

**Grand Bargain in 2021:**

**Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution: U.S. Government**

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

Ashley McLaughlin, USAID/BHA, Team Lead (a.i.), International Systems and Humanitarian Leadership, [AMcLaughlin@usaid.gov](mailto:AMcLaughlin@usaid.gov); and Adrienne Nutzman, State/PRM, Deputy Director, Office of Multilateral Coordination and External Relations, [NutzmanAB@State.gov](mailto:NutzmanAB@State.gov)

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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?**

The U.S. government (USG) provided strategic, diplomatic, and financial support to advance multiple Grand Bargain (GB) workstream efforts. The USG enhanced its leadership in multilateral initiatives that incentivize cooperation and progress in achieving humanitarian reform principles and commitments at the heart of the Grand Bargain. Such multilateral initiatives include the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative, the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) effort, the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean, and the G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact, among others. The USG also increased its UN engagement and support for UN resolutions promoting all GB workstream efforts, including in the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council. This enhanced U.S. diplomatic engagement in multilateral humanitarianism has helped foster more urgency and action among governments, and better outcomes for affected populations. Additionally, the USG has co-sponsored UN humanitarian resolutions to accelerate progress on a number of humanitarian issues. The USG continued to support impartial joint assessments, including through funding to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as REACH.

The USG has been actively engaged in cash coordination evidence gathering and advocacy efforts for the past several years, including a *Call to Action* letter co-written by USAID under the GB cash workstream, and signed by senior humanitarian representatives from the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), USAID, and 93 other organizations. This letter spurred the creation of the Cash Coordination Caucus under the GB 2.0, chaired by Eminent Person Jan Egeland. The USG has strongly supported the caucus process, serving on the Caucus with the EU to represent all donors, and was instrumental in securing agreement on a predictable cash coordination model, presented to the IASC for endorsement in February 2022.

The USG continues to co-lead the Participation Revolution workstream, which has endorsed a revised strategy for GB 2.0 that focuses on addressing remaining obstacles to effective participation and overcoming power imbalances among and between humanitarian actors and affected communities. The strategy includes a prominent role for the National Reference Groups and strengthening linkages with the GB localization workstream and OCHA's Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Task Force.

**Question 2: Briefly explain how the outcomes contribute to achieving the Grand Bargain 2.0 enabling priority 1 (quality funding).**

The USG continues to support and engage in efforts to enhance visibility and accountability to ensure effective quality funding. We are committed to providing timely funding that uses a range of tools that help facilitate a flexible response for crises. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, the USG provided nearly \$1.06 billion in multiyear humanitarian funding to supplement the USG's commitment to quality funding. In addition, our unearmarked funding in support of the core budgets of UN humanitarian agencies support essential headquarters functions ensuring auditing, ethics training, and other strong accountability measures.

The USG provides international organization partners flexible funding via broad regional or sub-regional earmarks in contributions where relevant and with country earmarks when appropriate. Flexible funding also includes predictability, timeliness, and other built-in flexibilities. For example, USG funding tools facilitate a flexible response, such as through pre-award letters and options to adapt to contextual changes.

**Question 3: Briefly explain how the outcomes contribute to achieving the Grand Bargain 2.0 enabling priority 2 (localisation and participation).**

Financial support for local humanitarian leadership and organizational capacity building programs contributed to an increased ability of participating civil society organizations to design, manage, and implement awards in accordance with requirements. Investments in capacity building of alliances, coalitions, and membership organizations supported a multiplier effect among individual members through peer learning, information dissemination, and resource-sharing. The USG worked to engage international NGO partners on how to best localize their programs through their national NGO networks. Information and Q&A sessions, held at both the global and local levels, provided additional opportunities for local organizations to navigate funding requirements and processes.

In November 2021, USAID Administrator Samantha Power shared a “New Vision for Global Development,” which calls for aid to be more inclusive, with local voices at the center, including funding and decision-making about how resources are used.

Beyond local capacity development approaches incorporated into individual awards, support for the free online trainings offered through the [Building a Better Response](#) program and the National NGO Program on Humanitarian Leadership contributed to increased access to professional learning and development resources for English, French, and Arabic speaking humanitarian practitioners. In addition, USAID/BHA supported 36 local organizations to operationalize sustainable systems that meet international standards in regard to prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Further, the USG’s ‘Refine & Implement’ model afforded partners and affected communities the time and space to conduct meaningful community engagement, gauge and develop the capacity of local partners, local government and other key actors, and better understand the social dynamics that can affect the well-being of community members.

Through our co-leadership of Workstream 6 (Participation Revolution), we have developed a "problem tree" that defines the remaining obstacles for systemic change in this area and identifies the proposed "national reference groups" as one modality to promote this through empowered local leadership. U.S. law requires the USG to gather information from funded organizations about aid recipient feedback on programming and how that input is used to design and adapt programming.

