

Grand Bargain in 2021:

Annual Self-Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: World Bank

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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 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, the World Bank achieved progress in the following commitment areas:

a. Data-driven transparency:

The World Bank together with the Netherlands continued as co-conveners of Workstream 1 which supports a vision for data-driven transparency, including open data. Throughout 2021, we made monthly updates of high quality IATI data on all World Bank-supported projects, and adapted our reporting on COVID-19 related activities to comply with new IATI guidelines. Detailed IATI data was published on 1,617 projects in 134 countries, of which 399 projects in 122 countries referred to IATI Humanitarian scope.

b. Cash-based programming:

The World Bank continued to deliver high-quality and rapid responses to the COVID pandemic in FCV settings as well as providing assistance to refugees in both fragile and stable nations. In 2021 (combines H2 of the World Bank's 2021 Fiscal Year and H1 of the 2022 Fiscal Year), the Bank delivered 20 cash transfer operations in fragile states for a total of \$3.4 billion. Examples of these activities supporting the COVID-19 response include:

- Central African Republic: COVID-19 Response under the Service Delivery and Support to Communities Affected by Displacement Project;
- Lebanon: Emergency Crisis and Covid-19 Response Social Safety Net Project;
- West Bank and Gaza: Emergency Social Protection COVID-19 Response Project;
- Yemen: Emergency Social Protection Enhancement and COVID-19 Response Project.

In addition, the World Bank has continued to provide support to Social Protection, Safety Net, and Livelihoods programs that include cash transfers in fragile environments and those hosting large populations of refugees. In 2021, the World Bank provided \$185 million to Somalia to strengthen the social

protection system and to provide cash support to families affected by the locust infestation

c. Improving joint needs assessment:

In 2021, the WB continued to support single comprehensive, cross-joint sectoral assessments of needs for each crisis to inform strategic decisions on how to respond and fund. For instance, in Ethiopia, at the request of the Government, the Bank's multi-sectoral team is working with UN and other humanitarian partners on the recovery and needs assessment in conflict-affected areas of the country. In South Sudan, the WB is working closely with UNOCHA to coordinate a Humanitarian Needs Overview and accompanying Humanitarian Response Plan.

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 share of IDA going to FCS countries has increased five-fold from IDA16 to IDA19, reaching over 39 percent of total IDA resources. In terms of concessionality, the share of grants has also increased, with more than half of the grants going to IDA FCS/V. Moreover, the Bank has scaled up its efforts to support refugees and refugee-hosting communities, through the \$2 billion IDA18 Sub-window for Refugees and Host Communities (RSW) and the \$2.2 billion IDA19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR). This support has significantly improved people's livelihoods, addressed the underlying drivers of fragility, increased their preparedness for crises and built resilience. With regards to Social Protection, the Bank's portfolio doubled in response to the COVID pandemic, from approximately \$6 billion to well over \$12 billion. Out of about 100 projects, 12 are in fragility and conflict affected countries (FCS) or supporting the COVID response among refugees and displaced persons.

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 alignment with the objectives of the World Bank Group's COVID-19 Crisis Response Approach Paper and the World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020–2025, the Bank continues to strengthen the

capacity national governments and local actors to protect poor and vulnerable households, and to provide adaptive and efficient social assistance, including more transparent and reliable cash transfers. Partnerships with local and international NGOs were also expanded with some engaging in direct implementation, particularly in insecure settings.

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 4: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment¹ 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.

The inclusion and participation of women and girls is a cross-cutting theme, and a priority for WB operations and analysis, including in fragility and conflict affected countries. Priority is on: i) Gender-based violence; ii) youth at risk; iii) women in peace building; iv) shifting gender roles and dynamics due to conflict (e.g., forced displacement); and v) the psychosocial effects of conflict and violence on women and girls. Gender considerations are incorporated in indicators for both RRAs and RBPA's, and there is regular gender knowledge sharing and capacity building of staff working in FCV settings.

As an example, the World Bank's Sahel Women Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project (SWEDD), which is implemented with several UN Agencies has increased women and adolescent girls' empowerment and their access to quality reproductive, child and maternal health services in nine countries. The RSR Gender Window has also supported the development of a toolkit and e-learning course, "Safety First," which provides guidance on the design and implementation of social protection and safety net programs, including cash transfer and cash-plus programs, in fragile environments.

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.

