

Grand Bargain in 2022:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: [Italian Cooperation \(Government of Italy-
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and
AICS - Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo\)](#)

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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 2022

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 2022?

Localization:

- In 2022, Italy further increased its support to local and national responders, for a total amount of **42.9 million euro (+53% compared to 2021; 14% of total humanitarian budget; 2021 – 27.2 million euro)**.

Unearmarking:

- Italy further increased total unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions, reaching in 2022 the amount of **54.8 million euro (+33% compared to 2021; 18% of total budget; 2021 – 41.3 Meur)**.

Multi-year planning:

- In 2022, Italy funded 21 humanitarian interventions lasting 24 months, for a total amount of **73.7 million euro, reaching 24% of total humanitarian contributions (+66% compared to 2021; 2021 total 44,300,000 euro)**.

Common reporting:

- Italy participated to the "Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot" and **rolled out the 8+3 formats in all Call for proposals starting from 2021.**

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

Unearmarking: Italy is gradually increasing humanitarian unearmarked funding, to improve flexibility of interventions, although greater visibility would be needed. Italy further increased total unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions, reaching in 2022 the amount of 54.8 Meur euro **(+33% compared to 2021; 18% of total budget; 2019 – 41.3 Meur)**. Namely, Italy:

- i) continued supporting CERF (15 Meur in 2022); positioning among the 10 biggest donors;
- ii) increased its support to CBPFs (+19%; 22.5 Meur in 2022);
- iii) continued supporting OCHA country offices, WB GFDRR, UNDRR, UNHRD, UNMAS and GICHD with softly earmarked contributions.
- iv) Supported for the first year the UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund with an unearmarked contribution of 3 million euro. The fund operates in line with UNFPA's commitment under the Grand Bargain. As an expedited, quality-assured, emergency funding mechanism, the HTF backs response and preparedness efforts.
- v) Supported for the first year the Women's Humanitarian and Peace Fund with an unearmarked contribution of 2 million euro and with an additional contribution of 4.5 million euro, softly earmarked for the Afghanistan response.

Moreover, Italy funded several Regional/Country “appeals/programmes” of UN Agencies, without adding any specific conditionality to allow a response adapt to the needs and context.

Multi-year planning. In 2022, Italy funded 21 humanitarian interventions lasting 24 months, for a total amount of 73.7 Meur, reaching 24% of total humanitarian contributions (+66% compared to 2021; 2021 total 44,3 Meur). In case of contributions to International Organisations, approved humanitarian funding is advanced to implementing agencies at the beginning of the agreed period, as soon as the Agency accepts the contribution. In case of contributions to CSOs, implementing partners receive: in advance 50% of the funding; 40% following the reporting of 50% of the expenses and the final 10% following the final financial reporting of the project.

Projects are flexible and can adapt to changing circumstances. Contracted Partners can move funds between budget lines and/or sectors of activity, specific locations, delivery modalities, and years. In some circumstances, no additional pre-approval is requested. In case of CSOs projects, it is possible to move funds between budget lines when the variation does not exceed 15% of the amount originally foreseen for the same budget line.

Common Reporting. Italy participated rolled out the 8+3 formats in all Call for proposals starting from 2021. Italy worked to develop an IT platform for project management, including the 8+3 Template. The new platform is still to be finalised. Following a specific request from CSOs on the ground, in some countries **Italy adopts the 8+3 template in French.** The use of local language enables programme managers to involve local/field staff in data collection and drafting of reports. It can also foster the participation of local organisations in Call for proposals.

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

Local CSOs are eligible to direct humanitarian funding of the Italian Cooperation. Formats are in the process of being translated into English and French, in order to facilitate the participation of local and national responders.

In 2022, Italy further increased its support to local and national responders, for a total amount of **42.9 Meur (+53% compared to 2021; 14% of total humanitarian budget)**. Namely, Italy supported:

- 1) IFRC (12.9 Meur) – supporting the activities of local Red cross societies;
- 2) CBPFs in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Palestine, Syria, Ukraine (total amount of 22.5 Meur);
- 3) 2 local CSOs in Palestine (PRCS in Consortium with Italian NGOs - total 457,764 Euro; Action Aid Palestine in Consortium with AA Italy and CESVI – total 460,000).
- 4) Supported for the first year the Women’s Humanitarian and Peace Fund with a total contribution of 6.5 million euro. WPHF is a multi-partner trust fund mobilizing urgently needed financing for local organizations led by and working alongside women on the front lines to build lasting peace. WPHF has funded and supported the capacity of over 600 local and grassroots civil society organizations working on women, peace and security and humanitarian action in 26 crisis affected countries around the world.

