

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

Name of Institution:

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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?

During 2021, Syria Relief remained active in raising the voice of Localisation through advocacy measures. The advocacy efforts were made through participation in national and global forums and networks highlighting the significance of localisation. Syria Relief has made to local NGOs through conducting a number of sessions and webinars on the importance of localisation and the partnerships principles

Syria Relief rolled its 5-year strategy in 2021 in which special emphasis was given to Triple nexus (Humanitarian-Development-Peace). Syria Relief believed that apart from meeting the urgent needs of the people through humanitarian projects, it is essential to build resilience amongst the target communities leading to sustainable development and peace building. Efforts were made to focus on livelihood projects leading to enhancing income of the poor households. Syria Relief also focused on sustainable projects related to climate change.

In addition, Syria Relief entered into partnership with International Alert to initiate peace related activities in North East Syria. The project will formally start in 2022.

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](#).)

We believe that there was limited multiyear funding provided to local NGOs compared with the funds donated from donors to INGOs/UN. Furthermore, the amount of direct funding to local NGOs still not reached its target which is 25%. Although donors committed to transfer more funds to local NGOs still the barriers to do this have not been eliminated. Donors still prefer to work with few globally known INGOs and UN rather than giving the opportunity to direct funding Local NGOs. They justify this with the limited capacity that they have to manage many smaller grants rather than few larger ones.

In addition, INGOs and UN prefer to divide the multiyear funds that they receive to shorted grants to local NGOs to ensure close controlling of the grants management. Knowing that this creates issues for Local NGOs as they need to plan well for the sustainability of the services provided to their communities.

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.

Syria Relief's responsibilities towards the affected communities that are targeted, are more than delivering the humanitarian assistance. It is to create a positive impact that should result for community strengthening and sustainability of the services that those NGOs are providing. This approach which summarizes the Localisation objective that most of donors, and INGOs are committed through the Grand Bargain after the World Humanitarian Summit 2016 is implemented by Syria Relief in two different levels.

Level 1:

To achieve this, Syria Relief is providing capacity strengthening support to local NGOs for a period of time to support through Syria Relief's organizational development unit that will allow us to share the knowledge and experience within those three levels (Technical, Operational and Organizational). The main aim is to develop the capacity of those organizations to become well-functioning and have diversity of funds through several sources in addition to playing the main role of NGOs during the reconstruction phase of countries after war.

Level 2:

Syria Relief works closely with those local NGOs to assess the needs of their communities, design the most relevant interventions, seeks the appropriate type of funds needed, coach those local NGOs during the implementation, conduct monitoring to ensure donors' compliances are respected then closing the projects professionally. Syria Relief believes that the local NGOs are not subcontracts on behalf of INGOs and Donors, they are the partners of success and without engaging them in each and every phase in this process, successful implementation of those activities will sure be led to the achievement of the goals drawn to enhance the affected communities.

This designed approach helps us to respond more efficient and faster through those that understand well the communities that we are serving together.

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.

Gender has been the main focus area Syria Relief. In its 5-year strategy, gender is the main cross cutting theme of Syria Relief. It is reflected through the types of programmes that we are implementing to some of the most vulnerable groups in the communities in which preference has always been given to women. Syria Relief continued participating in the clusters’ gender planning events. Syria Relief is striving to ensure that, throughout the project cycle, gender equality is reflected. Gender is always mainstreamed to allow women and girls to participate more in our interventions.

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 its new 5-year strategy, Syria Relief has emphasised more upon triple nexus. Throughout our interventions we integrate the humanitarian with the development activities. This is done by shifting the types of support provided for some stabilised communities from emergency responses to more resilient and long-term development. Particularly in the sector of education, Syria Relief is now supporting more than 306 schools in north of Syria that makes Syria Relief as the biggest NGO focus on education within the Syrian context. The support varied from school to school but mainly we rehabilitate and maintain the learning space and school with providing the essential furniture and equipment needed. We conduct the crucial training topics for the teachers and covers the monthly stipends with the monthly running costs for the facilities. We help in the establishment of the parents/teachers’ associations and other community engagement initiatives to ensure the communities ownership for such important projects. In addition, we provide in-kind support i.e. distribution of teachers and students kits and printed books, light meals and psychosocial support activities. The main donors are FCDO through Chemonics, Norwegian MFA through War Child, and ECHO through Save the Children as well as UNICEF. Furthermore,

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

Syria Relief, in 2021, responded to UNDP call on climate change and water crisis. In every intervention, Syria Relief has plans to focus more on sustainable development leading to peace building. Our projects, apart from humanitarian, in the year 2021 also included empowering women through provision of technical skills and livelihood projects for long term sustainability.

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 the year 2021, Syria Relief there was no amjor risk affecting the organisation while implementing the core commitment of the Grand Bargain. Grand Bargain provided support to move forward and mitigate all the risks if there be any.

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.