

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

**Name of Institution: OCHA**

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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, OCHA's Pooled Funds allocated \$1.31 billion of unearmarked (CERF) or softly earmarked (CBPF) donor funding to global humanitarian action. The funding was allocated as high-quality, flexible funding to humanitarian partners in 39 countries, \$548 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund and \$905 million from country-based pooled funds. OCHA's pooled funds enabled a response to a wide range of humanitarian needs, including tackling food insecurity, responding to disease outbreaks, and addressing the consequences of violent conflict and displacement. This was made possible through donors contributing some \$1.77 billion to the OCHA-managed pooled funds representing a record level of income. Of this, the Central Emergency Response Fund received \$638.4 million and the country-based pooled funds \$1.45 billion in 2021, the highest contribution level on record for the latter.

In 2021, all HRPs contain references to closer HDP collaboration and drivers of needs are considered in humanitarian analysis and planning. The *IASC Guidance on Collective Outcomes* was disseminated to RC/HCs and has informed the revision of collective outcomes in Chad, as well as a process to identify collective outcomes in Niger, while the *IASC Mapping of Good Practice* has been shared at the global and field level to inform nexus approaches. Collective outcomes are increasingly used to support progress on reducing needs, risks and vulnerability (10 out of 16 countries either had collective outcomes or were planning to develop them).

#### **Localization**

At a global policy level, in 2021, localisation was one of the priorities of the IASC, with a dedicated session of the Operational, Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) devoted to localisation. In July 2021 OPAG endorsed the *Guidance on Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms*. OCHA, ICVA and other partners in the IASC Results Group on Localisation were the penholders for the guidance. The guidance sets out clear indicators on localisation in coordination that will be tracked on an annual basis. OCHA committed to providing data for the annual tracking while OPAG committed to further follow up.

Outcomes on key localisation indicators in 2020 were as follows:

- LNAs constituted 44% of the total cluster membership globally in 2020 (16,351 members in total)

- LNAs accounted for 32% of total cluster leadership globally (co-lead, co-chair).
- In 2020 74% of clusters/sectors at the national and 88% at subnational levels reported using an official or local language of the country of operation (compared to 59% and 79% respectively in 2019). Around one third of cluster/sectors that did not use official or local languages in meetings reported providing translation capacity at least half the time. Most mechanisms use multilingual staff, participants or members to translate as needed. Several mechanisms reported making available meeting minutes and other written materials in the official or national language of the country of operation.

## **AAP**

**At a global policy level**, in 2021, AAP was reaffirmed as an operational priority by the IASC Principals and HCs. The statement on AAP is going to assist the Principals drive the change required to transform the system from within while holding themselves, and the larger humanitarian system, to account for the delivery on this commitment.

**In-country, at a strategic level**, the work initiated both in Gaziantep through the HCT workshop to develop an AAP country-level Action Plan, and in CAR, through the mainstreaming of AAP into the humanitarian coordination architecture and strategic planning processes, including the CHF, pave the way for the

### **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](#).)*

In 2021, OCHA's pooled funds allocated \$1.31 billion to emergencies around the world. Funding from the Pooled Funds is timely, predictable, and flexible, thereby meeting the main criteria of quality funding. The quality funds allocated by OCHA's Pooled Funds enabled emergency responses in 39 countries around the world through over 1,400 supported projects.

In doing so, OCHA's Pooled Funds took several steps to improve the quality of its funds:

- Providing approximately 9 per cent of its funding as cash and vouchers to crises affected people.
- Applying a risk-informed approach to facilitate time-critical, cost-effective, life-saving assistance, including anticipatory action ahead of drought in Ethiopia and Somalia based on previously agreed anticipatory actions.
- Employing innovative thematic allocations, such as a disability envelope in the CERF's Underfunded Emergencies Window and a special CERF cash allocation to combat the food insecurity effects due to COVID-19.

**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.*

Since 2017, OCHA's Pooled Funds have consistently increased their support to local and national actors. This has taken the form of sub-grants from CERF recipients and efforts to enable local and national actors to engage successfully with CBPFs processes including funding applications, reporting, etc. In 2021, 38 percent of overall funding allocated by CBPFs went to local and national actors. UN agencies funded by the CERF in turn sub-granted some \$73 million, or 14 per cent of annual CERF funding, to national and local partners using 2019 grants, the latest year for which comprehensive data is available. The capacity-strengthening support provided to local and national actors increased their access to CBPF funding. In 2021, 38 percent of overall funding went to local and national actors. CBPFs committed to review its guidelines to encourage access to funding for WRO/WLO (targeted outreach and training; additional consideration in project selection processes, involvement in sub-granting or consortia arrangements). CERF conducted a review of its Gender/GBV allocations. OCHA also developed a gender action plan that, among other things, specified that at least 30% of CERF GBV funding should go towards local WLO/WROs, something that CERF achieved in a thematic GBV allocation made via a block grant modality to UNWOMEN and UNFPA.

