

**Grand Bargain in 2020:**  
**Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan**

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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?**

Japan continued to promote the participation of affected population and humanitarian-development nexus for a transparent and effective assistance.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) formulated the plans to improve living conditions in Palestine refugee camps through dialogues with residents, and implemented projects aiming at improving living conditions accordingly. Based on a medium-term plan formulated and pilot projects conducted in three refugee camps in West Bank in 2019, JICA expanded its project covering 12 refugee camps in 2020. The manuals on planning and implementing camp improvement plans and projects, published in 2019 enabled JICA and PLO to expand its projects in 2020. (WS6-Participation)

In 2020, JICA also continued to implement projects benefitting both refugees and host communities in places such as Uganda and Zambia, aiming at enhancing local solutions for refugees. In Zambia, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project for sustainable resettlement of former refugees stalled since March, but resumed in September with additional inputs to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the former refugees and host communities. The project is on-going through close coordination with the Government of Zambia, UNDP and UNHCR. In Uganda, under close cooperation with UNHCR and WFP, JICA continued its provision of technical support on rice cultivation, contributing both host community and refugees to improve their livelihood. (WS10-HD Nexus)

**Question 2: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment<sup>1</sup> 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.

Japan contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian settings by mainstreaming gender consideration in various policies.

Japan continued its effort to integrate and mainstream gender consideration in accordance with Japan's National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and

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

Security (WPS). Some sex disaggregated data is available, depending on projects, in the WPS NAP monitoring report. Gender analysis and trends in ODA data in conflict affected or fragile countries are included in WPS NAP Annual Report, which is made available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website to ensure transparency.<sup>2</sup>

Gender mainstreaming in project selections continued. Japan requested UN agencies to consider it when formulating Emergency grant aid projects. Projects by Japanese NGOs, where the Government of Japan provided financial support, due gender considerations were given in project approval and implementation process.

JICA has been adopting gender mainstreaming<sup>3</sup> as the key strategy for its operations. Under the strategies and actions for gender equality and women's empowerment, five priority areas are specified, one of which is women's rights and security. In this area, JICA continued to assist partner countries in ensuring women's rights and security in conflict, natural disasters, trafficking in persons and other gender-based violence.

**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.

Japan continued to work for the humanitarian-development nexus (HD Nexus) through various schemes.

JICA continued to implement projects benefitting both refugees and host communities in places such as Uganda, Zambia, and Jordan, aiming at enhancing local solutions for refugees. JICA's technical assistance provided both counterpart governments as well as local communities (including refugees) with capacity to cope with the particular challenges on the ground. (WS10-HD Nexus)

Japan has been funding Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF), and 15 million USD was disbursed to the facility in 2020. The fund will be used to support middle income refugee hosting countries, and will help to fulfil the humanitarian needs of refugees and locals, while contributing to the development of the countries. (WS10-HD Nexus)

Japan continued to promote Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and to implement "Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction Phase 2", where Japan had committed to provide DRR assistance including flood prevention to at least 5 million people and train 85,000 government officials, local leaders and young

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pc/page1we\\_000095.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/pc/page1we_000095.html)

<sup>3</sup> The details are available on the link below.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/publications/brochures/pdf/gender\\_EN.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/publications/brochures/pdf/gender_EN.pdf)

[https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/gender/ku57pq00002cucek-att/position\\_paper\\_en.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/gender/ku57pq00002cucek-att/position_paper_en.pdf)

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our\\_work/thematic\\_issues/gender/c8h0vm0000f9zdxh-att/COVID-19\\_01.pdf](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/thematic_issues/gender/c8h0vm0000f9zdxh-att/COVID-19_01.pdf)

generations etc from 2019 to 2022 and assist 80 countries in developing and revising DRR plans from 2019 to 2020. This initiative has been contributing to disaster prone countries to “Build Back Better” from disasters, build resilience, and reduce future humanitarian needs. (WS10-HD Nexus/WS2-Localisation)

### **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.

Japan paid particular attention to the humanitarian development nexus and achieved the following for the period 2016-2020.