**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 through its**

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

**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).**

The USG recognizes that the humanitarian assistance communities need to do more to ensure the meaningful participation of crisis-affected women and girls, as well as local women-led organizations in humanitarian responses. We continue to prioritize the meaningful participation of women and girls in planning and decision making for all humanitarian assistance programming. This aligns with the USG's 2021 commitments to the *Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies*; one of the eight commitments focuses on amplifying support and shifting power to local women's groups. The USG has also invested in activities aimed at enhancing the participation of women and girls, including through local women-led organizations in humanitarian responses. The USG continues to encourage governments to increase women's participation in UN peacekeeping operations, and pushes for strong language on the Women, Peace, Security agenda in the UN Security Council.

For example, USAID/BHA funded emergency programs to support protection, economic recovery, health, and nutrition interventions aimed at meeting the most urgent needs for women in Burkina Faso. USG partners introduced inclusive community governance structures, provided vocational and humanitarian protection training programs, and helped implement mobile clinics and health outposts in hard-to-reach areas of Centre-Nord and Nord regions, which offer essential medical care for children and psychosocial social support for survivors of gender-based violence.

State/PRM invested in a number of global projects to support women-led and refugee-led organizations to play a greater role in planning for and implementing humanitarian assistance. For example, State/PRM supported one partner to study gender dynamics in aid distribution while empowering women and girls to serve as experts on their environment and meaningfully contribute to the design of better approaches that take into account their specific and unique needs.

**Question 5: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments?**

Coordination across humanitarian, development, and peace entities is a policy priority for the USG. In 2021, the United States enhanced its diplomatic engagement to advance GB commitments related to the nexus in multilateral initiatives and fora, including in executive board meetings and donor support groups of various UN agencies. U.S. President Biden issued an Executive Order in 2021 to enhance USG efforts in addressing climate change impacts on migration. The resulting consultations and report recommendations include innovative steps toward better addressing the development, humanitarian, and peace-and-security-related impacts of climate change. USAID also is finalizing a Climate Strategy with a specific objective focused on strengthening coordination among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding assistance to address climate impacts.

USAID/BHA has developed programs, such as the *Partnership for Recovery and Resilience* in South Sudan and USAID's *Resilience Challenge Fund*, to support mechanisms that facilitate implementation of the GB commitments through the

development of sustainable solutions by increasing planning, programming, and coordination efforts with humanitarian and development actors.

The USG has continued to support *Education Cannot Wait* (ECW), a global fund for education in emergencies. The fund has created cooperation between humanitarian and development actors to deliver collective education outcomes for crisis-affected children and youth, focused on improving access to and quality of education for all. By supporting ECW, the USG ensures funding leverages larger initiatives that bring together diverse donors for maximum impact and increased responsibility-sharing. The USG continues to play a key role in advocating for coordination with development actors, such as the World Bank, on the inclusion of refugees, IDPs, and stateless people in development programming. State/PRM represents the USG on the Management Committee of the UNHCR and World Bank Joint Data Center, which is enhancing the collection, use, and analysis of data to inform humanitarian and development programming for forcibly displaced populations, promoting their inclusion in national development strategies and advancing GB commitments.

State Department's Bureau of International Organization (State/IO) implemented a U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability, designed to align USG efforts in addressing conflict and fragility and further advance responsibility-sharing partnerships. State/IO provided over \$1.45 billion, or more than 25 percent, of the UN's overall annual peacekeeping budget and promoted actions designed to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in peacekeeping operations, consistently urging the UN troop and police contributing countries to hold perpetrators of SEA accountable.

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

The USG continues to discuss with partners on how effective risk solutions could be scaled across humanitarian contexts. Dialogues in 2021 included participation by various external entities, including financial institutions and regulatory bodies as well as other donor governments – the latter with the aim of improving mutual understanding and sharing best practices. In conjunction with these engagements, the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) released a number of General Licenses in 2021 aimed at improving the ability of legitimate humanitarian actors to provide aid, including COVID-19 relief. Recently, the UN Security Council adopted the U.S. proposed resolution that established a carve-out from the UN Taliban sanctions regime for urgently needed humanitarian assistance and other activities that support basic human needs in Afghanistan

The USG continues to collaborate internally and with humanitarian agencies to increase understanding of risk management practices of humanitarian agencies and facilitate broader USG engagement with humanitarian actors to discuss their concerns and potential solutions. The USG also participates in the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS) International Sanctions Compliance Task Force Humanitarian Technical Compliance Dialogue workstream, which coordinates with other donors, financial institutions and partners to identify solutions which may mitigate sanctions' impact on humanitarian funding and de-risking.

As a further example of supporting important risk-related work done by our partners, since 2016, USAID/BHA has funded InterAction to build upon evidence and lessons learned on risk-related challenges to promote actionable change and improve the efficacy of humanitarian NGO operations and service delivery globally.