

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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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?

Early Action - One key outcome of FAO's work related to the Grand Bargain in 2018 is the increased focus on early action. In 2018, FAO implemented early actions ahead of various risks across different regions in order to save lives, safeguard agricultural livelihoods and food security, and protect longer-term development and resilience gains. The results of these actions are pointing to significant cost-effectiveness of early action by saving key livelihood assets and reducing humanitarian response costs. In 2018, FAO played a key role in activating the Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures for Early Action to El Niño/La Niña Episodes. In coordination with relevant UN agencies and other organizations, FAO constantly monitored the evolution of the El Niño phenomenon throughout 2018, and provided the international community with a common understanding of potentially affected areas and livelihoods. The FAO advisory on high-risk countries and potential impacts of 2018/2019 El Niño on food security and agriculture raised global awareness on the need for anticipatory action, and prompted the timely formulation of early action projects to support the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers and herders.

Cash-based programming - FAO also achieved significant results in cash-based programming in 2018. FAO continued to promote the use of Cash+ to increase the effectiveness of assistance and the sustainability of impacts in emergency response. Cash+ refers to the simultaneous provision of complementary assistance modalities (cash transfers, vouchers, service delivery and/or in-kind assistance) for the same beneficiaries, based on needs, preferences, market conditions and local livelihoods contexts. Cash+ programmes were implemented in 10 countries and represented 15% of FAO cash and voucher assistance in 2018. Furthermore, significant efforts were maintained to analyse and measure the impact of FAO cash and voucher programs as well as of national social protection systems, particularly in food crises settings. As a result, operational knowledge on shock responsive social protection systems was strengthened. Lastly, a series of webinars were initiated on cash and voucher assistance and risk informed social protection, to facilitate knowledge transfer and guidance with and between FAO country offices, as well as with key partners. Thus, an enhanced knowledge and capacity base on cash and social protection programming in fragile contexts was built at country level.

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

FAO's Early Warning **Early Action** (EWEA) approach fosters the operationalization of the humanitarian-development nexus. By preventing or mitigating the impact of hazards, early actions in agriculture contribute to shrink humanitarian needs and reduce the cost of humanitarian assistance. Over 2018, FAO measured the return on investment of acting early upon an early warning trigger to prevent and/or mitigate the impact of disasters on vulnerable farmers and herders. For every dollar invested by FAO in early action, farmers and herders obtained between 2.5 and 7.1 dollars in added benefits and avoided damage and losses, depending on the country and hazard context¹. The studies also found that

¹ In Mongolia, for instance, feed and cash distribution ahead of forecast harsh winter (*dzud*) contributed significantly to reduce negative impacts on livestock (mortality, animal body conditions, cashmere and milk production): the Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) was 1 : 7.1. In Madagascar, the distribution of seeds, water pumps

early actions contributed to enhance food security and strengthen the resilience of beneficiaries in the face of future shocks.

Cash based programming - the finalization of new operational procedures for cash transfers, which address FAO's commitments to the Grand Bargain is in itself a major institutional change in policy for the Organization, which will allow to reduce risks and fragmentation and to improve coherence, efficiency, transparency and security in the delivery of cash transfers by FAO. In addition, FAO's financial and project management systems have been improved with markers and new accounting categories for cash transfers, vouchers and other modalities of financial assistance to beneficiaries, which improve the effectiveness and transparency of the tracking of actual spending on various modalities. These improvements also generate more adequate support to field offices at an earlier stage in the project cycle facilitating more efficient and effective projects. Finally, FAO is working to improve the evidence base, the programmatic and operational guidance and the documentation of good practices on the use of cash+ approaches to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of assistance.

Question 3: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment 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.

Many efforts were devoted by FAO in 2018 towards the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian and rural development settings. FAO has successfully supported the inclusion of gender equality considerations in many international policy dialogues and voluntary guidelines covering themes such as the right to food, governance of tenure, sustainable small-scale fisheries, and responsible investments in agriculture and food systems. These materials and tools have been used by governments and other stakeholders to develop more gender-equitable strategies, policies and programmes. For example, a specific principle on women's empowerment and gender equality was negotiated in the Committee on World Food Security Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA).

