

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: OCHA
(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

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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?

Transparency: OCHA improved its Financial Tracking System (FTS) features for more accurate tracking of financial flows and launched its **Humanitarian InSight**, a web-based portal providing real-time information on humanitarian needs, response, funding and gaps in a visual, easy to-read and regularly updated interface. The CBPFs Grant Management System continued developing the web based online platform that supports the management of all CBPFs with the launch of important modules, including on the Common 8+3 reporting template, the Partner Risk dashboard and the Common Performance Framework.

Localisation: Overall CBPFs allocated 25 percent directly to local and national NGOs in 2018, amounting to some \$208 million, which placed CBPFs high on their commitment to the localization agenda. In 2017, CBPFs allocated \$683 million, of which \$163.5 million (24%) were directly allocated to national NGOs. A large portion of CERF funding reaches local and national responders through the extensive partnership networks of UN agencies. In 2017, CERF allocated \$418.2m in 2017, of which \$48.8m was reported by UN agencies as sub-granted to 431 national/local organizations (2018 data is not available)¹. CERF also systematically tracks and analyses subgrants and works with UN agencies and NGO forums to promote effective and efficient partnerships under CERF grants. Finally, OCHA continues to ensure application of IASC policy related to coordination which supports localization; in this regard, national NGO held the 5th highest number of HCT seats (30, 5.1%) on 14 of 23 HCTs surveyed by OCHA in 2018. Of the 254 clusters/sectors surveyed in 23 operations, half have national/local authorities in leadership roles at the national or subnational levels. 52 national and local NGOs support leadership of national and/or subnational clusters. National NGOs consisted of 42% of cluster members. Local NGOs were also represented in the Advisory Boards of 15 of the 17 CBPFs that were operational in 2018, together with international NGOs, donors and UN agencies².

Cash-Based Programming: In December 2018, OCHA under the leadership of USG/ERC supported the conclusion of a **joint Cash Collaboration Statement** alongside three programmatic UN Agencies, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. The joint Cash Collaboration Statement outlines an approach towards: Functional solutions including (Joint/coordinated transfer mechanisms and Interoperable data systems interface), a collaborative approach to implementing, programming cash in 6 pilot countries and a structured approach to engaging other partners in this critical conversation as these mechanisms are developed. This process will engage with other partners through existing coordination mechanisms at the field level including cash working groups etc.

Management Cost: In June 2016, both OCHA managed pooled funds, CERF and CBPFs reduced its management costs by one third (from three to two per cent) and in 2018 alone, this reduction freed up \$5 million of CERF funding and \$8.4 million of CBPFs funding for additional programming. CERF and CBPFs further continued to invest in existing systems and tools such as the CERF and CBPFs GMS to ensure overall efficiency and transparency in fund management. As such, in 2018 CERF implemented new features in the GMS (such as upload of application data and automation of reporting processes) that have led to efficiency gains and improvement of data accuracy and quality. In 2018, CERF supported common humanitarian services, including amongst others logistics, air service, safety and security, and

¹This data can now be tracked following the expansion in 2017 of CERF's Grants Management System (GMS) with a new module allowing data on sub-grants and implementing partners to be stored in a database for easier reporting and analysis. Please also note that due to the nature of the CERF reporting cycle, the figures referenced are based on data provided by agencies through the RC/HC reports on CERF funding allocated in 2017; data from 2018 is not yet available.

² Due to the page limitation of this document, the full data collected on humanitarian coordination structures and capacity could not be provided. For more information, please contact OCHA's Coordination Division (SWAPS).

telecommunications, with a total of \$17.5 million thereby promoting more efficient support systems, processes and approaches.

Joint and Impartial Needs Assessments: The 2017 Grand Bargain Annual Report identified Workstream 5 on Needs Assessments one of the most challenging and slowest moving, despite its high level of importance. In 2018, OCHA took on a stronger coordination and advocacy role. OCHA encouraged partners to identify bottlenecks and reasons for lack of engagement, and subsequently addressed those challenges through the development of a **Theory of Change while translating the Grand Bargain Commitments into actionable steps** that also align with known good practice. These efforts, coupled with heightened information flows and outreach, proved to be a catalyst for increased depth and breadth of engagement by UN, NGO and donor partners. Lack of attention by senior management was also identified as an area of concern in 2017. To this end, OCHA also elevated advocacy efforts **targeting donors and senior management** to raise awareness on the criticality of needs assessments and analysis work and the institutional shifts required to engender real change. This resulted in a message from the ERC to the IASC Principals highlighting this work as a priority, to which IASC members responded in support.

Participation Revolution: Efforts to systematically ensure a collaborative approach to accountability, communication and feedback have continued and an increasing number of country response plans have reflected these processes. Perception indicators in Chad, Haiti and Nigeria demonstrate the shift in response planning to identify and understand the needs and priorities of affected communities.

Multi-Year Humanitarian Funding: In terms of contributions to CERF, over the course of 2018 the CERF secretariat negotiated two new multi-year agreements (MYAs) with Norway and Sweden, respectively, in addition to the existing MYAs. The agreements cover a period of four years (2018-2021)

Harmonized reporting: In 2018, the OCHA Pooled Funds Management Branch (CERF and CBPFs) harmonized application and reporting templates, with common approach to data on Cash, Gender with Age Marker (GAM) and Beneficiary data and are now compliant with the 8+3 common reporting template. The Harmonized application templates for both CBPFs and CERF were rolled out globally as of 1 January 2019 following pilots in Myanmar, Somalia and Iraq and the new reporting templates will be rolled-out mid-2019. Both the CBPFs' GMS system and the CERF GMS system have been or are being adapted to generate and extract data from the new templates. Revising the project proposal based on the "Common 8+3"-aligned reporting template can be regarded a good practice to ensure further coherence and advancing alignment beyond the common harmonized reporting requirements.

