

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

**Name of Institution: International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)**

**Point of Contact (name, title, email): Jeremy Rempel, Head of Humanitarian Financing, [Jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org](mailto:Jeremy.rempel@icvanetwork.org)**

**Date of Submission: 26-March-2019**

(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?**

ICVA's role as a Grand Bargain signatory is unique in that it is a non-operational NGO network, that in turn serves operational NGO partners. Although ICVA maintains a strong focus on the Grand Bargain as a whole and seeks to improve the ability of signatory NGO partners and others to implement all commitments, ICVA has chosen to place a particular focus on certain workstreams. For 2018, ICVA focused on workstream 9 (harmonized reporting), workstream 2 (localization), and the now mainstreamed work on the humanitarian – development nexus.

For harmonized reporting, ICVA invested considerable staff time and resource as a co-convenor of the workstream with Germany. During 2018, efforts were less intense in terms of the initial planning and development that was the focus in 2017, and more focused on supporting ongoing participation in the pilot work, encouraging new participants to join, and supporting the revision of materials after the mid-term review completed by GPPi.

Of importance to highlight is the expanded use of the 8+3 harmonized template by donors in 2018. France announced that they would join during the year, and by November 2018 announced that they would use the harmonized template with all partners receiving funding. UNHCR, which was already participating in the pilot in Iraq, Myanmar, and Somalia expanded use of the harmonized template to all NGO partners globally in guidance shared at the end of 2018 for year-end reporting.

Localization also remained a core issue for ICVA during 2018. As an NGO network, ICVA is unique in its range of membership, which includes both INGOs and local/national NGOs. For both of these groups proper definition of NGOs as local or international, as well as levels of funding and support for capacity strengthening remain key issues. The primary accomplishment of ICVA in the area of localization was the September release of an ICVA briefing paper titled "Localization Examined." This briefing paper is publicly available, and examines the history and current state of the localization workstream from the NGO perspective

[https://www.icvanetwork.org/system/files/versions/ICVA\\_Localization%20Examined\\_Briefing\\_Paper\\_Sept2018.pdf](https://www.icvanetwork.org/system/files/versions/ICVA_Localization%20Examined_Briefing_Paper_Sept2018.pdf).

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

The 8+3 narrative reporting pilot work can already be linked to institutional change through the global implementation of the reporting template by partners such as OCHA, UNHCR, and France. In the mid-term review, NGO users of the harmonized template already reported a reduction in the perceived burden of reporting on field staff. As we see more donors increase their use of harmonized narrative reporting in 2019, we expect this pattern to continue.

Additionally, the harmonized reporting pilot has served as a “low hanging fruit” within the Grand Bargain. The pilot has served as an early example of how Grand Bargain commitments can be practically implemented to result in positive change at the field level. While other pilot opportunities still remain somewhat slow to develop, there are options under development in transparency and cost structures that could be linked in the future to broader harmonized reporting if they are implemented and supported by co-conveners.

For localization, ICVA has continued to push for donors to give more directly to local and national partners in addition to investing in capacity strengthening. ICVA’s partnership with UNHCR in this area, has resulted in ongoing investment in the capacity of national partners. This strengthening of capacity is necessary for the commitment in increased financial support to national partners to result in good programming outcomes.

Local and national partners also make up an increased percentage of the recipients of CBPF grants and UNHCR funds that in previous years. This trend can in part be linked to the advocacy efforts of ICVA and other NGO networks to push for investment in capacity and direct funding.

**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.

ICVA was extensively engaged in work linked to gender issues in 2018, however, this work was not always intentionally linked to implementation of the Grand Bargain workstreams. For example, ICVA led discussions with UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNFPA between August and December 2018 to improve incorporation of the UN Protocol on SEA Allegation Management in Implementing Partners. This work resulted in the successful modification of UN partnership agreements to incorporate better survivor-focused language, protection of personal data, etc.

Improvements in systems for safeguarding and PSEA were also a focus of ICVA through participation in UK DFID-led discussions in October 2018. ICVA is moving forward to support implementation of the commitments that were developed in those discussions in 2019.

---

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

**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.

As with gender, ICVA has been closely engaged with the HD Nexus in 2018, although not always explicitly within the umbrella of the Grand Bargain workstreams. ICVA participated in the IASC work in 2018 to look at humanitarian and development funding flows, and identify contexts where joint planning and funding could be improved.