

Grand Bargain in 2021:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

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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?

During 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark published two new strategic framework documents that will guide the way Denmark engages in development cooperation and humanitarian action for years to come. The most comprehensive document of the two is Denmark's new strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian action, "The World We Share". The other document is specifically aimed at the way the Ministry of Foreign Affairs works with civil society partners.

["The World We Share"](#) provides the overall framework for all Denmark's efforts to prevent and fight poverty, conflict and displacement and restore balance to the planet. Among the elements of the Grand Bargain, "The World We Share" especially promotes approaches that **work across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus**, it highlights the link between the three elements and aims at further mainstreaming them in Denmark's engagement in development and humanitarian assistance. The strategy emphasizes that instruments must be combined and used in a complementary way for example in partnering with countries in the Sahel. An important aim is to work towards long-term, sustainable solutions, prevent conflict and promote stabilization.

The way Denmark works across the nexus in its development cooperation and humanitarian action was assessed through an [OECD DAC peer-review](#) during 2021. The review sees Denmark as spearheading work across the HDP nexus with a high level of ambition and experience to share globally and at country level.

The [new framework](#) for strategic partnerships with Danish civil society organizations **promotes localisation** by requiring partner organisations to work on five core elements that aim at strengthening local leadership: (1) Engaging in equitable partnerships with local partners based on locally identified needs and mutual added value. (2) Transferring a high proportion of the grant received to local partners and encourage local ownership - there is a ceiling of 20% for expenditure at headquarter level in Denmark to ensure that as much funding as possible is provided to the global South. (3) Actively supporting local partners' organisational capacities through relevant and

targeted capacity strengthening and capacity sharing. (4) Supporting and promoting local partner's participation and leadership in projects and programmes; (5) Promoting greater presence, influence, and leadership of local partners in coordination mechanisms and policy fora. The Danish civil society partners will furthermore be subject to an assessment done by their local partners during the partnership period on how they contribute to the five core elements. The new framework highlights women, women-led organisations and women's rights organisations as key partners.

The framework also promotes nexus-approaches by providing civil society partners one single allocation of funds that covers both humanitarian and development action. This allows for a holistic, adaptive and integrated approach to programming.

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](#).)

Denmark considers the provision of quality funding one of the most important Grand Bargain commitments and a vital tool for improving the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Denmark continues to provide a large part of its humanitarian funding in a way that is flexible, predictable and non-earmarked or softly earmarked. The new framework for strategic partnerships with Danish civil society organisations underscores this approach by allowing for even more flexibility in the use of funding, allowing for up to one third of the annual budget to be used as unallocated flexible funds and be programmed throughout the year without approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. This allow partners to react rapidly and in a flexible manner to any immediate crisis, and beyond crisis situations to respond to new or changing needs, or seize opportunities and follow new and innovative ways of working.

The OECD DAC peer review mentioned above points out that Denmark has taken significant steps to make its humanitarian financing fit for purpose in line with Grand Bargain principles by providing predictable and flexible funding through multi-year agreements with e.g. a number of UN agencies.

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.

Please refer to question 1 above.

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.

By 1 January 2021, Denmark took over the role of Global Lead for the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. Through its Global Lead-role, Denmark works to promote support for the empowerment of women and girls and the fight against sexual and gender-based violence as a key priority in all humanitarian action at all stages. A core tenet of Denmark's engagement is that no humanitarian response plan will achieve its objectives without addressing gender equality and sexual and gender-based violence. Key priorities for the Danish Call to Action leadership is (1) Systematic advocacy in all relevant fora. (2) Engagement with the humanitarian system to ensure increased prioritization of risk mitigation, prevention of and responses to sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian planning. (3) Promotion of concrete action to ensure meaningful engagement and participation of local women and girls in humanitarian planning and decision-making. (4) Support for evidence-based research with a view to increase the use of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data in humanitarian planning.

In 2021 Denmark increased its overall funding to action against sexual and gender-based violence, including through new funding to the OCHA GenCap-facility, aimed at ensuring that relevant capacities are available to deliver on commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action.

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

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.

Please refer to question 1 above.

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](#).)*

Two of the elements of the NL/ICRC statement on risk sharing are capacity strengthening and quality funding for local partners, issues that are part of Denmark's new framework for strategic partnerships with Danish civil society. It commits partners to reinforce local leadership through capacity strengthening and capacity sharing as well as increasing funding streams to local partners. Transfer of funds to local partners is now included in the format for both budget and audited accounts; and budgets of local partners may include an administrative fee as a way of strengthening local capacity and autonomy.

Please refer to question 1 above for more information on how the new framework will help ensure quality funding for local partners.