

Joint NGO Statement:

## **Unprecedented humanitarian needs must shock Grand Bargain signatories into action**

**As we launch the 2023 Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) with historically high levels of need<sup>1</sup>, the recommendations of the High-Level Panel (HLP) on Humanitarian Financing's Too Important to Fail report<sup>2</sup>, on which the Grand Bargain was built, resonate more than ever. NGOs and NGO networks see the continuation and strengthening of the Grand Bargain – the process to make the humanitarian system more efficient – as crucial and call for renewed commitment to shrink needs, deepen the resource base and invest in gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.**

This record appeal must be a wake-up call to Grand Bargain signatories to reform the system and engage non humanitarian actors. At the beginning of 2022, 274 million people needed humanitarian assistance. For 2023, it is 339 million people. This is an increase of nearly 24 per cent, or 65 million people. It represents one in every 23 people on the planet. The 2023 GHO size is just a taste of what is to come as the effects of COVID-19 and climate change continue to magnify other drivers of humanitarian needs in years to come, amplifying existing forms of inequalities and injustices, including gender inequality, experienced by marginalised groups.

### **Time to revisit the broader reform agenda & engage others**

Clearly, [the job will not be done](#) by July 2023, when the Grand Bargain 2.0 is planned to end. Despite significant progress, such as increasing the number and diversity of signatories and increasing flexible funding in 2021, we must go back to the initial intent of the Grand Bargain and the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Finance to embark on a broader reform process built around our “shared responsibility” to shrink the needs (HLP recommendation 1, with five measures articulated), to deepen and broaden the resource base for humanitarian action (HPL recommendation 2, with related six measures), and invest in gender equality and the empowerment of crisis affected women and girls (as recommended at the 2016 WHS & by the Grand Bargain Friends of Gender Group), *alongside* a refocusing in equitable partnerships and localisation.

Humanitarian actors alone cannot tackle the expanding gap between humanitarian needs and resources.

### **Push transformative aims & accountability of the Grand Bargain**

The impact of Grand Bargain efforts so far has not been sufficiently felt at the country level<sup>3</sup>. We must accelerate change and remain focussed on the most transformational priorities that will achieve greater aid effectiveness and efficiency, critical mass of quality funding, especially to national and local actors, including to women-led and crises-affected people-led organisations, leadership and meaningful participation of diverse local actors, and participation of and

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<sup>1</sup> At the beginning of 2022, 274 million people needed humanitarian assistance. For 2023, it is 339 million people. This is an increase of nearly 24 per cent, or 65 million people. It represents one in every 23 people on the planet. The GHO 2023 sets out how to support 230 million of the most vulnerable in 68 countries. The funding needed is US\$51.5 billion – 25 per cent more compared to 2022's GHO.

<sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/high-level-panel-humanitarian-financing-report-secretary-general-too-important-fail>

<sup>3</sup> <https://odi.org/en/publications/the-grand-bargain-in-2021-an-independent-review/> and <https://sohs.alnap.org/>

accountability to affected people. National and local governments bear the primary responsibility to prevent and respond to disasters and protect their populations. In line with the [Charter for Change](#) and [Principles of Partnership](#) commitments, the Grand Bargain must engage responsible government actors.

## **Connect to the Agenda 2030 & SDGs, especially on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls**

We knew in 2016 that change would take time and is complex. Given this and the scale of needs, it is critical to embrace this complexity and take a long-term view. We recommend aligning the Grand Bargain's next phase with the 2030 agenda, with specific and ambitious milestones that will link our reform goals to a process that advances the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in fragile settings.

Globally, 388 million women and girls live in extreme poverty, more than men and boys and are at high risks of gender-based violence worldwide. The 2023 GHO says that it will now take four generations – or 132 years – to achieve global gender parity. Yet, gender-relevant humanitarian funding still accounts for just 3.4% of total international humanitarian assistance<sup>4</sup> and the proportion of gender-specific funding directly provided to local and national actors reduced from 4.8% in 2018 to 3.1% in 2020<sup>5</sup>. Women Led and Women Rights Organizations find it particularly difficult to access funding, which is paramount to deliver greater efficiency and impact on all crises affected people, including on women and girls<sup>6</sup>.

