

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

**Name of Institution: Norway**

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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?**

### *Enhanced quality of funding (more predictable and flexible funding)*

- Norway continued to commit to more multi-year funding to both UN, the Red Cross Movement and NGO partners, with a view to find a balance between ensuring predictable and flexibility for partners and maintaining the ability to respond to new and unforeseen crises. In 2021, approx. 40% of the overall funding was provided through multi-year agreements, up from approx. 39% in 2019. The core support to WFP and UNHCR, which constituted 24% of the humanitarian budget, is not included in this calculation.
- In 2021, Norway entered a new multi-year agreement with CERF for the period 2022-2025 and a new multi-year agreement for the core funding to WFP for the period 2022-2025. Ongoing multiyear agreements included OCHA, ICRC HQ appeal, ICRC operational appeals. Multi-year agreements with humanitarian think tanks and policy actors were also signed.
- Norway fulfilled the multi-year pledge from the Oslo Conference to end SGBV (NOK 1 billion 2019-2021) and continued to deliver on a three-year pledge to the Central Sahel (min. NOK 100 mill. annually 2020-2022).
- Norway has since signing the Grand Bargain exceeded the target of providing 30% of humanitarian contributions as non-earmarked or softly earmarked funding. In 2021, approx. 46% was provided as unearmarked or softly earmarked funding (up from approx. 42% in 2020) to UN organizations, ICRC and international NGOs. 35% was provided as core support, whereof 13% to WFP and 11% to UNHCR, 7% to CERF, 3% to ICRC and 1% to OCHA. Softly earmarked contributions were also provided through the strategic partnership agreements with six Norwegian NGOs, however, this is not included in this calculation.
- Norway increased its contributions to the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) in 2021 to approx. NOK 450 mill. This is an increase with NOK 100 mill. since 2017, constituting 7% of the overall budget, up 2 % from 2020.

### *Cash*

- Norway, as one of 95 signatories, sent a joint letter to the USG/ERC in June 2021 to call for action on an agreement that provides accountable, predictable coordination of humanitarian cash.
- Norway continued to promote increased use of cash, with a focus on donor coordination, and participated in the monthly informal Donor Cash Forum (DCF) together with like-minded donors, and as such supporting the GB Caucus on cash.
- Norway also raised the need for increased and better use of cash in meetings with large partners such as WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR. The four-

year strategic partnership agreements with six Norwegian NGOs require better and increased use of cash in their respective responses.

- Norway continued to support CashCap and CaLP, and as such contributing to policy development and the strengthening of cash responses globally and at country level. Norway is a member of the CaLP Board representing donors.
- Norway continued to provide support to the NGO-led network “Cash Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Organizational Network” (CAMEALEON) in Lebanon ensuring continuous third-party monitoring and global learning. Norway is also one of the co-leads in cash coordination in Nigeria - a pilot country for cash.

**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](#).)*

Norway is constantly striving to improve quality funding by increasing multi-year funding agreements and reducing earmarking in the humanitarian funding. Please see above.

**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.*

Norway is committed to increasing its contribution for local humanitarian action. Main channels for such support are the Country Based Pooled Funds, the Red Cross/Crescent National Societies, and the Norwegian strategic humanitarian partners. Support for CBPFs increased to NOK 450 million in 2021, up from NOK 407 million in 2020. Localisation and participation, including accountability to affected populations (AAP), were highlighted in annual meetings with the Norwegian strategic partners as well as in consultations and meetings with multilateral partners and the ICRC. A multi-annual agreement was signed with Ground Truth Solutions to strengthen AAP in the global humanitarian response.

**Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues**

**Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment<sup>1</sup> 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).**

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

- The gender perspective is integrated into all of Norway's humanitarian efforts. Norway requires all humanitarian partners to assess and mitigate any risks of negative effects of their work on women's rights and gender equality, be familiar with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and implement in a way that promotes the intentions of the resolution in the best possible way.
- During the year, Norway continued to trace how gender efforts are followed up by our partners and mapping partners' support for women's organisations. In 2020, 75 % of all Norwegian humanitarian aid was registered with a gender marker, i.e., gender either being the principal or a significant goal of the efforts. The percentage for 2021 is not available yet, however, it is expected to be approximately at the same level.
- Gender was brought up in the annual meetings/consultations with all humanitarian partners in 2021.
- In 2021 Norway continued to be the largest contributor to the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) and the Protection Standby Capacity Project (ProCap). 41 gender experts were deployed during the year contributing to enhanced operationalization of the gender dimension in the HRP both at country level and regional level. Norway is member of GenCap's Advisory Board, and worked closely with OCHA, NorCap and other donors to ensure the continued relevance and impact at country level of the projects.
- In 2021 Norway fulfilled the multi-year pledge to combat SGBV from the Oslo Conference to end SGBV (NOK 1 billion 2019-2021).
- In 2021 Norway co-chaired the "Call to Action" network's State and Donor Working Group with a strong focus on strengthening SGBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings, including advocating for increased and better funding in humanitarian response plans (HRP), and enhanced focus on localisation, including increased funding to and participation by local and women led organizations (WLO).
- Norway provided in 2021 support to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, to ensure funding for local women's organisations active in humanitarian response.

**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.

- Working across the nexus gained enhanced attention within Norway's humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts in 2021. It was particularly relevant for policy priorities within education, health, including in the C-19 response, food security and refugee response. Norway continued to mainstream nexus in policies and partner dialogues; In 2021 Norway finalised a new Sahel Strategy where the nexus is central. Nexus is one of the main priorities for Norway's membership of WFPs Executive Board for the period 2020-2022.

- To gather empirical evidence, Norwegian strategic partners were gathered to share experiences from working across the nexus in South Sudan and Mali, providing valuable insights.
- Norway contributed to better financing across the nexus by providing predictable, flexible, and multi-year humanitarian financing.
- Norway invested in durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced people through a combination of humanitarian and development efforts, i.e., core support to UNHCR, support to NRC, support for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), support for the rollout of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, contributions to the Global Concessional Financing Facility and support for the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.
- Norway supported education in crises and emergencies, including significant contributions to Education Cannot Wait.
- Norway supported forecast-based financing mechanisms through DREF, CERF and WFP and engaged in discussions about anticipatory humanitarian financing, including through the Crisis Risk Financing Donor Working Group.
- Given the protracted nature of the Syrian conflict, humanitarian needs have changed towards more early recovery activities in the Syria-response. This is reflected in an increased level of Norwegian support towards longer term and humanitarian early recovery projects.
- Fast reallocation of funds from dev. to hum. in Afghanistan after TB takeover.
- In 2021, Norway continued supporting the International Finance Corporation (IFC) by funding private sector development through the Africa Fragility Initiative. The initiative supports private sector development in the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and Yemen, Central Africa and Great Lakes, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean, and North Africa (32 African fragile countries all together).

**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.)<sup>2</sup>*

Risk-sharing is something the Ministry is currently looking into how to deal with; however, the grant recipient will always be responsible for adequate systems for risk management and internal control. Risks are always considered when the NMFA enters agreements with humanitarian partners. Risk has generally not negatively affected Norway's implementation of the core commitments of the Grand Bargain.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.