Grand Bargain Self-Reporting Explanatory Guidance

1. All signatories to the Grand Bargain are expected to complete the self-report annually.

2. Self-reports must be returned to the Grand Bargain Secretariat [gbsecretariat@un.org] no later than **Thursday 15 March, 2018**. Any submissions after this date may not be considered by the 2018 Independent Grand Bargain Report.

3. Reporting should reflect activities and progress that has taken place between January 2017 and December 2017.

4. The self-report requests information by work stream, however, in order to best track progress, signatories are asked to provide as much specific and relevant detail on progress made against each of the 51 individual commitments as possible. A full list of commitments for each work stream is included in the self-report template for reference.

5. The questions contained in this self-report are the same as in 2017, however some work streams include additional question for signatories, at the request of the work stream co-conveners. If you are unable to provide this information, please note the reasons for this.

6. Signatories who have not previously completed a self-report are asked to answer question one for each work stream, to provide a baseline of where your organisation stood <u>when it became a Grand Bargain signatory</u>. Existing signatories can complete questions two to five for each work stream, as your 2017 self-report will have already provided the baseline information sought by question one.

7. Please type your answers immediately below each question asked.

8. Signatories are encouraged to report both on progress made, and where they may have experienced obstacles or challenges to realising their commitments.

9. Signatories are encouraged, where possible and relevant, to reflect on their contributions to the Grand Bargain both as recipients of humanitarian funds and donors of humanitarian funds. This will allow us to capture the transfer of benefits accrued at higher ends of the value chain down to the frontline.

10. Signatories are asked to limit their responses to a maximum of 500 words per work stream.

11. Self-reports are public documents, and will be published <u>as submitted</u> on the IASC-hosted Grand Bargain [website](#) from 3rd June, 2018.

12. Self-reports will be used to inform the 2018 Independent Annual Grand Bargain Report, which will provide a collective analysis of the progress for each work stream, and for the Grand Bargain as a whole. The Independent Annual Grand Bargain report will be published prior to the 2018 Annual Grand Bargain Meeting on 18 June 2018, in New York.

13. The 2018 Independent Annual Grand Bargain Report is being prepared by ODI/HPG. Signatories may be contacted by ODI/HPG as part of their research and preparation of the Independent Report.

14. If you require support or advice to complete your self-report, you may direct enquiries to the Grand Bargain Secretariat [gbsecretariat@un.org].

Gender Inclusion

Signatories are encouraged address to the gender dimensions of their Grand Bargain commitments. For reporting on each work stream, consideration should be given to the guidance provided by the *Aide-Memoire on Gender Mainstreaming in the Grand Bargain* that addresses the gender dimensions of resources, capacity, evidence and data, participation, leadership, accountability and communication within the Grand Bargain. Signatories are also welcome to provide additional detail on how they consider they have, at a macro level, ensured their Grand Bargain follow-up is gender-responsive, and to include any examples of good practice that they wish to share. This data will assist in the preparation of the 2018 Independent Grand Bargain report, which will assess the extent to which gender has been considered by Grand Bargain work streams.

2018 Grand Bargain Annual Self-Reporting – Switzerland

Contents

Work stream 1 - Transparency

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Publish timely, transparent, harmonised and open high-quality data on humanitarian funding within two years of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. We consider IATI to provide a basis for the purpose of a common standard.*

2. *Make use of appropriate data analysis, explaining the distinctiveness of activities, organisations, environments and circumstances (for example, protection, conflict-zones).*

3. *Improve the digital platform and engage with the open-data standard community to help ensure:*
    - *accountability of donors and responders with open data for retrieval and analysis;*
    - *improvements in decision-making, based upon the best possible information;*
    - *a reduced workload over time as a result of donors accepting common standard data for some reporting purposes; and*
    - *traceability of donors' funding throughout the transaction chain as far as the final responders and, where feasible, affected people.*

4. *Support the capacity of all partners to access and publish data.*

Transparency work stream co-conveners reporting request: How will you use the data from IATI within your organization including, for example, for monitoring, reporting and vis-à-vis other Grand Bargain commitments?

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)
Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Data on Swiss humanitarian funding are made available through a number of channels, for instance directly to OECD DAC or via the FTS, and indirectly through the lists of contributions made by partners. Switzerland regularly publishes its main statistics for international cooperation, which includes humanitarian aid.

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?

- Switzerland is a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and publishes its data on a regular basis in accordance with IATI standards.

- In addition Switzerland continued to provide information in a timely and transparent manner on humanitarian funding through a number of channels such as the OECD DAC and via the Financing Tracking System (FTS).

- Switzerland keeps close track of the FTS reporting to ensure correct reporting of funding flows.

- The information and statistics are publicly available in German, French, Italian and English. See the [2016 Statistical Report on Swiss International Cooperation](#) (includes Humanitarian Aid).

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)?

- Switzerland will continue to work actively with OCHA and other partners to ensure that the FTS or other platforms are strengthened to provide open, transparent and comparable data about financial flows from donors as well as requiring partners to share data in the same way.

- Switzerland will in addition reinforce the dialogue with OCHA on how FTS could be improved, and promote increased openness among partners.

4. Efficiency gains
Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

5. Good practices and lessons learned
Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- Switzerland - through its cooperation office / embassies in country - actively participates in monitoring and coordination of programming and transactions.

- The difficulty to obtain good data and reporting regarding the transaction chain from the initial recipient to the affected people from partners remains, however, a challenge for Swiss Humanitarian Aid.

- The use of available data from the IATI reporting mechanism for coordination, decision-making and monitoring has so far been limited and would require more capacities and resources.

