

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Save the Children

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Date of Submission: 16th February 2022

(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?

Save the Children continued to prioritise institutional investment to deliver our Grand Bargain commitments relating to **localisation, cash and voucher assistance, participation and needs assessments.**

In 2021, Save the Children supported a range of country-specific initiatives including new funding models for local and national actors; piloting flexible core support funding for Local and National Actors and adapting capacity strengthening and exchange programmes based on feedback from Local and National Actors. In 2021, Save the Children undertook a 'current state' analysis to identify gaps and models for quality funding to Local and National Actors. The review informed multiple initiatives including a pilot initiative on core support that offers Local and National Actors complete flexibility in the use of the funding. At global level, Save the Children undertook an organisation-wide review and strategy development process to assess how to implement the Localisation Policy – developed in line with Grand Bargain commitments – with a focus on funding, partnerships, capacity exchange, participation revolution, governance, policy and visibility and coordination.

In 2021, Save the Children increased the delivery of cash and voucher assistance directly to beneficiaries by 18%. Save the Children represented the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network in the caucus on cash coordination at both senior technical and representative level. At technical level, Save the Children developed new global cash and voucher assistance principles to encourage and guide the use of cash and voucher assistance as a tool for multi-sectoral outcomes. Save the Children allocated internal flexible funding to research, train staff and pilot the impact of CVA on malnutrition and child protection outcomes.

In February 2021, Save the Children established a Global Children's Network including a representative and diverse group of just under 30 children from across the globe to share their expertise, insights and solutions with the global leadership team. The members of the Global Children's network are connected with Save the Children through our programmes and local and national children's networks or groups. The network has had significant influence over the development of the Global 2022-2023 strategy and decision-making. In addition, Save the Children rolled out and embedded new guidance, webinars and tools designed to ensure participation of children and adults in the development of inclusive and effective Feedback and

Reporting Mechanisms and to strengthen their overall efficacy. Feedback and Reporting Mechanisms have been developed jointly alongside affected children and communities and resulted in more accessible feedback channels and increased expertise among those who handle the feedback.

Save the Children continued to engage in the development of the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF). We drafted a section of the JIAF guidance to support the involvement of local actors in the JIAF at country level and provided technical contributions to support a collective effort to simplify tools. Internally, we established a global task team to feed into the JIAF process and an online needs assessment training for staff including a focus on contribution to coordinated needs assessments.

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, Save the Children launched the Humanitarian Fund, a mechanism that ensures fast and efficient distribution of flexible funding to our humanitarian responses. In its first year of operation, the Humanitarian Fund received over US\$55 million from Save the Children members and approximately 80% of funding was fully flexible. In the final cycle of the Humanitarian Fund allocations in 2021, US\$1.5 million was allocated to 11 countries to support targeted projects on accountability to affected populations, gender and localisation that included direct allocation to local actors including women-led organisations.

Save the Children continued our engagement with Country Based Pooled Funds as a key instrument to advance quality funding. Save the Children is the co-chair of the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform. In 2021, the role of CBPFs to support localisation, expanding flexibility, and cascading of quality funding to frontline actors were priorities for the Dialogue Platform.

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.

Save the Children increased technical expertise at global, regional and country level to support Accountability to Affected Populations and child participation and established a global network of Accountability Focal Points. We developed a new approach and toolkit to support Children's Consultations on Hunger ("[consult us on what concerns us](#)") in countries experiencing food and nutrition insecurity to understand children's

views and recommendations for Save the Children's response and the wider humanitarian response including children's recommendations on how they would like to participate in decision-making processes for the humanitarian response. We shared the outcomes of the consultation via clusters where possible and provided feedback to the children and communities on the actions we took as a result of their feedback and participation.

The Global Education Cluster (GEC), co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children, has designated Child Participation as a priority for its coordination work, including supporting children to safely and meaningfully consult children during needs assessments, monitoring, and to design the Cluster Strategy. Over 2600 children were consulted in eight countries since July 2020.

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.

In our programmatic interventions as well as in the workplace we are intentional about promoting equality and in removing barriers women and girls face in realising their full potential. In our needs assessments, consultations with the community and accountability mechanisms, we ensure that women's voices are heard and we do this by setting up women's committees and/or setting quotas for women's participation in the various community-based structures. In addition, we have invested in a Girl's Fund and a Girls' Empowerment Curriculum.

In 2021, Save the Children undertook an assessment of how to improve quality funding for L/NAs that specifically considered women-led organisations to strengthen our partnership with female-led organisations. We allocated flexible funding from the Humanitarian Fund to support women-led groups and organisations. Save the Children's Global Cash and Voucher Assistance Principles include a commitment to provide CVA that is gender sensitive, safe and accessible for all, particularly those at higher risk of discrimination and exclusion including people with disabilities, girls and women, elderly, refugees, IDPs). We will identify and mitigate gender-based risks, including the risk of gender-based violence. In line with these principles, CVA programs attempt to understand intra-Household dynamics and deliver CVA to women, without causing harm.

¹ 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 2021, Save the Children continued the process of mainstreaming the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach by endorsing the internal policy on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and rolling-out a checklist for nexus-aware proposals for country offices. The policy – and outcomes of a two-year internal review and learning approach to the nexus – informs the Global 2022-2024 Strategy. In West Africa, Save the Children developed the 2021-2024 Sahel Strategy that aims to implement high quality regional and cross border programmes in all relevant sectors addressing common issues across the region. This will include a proactive shift towards multi-country and multi-sector programs across the three pillars of the nexus. The Middle East and Eastern Europe Regional Office conducted a review of Save the Children’s peacebuilding perspectives and practices in the region.

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

In 2021, Save the Children conducted a review of the current state of responsible partnering current state (internal and external) to identify gaps and emerging practices. The review was complimented by research looking specifically at fiduciary risk with implications for equitable partnering. The outcomes of the review are informing the development of a responsible partnering framework - including risk-sharing - to ensure that these commitments are translated into in practice. In addition, Save the Children developed a Duty of Care policy that includes a statement on our approach to risk and partners and details the organisations responsibilities in this regard.

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.