

Grand Bargain in 2021:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

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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?

In 2021, Finland provided over 46% of its humanitarian funding as unearmarked, flexible, quality funding.

Finland's development policy committee published its recommendations on the nexus in 2021 to give it more clout. This significantly advanced Finland's ability to operate in the spirit of the triple-nexus.

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](#).)

As noted above, in 2021, Finland provided over 46% of its humanitarian funding as unearmarked, flexible, quality 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 above, it is difficult to assess to what extent Finland indirectly supported local actors, financially. When assessing project proposals from Finnish NGOs (10% of all humanitarian action funded by Finland), the ministry considers to what effect the project strengthens local capacities. Direct implementation without a localisation component is financed only in exceptional cases.

In 2021, Finland contributed to UNFPA's thematic humanitarian fund. Given that in 2021, from all transfers from the fund, 63% went to local partners; Finland sees this as a way to advance localisation.

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.

Finland is an active member of the Call to Action initiative and in 2021, leverage the strength of this network in its advocacy efforts.

In 2021, Finland financially supported the work of UNFPA in Syria and through its thematic humanitarian fund.

Where relevant, Finland requires data to be disaggregated by age, gender and disability. In addition, Finnish NGOs applying for humanitarian funding need to explain how the proposed activities contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment and are expected to report on the same, at the end of each project.

Finland actively advocated for gender equality and women's empowerment, in 2021 for example in COHAFA and in bilateral consultations with UN organisations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

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 triple nexus approach is integrated in the new MFA country strategies. Funding regulation was modified to allow more flexible use of funds on "nexus" activities and it is now possible for the MFA-funded Finnish NGOs to better implement the development link in each project, as funding can be applied for up two years, instead of the previous 12 months. The MFA has as of 2021 a nexus task force, responsible for the development of a guidance on the implementation of the nexus. Finland's

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

development policy committee published its recommendations on the nexus in 2021 to give it more clout.

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 Ministry for Foreign Affairs completed its mode of operation reform in 2021. The project included a component on risk management which allowed for increased awareness of the risks inherent to humanitarian action, within the ministry.

The unit for humanitarian assistance took part in multi-stakeholder round-table discussions to find solutions for fund transfers to high risks contexts, at the national level.

Increased attention was placed in 2021 of the risk management practices of Finish NGOs eligible to apply for humanitarian funding for the ministry, to enable a common understanding among partners.

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.