Work stream 2 – Localization

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Increase and support multi-year investment in the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response and coordination capacities, especially in fragile contexts and where communities are vulnerable to armed conflicts, disasters, recurrent outbreaks and the effects of climate change. We should achieve this through collaboration with development partners and incorporate capacity strengthening in partnership agreements.*

2. *Understand better and work to remove or reduce barriers that prevent organisations and donors from partnering with local and national responders in order to lessen their administrative burden.*

3. *Support and complement national coordination mechanisms where they exist and include local and national responders in international coordination mechanisms as appropriate and in keeping with humanitarian principles.*

4. *Achieve by 2020 a global, aggregated target of at least 25 per cent of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible to improve outcomes for affected people and reduce transactional costs.*

5. *Develop, with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and apply a 'localisation' marker to measure direct and indirect funding to local and national responders.*

6. *Make greater use of funding tools which increase and improve assistance delivered by local and national responders, such as UN-led country-based pooled funds (CBPF), IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and NGO- led and other pooled funds.*

Localisation work stream co-conveners reporting request: What percentage of your humanitarian funding in 2017 was provided to local and national responders (a) directly (b) through pooled funds, or (c) through a single intermediary?[1]

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)
Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Swiss Humanitarian Aid considers that humanitarian aid should be provided with as little intermediaries between donors and beneficiaries as possible. One third of its aid is provided to NGOs, including local NGOs, or channelled through direct actions, i.e. actions conducted by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid staff without intermediaries.

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[1] The "Identified Categories for Tracking Aid Flows" document agreed through silence procedure (available here) provides relevant definitions. The detailed data collection form (available here) may also assist you in responding to this question. Returning this form with your self report is optional, but encouraged.

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?

- Switzerland as **co-convener of the work stream** on localization together with IFRC conducted consultations among the signatories on the definitions of "local actors" and "direct funding", which were endorsed by the signatories through silence procedures. It was decided to collect more evidence with a baseline study before endorsing the definition of "as directly as possible". Through the organisation of regular teleconferences, a work stream workplan has been developed focussing on promoting and facilitating the implementation of the localization commitments by all GB signatories.

- In addition, Switzerland as member of the GHD and as co-convener of the work stream presented the work stream progress including the discussions about definitions to the GHD.

- Switzerland continued to **invest in capacity building projects** and initiatives in the course of 2017. As a rule, 50% of Swiss Humanitarian Aid funding to local actors is devoted to capacity development and strengthening.

- For instance, Switzerland continued to support the NGO CONCERN that invests in strengthening the institutional capacity of ten local NGO's for an effective refugee response in Turkey. The overall goal is to enable them to design, implement and manage effective projects in their response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey. The results of the project will be evaluated and available soon.

- Another example is the National Societies Investment Alliance by IFRC and ICRC to strengthen National Societies, so they are better able to build community resilience and respond to humanitarian crises and armed conflict. The Swiss supported investment mechanism will focus on delivering multi-year support towards strengthening their institutional capacities, depending on the particular needs of National Societies in different contexts.

- Switzerland also supported the Unicef CP AoR "Strengthening local actors for improved Child Protection responses in emergencies" project. The goal is the establishment of four decentralized Help Desk mechanisms offering Help Desk information and advice in four different regions and to enhance locally led preparedness and resilience capacity.

- In the field of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), Switzerland has been supporting partner countries in building up and strengthening their capacities since many years all over the world. In 2017, an USAR capacity-building project at national level was concluded in India, whilst a new engagement of Switzerland in this field was started jointly with China – the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) of Mongolia.

In May 2017, Switzerland carried out the international operational USAR exercise "ACHILLES" in the exercise village in Geneva/Epeisses. On this occasion, two full-fletched USAR teams from Germany could undergo their INSARAG (International Search And Rescue Advisory Group) re-classification.

- The SDC/SHA supports national women's NGOs, particularly through a small grants-scheme. Switzerland funds the Regional Emergency GBV Advisers of the GBV AoR, which build local capacity for GBV prevention and response, including for local actors.

- **Swiss Humanitarian Aid fund tracking system (SAP) currently allows to track the following:**

- **Direct funding:** according to the data retrieved from the SDC/SHA's SAP system, in 2017 only **2%** (3% in 2016) of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid funds reached national and local responders directly.

- **Funding through pooled funds: 5%** of the funds was provided through pooled funds (UN led CBPF's, DREF and other pooled funds, excluding CERF). The Swiss contribution to pooled funds in 2017 has slightly increased compared to 2016.
  Switzerland participates in the Pooled Fund Working Group and supports the increase and improved access to the funds by local and national responders as well as the set target of 15% of HRP's funded by CBPFs.
  Switzerland continued to be member of CBPF's Advisory Boards in 7 out of the 18 country based pooled funds and regularly advocates for a facilitated access by national and local NGO's to those funds.
  In addition, Switzerland supports the work of OCHA FCS to update the CBPF Global Guidelines of 2015. The more substantive second-phase revision has started and should close by the end of 2018. This will ensure that the Grand Bargain commitments like harmonized reporting and capacity assessments, enhanced localization and others affecting CBPFs will be captured and rolled into the CBPFs'.

- **Funding through one single intermediary:** as for the percentage of funds provided through one single intermediary, SDC/SHA is currently unable to track those funds because first receivers (first intermediary) cannot provide data regarding the precise use of the fund received from Switzerland, especially if they are provided as core contributions or softly earmarked funding. This should be looked at with the reporting work stream.

- Internal discussion on how to better track funds going directly and as directly as possible to local actors (adapting project proposal templates, agreements, SAP etc) are currently ongoing.

- **Coordination**: Switzerland advocates whenever possible for the inclusion of national actors in the in-country coordination mechanism and supports for national / local coordination (e.g. South-Sudan, Somalia).

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)?

- Switzerland will continue to invest in mainstreaming localizing aid into its programming by providing thematic sessions and workshops to its staff and partner organizations (Swiss NGOs).

