

**Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution: Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs,
Foreign trade and Development Cooperation**

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Date of Submission: 16 02 2022

(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than **4 pages in total** – anything over this word limit will not be considered. Please respond to all of the questions below.)

Grand Bargain in 2021

Question 1: Reflecting on the information you have provided in the Excel spreadsheet, please highlight the 2 or 3 key outcomes or results relating to the Grand Bargain that your institution achieved in 2021?

1. Belgium provided 10 MEUR additional funding to respond (+/) fast to the most urgent needs: 3MEUR for WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA), 2MEUR for CBPF Afghanistan, 3MEUR to the CBPF Lebanon and 2MEUR to the CPBF OpT. 2021 was again a record year in terms of the Humanitarian Aid budget (186.256.922 MEUR).
2. Belgium supported (6MEUR flexible funding for the period 2021-2022) the Regionally-hosted Pooled Fund in Central and West Africa (initial focus on the Sahel) established by OCHA. In line with GB 2.0's enabling priorities, this fund aims at providing a strategic and flexible humanitarian financing tool but also at supporting actors that are best placed to respond to given needs and at expanding direct support to frontline humanitarian partners including local and national NGOs.
3. In June 2021, Belgium took over the co-presidency of the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD), together with Finland, choosing to focus strategically on 5 priorities: Humanitarian change, Protection - with a focus on gender (GBV) and disability inclusion, Quality funding, the effects of Counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action and the Monitoring of the UNDS reform.

Question 2: Briefly explain how the outcomes contribute to achieving the Grand Bargain 2.0 enabling priority 1 (quality funding).

Enabling priority 1: A critical mass of quality funding is reached that allows an effective and efficient response, ensuring visibility and accountability.

(For ease of reference, see Senior Officials Meeting recommendations [here](#).)

Following WHS and GB commitments, the proportion of our flexible, unearmarked funding has further increased throughout the years. Belgium maintained its ambitious target of reaching 60% flexible and unearmarked funding by 2020 (compared to 58 % in 2019, 53% in 2018, and 49,7% in 2017) and kept this high record in 2021 (64%) – largely exceeding the GB target of 30%. 40 million EUR were allocated to core funding which has been increased by more than 17% (ICRC, UNRWA, UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, The New Humanitarian and Alnap) and 80 million EUR were allocated to flexible funds (CERF, DREF, IRA, SFERA and CBPF).

Belgium is a strong supporter and advocate of flexible funding and multi-annual agreements. Confirming this, “Quality funding” is one of the key priorities of the GHD co-presidency and will be seen as a key element to enhance GBV and Disability inclusion funding.

Question 3: Briefly explain how the outcomes contribute to achieving the Grand Bargain 2.0 enabling priority 2 (localisation and participation).

Enabling priority 2: Greater support is provided for the leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders and the participation of affected communities in addressing humanitarian needs.

Due to the legal framework which prevents Belgium from direct financing of local actors (other than nationals), Belgium largely relies on intermediaries such as the UN or NGO's

to meet this target but also by using pooled funds as they give access to local actors and have proven to provide more timely and flexible funding to respond to sudden humanitarian crises.

In addition, Belgium does not hesitate to use its seat in organization boards to put this priority forward. Localisation was also a key element of the GHD's Humanitarian change priority, particularly in the context of the discussions on the decolonisation of aid, where it has been seen as a solution to further decolonise aid and tackle the power imbalance within the system.

Participation of people at all stages of an emergency response is crucial. This is one element of cross-cutting protection, which Belgium considers to be essential to guarantee quality in humanitarian programming. Hence, we expect our partnering NGO's to include participation activities into their programming. To this effect, the principle of participation is embedded in the 2021 funding framework for programs, a financing instrument primarily used for NGO's.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment¹ in humanitarian settings through its implementation of the Grand Bargain? What results/outcomes have been achieved in this regard? (Please outline specific initiatives or changes in practice and their outcomes/results). Please refer to the Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

Commitments mentioned in the 2020 report and taken following the renewed roadmap of the Call to Action on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (C2A) are still valid for 2021 and are applied in the partnerships which Belgian humanitarian aid maintains with its various humanitarian partners. As previously mentioned, Gender is a key element of the GHD's Protection priority and will be addressed during the first half of 2022.

