

Grand Bargain in 2020:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Crisis and Support Center, Center for Humanitarian and Stabilization Operations

**Point of Contact (please provide a name, title and email to enable the consultants to contact you for an interview):
Carole BRESSON, desk officer for partnerships and institutional relations,
carole.bresson@diplomatie.gouv.fr**

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(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than **5 pages in total** – anything over this word limit will not be considered by ODI in their analysis. Please respond to all of the questions below.)

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?

Regarding localization, France has increased its funding to local organizations and established a marker to measure the degree of localisation of its humanitarian action.

The Center for Humanitarian Operations and Stabilization (Crisis and Support Center, see infra.) directly funds local NGOs and also indirectly supports local civil society, via international NGOs acting in partnership with local NGOs, or other mechanisms (contribution to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Syria, which mainly funds Syrian NGOs, support for local CSOs via Expertise France).

In addition, in order to strengthen local capacities to respond to natural disasters and climate change-related crises, France has pre-positioned two humanitarian stockpiles for rapid response in the Pacific (New Caledonia, French Polynesia) and the Caribbean (Guadeloupe).

France organised the national humanitarian conference in December 2020 and several of the Grand Bargain commitments were at the heart of the debates, including issues relating to the implementation on the ground of certain commitments, in particular the impact of sanctions regimes on localization. By including these issues in the discussions at this national event, France wished to contribute to the reflection on the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments, which remain relevant in an increasingly complex environment.

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.

Gender equality and women empowerment are among the French key priorities. Humanitarian assistance is channelled in France through three main tools: Crisis and support center funding mainly NGOs, programmed food assistance and contributions to international organisations.

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

In 2020, according to its gender marker, the Crisis and support centre funded 156 projects to promote gender equality, representing 60% of the projects funded, significantly or mainly targeting gender equality. These projects specifically support women by strengthening their empowerment through income, notably in CAR, Yemen, Lebanon (Syrian refugees) and Libya for the protection of women against gender-based violence (UNFPA project) and promote the role of women in conflict resolution and crisis recovery.

Considering that when rural women have access to resources, services and opportunities, they become a driving force in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty, nearly 88% of the projects funded through the French Programmed Food Assistance had a gender dimension in 2020.

For humanitarian assistance going through those tools, France asks its partners to provide disaggregated data on beneficiaries by gender and age, indicating the extent to which gender issues are taken into account (OECD Gender marker).

France is also including this subject in its discussions with the international organisations that represent a large part of its funding for humanitarian aid and in its multilateral dialogue (UE, FRANZ²).

In addition, France's humanitarian strategy 2018-2022 foresees that we will pursue our commitment to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda by supporting actions that provide specific assistance to women and girls to further their reintegration and empowerment with a special focus on income-generating activities.

France is also strongly committed to the fight against gender-based and sexual violence. We are committed to implement the DAC Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance, adopted in July 2019. The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs now includes an article in all its agreements with grant recipients stating that the parties are committed to prevent and effectively respond to sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment. Work in this direction has also been undertaken by our development aid agencies. We maintain a regular dialogue with civil society organizations for shared learning on this essential matter.

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.

The creation of the Center for Humanitarian Operations and Stabilization within the Crisis and Support Center of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the conflict and post-crisis unit at the French Development Agency (AFD) have

² FRANZ agreements (France, Australia, New-Zealand) : provide for information exchange and trilateral coordination for the implementation of emergency humanitarian responses to natural disasters in the South Pacific Island States. In addition, an annual meeting of FRANZ partners is held to monitor this cooperation.

enabled France to strengthen the link between humanitarian assistance and development aid at the institutional level.

In addition to the Humanitarian Strategy, the doctrinal framework for French aid - and in particular its links between short and long term - has been supplemented by the "Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace" strategy (2018-2022) and "France's International strategy for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture" (2019-2024). These strategies ensure better coordination of French actions to implement a global approach.

Moreover, the humanitarian-development nexus was one of the main themes of the national humanitarian conference and is the subject of a reinforced dialogue between the different actors, for a better articulation between the pillars of crisis response.

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.

Regarding simplification, France decided to adopt the 8+3 reporting format for all its humanitarian funding going through NGOs, be it through Crisis and support center or through Food aid. This step received good feedback from NGOs and produced better analysis of funding outcomes and efficiency.

The adoption of "Harmonized reporting" (WS9) for different humanitarian funding tools, including funding through embassies on the field led towards an improved shared analysis of the impact of French humanitarian interventions.

In addition, France's humanitarian strategy for 2018-2022 has taken into account the priorities of the Grand Bargain in its commitments, particularly with regard to localization, the humanitarian-development nexus in an attempt to better respond to situations of fragility and the structural causes of humanitarian crises through an adapted mechanism and funding which is better articulated between emergency humanitarian aid and development.

In 2017, France ratified the London Food Assistance Convention, whose goal is to help improve food security over the long term and strengthen the resilience capacity of populations. It extends the range of eligible interventions in order to take into account (beyond food aid in kind) the diversity of existing instruments, which could be more effective and better adapted to populations' needs: food vouchers, money transfers, seeds, veterinary interventions, etc.

Within the framework of its "International strategy for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture" (2019-2024), strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations is the objective of the French Programmed Food Assistance, as part of the emergency-development nexus.

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.

The Grand Bargain has made it possible to keep essential issues for humanitarian aid on the agenda in an increasingly complex context marked by crises. The Grand Bargain has maintained regular discussion forums to give signatories a valuable monitoring and evaluation framework in a world where the multiplication of crises can sometimes lead to a short term vision.

France has noted a significant change in donors' modes of action towards better-quality funding, particularly through unearmarked funding and the use of cash transfers in humanitarian assistance.

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.

The process tends to become more bureaucratic and should now try to reconnect with the field. It seems not sufficiently linked to operational objectives while the priorities continue to respond to real needs on the field.

At this stage, France notes the insufficiency of a clear vision of what the implementation of the commitments should be and the difficulty in measuring the success of the commitments. Beyond a bureaucratic monitoring structure, it would be useful to have a stronger focus on implementation. The approach through pilot-countries should be enhanced in the future.

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?

In the current context of the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, risk is a central issue for the implementation of the GB's commitments. In order to respond to the increasingly requirements for the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing risk, France has carried out risk mapping for each new partner to ensure that the humanitarian organization has achieved a standard level of compliance.

In addition, budget and accounting monitoring documents are required as part of the accountability policy to which international donors are subject.

On this point, France has integrated the “8+3” report and has therefore fulfilled its commitments insofar as it has endeavoured to circulate this report since 2019. Our implementing partners are satisfied with the harmonisation of project instruction and reporting documents.

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

France has tried to refocus its priorities on certain commitments so as not to multiply the lines of effort and to ensure the effectiveness of its action.

Risks exist and need to be taken into account, but a peak line needs to be found to strike a balance between the implementation of commitments and the ever-increasing imperatives of responsibility, respect and control. This balance can and must be achieved by supporting actors, including local actors, and implies devoting more time to the operationalisation of commitments.

France has sought to reconcile the imperatives of combating the financing of terrorism, preserving humanitarian space and simplifying procedures. It has endeavoured to set up a stronger dialogue between the State, banks and NGOs in order to provide a better understanding of NGO compliance practices, developed in particular on the basis of donor accountability requirements and internal control mechanisms for analysing and controlling the risk of terrorist financing.

In addition, France has drawn up a guide and a vade-mecum for NGOs to explain the sanctions regimes, procedures for requesting exemptions and the risks incurred by NGOs in certain crisis areas.

Finally, awareness-raising sessions for humanitarian partners were organised by France on security risk assessment.