

## **Grand Bargain in 2021:**

### **Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution:**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

**Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to enable the consultants to contact you for an interview):**

**Maxime Voorbraak, Policy Officer,  
maxime.voorbraak@minbuza.nl**

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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?**

### **1. Localisation**

- In 2021, the Netherlands (NL) continued to provide multi-year, flexible funding to several alliances, networks, funds and organisations that collaborate with local responders to deliver humanitarian assistance (e.g. Dutch Relief Alliance, DREF, START Network, Netherlands Red Cross and Country Based Pooled Funds).
- In the new policy framework for Humanitarian Aid 2022-2026 localisation was specifically adopted as a priority for both the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) and the Dutch Red Cross.
- Through partners such as DRA, NL has contributed to supporting capacity building of local and national actors. For example in Yemen, where an online capacity building programme was set up.

### **2. Quality Financing**

- As in previous years NL provided the majority of its funding multi-year and softly earmarked or unearmarked, enabling partners to respond to humanitarian needs when they arise in a flexible manner.
- In 2021, NL was the second biggest donor of OCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), providing \$95,162,700 to this pooled fund. NL was also the third biggest donor of the CBPF's, providing approximately \$91 mln.
- In 2021, NL signed a multi-year arrangement with DRA which is softly earmarked for protracted response, acute response and strengthening the humanitarian system.

### **3. Risk Sharing**

- In early 2021 NL convened an expert meeting on risk sharing together with ICRC, facilitated by Clingendael. The recommendations that flowed from this meeting were adopted in a [statement on risk sharing](#), published by NL and ICRC before the 2021 Annual Meeting.
- Building on the great interest of Signatories in the subject, ICRC and NL decided to take action on the recommendations in the statement and have set up a Risk Sharing Platform, together with InterAction.

**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](#).)*

As stated NL provides the majority of its funding multi-year and softly earmarked or unearmarked, through for example core funding and pooled funds. This allows partners to have more effective, efficient and timely humanitarian responses.

**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.*

NL has contributed to multi-year investments of institutional capacities of local and national responders by providing flexible funding to partners who have prioritized localization such as DRA and CBPF's. The DRA has committed itself to at least 35% funding through local organisations and the amount of local organisations participating in the alliance has grown to 73. Also, a fully locally designed and implemented pilot programme in Somalia, with Dutch support, has been wrapped up and evaluated and results were mostly positive. In 2021, 37% of CBPF allocations went to national NGO's whereas the NL is the third largest donor of CBPF in 2021. Moreover OCHA and the NGO sector (implementing partners chaired by Norwegian Refugee Council) have launched the NGO dialogue platform 2021. This platform provides training and capacity strengthening for national and local NGO's to improve the implementation of humanitarian aid allocated by the humanitarian funds. Furthermore the platform facilitates the dialogue between OCHA and the implementing partners.

**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**

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

**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).**

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are a priority within NL foreign policy. The IASC Gender and Age markers are integrated in NL humanitarian programmes and the number of programs supported by NL that reached a score of 3 or 4 grew to 975 programmes.

NL has been very engaged in the international discussion sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. In 2021 the 3 year SEAH task force within the Ministry ended and was succeeded by a dedicated SEAH Expertise Unit.

NL was one of the donors who negotiated and agreed upon a specific paragraph about PSEAH in UN arrangements which will be incorporated in the standard arrangements between NL and several UN agencies.

**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.

Through its flexible support of pooled funds such as CERF, and the Start Funds Anticipation & Risk Financing facility, NL has made funding available for anticipatory action. NL also funds, amongst other instruments, the forecast based action by the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (FbA by DREF) through the Dutch Red Cross and IFRC. Especially through support of the Start Fund, NL has also contributed to locally-led anticipatory action.

Additionally, NL continued implementation of the PROSPECTs programme on education, labour, protection and durable solutions for internally displaced in the Horn of Africa and in the Middle East.

**Question 6: Has your institution taken any steps towards improving risk sharing with its partners? If so, please describe how.**

The Netherlands has started a Risk Sharing Platform, together with ICRC and InterAction, to enhance the set of actions proposed by ourselves and ICRC in the statement published in 2021. This platform attempts to shift the approach to risk management from being controls based, to principle-based. Subsequently, the goal of this platform is to ensure risk management approaches throughout humanitarian action are people-centred and designed to enable and facilitate the delivery of assistance to people in need, instead of curtailing it.