Question 5: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments? Please explain how your institution has linked commitments 10.1 - 10.5 with other commitments from other workstreams.

The strategic mainstreaming of the H-D Nexus has been further developed:

10.1. Belgium continued focusing on a more sustainable approach in developing strategies, concept notes and its operationalization for (humanitarian) aid in contexts of fragility, crisis, and conflict, and developed joined-up initiatives known as "Team Belgium".

10.2. Belgium supported EU projects such as the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis and launched projects in Mozambique addressing the needs of IDPs from Cabo Delgado and host communities in surrounding provinces alike.

10.3. Social protection is a strategic priority of the Belgian Development Cooperation, mainstreaming this priority at all levels. At project level, advantage was taken of existing activities on the local and regional level, to be upgraded and leveraged. For instance, Belgium contributed to the 'Covid-19 Emergency Response for the Sector of Artisanal and Small mining'(ASM) window of the WBG/EGPS multidonor Trust Fund. Through its membership of the Board of the EITI and the Partnership Council of WBG/EGPS, Belgium is strongly engaged in enabling better ESG conditions for an inclusive and sustainable

¹ Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

economic growth in the sector of extractives and ASM in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

10.4. The existing structures for the Comprehensive Approach and the Belgian tool for joint contextual and risk analysis (Fragility Risk Assessment Management Exercise - FRAME) continued to prove their usefulness. The tool was implemented in about 10 situations of fragility in the Sahel and Central Africa. Multiyear portfolios and programs were developed, special attention was given to the mainstreaming of the Nexus H-D among actors of civil society. BE also launched a 7 MEUR call for proposals aimed at addressing the root causes of fragility and building youth resilience in the Sahel.

Within multilateral bodies, Belgium uses its geographic and thematic expertise in fragile contexts to defend proposals for conflict prevention, human security, respect for human rights and specific attention to the most vulnerable. It also stands out for its balanced strategic approach to migration and forced displacement as well as its focus in recent years on innovative approaches in the humanitarian field and its inclusion of the private sector in fragile and crisis contexts.

As co-chair of the workstream on analytic tools of the UN-DAC dialogue, Belgium played an instrumental role in improving the common understanding and further developing of analytic tools for a joined-up Nexus approach of stakeholders at all levels, as well as facilitating Nexus platforms for the donor community within fragile countries.

10.5. Belgium contributes actively to the WBG through its multilateral donor Trust Fund on Extractives Global Programmatic Approach (WBG-EGPS), focusing on implementation of the SDG's in fragile countries, raising Domestic Resources for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth of fragile states and local communities of the extractives sector.

Question 6: Has your institution taken any steps towards improving risk sharing with its partners? If so, please describe how. *(For ease of reference, please see a set of actions to enhance risk sharing as suggested in the Netherlands and the ICRC [Statement on risk sharing](#).)*²

The awareness of the risks inherent to humanitarian action is reflected in our internal discussions, within our organisation. Examples: discussions on sanctions and counter-terrorism measures and their impact on humanitarian action, on grant monitoring and control..

Belgium kept on advocating in international fora for increased donor coordination in matters such as assessments/reporting/auditing.

Belgium recognizes itself in the following action “Enable frank exchanges about risks in partnerships, including about risk management practices, their impact, and about risk acceptance to enable a common understanding between partners”. When a case of fraud is communicated to us, we listen to the partner and seek a joint solution by weighing up the risks and consequences (reputational, financial, etc.) on the one hand, and the importance of maintaining assistance to those affected on the other hand.

² During the 2021 Annual meeting and in consultation leading up to this Signatories have expressed a strong interest in advancing the risk-sharing agenda. As communicated, the Netherlands, ICRC and InterAction are in the process of setting up a Risk Sharing Platform. This work will benefit greatly from an inventory of Signatories' risk-sharing practices.