

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

Name of Institution: Trócaire

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

Michael Solis
Global Director – Partnership & Localisation
michael.solis@trocaire.org

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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:** While Trócaire has worked in partnership with local and national organisations for the last 50 years, in 2020, we developed our new Strategic Plan (2021-2025)¹ which commits to a step-change in our approach to partnership, aimed at shifting power more profoundly to our local partners and progressing our commitment to localisation. This was launched in 2021, and Trócaire established a Global Hub on Partnership and Localisation in Nairobi, aimed at supporting the organisation in operationalising this shift at the HQ and country level. We published a Partnership and Localisation Strategy² that builds on Trócaire's work and commitment to localisation over the last several years and identifies pathways to advance this further, including and beyond the Grand Bargain commitments.
2. **Cash-based Programming:** There has been an increased focus on the use of cash in humanitarian programming. In 2020, Trócaire provided greater support for local and national partners to increase their use of cash-based methodologies through tailored trainings on cash and voucher assistance programming. We co-developed a Cash and Voucher Assistance manual for our local partners, including Standard Operating Procedures with a specific guide on vouchers, digital money and cash. A cohort of partners were supported to adapt the SOPs to their own organisations. Trócaire has also contracted a Cash Advisor role at the HQ level as a dedicated resource to support the uptake and quality of cash programming among our partner organisations across all countries we operate in.

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](#).)

Trócaire also continued to exceed the global target of direct funding to local and national responders, with 47% of humanitarian funding going directly to our partners in 2020.

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.

During the period of its previous strategic plan (2016 to 2020), Trócaire invested considerable resources in understanding our partnership model from the lens of localisation. Our 2017 report, *More Than the Money: Localisation in Practice*,³ identified areas of tension for local and national actors in relation to localisation,

¹ See <https://www.trocaire.org/documents/trocaire-strategic-plan-2021-2025/>

² See <https://www.trocaire.org/documents/partnership-and-localisation-strategy-2021-2025/>

³ See <https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/resources/policy/more-than-the-money-full-report.pdf>

as well as recommendations for Trócaire to strengthen our partnership approach, support local civil society, and advance localisation discourse at country and global levels.

As a follow up, in 2019 Trócaire published *Partnership in Practice: Steps to Localisation*.⁴ This report presented practical pathways for Trócaire to undertake to advance localisation against four core areas: voice and influence, capacity strengthening, partnership, and funding and resources. Both reports influenced Trócaire's 2020 Keystone survey, which was conducted globally across all our partners to acquire direct feedback on our partnership approach, our added value, and the role we can best play to support their work in the future.

This culminated in the organisational shift that links partnership and localisation, as expressed in our current strategic plan (2021 to 2025)⁵. This internal shift comes with the Grand Bargain 2.0 phase, which centres on two priority areas: greater support to local leadership and participation of affected communities, and longer-term, more flexible funding to local actors.

Trócaire recently developed a Partnership and Localisation Strategy⁶ that aligns with these priority areas and other localisation commitments, which we will apply across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. In creating this strategy, we hope to guide Trócaire's staff and partners through this strategic evolution of our work and provide greater insights into the core areas of our localisation framework. We hope this will leave Trócaire in a position to not only influence localisation at the organisational level, but also to push for transformational change across the Triple Nexus that results in greater local influence, more equitable partnerships, and better development and humanitarian action for the people we support.

Trócaire's **Global Hub on Partnership & Localisation**, based in Nairobi, is the main structure that will help drive the organisational strategy on partnership and localisation. The Hub has a global mandate and supports Trócaire teams, including Head Office and Country Offices, around the world.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment⁷ 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.

Trócaire has championed work on gender equality and women's empowerment for over 16 years and currently runs targeted and specialised interventions in 15 countries (development and humanitarian contexts) that explicitly seek to tackle gender inequality, with a focus on women's and girls' empowerment and protection (including GBV prevention, mitigation and response). In addition, we promote the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment strategies across all our work. Working in collaboration with our local partners, including women-centred organisations (recognising that they are critical to bringing about transformative change), our programming is holistic, community-led, survivor-centred and aligned to international standards.⁸ We prioritise:

⁴ See https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/resources/policy/partnership_in_practice_-_steps_to_localisation_web.pdf

⁵ See <https://www.trocaire.org/documents/trocaire-strategic-plan-2021-2025/>

⁶ See <https://www.trocaire.org/documents/partnership-and-localisation-strategy-2021-2025/>

⁷ Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

⁸ Including the *Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBViE Programmes* (2019), the *IASC Guidelines on GBV Prevention, Mitigation and Response in Humanitarian Settings* (2015), and the *IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support* (2007)

- **Women's participation, voice and influence**, with strategies at multiple levels (individual, family/household, community, civil society, institutional) to support women's confidence and self-esteem; access to resources; networks of women leaders; and to address institutional inequalities.
- Multi-level and multi-sector **GBV response programmes** to ensure that women and girls have access to safe, appropriate and survivor-centred care.
- **Systems and institutional strengthening** and **behaviour change** work to challenge harmful social norms that drive gender inequality and GBV, that limit women's voice and participation and that hinder safe access to care.
- **Inter-agency collaboration** at global, national and local levels to drive standard-setting, tools development and advocacy.

