

Grand Bargain in 2020:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

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Grand Bargain in 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 2020?

- 1) In the Grand Bargain-context, gender is a cross-cutting issue that has not had the focus it deserves. Denmark would like to see that changed in the new iteration of the Grand Bargain, and has in 2020 prepared to take over the role of Global Lead for the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. The Global Lead-role was accepted in order to provide strong leadership for robust implementation of the updated Call to Action Road Map and be part of advocacy activities at high political level, at regional and at local levels. This includes strengthened partnerships with local and women's-led civil society organizations in the humanitarian response planning and implementation.
- 2) COVID-19 was at the top of the agenda for most donor countries in 2020, and the Grand Bargain has contributed to the ability of the humanitarian system as a whole to deliver on the needs in relation to the pandemic and its socio-economic consequences. For Denmark, especially the Grand Bargain commitments on quality funding has been helpful in this context, and helped in ensuring the flexibility and predictability needed to be able to deliver relevant and timely funding. Likewise, the commitments on transparency have been helpful in our dialogue with not least UN-agencies on how to document humanitarian action in relation to the pandemic.
- 3) Denmark sees the way funding is provided as one of the most important Grand Bargain commitments and a vital tool for improving the quality of delivery of humanitarian assistance. Denmark continues to provide a large part of its humanitarian funding in a way that is flexible, predictable and non-earmarked or softly earmarked. In 2020 91 % of Denmark's total humanitarian funding was non-earmarked or softly earmarked, i.e. significantly more than the Grand Bargain target of 30%.

Denmark also provides multi-year humanitarian funding to a number of partners, including UN organizations and strategic civil society partner organizations. In 2020, a new multi-year agreement was signed with OCHA for 240 million DKK per year. Similar agreements were already in place with a.o. UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP.

Question 2: 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.

Pls. refer to question 1, bullet point 1. Furthermore, Denmark continues to contribute to support partner organizations through secondments for their work on gender issues. A secondment to OCHA's gender unit aims at enhancing OCHA's gender mainstreaming efforts for the humanitarian country teams. Highly experienced humanitarian and gender-experts are seconded to UNFPA in Geneva and ECHO in Brussels.

Question 3: 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.

Denmark works with e.g. civil society partners, UN-agencies, the World Bank and the EU to promote and enhance the nexus approach, using the Grand Bargain as a tool for driving change towards more coherent financing and work across the nexus, relevant to all Grand Bargain work streams. This includes:

- The need for strengthened nexus approaches has featured prominently in Denmark's policy messaging in relevant international forums and in our dialogue with international partners during the past several years. Examples include the hosting of an international conference on the New Way of Working in 2015, along with a strong and supportive involvement in the consultation processes leading to the endorsement of the Global Compact on refugees, which in essence reflects a nexus approach to forced displacement. In the subsequent Global Refugee Forum, Denmark arranged a spotlight session on the involvement of development actors in the response to forced displacement. This was based on a joint evaluation together with UNHCR of the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISEDPP) for refugees and host communities in Kakuma, Kenya. In 2020, this was followed by a global study of the challenges to a greater engagement of development actors in the response to forced displacement.
- In line with these approaches, Denmark has endorsed the OECD-DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus that was published in late 2019. Subsequently, Denmark has strongly advocated for its adoption and usage in various international policy forums.
- Internally, the endorsement of the recommendation is reflected in new strategic documents and guidelines. During the past two years, Denmark has

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

revised its aid management guidelines to ensure much greater flexibility, agility and coherence across development instruments that are used in countries and regions affected by fragility and displacements. An important aspect of this is the fact that the development and maintenance of country strategic frameworks is entrusted to a task force consisting of staff from all units involved in assistance and policy dialogue focused on the given context. This promotes joined up analysis and planning across the nexus along with continuous adjustments, depending on contextual developments. Such joint country strategic framework have been or are in the process of being developed for Burkina Faso, Mali, Kenya, Syria, Afghanistan and Palestine. Examples of nexus programming are also prominent in e.g. Somalia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

