

Grand Bargain in 2021:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: [Italian Cooperation \(Government of Italy-
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and
AICS - Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo\)](#)

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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?

Localization.

Local CSOs are eligible to direct humanitarian funding of the Italian Cooperation. Formats are in the process of being translated into English and French, in order to facilitate the participation of local and national responders. AICS is evaluating the use of other local languages.

In 2021, Italy doubled its direct support to local and national responders, funding IFRC and CBPF for a total amount of 27,2 million euro (2020 – 13.6 million euro). Namely, Italy supported: 1) IFRC (8.8 million euro); CBPFs in Ethiopia, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, CAR (for a total amount of at least 18.9 million euro). 2 projects were also assigned to local NGOs in Palestine (total 916,714 Euro - contracts to be signed in 2022).

Unearmarking:

Italy doubled total unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions, reaching in 2021 the amount of 41,356,231 euro (19% of total budget; 2019 - 20,637,526 euro). Namely, Italy:

- i) tripled its support to CERF (total 2021 - 15 million euro; total 2020 – 5 million euro), becoming its 10th donor at the end of 2021 (from the 14th position in 2020);
- ii) almost tripled its support to CBPFs (18.9 million euro; total 2020 – 6.75 million euro - see also paragraph on localization);
- iii) continued supporting OCHA country offices, WB GFDRR, UNDRR, UNHRD, UNMAS and GICHD with softly earmarked contributions.

Italy also keeps insisting on international agencies, that benefit from our funding, to assure greater visibility to donors, no matter the level of urgency, as this is key to assure stable or increasing unearmarked resources.

Common Reporting. Italy participated to the "Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot" and rolled out the 8+3 formats in all Call for proposals starting from 2021. In 2021, Italy worked to develop an IT platform for project management, including the 8+3 Template. The new platform is still to be finalised.

AICS is discussing the format with national CSOs. Taking into consideration that CSOs proposed the use of other local languages (i.e. French, Spanish, and Portuguese) and in some context the use of the Italian language, Italy is evaluating

the possibility to use the 8+3 format in different languages, according to the context.

The use of local language enables programme managers to involve local/field staff in data collection and drafting of reports. It can also foster the participation of local organisations in Call for proposals.

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](#).)

Italy is gradually increasing humanitarian unearmarked funding, contributing to the quality of funding, which is key to improve flexibility of interventions. A critical mass of quality funding was reached especially within the extraordinary humanitarian contribution to Afghanistan, allowing for a more effective response, although greater visibility would be needed.

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.

Italy funded several initiatives aiming at improving the capacity and leadership of local responders, including through direct funding to CSOs.

Besides receiving direct funding, usually local CSOs actively participate as partner in the projects of the Italian Cooperation. The participation of local CSOs has a positive impact on: access to hard to reach areas, sustainability, quality of needs assessments, monitoring (especially during the pandemic and in hard to reach areas); communication with local authorities; stakeholders and conflict analysis. The participation of women groups is strongly encouraged. Their participation is also key to build their capacity. Numerous women-driven CSOs are involved as implementers and in some cases received direct funding (development and humanitarian, small grants). Some examples of the involvement of local women organisations can be found in Senegal and Sudan.

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

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

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.

Italy adopted in December 2020 new Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowerment. The new version includes: i) a focus on GBV in emergencies, prevention and early action; ii) commitments to develop gender analysis in every humanitarian aid program; iii) the promotion of an active role of women and local women organisations in disaster response and in the decision making process to foster peace and stability in fragile situations. The “Guidelines include specific commitments to ensure a twin-track approach, allocating at least 10% of funding to specific initiatives to promote GEWE (Gender Policy Marker - Principal) and ensuring gender mainstreaming for other initiatives (Significant Gender Policy Marker - Significant).

To promote gender mainstreaming, AICS provided training for internal staff on the use of the Gender policy marker (1 training in 2021 - total of 153 participants). Italy is also promoting the participation of AICS staff (not only gender experts) in the training organized by the EU in the framework of the GAP III activities, in order to sensitize on the importance to implement gender sensitive initiatives. Two more training sessions on Gender equality, including information on emergencies have been organised in 2021.

Country offices generally include the participation of women association in development and humanitarian interventions (see also paragraph on localization). Italy funded in 2021 several initiatives targeting gender equality, for a total amount of 10.9 million euro (5% of total humanitarian budget). Numerous initiatives also included gender equality as a component (almost 90 million euro, 41% of total humanitarian budget).

Assistance to women has been mainstreamed throughout all of the multilateral initiatives financed end of 2021 to contribute to the humanitarian response to the Afghan crises, thanks to extraordinary financial resources (about 100 M Euros).

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.

Guidelines on HDP Nexus have been finalised and the draft is going to be shared with national stakeholders (to be approved in 2022). Such guidelines include reference to the GB and to its principles and commitments.

At local level, Italy participates in formal and informal discussions on the nexus and to coordination meetings, whenever possible. Italy particularly coordinates with EU and EU Member States, also taking part in the Team Europe Initiative – whenever possible.

The Nexus Guidelines include gender considerations (ex. Agenda WPS, the role of women in humanitarian settings, gender analysis).

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

Italy participates in the main humanitarian donors' groups (OCHA, ICRC, IFRC, COHAFA at EU level), as well as in local coordination meetings with other donors and agencies, including clusters, GHD, TEI, Nexus groups and sectorial groups. In the framework of these fora, Italy shares information on activities on the ground and also on risks. The partnership with local actors, including local civil society organisations and community members, is key to identify risks.

In some cases, such as in Libya, where risks are particularly relevant, Italy relies on third Party Monitoring (TPM) to monitor activities and risks. Activities are monitored and assessed through a MEAL (monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning) and conflict sensitive approach. Information is collected mainly through field visits and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Information is regularly reported to AICS management in the form of information notes and progress reports. Within AICS Baladiyah Programme (funded by EU) in Libya, activities are jointly assessed and monitored through Third Party Monitoring (TPM) on behalf of both EU and AICS. To avoid overlapping, the TPM systems in place are complementary in terms of interventions coverage, despite being carried out by different agencies. Relevant information of TPM is shared with CSOs.

Italy is reviewing its internal procedures regarding humanitarian shipments of CSOs' items carried out by the MFAIC, in order to increase awareness of the risks inherent to that form of humanitarian assistance and try to limit them.

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.