FAO continues to support community mobilization, collective action and gender-transformative planning and implementation through the FAO Dimitra Clubs, the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) and Safe Acces to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) approach, through gender-responsive activities that increase women's access to resources and services, and reduce GBV risks

FAO is collaborating with the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) in a study to better understand how to address the specific priorities of men and women in food and nutrition interventions in conflict-affected contexts, and to shape peacebuilding processes that improve gender equality in the aftermath of violent conflicts.

In commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and as part of the UNiTE campaign to End Violence against Women, a workshop on Protecting People at Risk in Emergencies and Conflict was organised at FAO in November 2018. The event highlighted how the Organization supports countries in the design and implementation of food security and nutrition programmes in ways that

and micro-irrigation systems ahead of forecast drought helped poor farmers cope with the strong impacts of prolonged rainfall deficits on food security: the BCR was 1: 2.5. In Sudan, early distribution of animal feed ahead of forecast drought helped pastoralist communities preserve their livestock assets: the BCR was 1: 6.7.

prevent and mitigate the impacts of gender-based violence, and protect women and men who are most at risk in conflict and disasters settings.

In 2018 new guidance material was prepared and technical advice was provided to staff members and external partners to support them with vulnerability and resilience measurement, taking into account gender issues, along with the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and the formulation of gender-sensitive indicators. Since 2017, FAO is providing support in incorporating gender equality issues and the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) approach in programming, and close monitoring of four national resilience and humanitarian projects in West Africa and the Sahel.

Looking forward, in 2019, further efforts will be made to continue developing and disseminating approaches and good practices to contribute to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings. This includes the continuation of FAO's Cash for Work programming and developing an area of technical knowledge around integrating gender dimensions in risk-informed, shock-responsive social protection.

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.

Through the Global Network against Food Crisis, FAO, WFP and the EU are jointly promoting consensual, harmonized and country-owned food insecurity, resilience and risk analyses monitoring of contexts (countries and regions) at risk of food crises to inform timely decision making and advocacy for action. The objective behind the Global Network Against Food Crises is to adopt a common long-term vision among partners to promote synergies and coordination and address food crises along the humanitarian-development- nexus. A crucial part of this process is the Global Report on Food Crises, which is a multi-agency collaborative effort of 12 partners². The Global Report on Food Crises is vital to help decision-makers plan humanitarian interventions, and allocate and prioritize resources along the humanitarian-development nexus. The Global Network Against Food Crises and the Global Report on Food Crises are therefore ideally positioned to foster greater coordination of actors along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to promote agriculture and food security within the framework of the broader resilience agenda.

In 2018 FAO together with IFAD and WFP started the implementation of a 5 years programme funded by Canada³ in Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Niger and Somalia. This joint programme aims to meet immediate food needs while sustainably increasing food security and strengthening the resilience of food-insecure households in regions affected by protracted and recurrent crises, with a specific focus on vulnerable women and children. The programme represents an unprecedented effort to support and

² The Technical Working Group currently includes institutions active in food security assessments and information producers and users: FAO; WFP; the European Commission's Directorate-General for Development Cooperation – DEVCO, European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations – ECHO and the European Union Joint Research Centre (EU-JRC); Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET); International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – OCHA; the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Global Support Unit (IPC-GSU); the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC), as well as regional organizations such as CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) in West Africa, IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) in East Africa and SICA (Central American Integration System) in Central America.

³ <http://www.fao.org/3/i8673en/I8673EN.pdf>

invest in the same vulnerable communities over a five-year period through integrated, context-specific, gender- and nutrition-sensitive assistance packages.

FAO increased its investment in durable solutions, and programming addressing immediate livelihood and food security needs of migrants, returnees and host communities, but also investing in building long term resilience to threats and crises, and enhancing social cohesion between/within these communities. During the reporting period, FAO implemented approximately 160 projects in 29 countries, which specifically targeted migrants/returnees/host communities in displacement contexts. Implementation focused on building the resilience of refugees, IDP and host communities, promoting socio-economic inclusion and enhancing social cohesion.