

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

Name of Institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ROK

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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?

The Republic of Korea (ROK) made significant achievements in its humanitarian policy in 2020. It decided to become a signatory of the Grand Bargain (GB), recognizing the importance of international solidarity in strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance. At the GB annual meeting, the ROK expressed its strong commitment to achieving the goals of the GB.

The ROK continued to work on fulfilling its commitments within the **localization and enhanced quality funding workstreams**. In particular, it expanded its support to flexible funding such as the UN-led Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) and the UNHCR Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. In 2020, the ROK contributed **a total of 11 million USD to 15 CBPFs, a 40 percent increase** from 2019. In addition, it expanded its **unearmarked funding to partners such as OCHA and the UNDRR and provided contributions to CERF** to the amount of **6 million USD**, which is a one million USD increase from 2019.

The ROK also has keen interest in enhancing the **transparency** of ODA information. The Korea International Cooperation Agency, a MOFA affiliated aid agency, reported 31 out of 42 indicators in 2020. The 2020 Aid Transparency Index (ATI) highlights **the remarkable progress made by the agency, which moved straight to the ‘good’ category from the ‘poor.’**

In addition, as a part of its efforts to help the international community better respond to the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the ROK supported **over 120 countries** with their rapid response and prevention measures by providing in-kind contributions such as test kits and masks, ensuring **‘no one left behind.’**

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).

The ROK has been a strong supporter of gender equality and women’s empowerment, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations. