Grand Bargain in 2018:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Oxfam

**Point of Contact (name, title, email):   Nigel Timmins, Humanitarian Director.
Nigel.timmins@oxfam.org**

Date of Submission: 26th March 2019

Introduction

The Grand Bargain remains a process for reform of the humanitarian sector that Oxfam values and seeks to positively contribute to. For example, by participating in the Localisation Workstream missions to Bangladesh and Iraq and facilitating a feedback workshop on these in Geneva. However, we have not found it possible to give equal energy to all workstreams and our results reflect areas we have prioritised.

More could be done to promote the Grand Bargain and foster inter-agency discussion on the commitments at country-operation level to increase awareness, foster inter-agency learning and dialogue to embed good practices.

2018 was a particularly challenging year for Oxfam following revelations of sexual misconduct by staff in our response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake. This led to significant internal reflection, discussion and consultation with key stakeholders as well investment in policies, procedures and additional safeguarding capacities and HR processes. This significant investment of time and resources was prioritised over other planned work, including some aspects of the GB.

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?

On Transparency Oxfam doubled the number of data publishers from 3 to 6. We introduced humanitarian components in IATI records of four Oxfam data sets (flag, DAC5 sector, and org types). We introduced monitoring on our LHL and C4C commitments in a regular management information system for planning and reporting. We have built an internal dashboard (on Power BI) to visualise country-level data against key WHS commitments, including some that overlap with the Grand Bargain. Progress on creating the DataHub for reporting program impact has been good in 2018.

On Localisation We have begun applying a systems-approach to capacity strengthening, which is supported by new funding tools. By investing in the capacity of local networks rather than just Oxfam partners to respond to crises in their locality, and by increasing access to funding in that locality, new collaborations and initiatives have emerged. Additionally, we are becoming more purposeful at supporting women's rights and women-led organisations, under our newly proactive efforts to promote a feminist approach to humanitarianism, alongside improved internal funding data collection.

In 2018 we established a Partnership Unit in Oxfam's Global Humanitarian Team. This new unit is up and running – expectations of this Unit are outlined below.

On Cash We have made positive progress with a real-time data platform for monitoring and sharing beneficiary feedback. The development of sector-wide standardised guidelines that we are sharing internally has helped bring cash out of a 'silo' into the other work Oxfam does, as evidenced by the Cash for Protection learning review, as well as more efforts at programme level to consider cash as an effective way to achieve other programme aims, eg water, NFIs.

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

On Transparency Monitoring progress towards Grand Bargain and C4C commitments is now integrated in regular data collection and analysis. This has improved recognition of the

importance of local humanitarian leadership and the need for a substantial shift in power and resources to local and national responders when crisis hits (link to Localisation). Oxfam's approach to the design and implementation of programs now values recognition and direct representation of local and national NGOs. The DataHub is currently active in 15 Oxfam countries and is growing as we work with others and develop partnerships to deliver at scale.

On Localisation Learning from Oxfam multi-year programs, the move beyond partner-capacity strengthening to adopting system-strengthening approaches will lead to improved complementarity – not just between international and local actors, but local state and non-state actors – as well as more resilient communities. Oxfam believes better targeting of our localization investments, in line with feminist principles, will strengthen the role of women's rights organisations in emergency responses, improving women's empowerment and most importantly, women and girls' access to gender-sensitive services.

Oxfam's new Partnership Unit will support our accountability to the Principles of Partnership in humanitarian crises. We anticipate improved partnership policies and practices, including where surge capacity is needed. Our hope is that local and national organisations will be better able to serve their communities to prepare and respond to emergencies.

On Cash We are now regularly spending 20% of our total programme funds on cash interventions, with the aim of continuing to grow this. 100% of our humanitarian programmes consider cash as the preferred option for responses, and alternatives are considered only where markets are totally dysfunctional, inflation is too high, or cash is not permitted as a programme option by authorities.

Question 3: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment[1] in humanitarian settings through its implementation of the Grand Bargain? What results/outcomes have been achieved in this regard?

Oxfam supports people caught up in natural disasters and conflicts across the world with clean water, sanitation and public health promotion, livelihoods, food, and protection. At any given time, we are responding to over 30 emergencies. To make progress on our commitments to gender equality and GBV we have committed to partner more often, and in a more equal way, with Women's Rights Organizations to challenge and advise us. We are a member of the Grand Bargain's Friends of Gender Group; we co-chair the IASC Gender Reference Group (GRG); and currently support the GRG and UN Women in the revisions to the IASG Gender Handbook. We are a core member of the GBV Area of Responsibility, support the IASC GBV Guidelines Multi-Agency Team and we are an active member of the GBV Call to Action NGO WG.

Wherever we work our staff are guided by Oxfam's Gender in Emergencies' Minimum Standards, which include standards for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, and prevention of GBV.

The publicity in early 2018 concerning sexual misconduct and other unacceptable behaviour during our response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake has had significant internal and external repercussions. The shock that our strongly held values and beliefs regarding women's rights and gender justice have been betrayed cannot be over emphasized. However, Oxfam is committed to strengthening our internal culture and to promoting a zero tolerance stand on exploitative and abusive relationships. Significant internal investments have been made in

---

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

policies and procedures, listening to staff, partners and communities, and training has been made for internal reform. Oxfam has also worked with key stakeholders to push for sector-wide reform.

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

Oxfam has been working for years in protracted and disaster-prone areas, trying to work with a resilience-building lens. In 2018 we have been implementing DRR/prevention/preparedness programs in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, East and West Africa. Localisation is helping us embed this mitigation and DRR work, as local and national actors are essential to the sustainability of work carried out, and empowering them as first responders is key. We are also work on the root causes of protracted crises, with ever-strengthening links between our in-country partners and our influencing and advocacy capacity at global level.

Oxfam's investments in local and national actors directly contribute to commitments 10.1 (using existing capacities to prepare, prevent, and mitigate crises) and 10.3 (strengthening local and national systems to build resilience in fragile contexts).

We have been active in the Nexus debate, engaging in humanitarian forums and directly with donors eg ECHO. Oxfam is part of VOICE group on NEXUS, DRR and Resilience, and has been appointed co-chair of the IASC Results Group on Humanitarian-Development Collaboration for 2019, alongside UNDP. This is considered a critical role in bringing together the UN, civil society, and INGOs to work towards collective outcomes and facilitate the understanding and implementation of the nexus debate. We began work on a discussion paper on the Nexus, including the peace perspective, to generate debate within the humanitarian community, flagging the advantages of the triple-nexus while identifying 'red lines' to consider.

On technical fronts we are prioritising working across humanitarian and development silos, and this is having some very positive outcomes in our programmes. Our cash and markets in-country trainings are now targeted at both humanitarian and development teams to jointly identify single action plans. Our WASH activities now mainstream sustainability in all but the most urgent life-saving efforts; eg in Bangladesh we are currently handing much of our work in refugee camps to local organisations and longer term Oxfam staff.