- SDC will organize a workshop on localizing aid during its annual Humanitarian Seminar for staff members from SDC HQ, Swiss cooperation offices in the field and Swiss NGO's. The focus of the discussions will be on what transformations we – SDC and our partners – do have to undertake to "do business" differently to meet the ambitious goals on localization of aid according to the Grand Bargain commitments. Another workshop on localization and protection open to participants from the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs will be organised in September 2018.

- A quick assessment / mapping of SDC/SHA funded organisations that currently work through local organisations will be carried out in order to increase SDC/SHA understanding of its humanitarian partners in terms of working through and/or supporting local organisations.

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid will continue the internal discussions on how best it can increase and track funding going directly and as direct as possible to national and local actors. (See also planned next steps linked to "localizing aid" under other work stream such as 3. Cash, 7. Multi-year funding and planning, 10.Humanitarian – Development Nexus etc.)

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

- We are still at an early stage to assess the impact of our commitments on more support and funding for local and national responders.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- Commitments on localizing aid are increasingly taken into consideration in Swiss Humanitarian Aid programming and project planning. However, more efforts and resources are needed to advocate for and consequently implement the commitments.

- For Switzerland the key domain of activity to ensure proper support for local actors are Swiss regional/national cooperation strategies that provide a multi-year framework. These are defined every four years and the implementation of localisation will need a few more years until it is fully institutionalised.

Work stream 3 – Cash

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Increase the routine use of cash alongside other tools, including in-kind assistance, service delivery (such as health and nutrition) and vouchers. Employ markers to measure increase and outcomes.*

2. *Invest in new delivery models which can be increased in scale while identifying best practice and mitigating risks in each context. Employ markers to track their evolution.*

3. *Build an evidence base to assess the costs, benefits, impacts, and risks of cash (including on protection) relative to in-kind assistance, service delivery interventions and vouchers, and combinations thereof.*

4. *Collaborate, share information and develop standards and guidelines for cash programming in order to better understand its risks and benefits.*

5. *Ensure that coordination, delivery, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are put in place for cash transfers.*

6. *Aim to increase use of cash programming beyond current low levels, where appropriate. Some organisations and donors may wish to set targets.*

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)
Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Swiss Humanitarian Aid favours core funding and earmarking on operations' level to its partners, which provides them major flexibility regarding the transfer method they use. In order to support bringing cash to scale, Switzerland shares key cash expertise through standby partner agreements with its main partners that allow secondments of Swiss cash experts (WFP, UNHCR, ICRC). Switzerland thus supports its partners' capacity-building in preparedness and use of cash-based transfers, and for their systematic consideration of cash as an option.

In its direct actions, Switzerland has pioneered cash transfers since its operations in the Balkans from 1998, with projects in 16 different countries (until end of 2016). Swiss Humanitarian Aid continues to systematically consider and deliver cash transfers in the projects it implements directly.

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, Switzerland financially supported the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP). Switzerland is a member of the Board of Directors and of the Technical Advisory Group.

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This partnership aims at ensuring coordination and maintenance of high technical standards and field linkages. Moreover, a Swiss Humanitarian Aid Expert is currently deployed to CaLP in Geneva, focusing on multi-sector approach, technical cash coordination and leading CaLP's work stream on cash transfer programming (CTP) and risk.

- Switzerland continued to advocate for an approach on how to do cash more effectively and qualitatively when designing and scaling up humanitarian interventions and considering multi-purpose cash where the context is appropriate while continuing on building evidence and invest in collaborative preparedness.

- Cash has become an integral part of Swiss Humanitarian Aid policy dialogue with its multilateral partners (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, and ICRC/IFRC).

- Switzerland actively participated in the Grand Bargain cash work stream meeting in Rome and in the GHD cash-working group in Geneva. In addition, Switzerland continues to attend the Geneva based cash working group meetings.

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid also worked on further strengthening the exchange platform for cash through the first Global Cash Forum in June 2017, which brought together the world's leading stakeholders working on cash transfer programming in humanitarian response, including governments, the UN, NGOs and the private sector.

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid pursued its policy of strategically seconding CTP experts to partners with 21 persons deployed in 2017 and 21-25 foreseen in 2018. Such deployments contribute to the development of technical capacities at the local and global levels.

- To bridge humanitarian interventions and development strategies, Switzerland has defined a common (humanitarian and development) internal position on Social Protection and deployed an expert dedicated to work on these specific linkages.

- Switzerland continued to invest in building up its internal capacities by providing regular trainings to its staff and partner organizations (Swiss NGOs).

- Increasingly, cash is also mainstreamed into preparedness activities: First responders are being trained on how to use cash approaches in rapid and onset emergencies.

- Switzerland funds specific projects focusing on GBV & Cash (i.e project in Jordan) and is building internal knowledge on the interlinkage between gender, GBV and Cash programming.

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)?

- Switzerland intends to participate actively in the Grand Bargain work stream on cash and in the Geneva-based Cash Working Group, while pursuing its engagement of policy dialogue and advocacy and remaining committed to financially support initiatives for **global partnership** of humanitarian actors engaged in policy, practice and research within CTP.

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid will continue to engage with other donors to advance joint Grand Bargain commitments on cash programming and to ensure that coordination, delivery, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are strong and reliable and to identify convergent approaches.

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid will second its CTP experts to partners in the field and in HQ and strengthen its institutional capacity and availability of mixed profiles especially within its priority themes such as protection, SGBV, DRR and WASH.

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid supports the mainstreaming and corporate approaches to building country capacity to implement and to strengthen the shock-responsiveness of national social protection schemes and social safety nets, using transfer tools and modalities developed already and refined in multilateral assistance programs.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

- We are still at an early stage to assess the impact of our commitments on beneficiaries and partner organisations but CTP is widely recognized as one of the most significant innovations in humanitarian assistance and figures of global expenditures in CTP increased significantly.