Besides receiving direct funding, Italy funded several initiatives aiming at improving the capacity and leadership of local responders, including through direct funding to CSOs. Usually local CSOs also actively participate as partner in the projects of the Italian Cooperation. The participation of local CSOs has a positive impact on: access to hard to reach areas, sustainability, quality of needs assessments, monitoring (especially during the pandemic and in hard to reach areas); communication with local authorities; stakeholders and conflict analysis. Local CSOs are sometime involved in project planning, as well as in project implementation.

The participation of women groups is strongly encouraged. Their participation is also key to build their capacity. Numerous women-driven CSOs are involved as implementers and in some cases received direct funding (small grants). Some examples of the involvement of local women organisations can be found in Senegal and Lybia.

Question 4: Has your institution endorsed the caucus outcome document on quality funding, on the role of intermediaries, on cash coordination, Yes/No?

Grand Bargain Caucus on Quality Funding - Outcome Document:

- In 2022, Italy funded 21 humanitarian interventions lasting 24 months, for a total amount of 73.7 million euro, reaching 24% of total humanitarian contributions (+66% compared to 2021; 2021 total 44,300,000 euro).
- In 2022, Italy completely updated the flow of data to IATI aligning it to the new Aics's ERP and updating the IATI standard to the newest 2.03 version. Italy reports data on EDRIS and FTS.
- Italy participated to the "Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot" and rolled out the 8+3 formats in all Call for proposals starting from 2021.

The Role of Intermediaries in Supporting Locally-Led Humanitarian Action:

- Local CSOs are eligible to direct humanitarian funding of the Italian Cooperation, in case they had a previous partnership agreement with a CSO registered in Italy;
- Local CSOs are entitled to overhead when contracted on a project
- Italy further increased its support to local and national responders, for a total amount of **42.9 million euro (+53% compared to 2021; 14% of total humanitarian budget; 2021 - 27.2 million euro)**, supporting intermediaries (CBFPs, WPHF MPTF, IFRC), funding the GFDRR and UNDRR to build local capacities (see also spreadsheet), directly funding local CSOs (ex. in Palestine).

Grand Bargain and cross-cutting issues

Question 5: 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

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

have been achieved in this regard? (Please outline specific initiatives or changes in practice and their outcomes/results).

Italy adopted in December 2020 new Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowerment. The “Guidelines include specific commitments to ensure a twin-track approach, allocating at least 10% of funding to specific initiatives to promote GEWE (Gender Policy Marker - Principal) and ensuring gender mainstreaming for other initiatives (Significant Gender Policy Marker - Significant). In 2022, such guidelines were translated in English, French and Arabic language ([ITA](#) | [ENG](#) | [FR](#) | [AR](#)). AICS publishes annually a report on programmes targeting gender equality (in 2022 AICS released the report on 2021 budget: [Relazione-gender attività-2021 DEF.pdf \(aics.gov.it\)](#)). Such report also includes information on humanitarian aid. Moreover, Italy elaborated and published a gender Glossary, available in Italian and English language ([ITA](#) | [ENG](#))

Country offices generally include the participation of women association in development and humanitarian interventions (see paragraph on localization).

In 2022, Italy almost doubled the percentage of humanitarian funding having gender equality as main objective (OECD-DAC, Gender Marker Principal), reaching an amount of 24 Meur accounting for about 8% (2021: 4% - 8.1 Meur). Interventions with significant gender components reached a figure of almost 170 Meur, over 56% of the total humanitarian new actions (2021 100 Meur - 46%). These initiatives, implemented both with international organisations (especially UNFPA) and with CSOs, aimed at combating sexual and gender-based violence, which is particularly widespread in fragile and crisis contexts, promoting maternal and child health, promoting women's participation in decision-making processes, and empowering the women most at risk of discrimination. In 2022, Italy also supported the WPHF MPTF and the UNFPA HTP.

Question 6: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments?

Guidelines on HDP Nexus have been finalised and waiting for formal approval. Such guidelines include reference to the GB and to its principles and commitments. The guidelines are structured following the 3 areas of interventions of the DAC Recommendation: programming/coordination/funding. The main innovation regards the establishment of a process to make a joint analysis at field level, involving the actors of the Italian development cooperation system in the three pillars. Such joint analysis, coordinated by Italian diplomatic missions, will influence the programming phase to set up a joined-up program. Such process will be experimented in few pilot fragile countries, still to be decided.

At local level, Italy participates in formal and informal discussions on the nexus and in coordination meetings, whenever possible. Italy particularly coordinates with EU and EU Member States, also taking part in the Team Europe Initiative – whenever possible.

OPTIONAL QUESTION:

Question 7: Has your institution taken any steps to share risks with its partners? If so, please describe how. *(For ease of reference, please see a set of actions and recommendations to enhance risk sharing as suggested in the report [Risk Sharing in Practice](#), June 2022, commissioned by the Netherlands and the ICRC).*