- Denmark's multi-year humanitarian financing enables partners' long-term perspectives in protracted crisis, facilitating alignment with development actors.
- Danish civil society partners are able to utilise both humanitarian and development funding when seeking to build coherent multiannual interventions in regions and countries affected by fragility and displacement.
- During the past few years, Denmark has reinforced requirements for its CSO partners to strengthen their local partnerships and build local capacities strengthens local actors' role in planning, programming and coordination and improves sustainability.
- During the past ten years, Denmark has provided dedicated multiannual funding in support of an enhanced World Bank engagement in protracted displacement situations, including through a strengthened partnership with UNHCR. This has included core funding for the Global Programme on Forced Displacement, along with strong support for the IDA18 and -19 windows for host communities and refugees, and the Global Concessional Financing Facility. Over the years, funding has been allocated from both humanitarian and development budget lines.
- Denmark provides significant multiannual core funding for the UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center, hosted in Copenhagen. It is a key objective for the center to strengthen a nexus response to displacement through improving the availability of quality micro-economic, social and demographic data on refugees and host communities.
- By supporting both humanitarian cash assistance and national social protection systems Denmark facilitates cooperation and interventions across the nexus.
- In 2020, Denmark co-hosted an international ministerial roundtable on the Sahel with a strong focus on nexus-approaches and shared visions for outcomes.

Grand Bargain 2016-2020: Overall achievements and remaining gaps

Question 4: What are the 2-3 key achievements/areas of most progress by your institution since 2016? Please report on your institutional progress for the period 2016-2020, **even** if your institution did not become a signatory until after 2016.

- 1) Nexus approaches: As reflected above, Denmark supports to a larger extent than in 2016 comprehensive, long-term approaches to protracted crises including support to the resilience, self-reliance and access to inclusive services for displaced people and host communities. This approach permeates our strategic dialogue with UN and CSO partners and is also a consistent feature in our international policy engagement. Comprehensive examples are provided in the response to question 3, demonstrating how Denmark's commitment to nexus approaches permeates all aspects of our response to fragility and displacement.
- 2) Transparency: Through adaption and improvement of guidelines and data-tools as well as a heightened focus on increasing awareness of the issue, Denmark is reporting and using more qualitative data in cooperation with eg IATI, FTS and EDRIS. OpenAid.DK is continually being developed and improved.

Partnerships with organisations that work with data issues have been expanded to the benefit of not just ourselves but the whole humanitarian sector. Such partnerships include the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center, hosted by Denmark, and our partnership with Development Initiatives.

- 3) Localisation is continuously high on the agenda for Denmark, and one of the reasons we work closely with UN CountryBased Pooled Funds that have a good track record on this. Denmark is among the donors that continuously press this issue with UN-partners – one result was the 2020 CERF-window for CSOs in relation to COVID-19 action. We similarly work with our Danish and international CSO-partners on how they approach this issue.

Question 5: What, in your institutional view, have been the main achievements of the Grand Bargain signatories, as a collective, since 2016? Please indicate specific commitments, thematic or cross-cutting issues or workstreams where you think most progress has been made collectively by signatories.

- A general, heightened awareness of the need for better qualitative humanitarian action that is based on common principles, standards, aspirations and objectives.
- A better basis for dialogue between all parts of the humanitarian system on how to do humanitarian assistance.

- A higher degree of accountability of donors in relation to recipients of humanitarian assistance. Through the Grand Bargain recipient countries have some principles to hold donor countries to, and through the annual reporting they have some form of accountability mechanism, though not ideal.

Question 6: What has the Grand Bargain not been able to achieve in its five year tenure? What outstanding obstacles, gaps, areas of weakness still remain after five years, in terms of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action? Please indicate specific commitments, thematic or cross-cutting issues or workstreams where you think there remain key gaps or obstacles.

- As mentioned above in our reply to question 1, in the Grand Bargain-context gender as a cross-cutting issue has not had the focus it deserves. This includes continued underfunding and lack of prioritization of GBV activities in humanitarian actions. Denmark will as global lead of Call to Action work to advance this agenda with relevant humanitarian actors. Denmark sees this as an important focus for Grand Bargain 2.0.
- The Grand Bargain-community still needs to do more to ensure a closer focus on the people in need of humanitarian action – we need to become better at including people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives and to make humanitarian action as local as possible in a spirit of true partnership.
- In general it is an open questions whether the Grand Bargain has managed to do enough in relations to its overall aim of getting more means into the hands of people in need – there is still work to do.

Risk and the Grand Bargain

Question 7a: How has risk (financial, operational, reputational, etc) affected your institution's implementation of the core commitments since you became a signatory to the Grand Bargain?

This has not been a major concern for Denmark in its follow-up to the Grand Bargain commitments.

Question 7b: How has your institution sought to mitigate or address these risks to enable implementation of the core commitments?

While Denmark is in general working on risk management in its humanitarian action, it has not been a major challenge in relation to pursuing our Grand Bargain commitments.