

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: United Nations World Food Programme

Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to enable the consultants to contact you for an interview): Gian Carlo Cirri (Deputy Director, WFP Geneva Global Office, giancarlo.cirri@wfp.org); Marie-Hélène Kyprianou (Partnerships Officer, WFP Geneva Global Office, m-helene.kyprianou@wfp.org)

Date of Submission: 16 February 2022

(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?

In 2021, WFP continued to make progress in the use of cash-based transfers, channelling around 34% of its total assistance through cash, value and commodity vouchers, totalling USD 2.3 billion (a 9% increase as compared to 2020). Additionally, work advanced through the [UN Common Cash Statement](#) in joint programming, procurement and interoperability with other agencies, including a multi-country learning exchange event, a 20-country survey on procurement to inform further harmonization, and establishing a Common Procurement Registry with FAO, IOM, UNFPA, identifying common procurement opportunities globally. In recognition of the agency's strategic role in cash assistance globally, WFP has been engaged in the cash caucus tasked to develop a concerted proposal on predictable and accountable cash coordination by early 2022.

WFP also moved towards a forward-looking approach to harmonize reporting activities. Indicators for the [Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review](#), Grand Bargain and [Funding Compact](#) have been streamlined in WFP's new [2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#) and Corporate Result Framework, avoiding duplication of the reporting burden and ensuring stronger joint accountability towards collective outcomes.

WFP has received consistently high ratings in financial accountability since it became a signatory of the International Aid Transparency Initiative in 2012. Additionally, WFP conducted the large majority of needs assessments jointly with governments and partners, contributing to the 2021 State of Food Security and Nutrition with FAO, IFAD, UNICEF and WHO, as well as to the 5th edition of the Global Report on Food Crises, involving 16 partners. WFP continued to support the development of the Joint Inter-sectoral Assessment Framework (JIAF) and is playing an active role in drafting the JIAF's second iteration.

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 an entirely voluntary-funded organization, WFP values all resources for its operational responses. However, flexibility and predictability of funding reduce transaction costs and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of WFP interventions. This is even more relevant in the current "quadruple Cs"¹ crisis, where making better use of scarce resources is crucial. Hence, in 2021 WFP continued to advocate for the strategic value of predictable, multi-year (MY) funding both at a global and local level. In addition to MY agreements earmarked to specific programmes, WFP continued to promote Strategic Partnership Agreements securing predictable and flexible funding for a set of joint long-term objectives. Although the share of MY and flexible funding on WFP's total contribution revenue remained stable, there has been an increase in volume compared to 2020 (+4% for MY and +16% for flexible funding). Unearmarked contributions provide the needed predictability and flexibility crucial for emergency responses and continuity of operations in other areas of intervention. This also

¹ conflict, climate, COVID and increased cost of food

translates into greater capacity to intervene at the right time, avert pipeline breaks, reimburse advanced financing and provide regular food rations more efficiently to beneficiaries.

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.

In 2021, WFP contributed significantly towards the second Grand Bargain's enabling priority. For example, WFP continued enhancing the capacities of national governments in scaling up Government-to-People (G2P) cash programmes for responding to COVID and strengthened its assurance and oversight frameworks. To ensure more beneficiary-oriented approaches to cash delivery, WFP has also been looking at digital financial inclusion with an emphasis on women's economic empowerment. Additionally, WFP worked to operationalize its new Protection and Accountability Policy through an action plan and budget that were approved by the Executive Board in June 2021. WFP also updated its Protection and Accountability Manual, and developed the Community Engagement Strategy for AAP (approved in 2021 and to be launched in the first quarter of 2022).

WFP's commitment towards localization and accountability to affected people has also been reflected in its new Strategic Plan and its seven guiding principles.² In particular, the Plan acknowledges that partnerships with local and national organizations are key to reaching vulnerable groups with life-saving services, engaging local communities and ensuring that the design of context-specific responses builds on local knowledge and capacity. Across its programme portfolio, WFP will continue to prioritize partnerships with national and local organizations, including women's and youth groups, and to strengthen their long-term sustainability. At the same time, the Plan places strong emphasis on a people-centred approach, in which WFP engages with and benefits from the feedback and preferences of affected populations for programme design and operational response.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment³ 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).

In 2021, WFP continued to integrate systematically gender in its country strategic plan (CSP) framework, including through analysis of country context, design of activities, partnerships, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting. Additional guidance was developed on integrating gender into second generation CSPs and to strengthen gender capacities among WFP employees. In addition, WFP ensured gender is adequately integrated in its key strategic planning documents – the new WFP Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and its new Corporate Results Framework.

² People-centred; humanitarian-principled; country-owned; context-specific; programme-integrated; risk-informed; evidence-driven.

³ Refer to the IASC definitions of gender equality and women empowerment, available [here](#).

WFP has also updated its [gender policy](#) in consultation with partners, building on the results of its recent [evaluation](#). Partnerships, particularly with local gender-mandated and women's civil society organizations, has been placed at the heart of WFP's efforts to accelerate progress in gender equality and women's empowerment. WFP will engage with these organizations to enhance information sharing, local decision-making, capacity building and participation in inter-agency key fora, such as the Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC). The updated WFP gender policy has been approved by the WFP Executive Board in February 2022.

