

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: EU/DG ECHO

Point of Contact: Gerard.Van-Driessche@ec.europa.eu
GB Focal Point

Date of Submission:

(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?

2019 was a year where concepts once considered as new became accepted as an integral part of the “tool box” at the disposal of decision makers. In particular, a call for expressions of interest was launched regarding the **pilot programmatic partnerships**, and negotiations started with selected NGO partners. These negotiations will determine the outlines of the different partnerships, providing the necessary evidence and experience to further refine the programmatic partnership approach (see last year’s report for further details on the concept and expected gains). It is foreseen to sign up a number of partnerships following a pilot phase involving for the moment 4 partners. Most of the pilot programmes under consideration have one or several Grand Bargain components.

DG ECHO also went ahead with the preparation of two pilot contributions to **country based pooled funds** (CBPF), namely for South Sudan and for Ukraine. The decision to contribute to CBPF is coherent with the progress made in needs assessment: the “enhanced humanitarian programme cycle” (HPC) introduced in the context of the coordinated needs assessments reinforces a people centred, coordinated needs assessment. Supporting pool funds managed by OCHA on a pilot basis is a coherent way to back the progress achieved in needs assessment, while reinforcing the support to localisation.

As co-convenor of the needs assessment work stream, DG ECHO closely followed the progress with the 2020 enhanced HPC. While work on the methodology itself and how it is operationalised is far from finished, progress deserves a special mention. Donors have increased their coordination in terms of follow-up and attending the work of the work stream. Further donor involvement, both at technical level to promote and improve the enhanced approach, and as donors, is required to confirm the progress.

Other achievements include the streamlined use of cash, which can be considered a success story of the Grand Bargain, and the continued progress in terms of transparency. The confirmation of multi-annual commitments is a specific achievement. Half of DG ECHO portfolio in 2019 was committed for a period beyond 18 months; even more noteworthy is that 40% of the portfolio is actually committed for 24 months or more, up to 33 months. As indicated last year, the impact of committing in year N funding for years N and N+1 implying “delayed” implementation of actions, while our target beneficiary groups have acute immediate needs; nevertheless this irons out over the year as the commitments of the past years cover needs of the current one.

Work on localisation also reached some maturity, with the Brussels October workshop which produced clear and useful guidelines and recommendations

which are now being shared with donors. DG ECHO is positive that using the one intermediary funding modality can produce results if the proper accompanying measures are adopted in terms of capacity and/or systems strengthening, sharing of support costs and involvement in decision-making fora. The humanitarian-development Nexus offers opportunities for diversifying support to local humanitarian organisations. The EU will use this avenue to reinforce long-term investments in capacity strengthening, preparedness and enhanced leadership of first responders in the coordination of humanitarian response.

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

The fact that defines 2019 is the institutionalisation of the Grand Bargain practices. As demonstrated by the progress in terms of multi-annual funding, one can say that the Grand Bargain related elements of management (programmatic partnership, transparency, CBPF, etc.) are reaching maturity. As such long-term institutional changes have been reached. Further efforts are nevertheless needed, to define the best areas and means of application to ensure sufficient granularity in the use of the tools.

Question 3: 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.

Since 2013 and the adoption of the policy "*Gender – Different Needs, Adapted Assistance*", the European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) reinforced gender mainstreaming, targeted actions and capacity building², using a humanitarian Gender-Age Marker since 2014 as quality and accountability tool to measure the extent to which EU-funded humanitarian actions integrate gender and age considerations. In December 2019, DG ECHO launched its first-ever e-learning on its Gender-Age Marker, to further build capacity on gender and age mainstreaming and the application of the Marker for its staff and partners.

During 2018 and 2019, it is estimated that the EU allocated nearly EUR 52 million in humanitarian aid to help fight sexual- and gender-based violence under its protection and health programming. Furthermore, in 2019, it is estimated that the EU allocated more than €28m to reproductive health from its humanitarian health programming.

In 2019, DG ECHO continued to be an active member of the global initiative Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (having previously led the initiative between June 2017 and December 2018). This is a global initiative that brings together more than 80 partners comprising of governments and donors, international organisations and non-governmental organisations. The Call to Action

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

² https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid_en

Road Map 2016-2020 is mentioned as a valuable reference point in the *Aide-Memoire on Gender Mainstreaming in the Grand Bargain*. In 2019, an Enhanced Response Capacity project that was started during this leadership culminated in the development of inter-agency standards on gender-based violence in emergencies and guidance on how to develop context-specific Call to Action Road Maps (from pilots in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo). This project was implemented by UNFPA, the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility and the Women's Refugee Commission.

In May 2019, Commissioner Stylianides represented the European Union at an international conference on sexual- and gender-based violence in Oslo. At the Conference, he reiterated EU's commitment to prevent and respond to SGBV and showcased EU actions in this field.

In the framework of the implementation of the European Union (EU) Gender Action Plan II (2016-2020), progress has been made towards the aim of transforming the lives of girls and women through ensuring their physical and psychological integrity, promoting their economic and social rights and strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation. See the 2019 report, which covers 2018.³

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.*

In 2019 the nexus was reinforced through an increased understanding on the 'peace' aspects of the triple (humanitarian-development-peace) nexus. This includes a joint analysis of the needs and possibilities, aiming at a clear division of labour between the different actors (be it humanitarian, development and political), fully in line with their specific mandates, roles and sensitivities; and by focusing on how to maximise results on the ground. The EU has systematically aimed also at integrating conflict sensitivity in its external interventions. Besides our 6 pilot countries regarding the implementation of the humanitarian-development nexus, consultations with development actors have become more systematised. As indicated above, this has led to sharing needs in terms of opening up long-term development training opportunities for civil society to humanitarian actors, or reinforcing country-based consultations between humanitarian and development actors. This is illustrated with the increased communications, at geographic and thematic levels, between the Commission humanitarian and development actors, as well as external actors such as the World Bank.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/eu-gender-action-plan-ii-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-transforming-lives-girls-and-women_en