

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

Name of Institution: UNHCR

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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?

At the launch of the Grand Bargain at the World Humanitarian Summit, UNHCR made specific targets as below. UNHCR has either achieved or is on track to achieve them by the end 2020.

Transparency – UNHCR committed to publish open-data. In September 2018, UNHCR started to publish its data according to the IATI standard and data from 2016 is now available.

Localization – UNHCR committed to transfer at least 25% of programme expenditure to local and national responders by the end of 2020. In 2018, UNHCR transferred 21% of programme expenditure.

Cash – UNHCR committed to double the amount of funds programmed for cash-based interventions in aid delivery by the end of 2020. Against the 2015 baseline of 11.82% against overall assistance, in 2018, the ratio increased to 20%.

Management cost – UNHCR committed to expand the use of biometrics for refugee registration to a total of 75 county operations by 2020. In 2018, 62 operations used biometrics, compared to the 2015 base number of 34.

UNHCR committed to reduce the costs of procurement and logistics by 10% by the end of 2020 through use of shared services. Compared to the 2015 baseline, in 2018, there was an average 7% price reduction on UNHCR’s main category of spend.

UNHCR committed to harmonize its partnership arrangements. The UN Common Partner Portal was developed with UNICEF and WFP based on the UNHCR Partner Portal (launched in November 2018).

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

UNHCR’s institutional changes are guided by the overall UN Reform, which fully kicked in June 2018 after the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/72/279 on the repositioning of the UN development system. The UN Reform encompasses many aspects that the Grand Bargain aims to achieve.

UNHCR is actively supporting the UN Reform which aims to ensure more effective and efficient delivery of development activities at the country level as well as coordinated action and engagement with a broad array of development actors to meet national development priorities and ensure that “no one is left behind”. This is consistent with the ambitions of the Global Compact on Refugees and will increase opportunities for UNHCR to cooperate with development actors in the pursuit of protection and solutions for refugees and support for the communities that host them.

Many aspects of the UN Reform, including enhancing regional platforms, mirror UNHCR’s strategic priorities and internal change efforts, which aim to place decision-making and

accountability closer to the point of delivery. As a member of the United Nations SDG Core Group, and further to UNHCR's commitment to ensuring the success of the reform of the United Nations development system, UNHCR participates in various strands of work. It serves as Co-Chair of the Business Innovation Group (BIG), together with WFP. In this role, UNHCR and WFP are responsible for leading efforts to consolidate back office functions into common services, both locally and globally, with the aim of improving support to operations and directing more resources to core programming and delivery.

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.

In March 2018 UNHCR launched its updated *2018 Policy on Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)*, which consolidates and renews UNHCR's existing commitments to a strong AGD orientation, Accountability to Affected People (AAP) and Commitments to Women and Girls. The updated policy is the key document that guides the organization on gender equality.

The policy has six areas of engagement with ten core actions - five of these focusing on gender equality and outlining concrete and measurable actions to promote gender equality. The core actions include: a) Women and girls' equal and meaningful participation in all decision-making, including management and leadership, b) Women's and girls' individual registration and documentation, c) Women's and girls' equal access and control over management and distribution of food, core-relief items and cash-based assistance, d) Women's and girls' economic empowerment, including equal access to quality education and health services, e) Prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence. As part of the roll out of the AGD policy, five deep-dive countries were selected in 2018. These country operations benefitted from additional technical support and capacity development in implementing the policy. Cross-divisional teams, including gender equality expertise, carried out field missions to provide support on AAP and AGD and provided remote support throughout the year.

In 2018, almost all UNHCR operations conducted and updated information on the protection needs of different age, gender and diversity groups through participatory assessments. This is UNHCR's tool and process of building partnerships with refugee women, girls, men and boys of all ages and backgrounds by promoting meaningful participation through structured dialogue, in order to gather accurate information on the specific protection risks they face and the underlying causes, to understand their capacities and current response mechanisms, and to hear their proposed solutions.

In 2018, UNHCR detailed planning instructions for 2019 required that programmes be based on a sound AGD analysis, informed by regular feedback from persons of concern, and implemented with structured opportunities for their equal and meaningful participation.

UNHCR leveraged partnerships with women's rights stakeholders. UNHCR strengthened partnerships with UN Women on projects related to SDG 5, and the Forced Migration

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

Network at University of New South Wales on implementing and monitoring the commitments to gender equality and ending SGBV in the Global Compact on Refugees.

UNHCR has also completed documentation of promising practices on gender equality programming from across [Asia](#) and the [Middle East and North Africa](#) regions, in order to promote learning. These promising practices cover a wide range of issues, and serve to promote the implementation of international, regional, UN and UNHCR policies related to gender equality.

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.

UNHCR's work around humanitarian-development nexus is manifesting in various workstreams.

Transparency - UNHCR has uploaded 1,553 datasets to the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) during 2018 that can be accessed publicly and used in needs analysis.

Localization - UNHCR's participatory approach to emergency preparedness ensures that local partners, authorities, communities and persons of concern are actively included in emergency preparedness activities. These include capacity building and the reinforcement of their emergency response capacities to be ready to withstand a potential emergency.

Cash - UNHCR has increasingly documented the impact of CBI: [Multi-Purpose Cash and Sectoral Outcomes: a Review of Evidence and Learning](#) published in May 2018, pointed out that multi-purpose cash may also have multiplier effects in local economies and offer opportunities to promote longer-term financial inclusion and social protection.

Needs assessments - In 2018, UNHCR led or participated in joint needs assessments with government and development actors in Afghanistan, Colombia, Bangladesh, Chad, Hungary, Nigeria, Sudan and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, amongst others.

Participation revolution - Through UNHCR's Connectivity for Refugees initiative, research in 20 countries is ongoing to identify legal barriers for refugees in accessing digital communication. UNHCR is engaging with international actors such as the GSMA, ITU to build local platforms to convene telecom regulators and Mobile Network Operators to enhance connectivity for refugees and hosts.

Enhance quality funding - The World Bank and UNHCR are setting up a new joint data centre in Copenhagen to enhance the analysis of data generated by UNHCR's global registration system and manage the World Bank's household surveys on forcibly displaced populations. This will strengthen existing coordination efforts to share analysis of needs.