

Grand Bargain annual self-reporting exercise:

Ireland

Contents

Work stream 1 - Transparency	2
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	2
2. Progress to date	2
3. Planned next steps	2
Work stream 2 - Localization.....	3
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	3
2. Progress to date	3
3. Planned next steps	3
Work stream 3 - Cash	4
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	4
2. Progress to date	4
3. Planned next steps	4
Work stream 4 – Management costs	5
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	5
2. Progress to date	5
3. Planned next steps	5
Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment.....	6
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	6
2. Progress to date	6
3. Planned next steps	6
Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution	7
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	7
2. Progress to date	7
3. Planned next steps	7
Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding.....	8
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	8
2. Progress to date	8
3. Planned next steps	8
Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility	9
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	9
2. Progress to date	9
3. Planned next steps	9
Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements	10
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	10
2. Progress to date	10
3. Planned next steps	10
Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement.....	11
1. Baseline (only in year 1)	11
2. Progress to date	11
3. Planned next steps	11

Work stream 1 – Transparency

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Irish Aid’s vision statement sets out our commitment to “being accountable to Irish citizens, to those people benefitting from our support, and being transparent in all that we do”. Ireland publishes data annually to the IATI standard and reports on FTS and EDRIS and Irish Aid’s annual reports give a detailed analysis of how and where money is spent.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Ireland signed up to the Grand Bargain in December 2016 and has not engaged substantially with this workstream to date. However, this report will establish a baseline against which to monitor progress for future reports.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Ireland will:

- Continue to publish timely, transparent, harmonized and open high-quality data, via IATI, FTS and EDRIS;
- Increase and improve the quality of the data it produces in relation to its humanitarian funding;
- Better use this data to analyse and communicate the results that can be attributed to Ireland’s humanitarian funding;
- Use this analysis as an evidence basis for decision-making about humanitarian funding.

Work stream 2 – Localization

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Ireland has not, to date, tracked the proportion of investment reaching local and national responders. However, Ireland is a strong supporter of the UN Common Humanitarian Funds, which seek to ensure that funding is accessible to those on the ground who are best placed to act, including local and national actors. Ireland is active in ensuring effective oversight of the management of these funds, and has chaired the UN Pooled Funds Working Group since 2015.

Ireland is also a long-standing funder of the DREF and is a funder of the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance, which promotes the Core Humanitarian Standard. The application by local responders of the standard will hopefully allow more direct funding of these actors. Ireland is a strong supporter of the START Fund, and was one of the first donors to the Fund.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

In 2017, for the first time, Ireland's direct humanitarian funding to NGO partners working in situations of protracted crisis is being provided on a multi-annual basis. The appraisal criteria for decision-making regarding this funding stream includes an analysis of the NGO's own partnership approach, and the extent to which it builds local capacity, as well as, for the first time, an analysis of the NGO's flow of funds to the level of local responders.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- We have taken up positions on the advisory boards for the Jordan, Ethiopia and Lebanon Pooled Funds this year. Ireland is examining options for increasing the proportion of funding to local actors, including through our support to Pooled Funds and the START Fund, and also via our support to the IFRC and ICRC.
- Ireland will continue to advocate for the use of Pooled Funds as a funding modality which allows timely action by local actors, and to advocate for allocations from the Funds to be made to local responders, where appropriate.
- Ireland is funding the Humanitarian Policy Group to undertake research on, inter alia, the challenges faced by local/national organisations when trying to access people in need.
- Ireland funded a research paper on localisation in practice by our NGO Partner Trócaire, together with Groupe URD. Working with Trócaire partners in Myanmar and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the research examined localisation within the framework of the Grand Bargain, and will provide recommendations to Trócaire on how to further strengthen partnership work with local actors in humanitarian settings.

Work stream 3 - Cash

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Ireland supports a range of responses from the humanitarian response toolbox including cash and voucher transfers. Furthermore, Ireland provides a significant part of its funding as un-earmarked or softly earmarked funds, which allows organisations such as WFP and UNHCR the flexibility to provide cash-based assistance where appropriate.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Our Uganda Country Strategy Paper supports the adoption of a new Social Protection Policy in Uganda, which integrates humanitarian responses, and is supportive of a WFP cash transfer initiative for South Sudanese refugees. In Zambia, we have worked in a pooled funding mechanism with government and other donors to pilot Emergency social cash transfers for El Nino affected districts. Ireland is a supporter of the Start Fund and nearly one third of all Start Fund 2016 projects used cash as a component of their response.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- Irish Aid has finalised a strategy for social protection that provides a basis for an elaboration of Irish Aid policy on the use of humanitarian cash transfers We will continue to advocate with our partners for the increased use of cash programming in humanitarian crises where it is appropriate.
- Ireland will identify, support and share relevant evidence of the opportunities for cash transfers to be a catalyst for social protection in humanitarian contexts.
- Ireland will continue to build and share evidence on the use of cash that can lead to the development of innovative and effective delivery models and standards and guidelines.