- By supporting financially and technically partners who striving to use the appropriate transfer modality to reach the optimal outcomes for people in need, Swiss Humanitarian Aid recognizes the transformative potentiation of CTP and advocates for systematic inclusion of CTP as an option when the context is appropriate.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid works and collaborates with various partners (donors, individual agencies and organizations, CaLP, Grand Bargain co-signatories) to ensure harmonized coordination in CTP.

- In 2017, Swiss Humanitarian Aid invested time and resources in building skills and developing competencies of its CTP pool and JPOs in order to increase organizational capacity and knowledge management.

- Switzerland committed to make humanitarian action as local as possible and deployed one of its CTP in Emergency Specialist to the IFRC to support them in strengthening the capacity of the national societies, cash preparedness and institutionalisation.

- Switzerland increasingly invests resources in building the capacity of its expert staff combining for instance protection or WASH profiles with cash expertise.

- The best way to promote the use of cash is certainly not to earmark for cash but to promote by default the use of cash in high level dialogue with all partners and through the support of capacity development of the said partners (e.g. by secondments). This is the Swiss experience with WFP an ICRC for example.

Work stream 4 – Management costs

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Reduce the costs and measure the gained efficiencies of delivering assistance with technology (including green) and innovation. Aid organisations will provide the detailed steps to be taken by the end of 2017.*

Examples where use of technology can be expanded:

   - *Mobile technology for needs assessments/post-distribution monitoring;*
   - *Digital platforms and mobile devices for financial transactions;*
   - *Communication with affected people via call centres and other feedback*
   - *mechanisms such as SMS text messaging;*
   - *Biometrics; and*
   - *Sustainable energy.*

2. *Harmonise partnership agreements and share partner assessment information as well as data about affected people, after data protection safeguards have been met by the end of 2017, in order to save time and avoid duplication in operations.*

Aid organisations commit to:

3. *Provide transparent and comparable cost structures by the end of 2017. We acknowledge that operational management of the Grand Bargain signatories - the United Nations, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the NGO sector may require different approaches.*

4. *Reduce duplication of management and other costs through maximising efficiencies in procurement and logistics for commonly required goods and services. Shared procurement should leverage the comparative advantage of the aid organisations and promote innovation.*

Suggested areas for initial focus:
   - *Transportation/Travel;*
   - *Vehicles and fleet management;*
   - *Insurance;*
   - *Shipment tracking systems;*
   - *Inter-agency/common procurement pipelines (non-food items, shelter, WASH,*
   - *food);*
   - *IT services and equipment;*
   - *Commercial consultancies; and*
   - *Common support services.*

Donors commit to:

5. *Make joint regular functional monitoring and performance reviews and reduce individual donor assessments, evaluations, verifications, risk management and oversight processes.*

Management costs work stream co-conveners reporting request: What steps have you taken to reduce the number of individual donor assessments (if a donor) or partner assessments (if an agency) you conduct on humanitarian partners?

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Swiss Humanitarian Aid regularly conducts audits of partners or big projects. These are however spread over the various partners, so as to avoid becoming burdensome, while providing enough quality and quantity data to ensure accountability to the Federal Finance Controlling (and in the end to the tax payers, to whom Swiss Humanitarian Aid is ultimately accountable).
A high proportion of core grant, both for Red Cross Movement, UN bodies and NGOs has the double effect of increasing flexibility (work stream 8) and decreasing management costs for partners. The necessary counterpart is, however, solid accounting that can demonstrate how the organizations spend their money.
Save for an anti-corruption clause, generic Swiss contracts are kept as light as possible on secondary requirements, so as to ensure that the required reporting is not inflated through a number of issues that have little to do with the actual project. These issues are then followed up through regular dialogue with the relevant part of the receiving organization.

Swiss Humanitarian Aid uses the regular governance (and similar) bodies to ensure that other donors and itself have a dialogue on strategic and efficiency/effectiveness issues with their main partners. In 2015-2016, it chaired the ICRC Donors' Support Group; in 2016-2017, it chairs the UNRWA Advisory Committee, and the CERF's Advisory Board. It also acts as rapporteur to the UNHCR's Executive Committee through its Permanent Representative in Geneva.

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?

Some examples of innovative and coordinated efforts to reduce management costs and gain in efficiency in 2017 are:

- The Swiss Humanitarian Aid's Swiss Rescue Chain makes use of mobile technology for needs assessments. The deployment of established Regional Rapid Response Teams reduces management and administrative costs and are crucial in providing and supporting an efficient and timely emergency assistance. In addition, Switzerland contributes to UNHRD, which operates six humanitarian support hubs located strategically around the world (Panama, Italy, Spain, Ghana, UAE; Malaysia).

- Switzerland supports the use of mobile devices for its Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) activities and contributes therewith to reduced management costs.

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid regularly provides technical expert deployments to the UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit (JEU), who support detailed needs, vulnerability and capacity assessments. The experts work with national counterparts to provide appropriate and practical recommendations on a number of specialised issues. Outcomes of these technical expert missions often serve as the foundation or input to an overall humanitarian response strategy.

- Since June 2017 and until June 2018 Switzerland has the Chairmanship of the OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG), which also ensures that donors and OCHA have a dialogue on strategic and efficiency/effectiveness issues (e.g focus on the change management process and sustainable financing).

- The Global Humanitarian Lab (GHL) creates a framework for humanitarian innovation based on digital networks and digital production technologies. The lab serves as an incubator for new ideas, a manufacturing laboratory to test new products as a model, and finally as an accelerator for successful and suitable innovations. Close cooperation between the private sector and the humanitarian sector will be pursued.
  Since 2016, the GHL has brought together leading humanitarian actors, including the UNHCR, WFP, ICRC, Terre des Hommes, Handicap International, to pool resources and drive innovation that benefits all. The initiatives range from block-chain-based solutions to so-called mobile fabrication labs (e.g. 3D printers to produce prostheses on site at low cost). The GHL embeds itself in the ecosystem of Geneva-Lausanne, including science (CERN, Université de Genève), the financial world (venture capital) and start-ups in the technology sector, to which it actively makes use. A major focus is on block-chain-based innovations and innovative financing methods, including impact investment. Switzerland joined the project as a Founding Government and, in an initial phase, provided financial support over three years period. Switzerland is a member of the GHL Executive Board and closely monitors its activities and progress.

