

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: UNFPA

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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?

Since the agreement of the Grand Bargain in 2016, UNFPA has undertaken a number of structural changes to align its humanitarian actions with the Grand Bargain goals of accountability, transparency and flexibility.

In particular, UNFPA continues to fulfil and improve humanitarian funding reporting requirements using the IATI shared open-data standard as well as common data visualization platforms. In line with its commitment on transparency, UNFPA has also further refined its reporting through the [UNFPA Transparency Portal](#) and the UNFPA's interactive data portal on its external website.

Further, UNFPA has adopted throughout the organization an enhanced financial reporting system, the Global Programming System (GPS) including humanitarian tagging, as a work plan management tool that combines programming and budgeting for increased financial accountability. Other systems include internal benchmarks and a financial monitoring tracking system established to monitor non-core resources such as CERF grants.

UNFPA continues to allocate a significant portion (20 per cent in 2018) of its non-core funds to local and national responders. In particular, through the 25 per cent benchmark set for CERF funding and corporate financial monitoring system, UNFPA monitors country performance monthly to ensure faster disbursement to implementing partners and to strengthen their ability to respond quickly. UNFPA's internal key performance indicator for the end of 2018 shows a 27 per cent improvement in delivery time of CERF funding compared to the previous annual average. This faster disbursement rate helps in building long-standing partnership with local health facilities, NGOs, governments, ensuring more support in the implementation of humanitarian projects.

UNFPA is founding member and chairs the [Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund](#) that allows women's grassroots organizations to access funds for humanitarian activities. UNFPA's implementing partners - particularly national responders who include local women's organizations - essentially work to meet the special needs of women and girls and to support natural positive coping mechanisms and the meaningful engagement and leadership of women and young people.

UNFPA takes seriously its role as the global lead of GBV Area of Responsibility (AOR), since 2017, under the global protection cluster. In 2018, GBV AOR launched its [2018-2020 strategy](#). In addition, UNFPA shared the draft of the first GBV AOR Minimum Standards that present 16 global standards including women empowerment and gender equality. UNFPA has written into its global

humanitarian support programme funding to enhance this role and to take on innovative initiatives such as positioning GBV specialists and coordinators in the humanitarian coordinator's team. As a leading sexual and reproductive health agency, UNFPA is working to strengthen its lead on SRH under the global health cluster.

UNFPA has set up a mechanism to provide donors with the opportunity to effectively channel un-earmarked or softly-marked contributions and is working with donors to increase this as overall share of total humanitarian funding.

UNFPA believes that cash-programming can play a key role in women's empowerment, and when delivered correctly, can improve women's choice and access to essential sexual and reproductive services in a dignified manner, build resilience, and reduce gender inequalities and violence. As this is a new area, UNFPA is still piloting and testing the best implementation model. UNFPA tested cash-programming in Bangladesh, for the Rohingya crisis, and Syria where women were given reproductive health vouchers to access lifesaving emergency obstetric care services.

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

Overall, the initiatives outlined above and detailed in the spreadsheet show that UNFPA is achieving important internal reforms in making its programming and budgeting more transparent, through the GPS and the Transparency Portal.

UNFPA continues to prioritize the needs of women and girls in humanitarian response and this is reflected in the important decision by UNFPA in 2017 to take on the sole lead of the GBV sub-cluster. This responsibility is reflected in increased staffing and spending on GBV expertise at the headquarters and regional levels. As membership and reach of the sub-cluster has grown, the coordination team now includes four regional emergency advisors who focus on capacity building, collaboration between actors, and empowerment of local women's groups.

In terms of localization, UNFPA and stakeholders (UN agencies, NGOs and academic institutions) launched a new strategy (2018-2021) to strengthen support to country-level GBV coordination.

In regards to flexibility of funding, in 2018, UNFPA established the Humanitarian Action Thematic Fund to provide flexible, multi-year funding for the increasing number of humanitarian crises across the globe. The HTF is designed to support activities for rapid and ongoing response, preparedness and for addressing the development-humanitarian nexus by supporting local and national capacity, empowerment and leadership. The Humanitarian Action Thematic Fund provides a mechanism by which donors can pool their contributions to UNFPA's humanitarian work without earmarking so that funds can be used where and when they are most needed.

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). Please refer to the Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

UNFPA's core mandate in humanitarian response revolves around the provision of sexual and reproductive health services to persons in need and the prevention of and response to gender-based violence. While these initiatives affect all populations, they are especially important to women and girls, who are particularly in need of, for example, family planning and maternal health services and who are disproportionately subject to gender discrimination, harassment, abuse and even violence in emergencies. UNFPA has therefore taken the lead among United Nations agencies in ensuring that the needs of women and girls are included in all humanitarian response plans and that these needs are prioritized in any response.

Importantly, UNFPA has instituted in its humanitarian programmes consultation with the women and girls affected by crisis to ensure that their needs are understood and that the response reflects those needs -- and that they have a voice in programme delivery. The engagement of affected women is a guiding principle in UNFPA GBV standards. This has been a highlight of UNFPA programmes in, for example, Syria, in refugee countries affected by the Syria crisis, in Iraq (where UNFPA led the effort to respond to the abduction of Yazidi women), in Nigeria, and for the Rohingya women.

UNFPA is the lead agency on the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) – the global-level forum for coordination and collaboration under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster approach on GBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings. In addition to being the lead agency to coordinate GBV sub-clusters in the field, UNFPA also often chairs the UN Gender Theme Groups at country level. Moreover, UNFPA co-chairs the Inter-Agency Violence Against Women Task Force and is a founding member of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Gender considerations are at the forefront of UNFPA humanitarian interventions focusing on the needs for sexual and reproductive for women and girls and Gender-Based Violence concerns. Women's local NGOs and institutions at the national level are the primary recipients of UNFPA grants and for capacity building.

Through IASC Financing task team, UNFPA with UNWOMEN is currently working on a study analysing the humanitarian funding flow allocated to humanitarian interventions focusing on women and girls, including local and national NGOs.

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

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.

UNFPA has longstanding development programmes in about 150 countries in the world. In recent years, and accelerating in 2018, UNFPA has provided training and financial support to countries to integrate humanitarian preparedness into their development programmes and disaster risk reduction plans. This is an ongoing and long-term effort and UNFPA needs to develop indicators to show progress.

Since humanitarian work is mainstreamed in UNFPA strategic plan (2018-2021), all UNFPA country programmes have been dedicating resources and capacity to support humanitarian action when needed. A major topic at UNFPA's internal review on the 25th anniversary International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is how to strengthen programming along the humanitarian-development nexus.