

**Grand Bargain in 2019:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Republic of
Korea**

Point of Contact:

Date of Submission: February 14, 2020

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?

The Republic of Korea has achieved major developments in its humanitarian assistance policy in 2019. First of all, **we revised the humanitarian assistance strategy** to reflect our aim to increase the volume and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and to strengthen the efforts in ensuring the H-D-P nexus and in improving the humanitarian system. In doing so, the **ROK decided to endorse the Grand Bargain** to join the international efforts in strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance.

Regarding the Grand Bargain commitments, Korea has taken actions against the commitments within the localization and enhanced quality funding work-streams. It increased its support to flexible funding tools that improve assistance delivered by local and national responders, such as the UN-led Country-Based Polled Funds (CBPFs). In 2019, the ROK contributed to **10 CBPFs** for a total amount of 6.8 million USD, 2.5 million USD increase from 2018. It also contributed to **un-earmarked funding tools such as CERF** for a total amount of 5 million USD, a million USD increase from 2018.

In addition, we also focus on cross-cutting commitments such as better incorporating **gender equality considerations**. Since 2018, the Republic of Korea has initiated “**Action with Women and Peace**,” with the aims to address the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. As part of this initiative, we have been working closely with international organizations, such as the UNFPA, UNICEF, and IOM.

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

The Korean government expects that all outcomes and results noted above will lead to longer-term changes towards improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Korea’s humanitarian actions.

Most of all, **the revised humanitarian assistance strategy** will lead the ROK to contribute to respond more effectively, efficiently and strategically to the world humanitarian crises. For example, it place **high priority on providing assistance to Level 3 countries** such as Syria and Yemen while paying attention to **“forgotten or unprioritized”** crises. The strategy also puts an emphasis on **supporting the most vulnerable people, including women, children, and refugees**. At the same time, it prioritizes education, health, job training and livelihood for the vulnerable people because **capacity building** is crucial to reducing vulnerability and setting the ground for sustainable development. On the other hand, it highlights the importance of **ensuring the H-D-P nexus and flexible funding** in order for more effective and efficient response.

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?

The empowerment of women and girls, especially in conflict and post-conflict situation has been a key priority in the Korea's humanitarian policy. The Korean government has politically committed to promote key elements regarding SGBV issue. In order to increase awareness and advocacy, **the ROK convened the first international conference on July, 2019 in Seoul** to gather wisdom from various interested parties including donors, youth, survivors, and NGOs. This was a part of Korea's new initiative "Action with Women and Peace" launched in 2018 which aims to help SGBV survivors and prevent SGBV in a more systemic manner, as well as empower their capacities to become an agent of change.

In addition, the Korean government has geared up to support the women and girls in conflicts. For example, we **pledged to provide at least 12 million dollars from 2020 to 2023** to support projects for addressing the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. Also, we have focused on education and job training of women and girls in particular in order to empower them and reduce their vulnerability.

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

In 2019, Korea has continued to mainstream the HDP nexus in the context of addressing and implementing the relevant objectives of the Grand Bargain. As mentioned above, the **HDP nexus is one of the key pillars in the ROK Humanitarian assistance strategy** which was revised in 2019. The strategy articulates the need to address the root causes of humanitarian crises and take development factors into consideration when providing humanitarian assistance. Specifically, while ROK values the consolidated UN appeals for humanitarian intervention opportunities, it also has strengthened assistance for the socioeconomic development of Afghanistan and supported HDP nexus elements in conflict-related major funds such as UNDP's Funding Facility for Stabilization in Iraq and the Libya Recovery Trust Fund.

Commented [M1]: Thus far, you have used "HDP nexus" (not "HDP Nexus"). Please choose one way and use uniformly throughout the document.