

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

**Name of Institution: UN Women**

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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?***

**Localisation and Participation:** Through UN Women's flagship programme Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection (LEAP), women receive essential leadership and skills training including through women's empowerment hubs. The LEAP model was implemented in more than ten countries and elements of it in more than 30 country contexts. In terms of localization and participation, extensive consultations were conducted with women and girls in refugee and IDP communities as well as host community members to inform humanitarian planning. More than 300 women's organisations in 28 countries<sup>1</sup> received capacity building support by UN Women.

**Cash transfers:** UN Women has in 2018 reinforced its commitment to increased use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA), for UN Women programming and in partnership with other humanitarian actors. In 2018, UN Women paid a total of 2,281,708 USD to 7,672 women and 1,894 men<sup>2</sup> through unconditional cash transfers or transfers as part of a cash-for-work scheme. Through its efforts to strengthen evidence on potential gender and GBV outcomes of CVA and advocating for as well as providing technical guidance as to how this can be achieved, and sharing own experiences, the case for increased use of cash is strengthened.

**Joint gender-responsive needs assessment and humanitarian planning:** On behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Gender Reference Group, UN Women published the updated IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action in 2018 which reflects the latest coordination mechanisms, frameworks, and commitments towards gender equality including the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the Grand Bargain, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Over 7,000 copies of the Handbook have been distributed in 43 countries and accompanying training programmes have been delivered in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Malawi. Furthermore, UN Women has also led the development of a comprehensive face-to-face and ToT package of training modules to facilitate the uptakes of the Handbook. This training has been delivered to over 42 different agencies in more than 10 countries to date.

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

**Localisation/women's leadership:** UN Women's standardised approach to humanitarian action is centred around women's empowerment and leadership, working with local partners. Through LEAP programming, refugee, IDP and host community women become leaders and are economically empowered through regular training, learning and skills' development opportunities. As a result, they have taken leadership roles to influence decisions within their families and communities and to collectively organize themselves for positive change rendering them agents of change and transformation in humanitarian settings contributing to the increased effectiveness of humanitarian response. Similarly, through targeted partnerships and funding local women's organisations strengthen their capacities to effectively engage in humanitarian and crisis response and influence strategic prioritisation and resource allocation. These efforts help to provide humanitarian services to displaced and vulnerable women in complex humanitarian settings, while addressing the distinct needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of women, men, girls and boys in affected communities and ensure that these are incorporated throughout the humanitarian response cycle.

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<sup>1</sup> All numbers are preliminary and pending validation.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

**Joint needs assessment:** Through UN Women's engagement in gender analysis and joint needs assessments in partnership with other UN agencies as an integrated part of HNOs and HRPs, humanitarian actors have increased and improved access to gender analysis and sex and age disaggregated data that lead to increased focus and commitment to address the differentiated crisis impact and needs of women and girls, men and boys. Gender responsive needs assessment in a number of country contexts have contributed to enhanced accountability among humanitarian actors for gender responsive humanitarian action and crisis response.

**Participation:** Through UN Women's engagement in participation revolution related mechanisms in close collaboration with other humanitarian actors, including other UN agencies, national governments, humanitarian actors have strengthened their institutional commitment to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as sexual harassment in humanitarian settings. UN Women's engagement has also led to stronger implementation of commitments and priorities reflected in national strategies/action plans on PSEA. Similarly, community feedback mechanisms have been further strengthened to include communication elements, mechanisms and procedures that are responsive to the needs and challenges facing women and girls.

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

**Global initiatives/Engagement with the Friends of Gender Group:** When it comes to the implementation of the Grand Bargain, UN Women has played a key role in advocating and coordinating the integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls into the Grand Bargain processes, particularly through the informal Friends of Gender Group (FoG).

In 2018, UN Women significantly strengthened its work in this regard by securing funding to implement a one-year long project<sup>3</sup> to improve leadership, coordination and policy coherence for addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promoting Gender Equality and the Empowerment of refugee, displaced and other crisis-affected women and girls, while enhancing accountability for and the institutionalization of issues relating to GBV and GEEWG in Humanitarian Action.