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)?

- As ODSG Chair for 2017 – 2018, Switzerland will organize, together with OCHA an ODSG field trip in order to assess and evaluate jointly OCHA's work in a specific context.

- Switzerland will continue participating in a number of joint missions (monitoring and evaluation, assessment etc) such as for example in the planned localization work stream joint missions to 3-4 specific localization "demonstrator" countries, the ICRC Donor Missions, the mentioned ODSG field trip, UNHCR etc.).

- The current agreement with OCHA will be updated according to already existing model of harmonized partnership agreements.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

- The participation in joint donor missions/assessments, provision of technical expert deployments contribute note only to reducing management costs but also increase coordination, cross-learning and support decision-making.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- See progress to date.

Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Provide a single, comprehensive, cross-sectoral, methodologically sound and impartial overall assessment of needs for each crisis to inform strategic decisions on how to respond and fund thereby reducing the number of assessments and appeals produced by individual organisations.*

2. *Coordinate and streamline data collection to ensure compatibility, quality and comparability and minimising intrusion into the lives of affected people. Conduct the overall assessment in a transparent, collaborative process led by the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator with full involvement of the Humanitarian Country Team and the clusters/sectors and in the case of sudden onset disasters, where possible, by the government. Ensure sector-specific assessments for operational planning are undertaken under the umbrella of a coordinated plan of assessments at inter-cluster/sector level.*

3. *Share needs assessment data in a timely manner, with the appropriate mitigation of protection and privacy risks. Jointly decide on assumptions and analytical methods used for projections and estimates.*

4. *Dedicate resources and involve independent specialists within the clusters to strengthen data collection and analysis in a fully transparent, collaborative process, which includes a brief summary of the methodological and analytical limitations of the assessment.*

5. *Prioritise humanitarian response across sectors based on evidence established by the analysis. As part of the IASC Humanitarian Response Plan process on the ground, it is the responsibility of the empowered Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator to ensure the development of the prioritised, evidence-based response plans.*

6. *Commission independent reviews and evaluations of the quality of needs assessment findings and their use in prioritisation to strengthen the confidence of all stakeholders in the needs assessment.*

7. *Conduct risk and vulnerability analysis with development partners and local authorities, in adherence to humanitarian principles, to ensure the alignment of humanitarian and development programming.*

Needs assessment work stream co-conveners reporting request: What hurdles, if any, might be addressed to allow for more effective implementation of the GB commitment?

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Swiss Humanitarian Aid has been a long-term partner of several mechanisms, which have an assessment component, for instance UNDAC and INSARAG; it has a certified USAR team (heavy).
Generally speaking, needs assessments build the basis for any humanitarian action, including direct action, i.e. aid provided by Swiss Humanitarian Aid personnel; for partners, it is also a requirement for project funding. The network of Swiss cooperation offices and integrated embassies (see work stream 10) allows for a reality-check of projects and HRPs.

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?

- Through its core contribution to OCHA, Switzerland has provided support to the development of the HNOs, HRPs and humanitarian programme cycle.

- Switzerland continues to support UNDAC (with two new recruits in 2017 out of a total of six Swiss UNDAC members) and INSARAG, which have important joint needs assessments components.

- In 2017, Swiss Humanitarian Aid provided five technical expert deployments to the UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit (JEU), who served to carry out two to three week detailed assessments. The experts work with national counterparts to provide appropriate and practical recommendations on a number of specialised issues, including chemical spills, dam breaches, waste management, damage to infrastructure and geohazards. Outcomes of these technical expert missions often serve as the foundation or input to an overall humanitarian response strategy.

- The Swiss Integrated Risk Management methodology and overall assessment of risks is regularly shared with the EC/ECHO based on the Administrative Arrangement concluded on the 28 of April 2017.

- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is a priority theme for the SDC. Risk, vulnerability and capacity assessment are part of SDC supported programming in target countries. Theses assessments increasingly include medium-term impacts of Climate Change and are developed jointly by local authorities, community and humanitarian and / or development partners and inform often broader humanitarian interventions and / or development planning (e.g. SDC/SHA funded risk and vulnerability assessments in the Pamir Region of Tajikistan informs sectoral development planning and protection of infrastructure e.g. water supply, health care, hydropower energy and land use planning).

- The Swiss Humanitarian Aid regularly conducts assessments missions (e.g in Eastern Ukraine) before it decides to start a *direct humanitarian action* using its own staff and material. The assessment missions base themselves on the current HRP's and plan the response according to the HRP.

- Rapid Response Teams (SET) deployed by Swiss Humanitarian Aid most of the time have an assessment component and assessment experts as part of the team. In 2017 for example, a SET Team was sent to Mexico following the Earthquake. Assessment reports and information are shared in a timely manner with partners.

- Also, Switzerland continued to provide multi-year core funding to ACAPS – with an increase in 2017 – dedicated to improving needs analysis in the humanitarian sector.

- Switzerland provides funding towards GenCap and internal gender focal point trainings at OCHA.

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)?

- Switzerland will continue to support OCHA, including the Coordination Division in Geneva amongst other things tasked to coordinate joint needs assessments.

- Continued deployment of technical experts for assessment missions (i.e. through the UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit (JEU).

- Support the Swiss UNDAC member's deployment for UNDAC missions in emergencies.