But there is still limited political prioritisation in the Grand Bargain<sup>7</sup> and collective progress against SDG5 on Gender Equality and against various Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls' (GEEWG) commitments.

### **Asks:**

1. **Align the timeline of the next phase of the Grand Bargain with the SDGs**, but with specific and measurable milestones, including on GEEWG.
2. **Ensure the Grand Bargain governance and accountability structures are robust** and reflect the values and intentions of the Grand Bargain, including:
  - a. A more equally distributed co-leadership model by one international and one national or local actor (e.g. two co-convenors or eminent people) with similar decision making powers; and local and national actors, including WLOs, in co-leadership roles in all spaces
  - b. Addition of a Grand Bargain Advisory Council composed of responsible aid recipient governments who can advise on if aid efficiency gains are being delivered.
  - c. National and local actors leading National Reference Groups could evaluate each signatory' performance at the national level and present their assessments at the annual meeting, complementing Grand Bargain self-reporting with robust feedback from local actors. This would allow for those closest to the crisis, in particular

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<sup>4</sup> Development Initiatives' 2021 humanitarian assistance report

<sup>5</sup> [Funding for gender-relevant humanitarian response | Summary - Development Initiatives \(devinit.org\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [ActionAid, 2021, Bargaining for Better: Bringing a Feminist Lens to the Grand Bargain 2.0:   
https://actionaid.org/publications/2021/bargaining-better-bringing-feminist-lens-grand-bargain-20](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Friends of Gender Group - Statement 2022.pdf \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)

through their organisations, to have greater roles – lead and co-lead – in response efforts, including in holding international actors and GB signatories to account. This will likely involve mobilising resources for National Reference Groups.

- d. Address data transparency on funding, as a critical piece of accountability. The disparity in data on humanitarian funding to local actors and the dearth of data on funding to WLOs / WROs need to be addressed<sup>8</sup>. Whilst it is only one indicator of localisation, it is an important one. Consistent with principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship and accountability to crisis affected communities as envisaged under the Grand Bargain, ALL Grand Bargain signatories (Donors, UN agencies and INGOs) should present timely, complete and transparent reporting on funding to local humanitarian actors including to women centred organisations.
  - e. Agree on a system to monitor implementation of the caucus decisions by signatories, with signatories officially committing to endorse and deliver on commitments, adding indicators to the annual reporting.
3. **Step up engagement in, investment in and own organisational reform processes demanded by the Grand Bargain** and seek opportunities to engage targeting local actors, including diverse women-led actors. The Grand Bargain and its signatories should also do much more to enhance accountability of duty bearers on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls' (GEEWG) and to shift resources and decision-making power to women's organisations as leading actors across all stages of the humanitarian cycle<sup>9</sup>. We urge a rights-based approach that supports women's meaningful participation, voice and leadership in decisions that affect them in all contexts under all pillars of the triple nexus as a platform for realisation of the SDGs. We do so by recalling, and highlight in particular, the various commitments made to prioritise gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action.
4. **Taking on the broader reform agenda and engaging non-humanitarians, including:**
- a. Greater political will to tackle pillars one and two of the HLP on Humanitarian Financing and to link this to the GB. We ask that a substantive discussion on this is held in March or April or as soon as possible to inform the next phase of the GB;
  - b. Recommit explicitly to GEEWG in Humanitarian Action according to our promise under the SDGs' transformational agenda to "Leave no one behind (LNOB)", with enhanced political prioritisation and accountability within GB3.0 to track progress;
  - c. As GB signatories, collectively and actively strategize and design proposals for development, peacebuilding and climate finance – both for adaptation, mitigation but also loss and damage compensation – to massively step up their investments in fragile contexts, to tackle the root causes of and to respond to humanitarian crises.
  - d. Within the Grand Bargain processes, develop joint strategies and plans for robust engagement with non humanitarian, development and peace stakeholders: citizens, political wings of donor governments, media, academia, private sector.