Enhance Engagement between Humanitarian and Development Actors: The articulation and embrace of humanitarian-development collective outcomes in 6 countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine) constitute a major step forward in concerted approaches to protracted crises. Multi-year HRP (accompanied by a gradually increasing provision of multi-year humanitarian funding) are positioning the humanitarian sector in several country contexts to align with medium-term development plans. Joint analysis between humanitarian and development actors in crisis contexts is also advancing.

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

Transparency: FTS improved features will contribute to the collection and analysis of data related to GB commitment on earmarking, multiyear, and localization. It's worth noting that the new FTS flow model can capture the funding chain from the donor to the end stream recipient, when data are correctly reported. In a long-term prospective this contributes to the localization GB commitment in terms of analysis of data. The ingestion of IATI data by FTS

based on the required FTS reporting standards will reduce the reporting burden for partners and it will facilitate the curation, triangulation and aggregation of data by FTS team. The publication of harmonized data will facilitate quality analysis in FTS and other platforms. This long-term result also requires partners to commit towards specific reporting standards and on key disaggregated data to be collected and shared. Humanitarian InSight is a sophisticated content management platform for structured programme cycle data on needs, planning and results. At the global level, it serves as the online home for the Global Humanitarian Overview and global, aggregate data on needs and response. Automatically feeding into FTS, the CBPFs GMS also published all *CBPF data under International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards*: publication under IATI standards enables external users to analyze CBPF data independently.

Support to National First Responders: In 2019, CERF will continue its systematic tracking, analysis and publishing of data and information on the involvement of local and national responders in delivering CERF-funded humanitarian action and will include a related section in its annual Results Report. CBPFs will also continue supporting local and national responders in as much as facilitating direct access to funding.

Cash-Based Programming: Through the engagement in the UN Cash Collaboration Statement, increasingly joined up approaches within existing systems and structures is seen as a positive move towards improved coherence around cash programming. By building on existing mechanisms and structures, it is hoped that this collaboration will lead to less fragmentation and more efficient and effective approaches for those most impacted by crisis.

Needs Assessments: The OCHA-led efforts to increase engagement by partners and advocacy with senior management are envisaged to facilitate institutionalization and application of these norms, standards, technical tools and frameworks in crisis situations. Several activities will be coming to a level of maturity that will allow them to be packaged and disseminated along with key messages by mid-2019, and will be linked to the HPC, further supporting efforts to embed within country operations.

Humanitarian-Development: Humanitarian-development collaboration at the practical field level is in its infancy, and the approach of OCHA and partners is experimental: rather than imposing methods and templates derived only from theory, we aim to nurture practical advances in their various forms in various settings, and thereby derive a body of knowledge that can lead to tools, standards and skills. Already, however, OCHA is adapting the guidance and support for humanitarian needs overviews and humanitarian response plans to capitalize on contexts where there are HDN opportunities, and (with partners) is disseminating preliminary guidance materials and knowledge-sharing on the various HDN elements.

Question 3: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment³ 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.

HPC tools integrated the GAM standards, including the Gender Age Marker related data within the planning phase (Project Module) and financial monitoring. With the launch of the Gender with Age Marker (GAM) in 2018, both CBPF and CERF worked intensively over the course of the year to review their project templates and to include the new GAM in their application and reporting templates, starting 2019. With the implementation of the GAM, OCHA will improve the tracking of the gender responsiveness and financial allocations towards gender

³ Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

programming of CBPF and CERF, respectively, and will over the course of the first part of 2019 also revise their respective reporting templates to include a section on the GAM at project level. Of the \$500.5 million allocated by the ERC through CERF in 2018, \$378 million (76 per cent) supported projects marked 2a in the IASC Gender Marker indicating strong gender mainstreaming. Similarly for CBPFs, of the \$836 million allocated in 2018, some \$630 million supported 1,133 projects (78 per cent) marked 2a in the IASC Gender Marker. OCHA issued a new guidance note early this year sent to Humanitarian Coordinators, which outlined four priorities areas for CERF and Country-Based Pooled Fund allocations, including support for women and girls, and addressing gender-based violence. Additionally, to enhance visibility of gender aspects of CERF allocations, the CERF secretariat included a gender-focused thematic section in the 2018 edition of the CERF Results Report, which will feature again in the 2019 edition of the report.

Needs Assessments: Gender has been mainstreamed within the various activities co-implemented with partners, ensuring that data disaggregation and adequate analysis is duly considered. This includes reference to these aspects in the Ethos principles, in the JIAF, and in training packages. The Ethos principles and the quality criteria for multi-sectoral needs assessments require explicitly data disaggregation and adequate analysis.

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 part of Workstream 5, OCHA, ECHO, the World Bank and UNDP have developed a paper, in consultation with GBNA partners, outlining an approach to identifying test cases, good practices and innovative methods to leverage the unique strengths within the humanitarian and development sectors to better bridge the analytical divide. This paper will inform a workshop mid-2019 to look at examples of past efforts and identify areas for active learning.