

actonaid INTERNATIONAL [Change](#) **actonaid** [Donate now](#)

Q Search [Women's rights](#) [Politics and economics](#) [Land and climate](#) [Emergencies](#) [More](#)

Not what she bargained for? Gender and the Grand Bargain

Ambitious plans to reform the humanitarian sector are still failing to reach grassroots women's rights organisations or be felt by women affected by crises. For individual aid agencies and the wider humanitarian sector, listening to women and girls, and protecting and respecting their rights, can no longer be seen as an 'optional' aspect of a humanitarian response.

As donors, UN agencies and NGOs review progress on the Grand Bargain, this paper outlines recommendations to promote women's leadership and participation across the humanitarian reform agenda by focusing on the three Grand Bargain workstreams: localisation, participation and cash.

The Grand Bargain process made minimal reference to gender, despite it being agreed in parallel with the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 at which the same governments, UN agencies and civil society also endorsed five ambitious pledges on gender. Postively, whilst the first round of Grand Bargain annual reports in 2017 included almost no reference to gender, there has been increased attention on this issue in 2018 reporting. However, according to CCI's Grand Bargain Annual Independent Report 2018, many signatories referencing gender do so in a limited way, reporting basic actions such as the updating of institutional policies or guidance on disaggregating gender in needs assessments.

We know that much more can and should be done. Below we outline recommendations to governments, UN agencies and NGOs to:

1. Localisation:
Ensure 'localised' humanitarian funding reaches local women's organisations and other civil society groups that are addressing gender issues.

The momentum amongst donors and other agencies on localisation has focused on assessing overall levels of funds reaching national actors in general. Anecdotal evidence from some contexts suggests that localised funding predominantly goes to larger, male-dominated NGOs that deliver on large scale project deliverables, but do not necessarily operate in a gender-sensitive fashion. Meanwhile, smaller local CSOs working on gender and protection issues have not received the same level of support, not benefited from the shift to multi-year, flexible funding.

Strengthen participation of local women's groups in humanitarian coordination across all clusters, building on initiatives to develop and roll-out sector-specific gender guidance and localisation efforts under the Global

15 June 2018

[Downloads](#)

Ambitious plans to reform the humanitarian sector are still not reaching grassroots women's rights organisations and women affected by crises. For individual aid agencies and the wider humanitarian sector, listening to women and girls and protecting and respecting their rights can no longer be considered an 'optional' aspect of a humanitarian response.

As donors, UN agencies and NGOs review progress on the Grand Bargain, this paper outlines recommendations to promote women's leadership and participation across the humanitarian reform agenda by focusing on the three Grand Bargain workstreams of localisation, participation and cash.

The Grand Bargain process made no minimal reference to gender, despite being agreed in parallel with the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 where the same governments, UN agencies and civil society endorsed five ambitious pledges on gender. The first round of Grand Bargain reports in 2017 made almost no reference to gender and the 2018 reports were more encouraging. But many signatories' gender references are still limited to reporting basic actions such as updating institutional policies or guidance on disaggregating gender in needs assessments.

ActionAids know that much more can and should be done. This report outlines recommendations to governments, UN agencies and NGOs on to support gender work and the specific steps that CARE International and ActionAid will make to support wider efforts.

Downloads

Not what she bargained for? report PDF / 5.95 MB [Download](#)

actonaid

actonaid INTERNATIONAL [Change](#)

ACTIONAID **RESOURCES** **THEMES** **JOIN THE CONVERSATION**

About [Jobs](#) [Women's rights](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

Contact [News](#) [Politics and economics](#)

Privacy and cookies [Publications](#) [Land and climate](#)

Strategy [Emergencies](#)

Viewing ActionAid International RSN number: 813342211 Registration number: 27264198