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<sup>8</sup> Only five GB signatories reported on funding to local WROs/WLOs in the GB's 2021 self-reporting exercise. DI' research found direct funding to be 1.2% of overall humanitarian funding





<sup>9</sup> [ActionAid, 2021, Bargaining for Better: Bringing a Feminist Lens to the Grand Bargain 2.0: https://actionaid.org/publications/2021/bargaining-better-bringing-feminist-lens-grand-bargain-20](https://actionaid.org/publications/2021/bargaining-better-bringing-feminist-lens-grand-bargain-20)




Signed by:

	Name of Organisation	Logo
1	CARE International	
2	Oxfam	
3	HAI (Humanitarian Aid International)	
4	Community Healthcare Initiative-CHI	
5	Feminist Humanitarian Network	
6	Taakulo	
7	Garib Unnayan Sangstha	
8	Child's Destiny and Development Organization (CHIDDO)	
9	Nkafamiya Rescue Mission-NRM	

10	Norwegian People's Aid	 <b>Norwegian People's Aid</b>
11	COAST Foundation	
12	Barokupot Ganochetona Foundation-BGF	
13	Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Child and Family Affairs organisation	 <p>Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Child and Family Affairs Organization</p>
14	Turkana Pastoralist Development Organization	




15	Organization of African Youth-Kenya	
16	Citizen Voice of Action Initiatives(CVAI)	
17	Community Agenda Support(CAS)	
18	Community Empowerment Network ( CENET)	
19	Tinada Youth Organization(TiYO)	

20	Bureau Oecuménique d'Appui au Développement "BOAD"	
21	Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF) Yemen	
22	Jesuit Refugee Service	
23	Down Syndrome Foundation Uganda	
24	JAGO NARI	

25	Danish Refugee Council	
26	YOUTH UP FOUNDATION (YUF)	
27	The National Initiative by CSOs for Localization and Optimization of Response Mechanisms in Yemen (40 members of CSOs in Yemen)	 <p>Localization of Humanitarian Action in Yemen توطين العمل الإنساني في اليمن www.hamdeem-ye.org @HamdeemYouth</p>




28	Democracy School (NGO-Yemen)	 <p>المدرسة الديمقراطية إحترام حقوق الإنسان Respecting Human Rights DEMOCRACY SCHOOL</p>
29	Nabd Development and Evolution Organization (NDEO) Yemen	 <p>NDEO منظمة نبض للتنمية والتطوير</p>
30	Similar Ground (SIMG)	 <p>similar GROUND Advocate. Educates. Transform</p>
31	African Women and Youth Action for Development ,AWYAD	 <p>AWYAD African Women and Youth Action for Development</p>
32	Medical Mercy Foundation "MMF"	 <p>مؤسسة الترحام الطبية MEDICAL MERCY FOUNDATION</p>

	<p>INTERSOS</p>	
	<p>Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (ECOWEB), Inc.</p>	
	<p>PEOPLE FOR PEACE AND DEFENCE OF RIGHTS (PPDR)  <a href="http://www.ppdrug.org">www.ppdrug.org</a></p>	
	<p>CBM Global Disability Inclusion</p>	
	<p>ACTIONS PAYSANNES POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE (APDCN Asbl)  <a href="mailto:apdcnasbl@gmail.com">apdcnasbl@gmail.com</a></p>	
	<p>West Nile Youth Empowerment Centre</p>	

	73rd Parliament Charity Organization	
	Community empowerment for Transformation Action west Nile CEFTRA-WN	
	Engineering Association for Development and Environment-EADE	
	Agency for Women and Children Development (AWACD)	
	Wadi Alain Social Development org	

	<p>Forum for Awareness and Youth Activity Nepal (FAYA Nepal)</p>	
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	<p>Reliable Refugee Stories Association</p>	
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Gusoor for Peace  
and Coexistence



Hope Revival  
Organization



Empowerment for  
Development (ED)

