

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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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?

- **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus:** The Global Network against Food Crises¹ provides coherent coordination to promote collective efforts across the HDP nexus. Through the Network, in 2021 FAO, WFP and the EU prepared and launched (i) [Global Report on Food Crises \(GRFC\) 2021](#); (ii) a [Mid-Year Update of the Global Report](#) presenting the latest estimates of the acute food insecurity situation; (iii) [the IGAD Regional Report on Food Crises](#); (iv) the [2021 Report on Financing Flows and Food Crises](#) featuring an analysis of the external financing to the food sectors to countries that experience food crises; (v) two editions of the FAO-WFP “Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity” reports; and (vi) two editions of the “Monitoring food security in countries with conflict situations” update for the United Nations Security Council. In 2021, FAO finalized and published an Evaluation of FAO’s contributions to the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus 2014-2020. (For more information on this Evaluation please see answer 5.)
- **Linking Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Social Protection (SP) and Anticipatory Action (AA):** Under the FAO-DG ECHO pilot programmatic partnership (PPP), FAO is bringing together CVA, SP and AA in the contexts of Bangladesh, Pakistan, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Vietnam. The initiative covers strategic guidance, technical and operational support as well as capacity building initiatives. It aims to invest in and support CVA preparedness, including through existing SP programmes and systems, as an essential part of AA, tailored to specific contexts. Evidence and lessons from the project will be used to inform strategic discussions on the role of CVA and SP for AA and resilience at global, regional, and country levels, and will contribute to understanding the feasibility, effectiveness, and impact of CVAs linked to SP and AA in the five countries.

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

Remarkable, timely support to FAO’s Desert Locust Response Plan for the Greater Horn of Africa and Yemen 2020-2021 continued in 2021 and led to a fully funded appeal². The funds received were flexible and enabled FAO to be agile, respond quickly to changing needs on the ground and allocate resources by country and type of intervention required. These collective efforts averted 4.5 million tonnes of crop losses, saved 900 million litres of milk production, and secured food for nearly 42 million people. The commercial value of the cereal and milk loss averted is estimated at USD 1.77 billion. Given that it was not possible to protect 100 percent of all crops and rangelands in areas infested by desert locust, the funding provided also enabled FAO to undertake anticipatory actions to safeguard the livelihoods of

¹ The Global Network against Food Crises was founded by the European Commission for International Cooperation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) at the first World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. More information available [here](#).

² Resource partners allocated USD 38 million, which represented 100 percent of the Desert Locust programme requirement in 2021 and contributed to meet the total requirement of FAO’s two-year appeal (USD 230 million).

305 000 households with livelihood protection packages and cash. An additional 346 810 households were assisted by NGOs under the Regional Desert Locust Alliance. Together, these actions protected the livelihoods of over 4 million people.

Unearmarked and softly earmarked funds to FAO's Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) allowed for effective coordination and rapid response, including agricultural input distributions, Desert Locust operations and anticipatory action, among others. More than one-third of the SFERA funding in 2021 went to the fund's Anticipatory Action window (USD 5.5 million provided by Belgium, Germany and Sweden), which helped to mitigate the impacts of crisis on at risk and vulnerable populations in Afghanistan (drought); Central African Republic (conflict-induced displacement); the Democratic Republic of the Congo (conflict-induced displacement); El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (drought); Kenya (drought); Madagascar (migratory locusts); Myanmar (displacement); Senegal and Mauritania (rodent infestation); and Syria (drought). Evidence shows that rapid, flexible and anticipatory financing helps prevent humanitarian needs at lower costs, and through a more dignified and empowering form of assistance, and makes the case for donors to invest more in such mechanisms.

Another example of quality funding includes USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) Global Macro-Grant Agreement with FAO that is renewed on a yearly basis, which improves FAO's overall efficiency in responding rapidly to food crises and minimizes the administrative burden by consolidating multi-country activities under one grant. In 2021, the award supported global and country-level projects with individual project budgets ranging from USD 500 000 to USD 20 million.

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

FAO has pursued efforts to ensure its programmes, projects and initiatives are people-centered, inclusive, participatory, and build on local capacities and structures in place. With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, and restricted access issues, it has been all the more instrumental to partner with and build the capacities of local civil society organizations (NGOs, community-based organizations, professional associations, networks, etc.) and national Governments in technical work and emergency field operations. An important part of FAO's work on localization in humanitarian situations has been undertaken through the FAO-WFP led global Food Security Cluster (gFSC). The concept of localization features prominently in the gFSC Strategic Plan and the cluster has been promoting the participation of local NGOs and several countries have elected a national partner as the Cluster's co-facilitating agency.

Outreach and advocacy efforts have served to secure some dedicated funding to advance the localization agenda in 2022 - strengthening the capacities, knowledge and skills of local actors for more predictable and timely emergency response. Amongst other initiatives, Due Diligence exercises were conducted with civil society organizations in Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and South Sudan to review their capacities in programmatic, operational, financial and administrative areas and develop a capacity strengthening plan to increase their ability to deliver quality humanitarian outcomes.

