

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Germany (Federal Foreign Office)

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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?

As a co-convener of the “Harmonizing and Simplifying Reporting Requirements” Workstream (WS 9), together with ICVA, Germany focused on the successful conclusion of the two-year pilot phase of the “8+3 Template”, a Common Donor Narrative Reporting Framework and the subsequent roll-out of the template. Together with ICVA and GPPi, Germany used the results of the pilot to further improve and finalize the 8+3 Template. In order to fulfil its WS 9 commitment, Germany then rolled out the template as its reporting standard for NGO partners globally. As Co-Convener of WS 9, Germany advocated the adoption of the 8+3 Template by other donors, e.g. at the annual Grand Bargain meeting and in bilateral consultations. To those interested, Germany provided bilateral advice on the implementation. As a result of the significant momentum for the 8+3 Template, several other donors adopted, or committed to adopt, the template.

Germany’s updated partner capacity assessment (PCA) represents another key contribution in terms of harmonization. The updated PCA (called “quality profile”) has to be completed by prospective partner organizations before they become eligible for German funding. The PCA now takes into account if partners have been verified or validated by the CHS Alliance before or whether they hold an ECHO FPA. If that is the case, they can be eligible to complete a shorter version of the PCA. This significantly reduces the burden of the process on partners.

In 2019, Germany continued to increase its flexible funding to improve the timely and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to people who need it most. Germany allocated 24.4% of its humanitarian budget as flexible funding and doubled its core funding for OCHA, UNRWA and UNHCR as compared to the level of 2018. Germany explored different softly-earmarked funding approaches such as more flexible programme-based funding for selected NGOs, flexible regional funding for International Organizations as well as new flexible funding arrangements with the German Red Cross. Furthermore, Germany continued to increase the share of multi-year funding of its humanitarian budget to 75.2%. The resulting predictability helps partners plan humanitarian assistance more efficiently and effectively.

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

The testing and roll-out of the 8+3 Template by several donors, including Germany, has proven that this tangible result of the Grand Bargain contributes to long-term institutional change towards harmonizing reporting requirements. As several Government donors and UN agencies use the template already, partners already benefit from an approved set of questions and simplified language, which will allow them to shift resources towards operations. To achieve the full benefit and a tangible reduction of the reporting burden across the humanitarian system, more donors need to follow and adopt the 8+3 standard for reporting. Germany actively advocates this and supports other donors in this process.

Further international harmonization of PCAs can have similar effects of reducing the administrative burden across the system. By integrating the results of partner capacity assessments conducted by other organisations into its assessment process, Germany reduces the burden on its humanitarian partners. For system-wide change, verifications such as CHS need to be recognized by a larger number of donors.

Germany's shift towards a greater share of flexible and multi-year funding changes the way Germany works with its humanitarian partners. Multi-year arrangements have become the default, not the exception. However, some flexible funding approaches, such as programme-based funding, are still quite new. As new approaches are being tested, it will be necessary to evaluate which ones work best.

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.

In its humanitarian assistance, Germany contributes to women's empowerment through dedicated funding; by systematically asking our partners to mainstream gender considerations into all phases of the project design and implementation; and by promoting gender mainstreaming at an institutional level. These efforts go hand in hand with efforts to implement the Grand Bargain commitments.

The elimination and prevention of sexualized and gender-based violence (SGBV) continues to be a priority for Germany. In addition to other dedicated projects, Germany continued to fund the ICRC Special Appeal "Strengthening the Response to Sexual Violence" with an additional 4 million euros in 2019 (thus a total of 12 million euros since 2014). This flexible, softly-earmarked humanitarian funding benefits women's empowerment efforts.

Germany systematically asks partners to provide disaggregated data on gender, age and disability, and to provide information on gender mainstreaming in design and delivery of their projects. Germany currently works to systemize its data collection to identify and close gaps. In 2019, Germany also increased emphasis on questions of gender equality and women's empowerment as well as age and disability in project monitoring and evaluation. Germany supported partners in the design of terms of reference for independent external evaluations. For example, regarding a project evaluation on the adaptation to climate change, Germany suggested to expand the section on the socio-economic context by including gender aspects.

Germany supports processes promoting institutional change that aim at mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment into the humanitarian system and, thus, into Grand Bargain implementation as a whole.

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

As a partner of the Call to Action for Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, Germany uses its role in supervisory and advisory boards of humanitarian organizations to advocate for greater empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian assistance. As a donor, Germany also seeks to bring about institutional change and to ensure that all our partners abide by international standards, i.e. CORE Humanitarian Standards, the IASC Minimum Operating Standards for the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and, in the context of mine action, the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programs, which promote the employment of women as deminers.

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, Germany continued its efforts to operationalize the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus and to link these efforts with its implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments.

German humanitarian assistance continued to support forecast-based action and preparedness approaches, in particular with local components (commitment 10.3). Such support included flexible funding for the START Network's Start Fund as well as for IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The former can be accessed also by local NGOs (as Start Network member or through consortia) while the latter provides funding for National RC/RC Societies. Thus, these efforts not only contribute to implementing the commitments under Workstream 10, but are also part of Germany's activities to advance localization (Workstream 2) and flexible funding (Workstream 7/8).

Regarding the core commitment of Workstream 10, Germany continued implementing its HDP nexus pilot in Somalia. Germany facilitated the first joint coordination meeting of humanitarian and development actors and donors in Somalia to strengthen joint analysis and a coordinated approach. Joint meetings and exchanges with project partners were conducted in order to enhance joined-up planning. German humanitarian assistance and German development cooperation decided to fund a joined-up nexus project in Somalia that includes common collective outcomes based on internationally agreed collective outcomes in Somalia. Within the framework of the collective outcomes, financing is earmarked for humanitarian or development goals, respectively. The project is set to start in 2020.

In Lebanon and Iraq, German humanitarian assistance and German development cooperation funded further nexus projects. Separate humanitarian and development projects of the same NGO were linked by an overarching concept paper that defines collective outcomes. This approach allows better overall allocation of resources and greater coherence and coordination between humanitarian and development interventions in related sectors and locations. As such approaches are being tested in protracted crisis contexts, Germany's nexus implementation is linked to the multi-year commitments in Workstream 7/8. Germany's increased use of multi-year funding for humanitarian assistance is crucial for designing meaningful joined-up nexus interventions.