- Switzerland will continue to support partner countries in conducting risk, vulnerability and capacity assessments and the access of quality data on natural hazards, which support efficient humanitarian assistance and sustainable development.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

- GB commitments accelerate the processes and reinforce the coordination and collaboration efforts of all actors. More and better joint needs assessments, provision of technical expert deployments etc. reduce duplications, improve coordination, joint learning and decision-making.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other ries) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- The deployment of technical expert for specific short-term assessment missions have proven to be very valuable for SDC but also the partner organisation. It is a good way to contribute – as foundation or input - to an overall response strategy benefitting all partners.

Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Improve leadership and governance mechanisms at the level of the humanitarian country team and cluster/sector mechanisms to ensure engagement with and accountability to people and communities affected by crises.*

2. *Develop common standards and a coordinated approach for community engagement and participation, with the emphasis on inclusion of the most vulnerable, supported by a common platform for sharing and analysing data to strengthen decision-making, transparency, accountability and limit duplication.*

3. *Strengthen local dialogue and harness technologies to support more agile, transparent but appropriately secure feedback.*

4. *Build systematic links between feedback and corrective action to adjust programming.*

Donors commit to:

5. *Fund flexibly to facilitate programme adaptation in response to community feedback.*
6. *Invest time and resources to fund these activities.*

Aid organisations commit to:

7. *Ensure that, by the end of 2017, all humanitarian response plans – and strategic monitoring of them - demonstrate analysis and consideration of inputs from affected communities.*

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)
Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Swiss Humanitarian Aid was funding the NGO Ground Truth and has been one of those players encouraging the inclusion of the theme "Accountability to Affected Populations" (AAP) in the World Humanitarian Summit deliberations. Swiss experts have regularly been deployed with UN partner organizations for missions including the setting up of accountability mechanisms, such as in 2016 for WFP in Sudan.

Many humanitarian partners of Swiss Humanitarian Aid have developed AAP mechanisms, although it is difficult to measure which type of role the Swiss dialogue with them on the issue has played.

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?

- Switzerland continued to provide funding as flexible as possible (core or earmarked at country level) which provides humanitarian organizations with enough resources to set up feedback mechanisms.

- Swiss cooperation offices are responsible for the operational implementation of SDC/SHA programming and local dialog with people and communities affected by crisis. This proximity to the field and through resources that are made available, cooperation offices are able to set up feedback mechanisms allowing for monitoring and corrective action to adjust programming when required (e.g. in the Lake Chad region). Switzerland also includes the feedback loops and corrective actions in its strategic dialogue with its partners at field and HQ level.

- In the field of natural hazards, Switzerland supports the systematic integration of climate, environment and disaster risk reduction into humanitarian and development programming through its CEDRIG tool. This guidance helps determine whether existing and planned interventions are at risk from climate change, environmental degradation or natural hazards, as well as whether they could further exacerbate vulnerability, environmental degradation and the risks of natural hazards as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

- In 2017, Switzerland continued to fund the NGO Ground Truth Solutions.

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)?

- Through its programming and the presence in the field, Switzerland continues to support the feedback loops.

- Switzerland continues its engagement in DRR and Climate Change Adaptation and strengthening of the collaboration among concerned stakeholders for evidence-based decision-making.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- Post-distribution consultations with populations, including hotlines, are increasingly common; however, the bigger gap is a meaningful inclusion of affected people in the

definition of programs. In this regards multipurpose cash has a great potential to satisfy the different needs of different people benefitting of the same programs.

- From Swiss direct actions (self-implemented projects or activities) we see that decisions regarding the aims and scopes of programs must be delegated to field personal, closest to affected people and not prescribed form HQ or country offices.

- Real-time evaluations need to consult affected people to provide a usual and ground-based analysis of the response.

- The main challenge is often not feedback form beneficiaries, but decision at higher level of organisations to change or end programs.

Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding instruments and document the impacts on programme efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that recipients apply the same funding arrangements with their implementing partners.*

2. *Support in at least five countries by the end of 2017 multi-year collaborative planning and response plans through multi-year funding and monitor and evaluate the outcomes of these responses.*

3. *Strengthen existing coordination efforts to share analysis of needs and risks between the humanitarian and development sectors and to better align humanitarian and development planning tools and interventions while respecting the principles of both.*

Multi-year planning and funding work stream co-conveners reporting request: Please report the percentage and total value of multi-year agreements[2] you have provided (as a donor) or received <u>and</u> provided to humanitarian partners (as an agency) in 2017, and any earmarking conditions.[3] When reporting on efficiency gains, please try to provide quantitative examples.

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)
Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Core funding was mostly decided from year to year. Core and predictable geographic funding have been relatively steady over the years, but rarely with formal notification to partners.

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?

- Switzerland has increased its multi-year planning and funding with a number of smaller Geneva based partners in the area of "principled and effective humanitarian action". These are for example CERAH, ICVA, PHAP, HERE, ACAPS.

- As for the UN partners, Switzerland has multi-year agreements with OCHA, UNICEF (EMOPS), UNWRA and UNISDR.

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[2] Multiyear funding is funding provided for two or more years based on a firm commitment at the outset
[3] For the Grand Bargain definitions of earmarking, please see Annex I. Earmarking modalities, as contained with the final agreement, available here.

- Further multi-year contributions based on multi-year planning is provided to GNDR and WB-GFDRR. Switzerland co-chaired in 2016-17 the GFDRR's Consultative Group, the facility's main strategic decision-making body. Switzerland used this opportunity to support GFDRR's work on strengthening the long-term orientation of GFDRR and the elaboration of GFDRR's first multi-year strategy (2018-2021), published in 2017.

- The percentage of total expenditure based on multi-year agreements Switzerland provided is **19%.** This percentage has been stable of the last two years. Out of those 19% almost half of the multi-year funding was provided as core contributions. The core contribution part has markedly increased compared to 2016 and 2015.

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)?

- In the coming years, it is planned to further expand the number of multi-year planning and funding, pending of approval of humanitarian funding by the Swiss Parliament.