In terms of AAP and community engagement, the development of various guidance tools and knowledge products, the set-up of a global Community of Practice (CoP) in addition to ongoing training and mentoring of staff, has contributed to increasingly people-centred, inclusive and participatory programming and implementation.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment³ 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).

FAO has continued to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in humanitarian settings, with a focus on rural communities, through greater joined-up and integrated work including the adoption of gender transformative approaches – such as the Dimitra Clubs in sub-Saharan Africa. These have been very successful in empowering rural people to champion and galvanize social progress within their own communities and contribute to transforming gender roles. Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Clubs have also been spontaneously mobilizing and sensitizing rural communities on behavioural changes to prevent the virus transmission, including prevention measures.

FAO's policy on Gender Equality (GE) requires that gender analysis be incorporated in the identification and formulation of all projects, and gender-related issues be taken into account in implementation processes such as collecting base-line data and in project monitoring and evaluation. To mainstream gender, FAO has included requests for gender-disaggregated data in the 8+3 reporting template being used. In addition, with the aim of empowering local actors, in 2021 FAO, in collaboration with the Food Security Cluster, organized capacity strengthening exercises for local partners mainstreaming gender and protection. With respect to cash and voucher programming, a qualifier within the FAO project management system requires gender-disaggregated data for individual beneficiaries. Specific consideration is given to women-headed households across many projects and countries. Special attention is also given to women in contexts where the main CVA modality used by FAO is cash-for-work (e.g. Afghanistan, Somalia).

Gender mainstreaming is also at the heart of FAO evaluations. In this regard, FAO completes the UN-SWAP on an annual basis, which is led by UN Women and includes gender equality (indicator 4). Gender is also a critical cross-cutting evaluation criteria considered in all evaluations. Gender remains at the core of any FAO AAP and community engagement activity. With the COVID-19 pandemic which posed new challenges to rural women, FAO scaled up work to help them retain their essential roles in maintaining household food security, in addition to protecting them from the risks of gender based violence.

³ 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?

In 2021, FAO's Office for Evaluation completed their Evaluation of FAO's contributions to the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus 2014-2020. The Evaluation recognizes the importance of FAO's mandate, and its considerable expertise and experience in both humanitarian and development contexts, along with its contribution to sustaining peace within the scope of its mandate. The evaluation provides strategic guidance in terms of what remains to be achieved within the context of the HDP Nexus in the coming years, as well as informing the FAO's new Strategic Framework (2022-2031). The Evaluation highlights the crucial role of partnerships across the HDP Nexus. It recognizes that FAO must strengthen its partnerships at global, regional and country levels, within the scope of its mandate, to engage across the Nexus with humanitarian, development and peace actors.

In the context of the continued pandemic, ongoing adaptation of the conflict-sensitivity Programme Clinic virtual format, using a combination of online platforms, with remote sessions have been completed in South Sudan, DRC, Lebanon, Jordan and other contexts. Reworking of an internal compendium for FAO country offices to support the formulation of UN Peacebuilding (PBF) projects, and projects with explicit sustaining peace objectives. Completion of an Operationalizing Pathways to Sustaining Peace: a How to Guide, to be published in early 2022, developed in conjunction with Interpeace. Area-based context analyses (supported by FAO's Guide to Context Analysis), have been supported in a number of contexts including the cross-border Karamoja Cluster, DRC and Haiti.

Question 6: Has your institution taken any steps towards improving risk sharing with its partners? If so, please describe how.

FAO supports risk sensitization and awareness within the Organization through a number of internal management tools and reports, such as its Enterprise Risk Management system, the Country Annual Report and the FAO internal control and compliance network. FAO's Office for Emergencies and Resilience (OER) has recently established a dedicated Compliance Team which produces Compliance and Internal Control Analysis reports for high risk priority countries and contributes, inter alia, to raising awareness and sharing good practices on internal control and compliance.

In the context of strengthening partners' risk management systems, where feasible, interagency and multi-partner feedback mechanisms are being explored that allow for a more holistic analysis and assessment through the feedback provided by affected populations in relation to different partners' programmes. One example of such successful cooperation can be found in Karamoja Cluster which encompasses areas of Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan. The sustainable cross-border sharing of natural resources and the coordination of animal movements (and the services associated with it, such as vaccination and health inspection) have been used effectively by FAO and its partners to prevent and mitigate conflicts.

FAO is also engaged in leveraging existing platforms to share and reduce risks in humanitarian action. OER is currently conducting a feasibility assessment for joining the United Nations Partners Portal (UNPP), which would improve access to due diligence information on our

partners. OER also actively participates to the IASC Counter Terrorism (COTER) Group where, inter alia, the effects of sanctions on humanitarian programme implementation is discussed and information is made available to resource partners as appropriate.