

Statement for the annual meeting – 27th June 2019

The overall engagement of NGOs in the Grand Bargain remains high. NGOs continue to engage in discussion, surveys, workstream activities, etc; and keep on providing useful input to the process by sharing their perspective which is rooted in the field reality with the view to improve the delivery of aid and promote a people centered approach.

NGOs noted significant progresses in several workstream over the last years. Some workstreams maintained a significant pace of work and continued to deliver concrete results such as the reporting workstream, those on localization, participation and the cash; over the last year, other workstream have gained new energy and progress became tangible. The WS 4 on reduction of duplication and management costs is a good example and the NRC initiative 'Money where it counts' is contributing to this.

Overall NGOs appreciate that many signatories – including donors, UN agencies and NGOs are using the GB framework and its commitments to inform their new humanitarian strategies.

VOICE Grand Bargain Task Force recommendations:

The VOICE GB Task Force welcomes the annual independent report prepared by ODI and its recommendations. As NGO representative, the Task Force would like to emphasize the following:

Keep the GB alive!

Political leadership and support for sustained work at technical level are essential. The GB calls for change management, for which leadership and strategic guidance are a precondition. Regular updates to signatories and the wider humanitarian community can help maintain the agenda on top of our priorities.

Bring the GB to the field!

At workstream level, lots of work has been done: pilots, surveys, consultation etc. have helped the co-conveners and engaged signatories to develop tools, guidance, and proposals for concrete implementation of the GB commitments. Collectively we need to make sure those tools reach the field and that field practitioners see change happening for the benefit of aid on the ground.

Unpack the issue of legal constraint and risk management!

Many of the workstreams see their progress being restricted due to legal and administrative barriers. If we want to achieve the collective vision of the Grand Bargain where affected people would be put at center of an efficient, timely and predictable humanitarian response we need to work collectively to address these barriers wherever they are. The Grand Bargain aims to restore trust in the system – implicitly calling for an increased appetite for risk sharing throughout the transaction chain. Limited progress is being seen on that front (on the contrary) and without addressing this fundamental question now, we will not see the foreseen benefits of the GB materialize in the next 2-3 years. We thus call for advanced discussions and concrete actions to be taken at highest level in order to clarify where barriers are and act on those for comprehensive implementation of the GB.