

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
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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?

In 2021, a lot of discussions about the future direction of the Grand Bargain took place, including in the **localization** work stream (WS2) that Switzerland is co-convening. Several in-depth consultations were held amongst work stream members to agree on the future of WS2, resulting in the plan to continue with WS2. Switzerland decided to stay engaged in the Grand Bargain and specifically in the **Caucus on the role of intermediaries**¹, in order to build on a major highlight of WS2, which was the release of the Swiss-funded study on the future role of intermediaries ("[Bridging the intention to action gap: the future role of intermediaries in supporting locally led humanitarian action](#)"). The study showed that intermediary organisations need to adapt (their role, mechanisms, mind-sets), if localization is to become a reality on the ground. Their envisaged role is that they empower local and national organisations to drive, define and deliver principled humanitarian responses to needs in their communities.

In 2021, Switzerland announced to step down from the co-convenor role of WS2. This decision was taken to allow a new co-convenor to bring fresh ideas and energy into the localisation debate and ensure the good governance of the work stream.

Another highlight regarding localization has been the ambitious plan for SDC to join the Call to Action 2021-2025 and make the **commitment that 10% of SDC/HA GBV programme funding** is channelled directly to local actors (without any intermediary) and at least 50% with only one intermediary.

On quality funding, Switzerland continuously increased its multi-year funding, reaching 31% in 2021. It remains Switzerland's policy to provide timely and predictable funding of high quality whenever possible.

¹ According to HAG – Humanitarian Advisory Group, "Bridging the Intention to Action Gap", June 2021, an **intermediary role** being: where an organisation, network or mechanism acts as an intermediary between donors and national or local implementing organisations through provision of funding or other support.

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](#).)

Switzerland is providing core funding to a number of partners which is allocated as multi-year, flexible and un-earmarked. In 2021, Switzerland achieved a new record-high of **31% multi-year funding** (19% in 2016).

Further, Switzerland increased its **contributions to CBPFs** from 4% in 2016 up **to 11% in 2021**.

In addition, Switzerland is part of the increasingly advanced discussions on anticipatory action. These policies are directly linked to enabling priority one and strongly support the path to achieve the GB commitments on a global level.

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.

The intermediaries study mentioned above as well as **Switzerland's focus on** advancing **the future role of intermediaries** reflects the realities that many donors are either not allowed to directly fund local actors under current legal frameworks or are not able to administer many small partnerships with local actors. Therefore, the **potential for strengthening principled local humanitarian action through intermediaries is significant**. The activities within the intermediary caucus and other fora (such as C4C) highlight this situation and contribute to sustainable change. Switzerland for example, is advocating for CBPF's as an important intermediary and engages itself in the Pooled Fund Working Group at global level and in CBPF Advisory Boards in different contexts in order to support principled local humanitarian action.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment² 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.

Switzerland as a member of the **Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies** has made the commitment that 10% of SDC/HA GBV programme funding is channelled directly to local actors (without any intermediary) and at least 50% with only one intermediary. This strengthens local GBV actors and allows them to play an empowered role during and after a humanitarian emergency. Furthermore, the envisaged increased sharing of capacity between local and international actors will contribute to a **stronger role for local GBV actors in coordination**.

SDC works towards a stronger emphasis on gender equity and equality in its bilateral programming: in 2021, **85% of bilateral programme funding was “gender significant” or “gender principal”** according to the OECD DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker.

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.

SDC is undergoing a major reform and aims to become a “Nexus agency”, with geographical desks of development cooperation merging together with the desks of humanitarian aid. This major restructuring will continue throughout 2022, with the new set-up taking effect from September 2022. As a result, it is expected that programming will become more Nexus oriented and holistic. This is in addition to the existing Nexus goals of Switzerland, as set out in its **international cooperation strategy 2021 – 2024**, which provides **one single framework for all international cooperation** actors, including humanitarian aid. Switzerland also strongly supports the re-invigorated UN system, which

² Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

gives the UNRC and specifically the double-hatted and triple-hatted **RCs a crucial leadership role in making the nexus a reality on the ground.**

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](#).)*³

SDC's policy remains to engage with partners in the **spirit of an equal partnership**. The field presence of SDC in many contexts allows for a **close and regular dialogue with partners on all aspects** of programming and a project, including on risks.

Responses to certain risks can – depending on the individual case – also include the deployment of an SDC/SHA expert to support partners.

³ 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.