In 2021, local actors were critical to and at the forefront of the response to COVID-19, particularly in sustaining humanitarian operations. Steady progress was made in localization, backed up by sustained political support. International actors made changes, particularly in the flexibility of partnership agreements, to better support local leadership and delivery.

In July 2021, the IASC released its Guidance on Strengthening Participation, Representation and Leadership of Local and National Actors in IASC Humanitarian Coordination Mechanisms, translated into four languages and agreed to start measuring global progress against indicators set out in the guidance. The IASC also established an online repository to serve as a platform for strengthening resource and information sharing on localization and coordination. Many IASC organisations worked on empowering women's grassroots organization and women's collectives, including refugee women-led organizations.

**AAP**

In 2021 in **CAR**, through the leadership of OCHA, AAP was effectively integrated within the humanitarian coordination architecture and strategic planning processes. The latter includes the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the 2022 CAR Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Last year, the CAR Humanitarian Fund (HF) became part of a pilot for a new OCHA Country-

Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) initiative to strengthen AAP in OCHA-managed funded tools. This included the revision of the guidelines for the CAR HF and the development of brief guide to support humanitarian partners meet minimum accountability commitments and integrate accountability as a cross-cutting and central element in the development, implementation and monitoring of the projects they present to the HF.

### **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).** Please refer to the Guidelines for definitions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which are included in this self-report template package.

All projects funded by OCHA's Pooled Funds undergo an assessment according to the IASC Gender with Age Marker (GAM). In addition, OCHA committed to promoting WLO/WROs through its governance arrangements and CBPF processes, including Advisory Board and project review committees. As part of a GBV-oriented thematic allocation, CERF stipulated that at least 30 per cent of funds should go to WLO/WROs. OCHA has also convened an interagency contact group on gender to identify opportunities for the strengthening of the gender dimension throughout the pooled fund project cycle. This has led to, among other things, the revision of CERF and CBPF application templates to better capture gender considerations. OCHA also developed a gender action plan in 2021, which includes concrete targets for pooled funds. For example, at least 30% of CERF funding for GBV is sub granted to women led/women's rights organisations. The action plan also specifies that all CBPF Advisory Boards should have representation from local WLO/WROs who should also make up at least 10% of organizations trained on CBPFs.

The role of Women-Led and Women-Rights Organisations was particularly highlighted in IASC discussions on localisation, where many IASC members pushed for specific attention and space to be provided to WLO and WRO leadership and participation. This was accordingly reflected in related IASC guidance that was produced on localisation in coordination.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

In 2020 the IASC adopted and started disseminating the '[IASC Light Guidance on Collective Outcomes](#)' to provide RC/HCs and country teams with best practice and concrete steps to improve humanitarian development collaboration. The document strongly emphasises the importance of joint analysis and builds on accomplishments and experiences from this workstream.

Cash assistance, particularly when provided via an unrestricted format, offers an opportunity to link to longer term social protection systems in many contexts. OCHA continued to engage in opportunities to bridge this nexus via CVA. In 2020, OCHA together with CaLP undertook five 'Cash Reviews' which sought to unpack the opportunity to better link humanitarian cash systems and social protection mechanisms to rapid scale up cash assistance in response to COVID-19. OCHA also developed a tip sheet along with UNICEF and CaLP as part of the Grand Bargain Social Protection sub-workstream on linking humanitarian CVA and Social Protection. Moreover, in the 2020 planning documents, 17 out of 23 HRPs reviewed highlighted social protection systems as part of planning considerations.

In 2021, OCHA has continued to strengthen humanitarian development collaboration both at country and global level. In particular, OCHA supported the development of the IASC guidance on operationalising 'collective outcomes' across humanitarian development collaboration to reduce need, risk and vulnerability through strengthened field implementation. With IASC partners, OCHA has strengthened the HPC to foster joint-analysis and joined-up planning with the overall aim to ensure that development programming and investments are geared as well towards addressing underlying drivers of need. In addition, OCHA provides support to RC/HCs to rally humanitarian and development country teams around joint HDP priorities through the Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration.

Throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, OCHA continued to support and advocate for the complementary response to the humanitarian and socio-economic consequences of COVID-19. Joint analysis and priority setting have led to more comprehensive and complementarity responses in countries such as Chad, Ethiopia and Somalia.

**IASC:** Humanitarian-development-peace collaboration is one of the key strategic priorities of the IASC. The [IASC guidance on collective outcomes](#) provides a common understanding of analysis, funding and financial strategies and effective coordination initiatives in support of collective outcomes. The IASC has also published guidance around strengthening the articulation of peace in the nexus, specifically on the conditions under which the triple collaboration approach is of relevance: [Issue paper:](#)

Exploring peace within the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN). Upon request and in select contexts, the IASC through a system of pooled resources provides support to country operations in support of implementing the humanitarian development nexus.

**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>

OCHA revised the global guidelines for its CBPFs and strengthened its oversight and compliance framework to ensure that it can continue to manage and share risks in a diligent and equitable manner.

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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.