ongoing development programming. We are sharing technical expertise in relevant sectors across humanitarian and development 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?

Continued focus on areas noted above.

### 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)?

- Expanding the integration of risk analysis and preparedness into development programming.
- Through cash programming, contributing to efforts to strengthen and/or develop social safety nets.
- Share best practices from countries in which CRS has been able to effectively integrate Humanitarian and Development programming.
- Participate in the piloting of humanitarian financing mechanisms –including parametric and replica insurance.
- Participate in the review and field testing of a Drought Finance Facility within our membership in the START Network.

### 4. Efficiency gains (optional for year 1)

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

### 5. Good practices and lessons learned (optional for year 1)

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?