



## Ways Forward for the Grand Bargain – Charter4Change and A4EP recommendations

This year's Grand Bargain Annual review highlighted the importance of addressing the political barriers to implementing the Grand Bargain commitments. Limited progress on some workstreams is not due to a lack of solutions but rather a lack of political will and follow through to country-level funding, programmes, coordination and partnership efforts. With this in mind, the Charter4Change and A4EP coalitions make the following recommendations on the next phase of the Grand Bargain towards June 2021 and beyond should:

1. Ensure a **systematic approach to participation and co-leadership by diverse kinds of national and local actors in all Grand Bargain workstreams and processes. Involve national and local actors in conceptualising and implementing all activities** within Grand Bargain process informed by the **Principles of Partnership**; not just inviting them into agendas and processes designed by others.
2. **Focus down the process on a smaller number of priority agendas, and emphasise the inter-linkages between these. Particular attention should be given to the existing Quality funding, Localisation and Participation Revolution Workstreams, and action on the new priority area of Risk-Sharing** towards securing transformative and practical changes in Grand Bargain signatories' individual and collective efforts. Efforts should shift beyond 'problem analysis' to 'solutions' with Grand Bargain signatories reporting how they accelerate the timely channelling of quality funding to frontline humanitarian response, including national and local actors, and have scaled-up more robust and systematic approaches to participation and risk-sharing.
3. **Prioritise a lessons learned exercise on the Covid19 response and recovery adopting a Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus lens** which reflects on delivery of the Grand Bargain commitments in the current global pandemic and **identifies recommendations to 'build back better'** in terms of Grand Bargain implementation and preparedness for future global public health crises and the wider post-Covid19 humanitarian architecture and funding.
4. **Strengthen transparency and accountability for delivering on Grand Bargain commitments.** Attention should be given to:
  - a. **Ensuring mandatory real-time and disaggregated reporting** on the cascading of quality funding, participation and accountability, and making data available in forms accessible to the wider humanitarian sector, affected populations and others.
  - b. Developing time-bound and practical, action-orientated **Grand Bargain country-level action plans** over the next phase; fostering collaboration between Grand Bargain signatories with national and local actors at country-level. Factor changes in policy and practice at the country-level into reporting on the Grand Bargain at global level to overcome the gap between Headquarters policy commitment and action on the ground.

- c. **Consistent adherence to implementing Grand Bargain commitments on the ground by all signatories** and a frank discussion on gaps and obstacles to identify ways forward, rather than a 'pick and choose' approach. Each signatory should identify transformative and timebound actions they will take to contribute to individual and collective change across the Grand Bargain workstreams.
5. Plan for a **structured approach to Grand Bargain country-level processes** to identify the strategic priorities and creative solutions to implement the commitments on the ground; and promote accountability for the Grand Bargain targets. Rather than adopting a siloed approach by workstream at country-level, this effort should foster a joined-up and contextualised approach to implementation of Grand Bargain; leveraging, where strategic to do so, connections with efforts on the Sustainable Development Goals, Early Warning and Early Action on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.
6. **Each Grand Bargain workstream should identify specific and transformative priority actions to factor gender, diversity and inclusion into their work;** with particular attention to access to resources and influence on decision-making for smaller national and local NGOs, and for organisations representing socially-excluded and at-risk sections of society, in particular local women's groups, disabled peoples organisations, youth groups and refugee-led organisations.
7. **Promote a more politically informed approach to the Grand Bargain;** leveraging the role of the Eminent Person to convene regular ministerial level engagement at strategic moments to unlock progress on the commitments; and factoring in attention to the **threats to independent civil society space** and **principled humanitarian action** from autocratic governments, other local power-holders and interventions by external political and military actors, **respect of International Humanitarian Law and refugee protection, anti-racism and decolonialisation.**

For more information on Charter4Change: <https://charter4change.org/>

For more information on A4EP: <http://a4ep.net/>