As part of this project, UN Women's engagement with the FoG has been enhanced offering more specific support and coordinated advocacy targeted to the four priority workstreams established by the FoG: Localization, Cash, Needs Assessment, and the Participation to strengthen the implementation of gender responsive commitments and actions. Some of the outcomes achieved during 2018 included a strong focus on the development of gender-responsive indicators in line with the priorities of the Grand Bargain process and work of the Facilitation Group. UN Women coordinated with the FoG and worked directly to support the indicator development process to track progress of the core commitments across the four priority workstreams for the FoG, proposing and promoting gendered indicators to the respective workstreams.

At the same time, UN Women has been closely engaging with the co-convenors and members of the aforementioned priority workstreams to promote GEEWG more widely within their workplans and activities. A key achievement in this sense has been in June 2018, being entrusted alongside CARE to establish and co-chair a GB sub-workstream on

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<sup>3</sup> Addressing Gender-Based Violence and enhancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Refugee, Displaced and Other Crisis-Affected Women and Girls through the Grand Bargain

Cash and Gender which went on to organize a half-day session on gender in cash and voucher programming. The session took place during the Cash Week 2018 in London and was organized together with the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), the Women's Refugee Commission, and ActionAid UK.

To substantially contribute to the evidence base, this project also contains a research component which consists of a feminist-informed, bottom-up, participatory research study in four humanitarian settings<sup>4</sup> to explore community-based understandings of the complexities and contradictions around 'gender-transformative' interventions as well as to contribute to conceptual clarity on what localization-focused and participation-centred approaches can look like in humanitarian action. More results on the impact that UN Women's efforts to step up its work on engendering the Grand Bargain will be reported next year, as the end date for this project is September 2019.

As part of LEAP programming, local women's organizations and individuals have been consulted to inform UN Women leadership in the HCT, for HNOs, HRPs, cluster coordination and other normative processes where UN Women has provided advisory support. As part of its coordination mandate, UN Women has further provided training of humanitarian actors on gender issues, including analysis, building the capacity of cluster and inter-cluster focal points. Gender analysis and joint needs assessments on the basis of sex and gender disaggregated data took place in e.g. Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Guatemala, Jordan, Myanmar, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, and Turkey with a view to informing gender responsive humanitarian planning and crisis response.

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

UN Women seeks to deliver effective, quality programming and coordination that incorporate gender equality considerations across the humanitarian, peace and security, and development nexus. UN Women promotes women's disaster resilience across prevention, preparedness and response through technical and policy support, provision of gender expertise to relevant mechanisms and processes, and by implementing programmes and activities. UN Women's programming on resilience, DRR and humanitarian response helps bridge the humanitarian-development continuum through the establishment of empowerment hubs providing a range of services and skills development to women and girls affected by crisis with a long term objective to transition from emergency services to a more holistic programmatic approach on promoting resilience among women and girl refugees, IDPs and members in host communities in close partnerships with national governments and local women's organisations. Such interventions are implemented in various countries including Sudan, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Haiti and others.

Building on the successes of LEAP, UN Women launched a Second Chance Education and Vocational Learning Programme (SCE) in various countries, including Jordan and Cameroon. The Programme incorporates the Hub (Women's Empowerment Centre) model to facilitate face-to-face learning as well as blended learning by providing access to an e-learning portal. SCE is geared to address the barriers which caused women to fail to enrol or drop out from formal schooling as girls in a holistic manner, focusing on building on and improving their ability to earn and to become empowered to determine their own future. SCE will strive to create an enabling environment at the local and national levels by working with communities and national stakeholders to break down barriers and social norms which prevent access to education and participation in the economy through employment and entrepreneurship. Lastly, the programme will also develop partnerships with both private and public sector partners at the local, national and international levels.

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<sup>4</sup> The research study will be conducted in Colombia, Uganda, Jordan and Bangladesh.