Work stream 4 – Management costs

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Ireland supports and makes use of joint performance reviews such as MOPAN rather than undertaking individual assessments, and encourages their use by other donors also, where feasible. Ireland provides over 30% of its humanitarian funding in the form of core support and accepts harmonised reporting from both UN agencies and the ICRC. This reduces management costs and aids overall efficiency.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Ireland signed up to the Grand Bargain in December 2016 and has not engaged substantially with this workstream to date. However, this report will establish a baseline against which to monitor progress for future reports.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Ireland will advocate for core funding and harmonised reporting among donors.

Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Ireland's humanitarian funding decisions are informed by evidence-based, analytical assessments of need. In particular, Ireland promotes joint needs assessments and increased focus on the use of the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment tool in rapid onset crises. Irish Aid's Emergency Response Fund Scheme (ERFS), established in 2007, is a funding mechanism for established NGO partners, which pre-positions a defined amount of funds with NGOs to facilitate immediate response in the initial weeks after the onset of a sudden emergency or spike in an existing protracted crisis, allowing time for and prioritising rapid assessment of need, including joint needs assessments, which avoid duplication.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Ireland uses a Country Categorisation of Needs tool to prioritise crises according to risk and needs, based on a number of risk and vulnerability indicators. This tool, based to a large extent on the EU INFORM Index is shared with NGO partners at the beginning of each year to guide their applications for funding. This will next be updated in July 2017.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- Ireland will support the development of, and advocate for, joint context analyses, joined-up planning and coherent programming. We will encourage NGO partners to carry out joint analyses and programming where appropriate.
- The rollout of a joined up mechanism for development and humanitarian funding mechanisms for Ireland's NGO partners from 2017, will promote joint risk and vulnerability analyses, to ensure the alignment of humanitarian and development programming.

Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Ireland's position is that effective humanitarian action should be informed by the priorities of, and owned by, the intended beneficiaries, reinforcing their existing capacity to respond. In particular, Ireland finances and supports initiatives promoting women's participation and empowerment in fragile and conflict-affected states. As part of our NGO appraisal process we seek information on the systems set by in place by partners to ensure accountability to beneficiaries, partners and other key stakeholders, including how they will participate in the planning and implementation of the programme of work and what feedback mechanisms are in place.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Irish Aid's new joint funding mechanism for development and humanitarian NGO partners, places a firm emphasis on participation approaches. This will be actively monitored and reviewed during field visits, in particular.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Ireland will ensure through our appraisal, monitoring and evaluation systems that humanitarian assistance builds upon and reinforces existing local capacities of the affected communities, addresses their identified needs, and ensures accountability to those affected.

Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Multiannual funding was only in place for one humanitarian partner (WFP) when the Grand Bargain was signed. However, a key commitment made by Ireland at the World Humanitarian Summit was to develop multi-annual agreements in respect of at least 20% of our humanitarian funding by 2018. Ireland views is that multiannual funding commitments by donors provide implementing partners with the opportunity for longer-term thinking and planning in situations of protracted crisis, and also ensures greater efficiency and speed of response to rapidly changing contexts.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

In 2017, Irish Aid's humanitarian funding mechanism for NGO partners (Oxfam, Christian Aid, Plan, World Vision and Trócaire) has transitioned to a multi-annual approach, initially for a two year period covering 2017-2018. A two-year partnership was agreed with IRC earlier this year for gender and protection programming. Two-year partnerships covering core funding to OCHA and the ICRC have also been signed this year.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Longer partnerships, ideally to be aligned with ICRC and OCHA's strategic plans, will be considered in the future, as will multi-annual agreements with a number of other humanitarian partners.

Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

In line with the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship, Ireland has provides unearmarked core funding to a number of UN and other humanitarian organisations for many years, including UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNRWA, OCHA and the ICRC. This flexible funding is allocated on the basis of need and can be used to support humanitarian operations. Ireland is determined to provide its humanitarian funding as flexibly as possible, so as to ensure that its partners are empowered to use it where it is needed most. Ireland has been among the ten biggest donors to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) since it was established, and it commits to maintaining strong support for the CERF, to ensure the immediate availability of humanitarian funding in the aftermath of global crises and for under-funded emergencies. Ireland is a strong supporter of the UN Common Humanitarian Funds, which seek to ensure that funding is accessible to those on the ground who are best placed to act. Ireland is active in ensuring effective oversight of the management of these funds, as an efficient softly-earmarked tool which allows flexible and rapid allocation of funding on the ground, and has chaired the UN Pooled Funds Working Group since 2015.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Ireland's unearmarked funding, as a percentage of total humanitarian spend, was over 30% in 2016.

Ireland remains highly committed to CERF, increasing its funding in 2017 to €13m.

Ireland has engaged in the GHD and GB workstream on earmarking, participating in the Grand Bargain workshop that will provide an input to the Annual Grand Bargain meeting, and advocated for increased unearmarked funding e.g. at ICRC Donor Support Group meetings.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Ireland will continue to provide at least 30% of its humanitarian funding as unearmarked or softly earmarked, and advocate with other donors to do likewise. Ireland will continue to support Country Based Pooled Funds and has taken on positiosn on the Advisory Board for the Jordan, Lebanon and Ethiopia Pooled Funds in 2017.

Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Ireland accepts annual global reports for UN organisations and the ICRC, rather than requesting specific reports. Furthermore, these organisations' appeals are used as a basis for funding allocations- no tailored proposal or appeal is necessary. Standardized reporting templates for reporting by our NGO partners have been developed in order to ensure clarity and consistency. Ireland has supported an appraisal of the IASC gender marker which then led to the development of the revised gender and age marker.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Concurrent application and appraisal processes for Ireland's development and humanitarian funding mechanisms for NGO partners, from 2017, as well as joint monitoring visits, will simplify reporting procedures for our NGO partners.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- We will continue to explore ways to simplify and harmonise reporting by partners, including a reduction in the number of reports required from NGO partners in 2017. It is anticipated that the reduction in reporting will be significant in some cases, as partners move from separate reports on programmes to a single consolidated annual report.
- Ireland will continue to advocate for the use of common reports by donors, where possible, and for the implementation of the gender and age marker in order to capture results better.

Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

One of the four key policy objectives in Ireland's humanitarian assistance policy is to link Ireland's humanitarian and development approaches so as to prevent, prepare for, support recovery from, and build resilience to, man-made crises and natural disasters. Ireland is committed to implementing a coherent, "whole-of-government" approach to conflict and fragility. This includes a cross-Foreign Ministry Conflict and Fragility Team, which brings together stakeholders including programme teams and policy makers in the field of humanitarian engagement, development and conflict resolution with a view to supporting resilience-building and stability in the countries where we work through context specific, targeted long-term engagement.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

A concurrent application and appraisal process for development and humanitarian funding mechanisms has been introduced for Ireland's NGO partners from 2017, with a view to increasing coherence between relief, recovery and development interventions in protracted crisis situations (many due to conflict) - all context-appropriate. Significant flexibility has been provided to our missions with aid budgets to ensure that monies can be re-programmed towards humanitarian programmes in order to bolster development gains, when necessary.

Ireland is closely following discussions on the New Way of Working and participated in the Copenhagen workshop and supported the adoption of EU Council Conclusions on the operationalization of the nexus.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

- Humanitarian and development teams will carry out joint monitoring of NGO partners in receipt of both humanitarian and development funding.
- Humanitarian programming is now taken into account when drawing up our bilateral Country Strategies, thereby leading to more adaptability and flexibility in our programming. In 2017, a revised process for multi-annual strategy planning was approved. The process will support the preparation of results-oriented, context-specific programmes of engagement. The new planning process will be tested in a number of countries over the course of 2017 and will be used to guide strategy planning in fragile contexts from 2018 onward.
- Ireland will use engagement with multilateral organisations to ensure more responsive and joined up approaches to humanitarian and development planning and funding as well as to highlight the importance of SDGs mainstreaming.

- Ireland will consider how best to support the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework process and how to support the operationalization of the humanitarian-development nexus, following the agreement of EU Council Conclusions on this issue.