While the Bank's focus is on reconstruction and development, it may engage in humanitarian crises and emergencies as part of long-term engagement in support of national systems, resilience, and capacity-building. As part of that

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

engagement, the Bank continues to develop collaborative activities and relationships with other agencies such as those with the UN system. The Bank's cooperation with the UN and other humanitarian partners is focusing on four main themes: **(i)** prevention and resilience; **(ii)** COVID-19 responses; **(iii)** forced displacement; and **(iv)** food security. More focus is also starting to be put on selected partnerships around crisis preparedness and climate change as the Bank starts to deliver on its upcoming IDA20 commitments. Below we highlight some examples:

- **Prevention and Resilience:** Cooperation across the H-D nexus is critical to the implementation of IDA19, and particularly the [Prevention and Resilience Allocation \(PRA\)](#). The PRA provides additional financing and helps incentivize governments to proactively address the risks and grievances that can lead to violent conflict and unrest, based on government commitment, and agreed milestones. Recognizing the UN's comparative advantages, the World Bank has engaged in consultations with the UN on the comprehensive prevention strategies required for eligibility. In Spring 2021, the World Bank organized a workshop with the UN to provide a starting point for in-depth and context-specific discussions at country level to identify and better leverage comparative advantages and lower transaction costs to support governments to address issues critical to the success of the IDA FCV envelope.
- **Response to COVID-19:** The World Bank-UN partnership has to date supported more than 30 fragile and conflict-affected countries to respond to the health emergency and help countries on the path towards inclusive and resilient recovery, focusing on poverty and inequality, the loss of human capital, and the debt burden. Cooperation includes i.a. the COVID-19 Supply Chain Taskforce, coordinated by WHO and the WFP and comprising the World Bank and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, leveraging the expertise of each partner to identify procurement needs and better negotiate with suppliers. UN entities, including UNICEF, UNOPS, and the WHO, were engaged in Bank-financed operations to procure personal protective equipment (PPE), scale up testing capacity, and strengthen public education in countries facing serious challenges including Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Iraq, Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, and Sudan. The World Bank and WFP also have streamlined arrangements for WFP to be engaged by client countries to provide air freight services to help deliver medical supplies when commercial options are unavailable or impractical. Benefiting countries include Burundi, Chad, and Haiti. There is extensive collaboration between the World Bank, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other UN entities to

ensure that the needs of migrant, refugee, and internationally displaced populations are met, alongside host communities.

- **Forced Displacement:** In response to the global forced displacement crisis with around 80 million forcibly displaced people worldwide in 2021, cooperation between the World Bank and UNHCR represents a critical strategic and operational partnership, rooted in the principle of complementarity. Key areas of included UN support for policy and programmatic aspects of the World Bank's dedicated financing instruments for refugee-hosting countries; data collection and analysis; joint learning and capacity building initiatives, and technical collaboration in sectors, such as social protection and education. The WB-UNHCR joint Data Center on Forced Displacement is a prime example of cooperation with the objective of address the challenges of scarcity of data overall and inadequacy of available data on those affected by forced displacement to effectively underpin national policy and development approaches. Cooperation is also strong around the WB IDA19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees to improve access to basic social services, expand economic opportunities, and enhance environmental management targeting both refugees and communities that host them. In 2021, the Global Concessional Financing Facility worked closely with UNHCR and others on a budget support operation (DPL) in support to Venezuelan migrants in Colombia.
- **Food Security:** The World Bank, UN, and other international partners coordinate closely to address severe food insecurity, as well as its underlying drivers, including climate, conflict, and other shocks. In some of the most food insecure countries, the World Bank, through IDA, and the WFP are amongst the largest sources of financing, with WFP providing humanitarian assistance and IDA focusing on a complementary blend of short-term and medium-to longer-term solutions. The World Bank and WFP collaborate on food insecurity in countries ranging from Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Lebanon, Mali, Somalia, and Yemen, with work centering on data collection, early warning, provision of integrated safety nets, beneficiary targeting, the response to COVID-19, and cash programming, with work addressing climate as well. For IDA19, the US\$ 1 billion Crisis Response Window Early Response Financing (IDA CRW ERF) provides support to help countries respond early to food security crises. To date, 10 countries have been approved to receive support from the CRW totaling US \$500 million.

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](#).)*²

The WB partners with the UN and other actors to provide complementary tools and approaches, such as supporting host countries, refugees, and displaced people. For example, in Uganda IDA and UNHCR are working together to support the transition from humanitarian- to government-run education, health and water systems. The WB through IDA is also working with UNICEF in Yemen to provide essential health, nutrition, water, and sanitation services to the population, including to internally displaced people, and in Tajikistan to deliver skills and psychosocial services to at-risk young people living in border areas.

The World Bank's primary tool for understanding fragility and conflict is the **Risk and Resilience Assessment³ (RRA)**. Under IDA18 the Bank committed to undertake RRAs in all IDA-eligible fragile and conflict-affected situations and Country Partnership Frameworks. This has been extended to cover all fragile IBRD countries as well, as highlighted in the FCV Strategy 2020–2025. I The Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice has also recently launched a "Stress Test" tool for Social Protection and Safety Net systems to examine how well existing systems can respond to crises and whether cash transfer programs are sufficiently flexible and capable of scaling up sufficiently to meet an emergency. This tool looks at the fundamental building blocks of finance; programs and delivery systems; data and information; and institutions and partnerships.

² 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.

³ RRAs identify the multidimensional risks that affect a country's vulnerability to economic, political, governance and social breakdown, and its propensity for organised violence - <https://olc.worldbank.org/system/files/FCV%20Note%20%23%20%20-%20RRA.pdf>