4. Efficiency gains
Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

- Multi-year planning and funding provides predictability to the partner, but also allows the staff of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid to concentrate on strategic dialogue with the partner and not only on revision of funding proposals. In addition, it also contributes to the reduction of management costs and, duplication of efforts.

5. Good practice and lessons learned
Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- Multi-year planning and funding contributes to a better work on the nexus between humanitarian action and development, but also with mediation and promotion of peace. In this regard, the Swiss practice of having a common multi-year framework for humanitarian aid, development, promotion of peace, human rights and economic cooperation is key to ensuring coherence (see the Dispatch on International cooperation 2017-2020).

Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Jointly determine, on an annual basis, the most effective and efficient way of reporting on unearmarked and softly earmarked funding and to initiate this reporting by the end of 2017.*

2. *Reduce the degree of earmarking of funds contributed by governments and regional groups who currently provide low levels of flexible finance. Aid organisations in turn commit to do the same with their funding when channelling it through partners.*

Aid organisations commit to:

3. *Be transparent and regularly share information with donors outlining the criteria for how core and unearmarked funding is allocated (for example, urgent needs, emergency preparedness, forgotten contexts, improved management)*

4. *Increase the visibility of unearmarked and softly earmarked funding, thereby recognising the contribution made by donors.*

Donors commit to:

5. *Progressively reduce the earmarking of their humanitarian contributions. The aim is to aspire to achieve a global target of 30 per cent of humanitarian contributions that is non earmarked or softly earmarked by 2020[4].*

Earmarking/flexibility work stream co-conveners reporting request: Please specify if possible the percentages of 2017 vs 2016 of:

- Unearmarked contributions (given/received)
- Softly earmarked contributions (given/received)
- Country earmarked contributions (given/received)
- Tightly earmarked contributions (given/received)

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Swiss Humanitarian Aid has long ensured that a significant portion of its humanitarian funding is core funding. For 2015, core funding represented 150.6 mio CHF (ICRC 80; UN 58.4, including CERF and IOM; NGOs 12.2) and contributions to country-based pooled funds another 15.1 mio

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[4] For the Grand Bargain definitions of earmarking, please see Annex I. Earmarking modalities, as contained with the final agreement, available here.

CHF; this represents a total of 165.7 mio CHF out of a funding budget of 516.6 mio CHF[5], i.e. 32% of unearmarked or softly earmarked funding.

In addition, Swiss Humanitarian Aid strives to earmark its geographic funding as little as possible, mostly at country level. A specific funding methodology for the ICRC and UN priority partners is the "predictable geographic funding", contributions paid early in the year but destined for operations at country level (usually paid in February or early March). In 2016, the total amount of this type of funding was 117.4 mio CHF. While earmarked, it provides cash flow in the first quarter of the year, a key factor of initiation or continuation of operations at this period.

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?

Swiss humanitarian contributions in 2017

- Unearmarked: **30%** (29% in 2016)

- Softly earmarked: **6%** (6% in 2016)

- Country earmarked (Multi-Bi): **23%** (23% in 2016)

- Tightly earmarked (everything else): **41%** (42% in 2016)

- Switzerland has already exceeded the aim of the commitment that aspires to achieve a global target of 30 % of humanitarian contributions that is non-earmarked or softly earmarked by 2020.

- Switzerland applies the OECD-DAC marker on gender equality, including in core contributions towards partner organizations; it also monitors UN SWAP results of UN partners. It is a key contributor to UN Women's core budget, including for UN Women's humanitarian work.

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)?

- Switzerland continues the process of exploring various avenues to provide less earmarked funding in favour of softly earmarked funding.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

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[5] Including deployment of Swiss experts, but excluding staff costs both at capital and field levels.

- More human resources can be invested in strategic dialogue with partners, rather than be absorbed with monitoring of multiple projects when more contracts with less earmarking are concluded.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- Switzerland will continue its good practice to provide secondments of Swiss Humanitarian Aid experts to partner organisations. This type of in-kind contributions provides specialized human resources that can fill a gap for partners at very short notice and support the institutional capacity development of a partner organisation in a specific thematic (CTP, Protection, DRR, CCA) or sector (WASH, Heath, etc.).

- Swiss Parliament currently do not request results based financing when it comes to core-funding. To keep this practice, which is beneficial for all, reporting by partner organisations should highlight the strategic role of unearmarked funding in the emergency/rapid response capacity.

Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Simplify and harmonise reporting requirements by the end of 2018 by reducing its volume, jointly deciding on common terminology, identifying core requirements and developing a common report structure.*

2. *Invest in technology and reporting systems to enable better access to information.*

3. *Enhance the quality of reporting to better capture results, enable learning and increase the efficiency of reporting.*

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)

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

Swiss Humanitarian Aid is quite flexible and does not require donor-specific reporting for core funding, nor for funding for operations. There are therefore no standard guidelines or benchmarks for partners' reporting. Swiss Humanitarian Aid accepts reports based on the UN reporting format and others formats. In this, it contributes to commitments 1 and 3.

The reason of this flexibility is double: on the one hand, Swiss Humanitarian Aid is recognized within the administration as working in fragile or conflict environments, where administrative tools used elsewhere in international cooperation may prove too rigid to accurately reflect the reasons of evolutions in projects or operations. Thus, it is recognised within its parent directorate (the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency) that its use of the standard tools such as Results-Based Management and budgeting need to be less formally used.

On the other hand, several systems are in place to ensure proper oversight, and therefore accountability to the tax payer. One of the main tools for oversight is the Swiss Cooperation Offices in the field and the multilateral affairs division in capital for follow-up of and dialogue with multilateral and NGO partners in their operations. This allows for early detection of potential problems (such as a poor performance) and rapid corrective action. The multilateral division is responsible for the Core Contribution Management reporting, that actually covers the Swiss contribution to priority organizations, which receive the bulk (two thirds) of Swiss humanitarian funding. This tool is based on a strategic study (CCM sheet) and an annual appraisal of the performance of the partners (CCM report). The onus of this process rests on the Swiss Humanitarian Aid, and not on the partners. The basis of each report is the vast amount of generic or specific reporting a partner provides during the year. For instance, for the UNHCR's operations in 2015, 8 core reports were used.