Together with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan implemented HD Nexus projects in various countries. One of such examples is a project in Uganda. In 2016, JICA launched its engagement in West Nile sub-region in northern Uganda, which accommodates large numbers of prolonged refugees from South Sudan and DR Congo, aiming at resilient society conducive to the co-existence of refugees and host communities. Through the project to enhance capacity of local government in evidence-based participatory planning and implementation of inclusive community development, JICA contributed to creating better living environment for refugee-hosting communities. In addition, JICA conducted a survey of refugee hosting districts in northern Uganda in 2017, to collect and integrate data on social infrastructure in health, education, WASH and transportation sectors of both refugee settlements and local hosting communities outside settlements. The maps and the prioritized needs list based on the integrated data was shared with Government of Uganda, donors and international organizations, which promoted coordination of both humanitarian and development assistance for the area. Furthermore, such experiences of the HD Nexus projects were shared with other donors and agencies as examples at forums such as the Global Refugee Forum Spotlight Session in 2019 for their future reference and use.

Japan promoted DRR and worked on the capacity building of local leaders to “Build back Better” their communities with long-term perspective, while promoting collaboration of the central governments and other actors. Japan completed in 2018 the implementation of “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction” which started in 2015. Through the initiative, Japan provided development assistance of 4 billion USD and training of 40,000 personnel on DRR. It is currently implementing “Sendai Cooperation Initiative for Disaster Risk Reduction Phase 2” from 2019. Japan committed to provide DRR assistance including flood prevention to at least 5 million people and train 85,000 government officials, local leaders and young generations etc from 2019 to 2022 and assist 80 countries in developing and revising DRR plans from 2019 to 2020. Japan’s efforts in building the capacity of local leaders and building the resilience

of disaster prone countries will contribute to building resilient communities and reducing the future humanitarian needs.

**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.

As there are similar efforts going on, it would be difficult to conclude that the results are only attributable to GB. However, GB has proved to be valuable especially in creating shared understanding as to the direction of humanitarian aid, and how it can be more effective. There were also notable operational shifts in addition to the normative shifts. With the recent streamline of the core commitments and its focused efforts on them, we are expecting an even greater impact on operational shifts.

**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.

Progress was seen in many aspects of humanitarian assistance. However, some of them were limited to technical level. Further political engagement is needed to resolve challenges including those of reduction of donor assessments (WS4-Reduce duplication and management cost).

### **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?**

The following are some examples of issues which were affected by risks.

- 1) Quality funding: Japan acknowledges the importance of unearmarked funding and has been considering ways to increase such funding. It, however, takes accountability and visibility seriously. Unearmarked funding should not compromise the accountability and the visibility of donor countries. Japan needs to ensure our funding is used for the people in need in an appropriate manner and the contribution needs to be visible.
- 2) Localisation: There is a need to respond and provide assistance to the people in need quickly while ensuring the high standard of accountability. Due to the difficulty of verifying the performance and skills of numbers of local agencies in a timely manner, it would be difficult to fund local agencies directly on a large scale. Japan, on the other hand, promotes international agencies to work

with local responders for an effective use of the fund and implementation of projects.

- 3) Cash Based Intervention: There is some concern over the use of cash as a method of assistance. Japanese financial and audit authorities need to know that the cash is used appropriately to meet humanitarian needs of the beneficiaries. There is a need to have an appropriate monitoring and reporting system by the aid agencies on the use of cash to ensure the accountability. If there is any statistics that shows how much the cash-based intervention is being utilized/ mainstreamed as a method of humanitarian assistance among humanitarian agencies, that would be of reference for Japan as well.

Appropriate risk sharing between donor governments and aid organizations is imperative in providing effective assistance to beneficiaries. Japan would like to emphasise the importance of the agencies to strengthen the risk management system, internal oversight, and transparency, and donors to avoid putting undue burden on agencies, so as to strike a reasonable balance to share the risks.

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

In order to ensure accountability, Japan follows up funding through our embassies and requests agencies to submit mid-term and final reports. It, however, also acknowledges the importance of effective use of the funds, and as such it avoids putting undue burden on the agencies. Agencies are for example requested to submit reports but are not restricted to use specific reporting form.