

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

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International Labour Organization

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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?

An example of an outcome where the ILO has both benefited from the Grand Bargain commitments of the wider community as well as achieved considerable progress itself is on the Extension of Social Protection systems (commitment 10.3). The ILO developed specific approaches in terms of response to [disasters and climate change](#) in relation to social protection, both for preparedness and response. Similarly a specific approach has been taken in terms of [refugees](#), where the ILO has worked with UNHCR to conduct assessments of humanitarian health operations and social health protection schemes in Mauritania, Rwanda, Burkina Faso and Senegal to evaluate the potential for refugee participation in national programmes. In Sudan, urban refugee populations are now affiliated to the National Health Insurance Fund. In Turkey, the ILO has worked with WFP to bridge short-term humanitarian aid and long-term development measures, now being taken forward with support from KfW to provide access to social protection for Syrian refugees and host communities.

These different experiences have shown the importance of *working along the nexus to make sure that immediate humanitarian assistance (Cash-Based Programming) is set-up in such a way that there can be a transition to inclusion into or extension of national social security schemes of different kinds*. With a range of other signatories, such as UNICEF, the ILO has taken the lead on the development of a Social Protection Floors Window under the UN Joint Fund for Agenda 2030. This fund supports and enhances Delivering as One on [Social Protection Floors](#) and supports the transition from humanitarian aid to sustainable development.

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

The ILO is not a humanitarian agency and the Grand Bargain commitments by themselves do not drive institutional changes for the ILO. Rather the Grand Bargain is one of the different forces at play that influence the way ILO's development cooperation and its partnerships with GB signatories evolves. The multi-faceted reform of the UN Development System leads to change in the same direction as several of the Grand Bargain work streams in terms of multi-stakeholder partnerships, policy coherence, effectiveness and efficiencies.

In terms of changes within the ILO, the Grand Bargain has been referenced in the June 2018 report to the International Labour Conference "[Towards 2030: Effective development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals](#)". The [Resolution adopted](#) 12 guiding principles to underpin ILO's development cooperation, many of which directly echo the principles contained in the Grand Bargain: 'Enhanced country ownership and relevance', 'A more coordinated and coherent strategy', 'Enhanced transparency and shared responsibility through social dialogue' and 'Inclusive partnerships'. These principles will underpin the ILO's Development Cooperation Strategy for 2020-2025.

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?

The ILO’s work on gender equality and women’s empowerment is driven by both the [ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018-21](#) as well as the specific references in [ILO Recommendation n. 205](#), notably:

- *“Considering the need to recognize that crises affect women and men differently, and the critical importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in promoting peace, preventing crises, enabling recovery and building resilience; and*
- *applying a gender perspective in all crisis prevention and response design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities, prevent and punish all forms of gender-based violence, including rape, sexual exploitation and harassment, and protect and support victims.”*

It is difficult to provide a comprehensive overview of how the ILO has given effect to this governance guidance but an example to highlight are the specific initiatives in [Jordan](#) and [Turkey](#) within the context of the Syria refugee crisis and aimed at partnering with local organizations to offer dedicated employment services to female refugees in order to facilitate their entry in the formal labour market. Globally, the ILO works increasingly with UN Women on these issues, including through an EC Madad funded joint programme ‘Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey,’ which is centred on longer term social and economic recovery and livelihood opportunities.

Question 4: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments?

The ILO’s initial engagement with the Grand Bargain was based on the realisation that the ILO’s mandate called for increasingly connecting its work to those of humanitarian actors, both in terms of prevention and preparedness, as well as of early recovery. This accelerated with the adoption by the International Labour Conference in June 2017 of the [Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience](#), a normative instrument providing guidance to member states, organizations and practitioners dealing with employment and decent work issues in fragile settings arising from conflict or disaster. This led to the creation of the [Flagship Programme on Jobs for Peace and Resilience](#), which is the main vehicle through which the ILO seeks to give effect to the GB commitments.

In 2018 ILO started to reform its internal arrangements to deal with crisis response, including a new coordination support unit that will provide cross-departmental and

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

cross-thematic support for interventions in conflict and disaster response contexts. It against this background that in 2019 ILO will re-visit how it will take forward the Grand Bargain commitments.

A concrete area where progress has been made in 2018 is on Labour Market Access for Refugees and IDPs:

The ILO's 2016 "[Guiding Principles on the Access of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons to the labour market](#)" assists member States and other national and international partners in formulating sustainable labour market and livelihood responses. Through its partnership with UNHCR and other means, the ILO has been able to progress on Commitment 10.2 in a series of countries where the legislative framework, the regulations and practice in terms of labour market access have progressed considerable in the context of the CRRF. In Ethiopia, the ILO has supported the meaningful engagement of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in refugee-hosting areas in the emerging sectoral governance and implementation structures, particularly on livelihoods and employment. Similarly, in Uganda, ILO supported the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development's lead role in the development of the Livelihoods Strategy within the CRRF programme. In the context of a new multi-agency programme (UNICEF, World Bank, IFC, UNHCR, ILO), supported by the Government of the Netherlands in the Horn of Africa and MENA regions, the ILO is building on these institutional capacity strengthening efforts to leverage lessons learned and mainstream forced displacement response in technical support to tripartite constituents: ministries of labour, workers' and employers' organisations. The ILO has also engaged in this area with MDBs as well as initiated collaboration with both KfW (in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) and AFD (Mauritania), echoing commitment 10.5.

The work on 'Labour Market Access for Refugees' is guided by other Grand Bargain commitments:

- on Localisation, where the ILO intervention model is based on imbedding its support into national and local labour administrations and employment services, with these local actors offering work permits, job-matching services, recognition of prior learning and skills certification that facilitate labour market access and actually funding a job.
- on Participation Revolution, where on-line tools and social media are the vehicles to engage with and ensure 2-way communication with beneficiaries. An example is Turkey where applications for entrepreneurship training, mentorship support and grants are handled online: <https://www.buyutelimbuisi.org/>, www.girisimedestek.com, www.girisimcikampi.com. In Jordan, the ILO has launched with the Government an [integrated employment service platform](#). Accessible by web and telephone, the platform offers Syrian and Jordanian job seekers enhanced access to job opportunities, trainings, internship and apprentices and career guidance. At the same time, it provides employers with direct access to job seekers and job matching services, facilitated through call support and in-person meetings with Employment Service Officers across Jordan.