Key organisational initiatives and areas of progress have included:

- Explicit commitment in our 2021–2025 Strategic Plan both to women's empowerment as an overarching strategy and to delivering specialised and targeted Women's and Girls' Protection, Voice and Influence programming.
- Continued delivery of Protection of Women and Girls programmes as a core element of our humanitarian response in DRC, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Somalia and South Sudan. This has been backed up by ongoing skills building of Trócaire and partner staff through accompaniment, training and the development of programming resources. An external evaluation, conducted in 2021, provided strong endorsement for the intervention model.
- New funding secured to support interventions that contribute to global standard setting, innovation and collaborative learning in this area – e.g.:
 - o ELRHA HIF funding in partnership with the Global Women's Institute, the GBV AoR, TOCH (South Sudan) and KMSS (Myanmar) to develop an M&E framework for GBViE programming as a companion guide to the *Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBViE Programmes*.
 - o EIDHR funding for a holistic intervention in Somalia to tackle gender inequality and drivers of GBV, including FGM; to strengthen the protection policy framework; and to promote the voice of women and girls in public spheres in Somalia.
 - o Two new BHA-funded grants – one to support women-centred organisations to lead in GBV sub-cluster coordination (in partnership with the GBV AoR); and one (with the GWI and the GBV AoR) to lead a collaborative process to build sector consensus on best practice for MHPSS in GBViE programmes.
- Increased emphasis on coordination, collaboration and advocacy through key platforms at global and national levels:
 - o As a partner of the Call to Action for Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies, Trócaire has committed in our Letter of Commitment (Dec 2020) to several key actions that will help progress the CtA 2021-2025 Road Map – relating e.g. to localisation, women-centred organisations and the delivery of gender-transformative, GBV prevention and response services in every phase of an emergency.
 - o As a core member of the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR), Trócaire has played an active role in contributing to systems strengthening and standard setting. E.g. We were a member of the Minimum Standards task team that developed the *Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Programming* (2019).
 - o In 2021, Trócaire assumed the role of Chair of the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence. Trócaire also participates in the Gender and Development Network's core groups on violence against women, humanitarian and women's participation and leadership, and assumed the role of Co-Chair of the women's participation and leadership group in 2020.
 - o Trócaire and our local partners have engaged actively in GBV cluster/coordination mechanisms. This has included co-leading sub-national GBV sub-clusters in Myanmar, Somalia and South Sudan.

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.

Trócaire supports both development and humanitarian interventions. In our last Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020, we promoted the integration of development and humanitarian programme interventions recognising the intersectionality of vulnerability. In our new Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026, Trócaire has committed to adopting a nexus approach in the fragile and conflict affected countries in which we operate. To support this, we are undertaking the development of a nexus framework and guidelines to support our country teams and local partners in the operationalisation of nexus programming. This will include an interactive tool which we will be happy to share widely. While we currently support some peacebuilding interventions, we intend to grow this over the course of the 5-year plan as the third pillar of the nexus and have appointed a Peace Building Advisor to support us.

As a partnership agency, Trócaire works with local partners on emergency preparedness in both stable development contexts and protracted crises contexts so that local partners are ready to respond quickly and effectively in crisis. Following capacity strengthening, Trócaire successfully piloted the pre-positioning of funds with local partners in Sierra Leone to support their timely response. This initiative is currently being rolled out to partners in other countries also. Trócaire provided a bespoke training course for local partners on accessing funding, linking commitment 10.1 with commitment 1. In 2020, Trócaire undertook operational research in Myanmar and devised a Durable Solutions Policy and Strategy for our programme in Myanmar with both development and humanitarian stakeholders. Unfortunately, this strategy could not be rolled out due to the coup in February 2021. Trócaire has increased the use of cash and voucher-based programming since 2016 with local partners recognising the benefits for programme participants. Links have been made with social protection schemes where feasible.

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](#).)*⁹

We operate primarily as a partnership agency that delivers work through local and national partners (though we have a large, directly implemented programme in Somalia). Over the period we have strengthened our internal financial systems and utilise a minimum requirements tool when onboarding and working with new partners. When partner organisations are unable to meet all requirements, Trócaire often adopts a flexible approach, supporting them to meet the requirements over time. Annual assessments are conducted with our partners to review the requirements and ensure they are maintained or advanced, and to identify any challenges and co-develop solutions.

In 2021, Trócaire developed two learning pieces on the operationalisation of partner-led grant models (with Trócaire as a sub-applicant) based on recent experience of supporting partner-led EU grants in Sierra Leone and Honduras. The research highlights the risks associated with such models and proposes recommendations to the EU to promote greater risk sharing.

Trócaire conducted an internal learning webinar with GISF and the Syrian Association for Relief Development to discuss the specific security needs and risks facing our partners, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected settings. As an organisation we will be investing more resources to mitigate partners' security risks.

⁹ 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.