

Grand Bargain in 2019
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

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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?

1. Localisation

- In 2019 NL has focused on 'quality partnerships' with local organisations, especially in cooperation with the Dutch Relief Alliance. Particular emphasis was placed on the empowerment of local organisations to set their own priorities for humanitarian aid, include capacity strengthening as a regular activity in those partnerships, and including affected people in the planning of the response. A conversation also started about making overhead costs available for local partners.
- NL continued funding pooled funds and other (NGO-led) mechanisms that collaborate directly with local responders. This amounted to more than 35% of our humanitarian budget.

2. Quality Financing

- NL continues to provide multi-year financing to its humanitarian partners based on the OECD DAC criteria, which is a commitment for 2-3 years, with annual payments. This enables organisations greater predictability about the support of the NL.
- NL continued to provide flexible funding, which includes unearmarked and softly-earmarked support to our partners, enabling partners to respond to humanitarian needs when they arise in a flexible manner.
- NL invested and started to support work around better showing and demonstrating how partner organisations are using multi-year and flexible financing. NL aimed to contribute to move the work around quality financing further.

3. Transparency

- NL has adapted its publishing systems and processes to fully meet the GB transparency requirements. Additionally, NL's partners are requested to publishing their activities in IATI and encouraged to link them to the funding activities of the NL MFA.
- As co-convener of the Transparency Workstream NL entered in its second phase of the partnership with Development Initiatives 2019-2020 in support of the Grand Bargain transparency work. In this partnership and together with the World Bank, NL worked towards a better understanding of IATI data. To enable learning based on this data, the IATI Humanitarian Data Portal was initiated together with the World Bank and launched in its Alpha phase in December 2019. Furthermore, as co-convenors, NL and the WB work together encouraging and showcasing greater use of IATI data, including by building prototypes for visualisation of IATI data.

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

1. Localisation

NL's increased efforts on localisation, especially within the partnership of the Dutch Relief Alliance, have contributed to a more effective and better aligned coordination of local and (inter)national humanitarian response as well as to more 'quality partnerships', in which local organisations are taking greater ownership. The focus on localisation has stimulated a broader conversation about more enabling funding practices and better support to local organisations. In some cases, the focus on localisation has strengthened the direct dialogue between NL and local organisations. In addition to the focus on local empowerment, NL will also double its support to strengthen local crisis response capacity for the upcoming year.

2. Quality Financing

NL continues to provide multi-year and flexible financing. As a donor with high levels of flexible financing, greater transparency about how these funds are used is essential. The result is that NL has started to work with other donors to encourage further flexible financing for humanitarian assistance while at the same time seeking greater transparency on the use of these funds. This has become a priority in 2019.

3. Transparency

All our humanitarian activities are marked as such in our monthly IATI publications since the summer of 2019. NL MFA IATI data contains the relevant fields required by FTS to automate FTS reporting and replace manual spreadsheet reporting. Increased publication of detailed humanitarian data will help NL and its partners to better understand their humanitarian programming. In turn, this will result in greater accountability of humanitarian assistance and organisations towards affected people. It has also allowed NL to think broader with partners on how the different standards and platforms interlink to work towards the principle of "publish data once – use often".

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.

NL continues to support various initiatives to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings as reported in the self-report in 2019. The most prominent activity in 2019 was the NL emphasis on the protection of the most vulnerable from sexual exploitation and abuse. NL has a 'zero tolerance' for non-action in case of allegations of SEAH through one of our humanitarian (and other) partners. The NL develops two country pilots in Jordan and Bangladesh to improve accountability to victims of SEAH in the humanitarian/aid sector. To fill the gap of inadequate complaint handling

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

systems, the pilot sets out to test a separate, independent, highly qualified investigation unit to accelerate handling of complaints in addition to addressing gaps in accountability in a broader accountability cycle with the objective to build a survivor-centered virtuous cycle of accountability.

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.

We actively promoted the operationalisation of the triple nexus within and outside of the NL MFA. We also contributed technically to the development of the anticipatory humanitarian action concept so our partners may apply that to our funding.

NL has started nexus-programmes on food security and education, labour and protection in the Horn of Africa and in the Middle East. Emphasis was placed on collaboration between teams and organisations across the humanitarian-development-peace building sectors. The PROSPECTS partnership of EUR 500 million with IFC, WB, UNICEF, UNHCR and ILO in the Horn of Africa and Middle East is a prime example of NL's efforts in nexus-programming. This program supported joint analysis and joint multi-year planning between partners of the program.

The humanitarian unit worked with the development unit to enable a Resilience Program in fragile contexts in Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. This three year program was kicked-off in 2019 and takes an area-based approach to food security, bridging relief and longer-term assistance.

The NL engaged in the conversations around the Famine Action Mechanism (FAM) at HQ level and at field level.

In addition: Since 2019, the Netherlands is supporting the Grand Bargain Eminent Person, Minister Sigrid Kaag, in enabling progress in the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments.