

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

**Name of Institution: Foreign, Commonwealth and  
Development Office (UK)**

**Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to  
enable the consultants to contact you for an interview): Sam  
Brett, Humanitarian Advisor, [sam.brett@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:sam.brett@fcdo.gov.uk)**

**Date of Submission: 16 Feb 2022**

## **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 UK continued its progress to deliver Grand Bargain commitments throughout 2021. We acted, alongside ECHO, as donor representative to the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, ensuring strong donor support and input into the design of GB2.0, and its sustained focus on more quality funding and improved localisation of humanitarian action. Our 2021 Presidency of the G7 secured the first [G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crises Compact](#), which combined diplomatic action, smarter financing and more effective responses in countries at greatest risk of famine. Through the Compact, we mobilised \$1.5bn of G7 humanitarian funding in line with our Grand Bargain Commitments, especially those on localisation, cash programming and predictable and flexible funding, including for NGOs. FCDO continues to provide extensive non-earmarked and multiyear funding, including through our core funding to the UN. The UK's initial key role in establishing and formalising the cash coordination caucus, including extensive inputs into the design of the caucus, and joined up working with our membership on the Facilitation Group, contributed greatly to the formation of the successful GB 2.0 cash coordination caucus.

**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](#).)*

The UK continues to provide nearly all (roughly 99%) of funding through multi-year Business Cases, with a high percentage of unearmarked funding. This UK has been a leader in producing evidence around the effectiveness of M-Y and unearmarked funding. In addition, we continue to explore ways to reduce reporting burden and management costs, such as continued central due diligence assessments combined with the Australian DFAT and the use of the 8+3 reporting template.

**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 UK has continued to support greater localisation of aid and improved accountability to affected populations. We were co-facilitator for the Grand Bargain national dialogues in Syria, South Sudan, and Nigeria, which supported greater engagement with national and local actors by convening engagement sessions to raise awareness of Grand Bargain commitments and what they mean for local actors, as well as building stronger networks between local actors and Grand Bargain signatories. The UK also engaged closely with the Localisation Workstream during the initial development of the caucus on the role of intermediaries.

Our support to the Start Network continues, with regional START hubs now established in India, DRC, Guatemala, Pakistan and the Pacific. The Start Fund Bangladesh has continued to 'localise' its membership, with local and national actors now forming the majority of the membership with 85% of funds being allocated directly to local and national actors. The Start Fund Nepal was set up with six local and national organisations have also been elected to the fund's country-based governance bodies.

The UK is also the biggest bilateral contributor to the Country Based Pooled funds and has continued to push for greater utilisation of local and national capacities. The UK is proud to be one of the leading supporters of CERF and welcomed their decision to make its first-ever allocation to front-line NGOs, during the COVID 19 response, with a third of the \$25.1 million allocated going to local and national actors.

### **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 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.

---

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

The Foreign Secretary has put women and girls at the heart of the UK's foreign and development policy. This UK priority has been embedded within our strategic approach to humanitarian action, with a focus on empowering women and addressing gender-based violence. We continue to work with our multilateral partners to ensure gender-equality and women's empowerment is part of core humanitarian financing, as well as our response funding to NGOs. Additionally, the UK continues to support women-led and women's rights organisations on the frontlines, including an unearmarked £1 million boost to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women for their new COVID-19 Crisis Response Window which works to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of small, local organisations, whilst trusting them to deliver their own strategies to end violence. The UK remains an active partner of the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in Emergencies, working collectively to improve the engagement, leadership, and participation of local organizations and local leaders, particularly women and women's organizations.

**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.

The UK priority has been to invest in longer-term solutions to address needs and build resilience and stability in crisis-affected countries. This includes investing through development channels where possible, humanitarian ones where life-saving needs would otherwise remain unmet, and building local capacity. Examples of how this has been achieved in practice are set out below.

Moving forward, the UK will promote coordination and collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors as a key component of FCDO's strategic approach in humanitarian contexts, cutting across three key pillars—to prioritise (e.g., needs-based), protect (protection and access) and prevent (anticipatory action and resilience). Our work on crisis prevention is especially relevant to delivering our commitments on the nexus. It sets out a holistic framework for addressing the combined impact of climate change, covid-19 and violent conflict by managing risk, and anticipating and building resilience at household, community and systems levels, as well as mobilising actors to increase climate financing to crisis-affected contexts.

Support to local capacity and responders:

- Many FCDO humanitarian programmes have sought to strengthen community and health service COVID-19 prevention, whilst some have also sought to introduce operational adaptations to enable other

essential activities, such as food distribution and support to survivor's of gender-based violence, to continue with appropriate protective measures for beneficiaries and staff. For example, the UK-supported Health Pooled Fund in South Sudan seeks to find synergies that also include work on GBV and developing strong referral pathways and have established community health mechanisms (Boma Health Initiative) which has integrated COVID19 information to support the emergency response and Covax efforts.

#### Joint and impartial needs assessments:

- The UK continues to fund the UN Peacebuilding Support Office's Humanitarian Development Peacebuilding Partnership Facility (HDPP) which supports joint UN-World Bank analysis to link humanitarian, development and peacebuilding operations. The UK is also one of five funders of the UN's Climate Security Mechanism, which seek to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to analyse and more systematically address the impacts of climate change on peace and security.
- UK support to the joint UN-World Bank HDPP facility enabled data, analysis, assessments and operational cooperation. Since 2020, the Facility supported 29 grants to crisis-affected settings, which augmented UN capacities to advance and deepen the organization's partnership with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Some 2021 achievements include: a new \$400,000 project for Niger to establish a prevention and partnership platform in support of Government's priorities; the development of a Burkina Faso government-led conflict analysis, which contributed to a risk-informed national development plan; deployment of an HDP Nexus Adviser to enable the alignment of the UN and WB under collective outcomes and scaled up impact of HDP interventions through joint evidence base and enhanced synergies in Cameroon; and in Somalia, deployment of an Anti-Corruption Adviser in the UN Integrated Office. The facility is also currently assessing new collaboration opportunities with the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

#### Increase collaborative multi-year and anticipatory planning:

- The UK partnered with OCHA and Germany to co-host the 2021 High-Level Event on Anticipatory Action, securing a range of commitments to scale up the approach from the 75 Member States and 60 partners who participated.

- Through the Famine Prevention Call to Action, the UK has worked with the World Bank to secure a doubling of Early Response Financing (ERF) for food crises in IDA19 to \$1 billion.
- The UK continues to push for a systemic shift towards greater preparedness, anticipatory approaches, and resilience to reduce the impacts of crises. The UK is a leading contributor to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), providing £88.5 million in 2021. In Somalia, UK support to the CERF enabled the activation of anticipatory action plans to prevent deterioration of food crises.

**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](#).)*<sup>2</sup>

The UK has participated in a number of the risk sharing sessions organised by ICRC and is supportive of the initiative. Discussions so far have drawn in colleagues from across the FCDO including our audit and finance colleagues. The UK has also supported the Statement on Risk Sharing and looks forward to seeing how this discussion develops.

---

<sup>2</sup> 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.