

**Grand Bargain in 2019:**  
**Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution: Belgium**

- **FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation**
- **DG Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid - Humanitarian Aid unit**

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

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(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than **3 pages in total** – anything over this word limit will not be considered by ODI in their analysis. Please respond to all of the questions below.)

**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 2019?**

Following WHS and GB commitments, the proportion of our flexible, unearmarked funding has further increased. In 2019 Belgium maintained its core funding to 30 million euro and has further increased its funding to flexible funds (60 to 70 million euro). This brings the proportion of flexible, unearmarked funding to a record high of **58 %**, compared to 53% in 2018, and 49,7% in 2017 – largely exceeding the GB target of 30%. Throughout the years, Belgium has taken firm step towards the ambitious target it has set: reaching 60% of flexible, unearmarked funding by 2020.

**Question 2: Please explain how the outcomes/results have or will lead to long-term institutional changes in policy and/or practice.**

Belgium has continued to implement its humanitarian strategy and has further positioned itself as a modern, principled donor. By almost reaching the target set for itself in terms of flexible funding, Belgium shows a steady and firm commitments to work on aid efficiency and effectiveness. The Grand Bargain commitments are clear guidelines for Belgium humanitarian aid policy. This will help us updating the Belgium humanitarian aid strategy of 2014.

In 2019, through operating with a diversified pallet of funding instruments, Belgium has been able to strategically respond to the challenges of an ever more diversified, rapidly evolving humanitarian ecosystem. We will pursue the work on our methodologies in order to build knowledge and capacity within our institutions.

As a donor working with a clear set of rules and reglementations, we encounter two key challenges for our GB commitments, i.e. localization and participation revolution. In the coming years, we will need to further strengthen our practices and adapt our rules in order to make substantial progress for these issues.

**Question 3: 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.

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

At the end of the year 2018 a gender focal point has been appointed in the Belgian Humanitarian Aid Unit. Working alongside the persons in charge of gender for the whole Belgian MFA, this person developed a specific gender focus related to humanitarian action throughout the year 2019. Thus, in 2019, gender analysis has been integrated as a precondition for every programme submitted for funding by NGOs. Also, a reference to the implementation of organizations gender policy has been integrated in all agreements signed between Belgium and international humanitarian organizations, related to the implementation of projects funded by Belgian grants.

In addition, the new gender focal point has participated in different events related to his/her responsibilities such as the Call to Action Annual partner's meeting and the Oslo Conference on gender-based violence in crisis situations.

**Question 4: 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.

Our unit for Transitional Development, created in 2017 and complementary to our humanitarian aid, has regrouped the expertise on fragile situations and protracted crises. This has allowed the efficient management of focused interventions and policy dialogue related to the nexus.

Belgium has also been engaged in 2019 through active participation and organization of different debates and fora:

- 1) Active member of the INCAF group in charge of the release of the DAC recommendation OCDE (on triple nexus)
- 2) 2 awareness-raising workshop on the DAC recommendation for Belgian development cooperation, military and political actors
- 3) Speaker for 3 different debates on the Nexus organized by the Belgian civil society

In addition:

- 4) Annual institutional dialogue with Belgian NGOS, partners of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian assistance include now a humanitarian component.
- 5) The humanitarian aid department has followed a 2 days training on conflict sensitivity to mainstream this aspect through our tools.