

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

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(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?

DCA would like to highlight two overarching achievements related to the 2021 Grand Bargain reporting. First, DCA has harmonized its monitoring system with a new MEAL plan template used by country offices and partners. DCA has also updated its monitoring guidelines with more systematic ways to measure progress and performance. This will enable us to better track progress on key strategic priorities such as support to women and youth leadership, and institutional capacity strengthening of local actors.

Second, DCA has developed a Local Leadership Strategy and a localisation framework (at country level/HQ) that outlines the steps to meet our localisation commitments across HQ and country offices. The strategy supports country offices developing a localization approach tailored to the specific context and needs on ground. All country level approaches will be accompanied by a capacity development plan that specifically addresses partners' perceived needs and aspirations.

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](#).)

DCA will explore scope to convene exchanges with its country offices, local partners and C4C members on topics of shared interest; involving relevant colleagues including Heads of Finance/Audit on further defining potential priorities for contributing to improved quality funding:

- a. Addressing **Due Diligence** barriers - in collaboration with the CHS Alliance, ICVA, relevant National NGO fora, and C4C signatories/endorsers DCA will explore ways to harmonise due diligence approaches to avoid unnecessary duplicatory or incoherent approaches
- b. **Overheads costs:** Clarifying and addressing our internal, as well as donor, obstacles to fair, adequate and consistent approaches to ICR.

- c. **Fundraising and design of consortia to support local leadership innovation** at country level, building on learning from Zimbabwe and Sudan on local governance structures and good practice.
- d. **Key Performance Indicators to incentivise localisation** for country managers to incentivise meaningful partnerships and localisation.

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.

A key outcome in 2021 was the development of the DCA Local Leadership Strategy and the Localisation Framework. Both documents reflect a fundamental belief in DCA to promote and support the dignity, independence, capacity and agency of people and communities together with the civil society actors that represent them. The documents are developed in close collaboration between DCA HQ and country offices, partners and other key stakeholders with a view to further align and guide the organisation through a collective approach to strengthen local leadership and achieve the localisation commitments. The overall purpose is to move power, resources and responsibility closer to people on the ground while strengthening accountability, local leadership and equitable partnerships. This we believe will deliver more effective results on the ground and shape more effective triple nexus approaches that benefit people affected by crisis and displacement.

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.

DCA Country Programmes work with gender mainstreaming and women’s rights as an integral part of rights-based approach. All DCA country offices have reported on specific targeted activities in 2020 (2021 figures available in April 2022) to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment; address unequal access to decision-making, opportunities and empowerment; address discriminatory norms and practices; and draft and implement gender responsive laws and policies. DCA has in 2021 increasingly worked on enhancing women’s economic empowerment, leadership roles,

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

financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship opportunities. In Northern Uganda, digital solutions in traditional Village Loan and Saving Associations have enhanced women's financial inclusion, economic opportunities as well as decision-making in households and communities, while also providing improved networking opportunities for women to address specific needs and risks. In Palestine, DCA partners in Palestine increased their work on fighting gender discriminatory laws and practices, campaigning against gender-based violence (GBV), addressing women's lack of economic empowerment and working with faith-based actors to reflect on gender justice issues. DCA also trained Shari'a trainee lawyers to develop their knowledge, skills, and attitudes toward women's rights, and promote gender-sensitive court representations at Shari'a courts. In Mali, DCA has promoted the involvement and integration of women and youth in community committees and decision-making platforms. DCA's innovation project "Youth Act for Peace" was successful in garnering young women's involvement in mine action, and young women also benefitted from the youth-focused income-generating activities and entrepreneurship training.

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.

DCA applies a nexus approach that recognizes the role and leadership of local actors. DCA's approach to nexus is firmly anchored within a market-based programming that stimulates market demand and rebuilds rights holders' agency as well as their coping mechanisms and self-reliance. The approach links support to smallholder producers, workers and other marginalised along the value chains with cash assistance, vocational training, agroecological inputs, financial inclusion, and capacity strengthening in business planning and management. The approach supports durable solutions that benefit vulnerable and marginalised people, including refugees, internally displaced people, and host/receiving communities in humanitarian contexts. Labour market assessments and value chain analyses are used to identify potential employment and income opportunities, particularly for youth and women, and guide the design of interventions. This approach stimulates long-term systemic change and multi-stakeholder dialogue to drive market inclusion and stimulate employment opportunities for poor communities in both displacement and non-displacement. The approach is mainstreamed into our institutional implementation of the GB commitments. In Myanmar, DCA and partners implement market-based projects which contribute to establish market linkages and build economic resilience in hard-to-reach and conflict-affected communities. Through this approach, the projects also sought to facilitate increased social cohesion across ethnic and religious groups.

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

In response to increased compliance and national level requirements (that affect and hamper civic/humanitarian space), DCA proactively seek to mitigate or address these risks by through multiple strategies:

1. DCA develops learning (compliance) tools and make them accessible to partners
2. DCA engages partners regularly on how to meet the risks collectively, proactively, and adaptively in bilateral meetings and annual partner platform meetings.
3. In our 2021 Safety and Security Duty of Care Policy DCA has committed to ensuring our partners have the capacity to manage the safety and security risks they face and to fulfil their duty of care responsibilities to their staff. In cases where appropriate levels of partner capacity cannot be achieved, DCA will not work with the partner. Due to the large and diverse number of partners with which DCA works (approx. 200), it will take until next year to fully implement this policy.
4. DCA develops new and innovative ways to support CSO partners under pressure and protect their ability to hold duty bearers accountable through dissemination, training on documentation of violations, digital security, the mobilisation of inter-religious protection against hate-speech, physical security, medical and emergency support, and legal aid as well as small grants to individual Human Rights Defenders.
5. Our partnership approach is driven by joint learning and exchange with partners engaging them in strategic dialogue and plans for capacity development, joint advocacy and communication to monitor changes and risks in the partnership.
6. At an overall governance level, DCA board consults a Partner Group on the development of DCA strategies, management and overall programming where risks issues are discussed, and mitigation strategies developed.

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.