

Grand Bargain in 2019:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

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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?

Enhanced quality of funding (more predictable and flexible funding)

- In addition to our multi-year agreements with CERF and core support for OCHA, Norway signed a three-year agreement for the ICRC HQ appeal. Several multi-year agreements of smaller scale were also signed.
- Norway fulfilled in 2019 its substantial multi-year pledge for Syria and the neighbouring countries (2016-2019) and continued to deliver on the multi-year pledge for the Lake Chad region (2017-2020).
- Norway increased its contributions to the Country-based Pooled Funds in 2019 to NOK 394 mill.
- Norway exceeds the Grand Bargain target of having 30 % of its humanitarian contributions as non-earmarked or softly earmarked funding. In 2019, we provided minimum 40 % of our total humanitarian budget as unearmarked/softly earmarked funding.
- The Storting (Norwegian parliament) has approved indicative multi-year commitments for Norway's core support to UNHCR and WFP for the period 2019-2022.

Cash

- Norway has continued to play a key role in furthering the Grand Bargain objectives on cash, in particular when it comes to donor coordination.
- Norway has in 2019 required all partners to use cash in situations where this is the most effective and efficient way of providing assistance.
- The *Common Donor Approach to humanitarian cash programming*, developed by Norway and a number of key donors, was adopted in 2019. The CDA sets out a shared vision and principles that will guide donors' support for cash programming.
- As part of continuing efforts to strengthen donor coordination on cash, a group of key donors adopted the *Joint Donor Statement on Humanitarian Cash Transfers*. The JDS identifies priority areas where donors can improve coordination. Donors agreed to test out the joint approach in two country settings, Bangladesh and Nigeria.
- Norway, together with Germany, established and co-chaired the Donor Cash Forum.

Innovation

- The Ministry gives priority to innovation and new working methods that can lead to better and more effective results for people affected by conflict and crisis. We have supported innovative measures, especially in the fields of protection and green humanitarian response.
- In 2019, Norway led the Geneva-based 'Group of friends of humanitarian innovation' among donor countries.
- In 2019, Norway supported the Norwegian Humanitarian Innovation Programme with NOK 38 million. This programme granted support for humanitarian organisations' scaling up of innovations as well as an innovation lab. The programme also helped establish partnerships between humanitarian organisations and private sector.

- In dialogue with all humanitarian organisations receiving Norwegian support, we have in 2019 expressed our expectation that they work systematically with innovation and we have supported the Humanitarian Innovation Lab/ELHRA in the field of SGBV.

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

The Grand Bargain objectives are integrated as priorities into *Norway's Humanitarian Strategy* which sets out the framework for Norway's humanitarian policies for the next five years (2019-2023). The strategy is guiding our practice and operational approaches.

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).

- The Gender perspective is integrated into all of Norway's humanitarian efforts. Norway requires all its humanitarian partners to assess and mitigate any risks of negative effects of their work on women's rights and gender equality and to be familiar with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and implement in a way that promotes the intentions of the resolution in the best possible way.
- Mainstreaming the gender perspective was one of the criteria used to assess applications for strategic partnerships among Norwegian humanitarian organisations. The strategic partnerships will be for 2020-2023.
- Norway is a consistent contributor to the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap) and increased substantially its support in 2019.
- At the Oslo Conference on SGBV in May 2019, it was agreed that strengthening SGBV prevention and response must be a humanitarian priority. The event re-energized the commitment of all participants to combat gender inequality and scale up prevention and response to SGBV. It gave visibility and recognition to the key role of national and local organizations, including local women's organizations.
- Norway provides support to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, reaching grassroot women's organisations around the world.

Question 4: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments?

- Norway has contributed to providing better financing across the nexus by providing predictable, flexible and multi-year humanitarian financing.
- Norway increased its contribution to the humanitarian Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) to NOK 394 mill.
- Norway has supported the International Finance Corporation (WBG) by funding private sector development in the trust fund for Fragile and Conflict States in the platform of Sahel, Yemen and Horn of Africa with 35 million NOK in 2019.
- Norway invested in durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced people through a combination of humanitarian and development instruments (eg. core support to UNHCR, support for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), support for the

rollout of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, contributions to the Global Concessional Financing Facility) and supported the High Level Panel on Internal Displacement.

- Norway supported education in crises and emergencies, including significant contributions to Education Cannot Wait.
- Norway supported forecast-based financing mechanisms and engaged in discussions about anticipatory humanitarian financing, including through the Crisis Risk Financing Donor Working Group.