

Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: [Italian Cooperation \(Government of Italy, AICS and MFAIC\)](#)

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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?

Italy approved a new Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness (<https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-11-19-FINAL-PIANO-AICS-DGCS-EFFICACIA-INTERVENTI.pdf>), including specific activities to comply with GB commitments, with special regard to transparency and accountability, localization, humanitarian/development/peace nexus, harmonization of reporting.

Localization.

After approving new procedures in 2016 to make local CSOs eligible for humanitarian funding, the Italian Cooperation Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness 2020-2022 includes a commitment to translate Call for proposals and formats into English and French, in order to facilitate the participation of local and national responders.

Italy further increased its direct support to local and national responders, funding IFRC (1,6 million euro, including 0,5 million as core contribution) and CBPFs for a total amount of at least 7,6 million euro (+27% compared to 2018; 12% of total humanitarian budget). Italy increased its support to CBPFs managed by OCHA (Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Ethiopia, CAR, Sudan) aiming at strengthening assistance delivered by local and national responders (total 2019: 6 million euro; +140% compared to 2018; total 2018 2,5 million euro)

Moreover, two projects to be implemented by local CSOs (Kids Paradise and ACSAD) in partnership with Italian NGOs were launched in Syria (total value: 1,1 MEuro).

Unearmarking:

Italy increased total unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions, reaching in 2019 the amount of 15.871.000 euro (13% of total budget; +34% compared to 2018). In particular Italy:

- i) increased its support to CERF (total 2019 - 3,5 million euro, +60% compared to 2018; total 2018 - 2,5 million euro);
- ii) contributed to the ICRC GBV special appeal with a softly earmarked contribution (1 million euro);
- iii) increased its support to CBPF (see paragraph on localization) and to OCHA Country Offices (1 million euro);
- iv) continued supporting the WB GFDRR, UNMAS and GICHD with ad hoc softly earmarked contributions.

Humanitarian/Development/Peace nexus:

The Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness of the Italian Cooperation includes commitments to introduce tools for fragility and conflict analysis and to approve by 2021 Guidelines on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus. Italy started discussions on the introduction of specific analytical tools for fragility and conflict situations (i.e. risk and conflict sensitivity approach) and drafted Guidelines on the Triple Nexus in partnership with CSOs.

Together with EU and EU Member States, Italy participates to the nexus operationalization process carried out in pilot countries.

Common Reporting. Italy participated to the "Harmonized Narrative Reporting Pilot" and launched Call for proposals adopting the 8+3 formats in 2 countries (Somalia and Iraq). Taking into consideration the positive pilot experience, Italy included in the Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness of the Italian Cooperation a commitment to adopt 8+3 Template for all the humanitarian projects implemented by CSOs.

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

The new Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness (<https://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-11-19-FINAL-PIANO-AICS-DGCS-EFFICACIA-INTERVENTI.pdf>) foresees a set of results and activities to be achieved by 2022. The Italian Cooperation is also going to adopt a results-based management (RBM) system that will lead to a transformation, which entails a cultural and organizational change.

In particular, the adoption of *ad hoc* Guidelines on Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus will improve the planning/programme/project cycle of the Italian development system.

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.

Italy completed the review of the Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowerment. The new version includes: i) a focus on GBV in emergencies, prevention and early action; ii) commitments to develop gender analysis in every humanitarian aid program; iii) the promotion of an active role of women in the decision making process to foster peace and stability in fragile situations, in line with the "Women, Peace, Security Agenda"; iv) specific reference to the need to strengthen the role of women in disaster response.

Italy also participated in the Oslo Conference on Sexual and Gender-based violence in humanitarian crisis (23/24 May 2018), pledging to increase its contributions to tackle SGBV up to 4 million Euro in 2019, including 1 million Euro to contribute to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) Special Appeal on Sexual Violence. Moreover, in 2019 Italy funded the UNFPA/UNICEF

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

“Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change” (Phase III)”, for a total amount of 1,8 million Euro.

In 2019, Italy provided core funding to the following humanitarian organizations which are member of the GBV Area of Responsibility: UNFPA EUR 2 000 000; IFRC EUR 500 000. Italy also funds CSOs projects in the sector.

Italy is part of the Call to Action on Gender Based Violence in emergency contexts and advocates for inclusion of Call to Action considerations on sexual and gender-based violence in relevant multilateral fora.

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.

Following the WHS, Italy started a re-organization process to improve quality of humanitarian action and to ensure synergy between humanitarian and development actions. For specific protracted crises (i.e. Libyan and Syrian crises), Italy has adopted a comprehensive approach in the programming process, both at programme and project level, bearing in mind the key EU commitments and guidance on resilience building and humanitarian-development nexus.

Moreover, Italy started drafting Guidelines on the Humanitarian/Development/Peace Nexus, with a participatory approach including CSOs and Universities in a working group. In line with OECD-DAC recommendations on the Nexus, the Guidelines will define a strategy enabling the Italian Cooperation to plan, finance and coordinate aid with a nexus approach.