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?

- Besides having comparatively flexible reporting requirements, Switzerland decided to participate in the pilot under this work stream using the reporting template 8+3 in Iraq. All SDC/SHA funded partner INGOs working in Iraq were ask to start reporting on the 8+3 standardized format. First experiences are positive. However, there is a risk that partners are concerned that critical/transparent reporting may backfire (even more than usual) against their operations/fundraising prospects as the reports are not only shared with the donor but also with the institution writing the report. This has to be addressed and confidentiality guarantied.

- SDC introduced agency-wide impact indicators to monitor the 2017-2020 Dispatch to Parliament and commissioned an independent evaluation of its Results-Based Management (RBM) System.

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)?

- Swiss Humanitarian Aid will participate in the various discussions around the evaluation of the pilot on introducing standardized 8+3 reporting and examine its potential for scaling up.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- See progress to date.

Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement

Aid organisations and donors commit to:

1. *Use existing resources and capabilities better to shrink humanitarian needs over the long term with the view of contributing to the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals. Significantly increase prevention, mitigation and preparedness for early action to anticipate and secure resources for recovery. This will need to be the focus not only of aid organisations and donors but also of national governments at all levels, civil society, and the private sector.*

2. *Invest in durable solutions for refugees, internally displaced people and sustainable support to migrants, returnees and host/receiving communities, as well as for other situations of recurring vulnerabilities.*

3. *Increase social protection programmes and strengthen national and local systems and coping mechanisms in order to build resilience in fragile contexts.*

4. *Perform joint multi-hazard risk and vulnerability analysis, and multi-year planning where feasible and relevant, with national, regional and local coordination in order to achieve a shared vision for outcomes. Such a shared vision for outcomes will be developed on the basis of shared risk analysis between humanitarian, development, stabilisation and peacebuilding communities.*

5. *Galvanise new partnerships that bring additional capabilities and resources to crisis affected states through Multilateral Development Banks within their mandate and foster innovative partnerships with the private sector.*

Humanitarian-Development engagement work stream co-conveners reporting request:
What has your organisation done to operationalise the humanitarian-development nexus at country level?"

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1. Baseline (only in year 1)
Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Switzerland has tackled the issue through an angle wider than the humanitarian / development angle; it has long been recognised that other instruments of foreign policy can have / should have an effect on the humanitarian needs. As the report of the UN Secretary General ahead of the World Humanitarian Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals both have highlighted, peace is a key component of both development and reducing humanitarian needs in a sustainable way. In the same vein, job creation can have a deep impact on the needs of a given population. Switzerland has long engaged in mediation, in supporting peace-building and the restoration of social cohesion, in protection of migrants and refugees where they are and in sustained bilateral economic cooperation. It has also created several *migration*

partnerships with other countries and engaged in international dialogue on migration. The main tools for the integration of all these dimensions are country cooperation strategies, integrating all the dimensions relevant to a given context, in a multi-year framework – to date of writing, 27 out of 44 of these strategies are fully integrated (commitment 4).

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?

- With the Dispatch for [International Cooperation 2017-2020 (BBl 2016 2333),](#) Switzerland has a common framework of orientation for the key Swiss actors in this nexus area. 14 of the FDFA's 21 priority countries and regions for bilateral cooperation of the SDC are considered to be protracted crises. In these contexts, Switzerland is already using the various instruments of international cooperation in a coordinated and complementary manner.

- Women's participation is a priority in the new strategy of the FDFA on gender equality and women's rights and measured in development and humanitarian programs through specific indicators.

- The Federal Council is keen to further strengthen the links between humanitarian aid and development cooperation. The SDC decided at the beginning of 2017 to commission an independent evaluation. This evaluation will formulate recommendations for strengthening the implementation modalities between humanitarian aid and development cooperation.

- The aim of the "Nexus" is to synergistically complement humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace policy activities and to achieve an overall result, which is more than just the individual parts. In Haiti, for example, the successor to the Reconstruction Project (PARIS) was carried out, planned and initiated in cooperation with colleagues from the development cooperation. In Myanmar discussions are ongoing on how a future Swiss direct action should be carried out and what development and peace elements can be included in the planning, which will then be complemented by diplomatic efforts in the political dialogue.

- In Somalia, the combination of humanitarian and development cooperation instruments mean that vulnerable groups of the population will no longer lose their acquired food security completely in the event of a crisis. Humanitarian activities (e.g. through cash projects) thus protect the progress made so far and together they strengthen self-help capacities (e. g. through local social security systems, savings and credit unions, early warning systems and action plans for better management of natural resources).

- With Swiss support, UNHCR in Chad has moved from humanitarian programming to more development-oriented programming, seeking to strengthen the Government's role in the management of (long-term) refugees on its territory.

- In Morocco, the Swiss support has been instrumental to path disaster resilience, engage in risk awareness, forecasting and prevention actions and strengthening Morocco's civil protection focus and resources. Switzerland engaged with an effective mix of its humanitarian and development instruments and leveraged partnerships with Multilateral Development Banks towards the common goal of reducing disaster risk and supporting sustainable development.

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)?

- In 2018, the results of the independent evaluation on the linkages between humanitarian aid and development cooperation will be available and its concrete implementation will be examined.

4. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

5. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

- The practice of developing "whole of government" country cooperation strategies combining humanitarian and development cooperation instruments allows for a better integration of work on the nexus between humanitarian action and development and provides an opportunity especially for local actors to engage in medium-term programming and access to funding for its own institutional capacity development.