Concurrently, WFP expanded implementation of its main gender mainstreaming mechanisms: the Gender Transformation Programme (GTP), the Gender and Age Marker (GaM), and the second iteration of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan for gender equality and women's empowerment of women (UNSWAP 2.0).

In 2021, 15 WFP country offices implemented the GTP against 39 specific benchmarks, with four country offices (Iraq, Mauritania, Palestine, and Tajikistan) successfully completing the programme. In addition, WFP continued applying its [Gender and Age Marker \(GaM\)](#) - an adaptation of the IASC Gender Marker - to its CSP framework. The WFP GaM is a corporate tool that codes - on a 0 to 4 scale - the extent to which gender and age are integrated into the design and monitoring of a WFP programme. In 2021, the GaM was applied to all operational CSPs, with continuous technical support and materials provided to country offices. In 2021, WFP exceeded nine UNSWAP indicators, met four, approached three and did not report on one (due to non-applicability). For 2022, WFP will continue to place efforts on the areas for improvement, particularly financial resources allocation and tracking.

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

WFP has continued to place efforts in mainstreaming humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus approaches - both at a strategic and operational level. This includes efforts to ensure alignment with national governments' development priorities and those described in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF), with clear transition strategies linking relief efforts to recovery and longer-term development. This was further reflected in WFP's new 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, where the HDP nexus is among the seven guiding principles of WFP's work, setting a clear benchmark to seize opportunities for integrated programming and collaborative partnerships, adopt a risk-based approach and use evidence to generate impact.

WFP is also conducting an [evaluation](#) of its 2013 Peacebuilding Policy, which will further help to orientate the organisation's role and approach to the "P" element in the HDP Nexus. Using an evidence-based approach to improve its programming, WFP initiated a series of four case studies (in Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and the Philippines) examining how the HDP was being operationalized at a country level. WFP is also continuing to expand evidence through thematic research with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on five themes: climate change, gender, cash, stabilization and measurement. Work is ongoing to develop an approach to measure WFP's peace performance for corporate level performance evaluation. The pilot phase was successfully implemented in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, and has been expanded to South Sudan. Lastly, WFP is working with the Global Network Against Food Crises to tackle the root causes of food crises and promote sustainable solutions through shared analysis and knowledge, strengthened coordination in evidence-based responses and collective efforts across the nexus.

WFP has also invested in strengthening its internal capacity to deliver conflict-sensitive programmes and analysis to better understand the root causes and drivers of hunger. Following the launch of the Corporate Conflict Sensitivity Minimum Standards, in late 2020, WFP continued expanding its Peace and Conflict Advisory Network (PECAN) experts situated in regional bureaux and country offices, providing hands-on support to both conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding needs.

WFP and UNHCR continued collaborating on the first [Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub](#) to better support vulnerable refugee populations in eleven countries.⁴ The Hub not only addresses short term humanitarian concerns, but also works towards longer term solutions, and is a unique example of joint programming in line with the New Way of Working (NWoW). Additionally, WFP has actively participated in international fora with other agencies, including the DAC-UN Dialogue, the [JSC Nexus](#), the [Global Network](#), and a new [coalition](#) on the HDP Nexus formed after the Food Systems Summit. Within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Results Group 4 on humanitarian–development, WFP and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies continue to manage a community of practice. Through these fora, WFP has participated in efforts to map existing tools and guidance on the pillars of the HDP Nexus. Following WFP’s adherence to the [OECD-DAC Recommendation](#) in July 2020, WFP has co-chaired (along with the USA) the UN-DAC Dialogue in 2021, focused on the implementation of the Recommendation and which has launched the “Nexus Academy”. It has also contributed to coordinate work across the HDP nexus, at the country level, to foster a shared understanding of risk (in pilot countries Niger and Mozambique) and to promote joint or joined up programming through the common country assessment process. In this manner, WFP seeks to have a comprehensive view and approach to the HDP Nexus, and to engage with partners in a way that avoids duplication and makes use of comparative advantage.

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

In 2021, WFP took various steps towards improving risk management with its partners. WFP supported the first inter-agency risk management staff exchange with UNESCO to gain mutual insights on risk management and control activities. In particular, WFP contributed to the drafting of an accountability framework based on WFP’s advanced and well-established assurance framework. Furthermore, WFP shared with UNCHR a list of field-based Risk and Compliance Advisors to foster a wider exchange of risk information at country level. In Sudan, WFP and UNHCR jointly established and co-chair the first inter-agency UN Risk and Compliance Working Group, aimed at advancing a robust risk management approach through information-sharing with UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO) in the country. At the global level, WFP and the World Intellectual Property Organization co-chair the [Risk Management Forum](#) of the UN High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), a network of over 30 international organisations for best practices on risk management. The Risk Management Forum developed a model for measuring the effectiveness of enterprise risk management (ERM) implementation, and wrote various papers on topical issues such as risk appetite, embedding ERM, managing risks in the field and managing fraud risk. In 2021, it prepared and presented a paper to the UN HLCM on the medium-to-longer term impacts of COVID, recognising among other matters, the importance of the digitisation agenda for UN agencies.

⁴ Cameroon, DRC, Djibouti, Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia