

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

Name of Institution: Danish Refugee Council

**Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to enable the consultants to contact you for an interview):
Pierre Vischioni, Senior Special Advisor, pierre.vischioni@drc.ngo**

Date of Submission: 16 February 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?

As outcomes most crosscutting to Grand Bargain (GB) commitments, in December 2021 **DRC became a formal signatory GB 2.0**, increasing the organisation's awareness on the GB, its progress to date and more specifically on GB 2.0 key priorities for the cost-efficiency of humanitarian assistance, the importance of operationalising change within DRC and the need to update its ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system to enhance DRC's ability to automatically track progress towards core commitments. In September, **DRC launched "Strategy 2025" (S25)** giving the organisation for the first time in history a unified global multiyear strategic process for the entire organization accountable through a results framework aiming towards global strategic priorities and organisational principles that will contribute to core commitments of the Grand Bargain 2.0, including its new enabling priorities.

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](#).)*

The decision by DRC to formally commit to all Grand Bargain commitments came with a **narrowed focus initially on** two key themes to achieve greater impact, one of which is **Quality Funding**, which mirrors S2025 Foundational Strategic Priority 3 "Better Value for Money" recognising that DRC's ambitions rely on the quality of the funding received and requiring DRC to maximise the impact of this funding. In this spirit, DRC created a **new position of global position of Senior Advisor on Institutional Partnership Engagement** to reinforce and diversify DRC's outreach to partners and donors, including with the purpose of securing long-term predictable strategic partnerships and flexible funding. The above contributed to internal awareness on the **need to improve DRC's systems to allow tracking of Quality Funding related data** from institutional donor and towards partners.

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.

Workstream 2 is the **second key focus of DRC in the GB**. S2025 Organisational Principle 2 "**Go Local**" recognises the importance for DRC globally to improve and increase partnerships with local actors and introduce an organization-wide localization lens to DRC's work. To that effect, DRC developed in 2021 partner engagement tools and initiated change of its ERP systems to be geared to **automate data collection on funding** going to various subcategories of local and national responders that should be operational by Q1 2022. In 2021, in its **Strategic Partnership Agreement with DANIDA**, DRC integrated as a requirement an increase in local partnerships including through transfers and from 2022. Organisational Principle 1 "**Be Accountable**" places Participation of people received aid at the core of DRC's programming.

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.

In 2021, DRC has made significant investments to establish and strengthen the policy basis for our DRC advancement of age, gender and diversity (AGD) mainstreaming, hereunder as it relates to gender equality and women's empowerment. DRC S2025 **Operational Principle 5: "Promote Diversity and Inclusion"** sets out to "intensify our fight against systemic inequality and structural discrimination of conflict and displacement affected persons". DRC AGDM Global Policy requires all DRC programmes to be gender sensitive and advance gender transformative change, outlining 12 minimum standards to uphold our commitment to equal rights throughout programmes. While

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

strategy, policy and tools exist, over the coming years, DRC recognises the need to focus on the actual implementation strategy and policy commitments.

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.

In 2021, DRC embarked on the development of its first **Nexus policy** which provides an overview of the relevance, risks and opportunities of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus and describes how DRC will work to operationalise a nexus-sensitive approach in programming. The policy is slated for management approval in February 2022. The policy includes commitments on analysis, localisation, participation, gender mainstreaming and quality funding. Application of **DRC's 2020 Conflict Analysis guidelines** has meanwhile gathered speed throughout 2021 with DRC producing **40 conflict analyses** (including in South Sudan, Libya, Iraq, Nigeria, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso) that informed collective outcomes and programming across the nexus. 25 out of the 40 analyses were produced jointly with others or in the frame of multi-pillar Consortia.

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

During the past six months, DRC has conducted an **internal review of partner compliance processes**, also considering DRC's risk statement and practices of risk transfer. Current tools and processes do constitute a transfer of risks to downstream partners in contract modalities where DRC is the overall grant holder, and thus the sole risk owner as per donor requirements. Based on the findings of the review, DRC will work towards **changing practices from transfer of risk to sharing and mitigating of risks**. DRC will also **engage more actively in conversations with donors** for a more comprehensive discussion on the cascading of risk transfer, which starts with donor compliance regimes placing the full risk for a grant on the main contract holder (interviews with donors were part of the internal review).

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.