

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: *Relief International*

Point of Contact (name, title, email):
Alex Gray, Global Humanitarian Director, alex.gray@ri.org

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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?

1) In 2018, RI rolled out its **Systems Approach Toolkit for fragile settings** which is described in detail under Question 3.

2) In 2018, RI **trained staff and partners** on the following areas relevant to the Grand Bargain: regional and country directors across our three regions were trained during 5 cash orientation sessions; in the Philippines, five local NGOs and RI staff were trained on emergency preparedness and response in December 2018; lessons learned workshops were conducted with staff and partners in Uganda, Iran, Iraq and Bangladesh to strengthen local capacity and identify areas for improved efficiency of our programs.

3) In 2018, RI launched an internal **Program Quality (PQ) Standards Assessment** that is built on RI's Program Management Framework, our central repository for program management guidelines and best practices along the program life cycle. Launching this PQ Standards Assessment has started to enable RI to measure Program Quality KPI's across all programs in all regions in a more streamlined and effective manner. KPI's include areas including design workshops, beneficiary selection process, complaints and feedback mechanisms, needs assessments, cluster meeting attendance, etc. In 2019, this quality assessment system will better enable us to quantify our achievements related to the Grand Bargain.

4) In 2018, **minimum standards for the [RI Way](#)** were defined by RI staff from the global, regional, and country level. The RI Way defines RI's core identity. The four elements of the RI Way: Local Participation, Partnership, Integration (across RI's main sectors), and Civic Skills are key to improving program quality and advancing long-term dignity and well-being of the communities we work with. The minimum standards development is a work in progress. One outcome to mention is the development of 10 "People at the Centre" Minimum Standards by Local Participation working group that will be rolled out to all country offices in 2019.

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

The aforementioned outcomes/results have already been translated into global practices. The PQ Standards are requirements that have been rolled out across all country offices. Key staff are trained and a business processes has been established. Country directors are accountable for the achievement of these quality indicators. Further, a number of Grand Bargain relevant areas are outlined in RI's Strategy and Humanitarian Strategy, such as bridging the humanitarian-development nexus, localization, participation and accountability to communities, as well as increased use of cash programming. As such, these elements are part of RI's institutional commitment.

For example, RI's commitment to accountability to communities is codified across existing RI policies, including: RI Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Policy, Child Protection Policy, Critical Incident Reporting policy and procedures, Fraud, Bribery and Corruption policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Terrorist Financing Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Humanitarian Strategy and each of our four Sector

Strategies. All of these policies outline RI staff responsibilities to community members, particularly those most vulnerable, and outline processes through which staff and community members can voice concerns.

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? (please outline specific initiatives or changes in practice and their outcomes/results).

Gender considerations are strategically mainstreamed across Relief International's programming in all of our core sectors.

A few examples of recent achievements include:

1. In Somalia, RI has been working to improve girl's education. Through RI's Educate Girls, End Poverty program which is part of the Girls Education Challenge, RI has worked to address issues such as lack of female teachers, financial burden to access school, and child marriage. RI supports 227 schools in fragile and conflict-affected regions in Galmudug, HirShabelle and Benadir Puntland; and Somaliland. Main outcomes are that girls are provided with financial support, female teachers have been trained and Girls and Boys Leadership Networks have been established. Further, RI supports the Ministry of Education's (MoE) Education Sector Strategic Plan and Gender Policy Framework implementation.

2. In Bangladesh, RI operates 6 Women-and-Girl-Friendly-Spaces (WGFS) in Cox's Bazar and conducts women and girl groups and support networks with activities such as gardening, cooking, non-formal-education and life skills training. RI provides GBV case management and referrals as well as specialized MHPSS in GBV case management. To complement these activities, RI also conducts Men's and Boy's Groups and awareness raising campaigns (e.g. *16 days of activism*). Key outcome is that Rohingya women have had access to a safe space.

3. RI's Jordan Education programming has been providing services to the children of young married girls and or girls who are in charge of taking care of their younger siblings. Further, RI recruits Out-of-School girls in RI's certified NFE dropout program, focuses on GBV issues, and accompanies girls exposed to harassment on their way to schools. Further, RI Jordan staff and volunteers are gender balanced overall, with women well represented in leadership positions such as country director, senior HR manager, program and logistics manager etc. With the exception of the country director, all of these staff are national.

4. RI Afghanistan's Women's Enterprise, Advocacy and Training Program (WEAT) is a five year program (2017-2021) supported by Global Affairs Canada, aimed at empowering women and girls in 7 districts of Ghazni, Kapisa and Nangarhar. The program works with a broad range of stakeholders from civil society, government and the private sector to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls. WEAT's ultimate outcome is that women and girls are better empowered to participate in key decision making processes in Afghan society. RI Afghanistan also dramatically expanded the staff representation of women over the

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

course of 2018. At the beginning of 2018, women held positions reflecting traditional gender roles such as cook, cleaner, and some program positions. By the end of the year, RI Afghanistan had added female staff also in logistics, finance as well as security (one woman guard) and in positions of authority (e.g. as Program Manager in Nimroz and Provincial Office Manager in Ghazni).

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

Integration of relief/humanitarian and development is included in RI's Strategy. For RI, that means that from any entry point, RI considers both short term and long term needs of the target beneficiaries and the overall system in which goods and services are delivered to all stakeholders. This integration supports RI's commitment to the do no harm humanitarian principle and initiates opportunity scanning for recovery and development type interventions at the earliest relief intervention stage. To achieve this, RI developed its **Systems Approach Toolkit** tailored to fragile settings and has been rolling it out across the organization since 2018. RI's focus is to work in fragile settings which are environments characterized by complex combinations of humanitarian and development actors and modalities. By using a systems approach, RI seeks to understand these complexities and be ready to partner with local communities to support the transitions and build resiliency. RI's fragile settings systems toolkit allows staff to map main elements, actors, and factors of a system in their given context.

RI also strengthens local communities through the promotion of **Civic Skills** which is one of the four elements of the RI Way. It means helping citizens acquire new knowledge, attitudes and practice to strengthen processes of deliberation, accountability, and transparency. It involves strengthening communication and dialogue, helping community members listen to each other and constructively engage to find effective solutions.

Whether we are working with a water committee or a group of school parents, with livestock owners or farmers, RI helps communities build their civic skills to analyse their assets and problems, determine priorities and ultimately improve their access to livelihoods, education, health care, water and a clean environment. To promote civic skills, RI often plays a facilitation role between civil society and the public sector to improve service delivery in key sectors (education, health, WASH). At the local level, RI builds capacity of village level committees, women's groups, water committees, etc. to take direct responsibility for basic goods and services in their communities.

Helping IDPs and refugees gain required documentation and get registered so they can access government services is one example. Helping parent-teacher associations (PTAs) to raise, discuss, and find solutions to education access and quality is another example of how RI promotes civic skills. This approach simultaneously addresses our priority GB commitments of Localization, Humanitarian-Development Nexus, and Participation Revolution as well as – in many cases – Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.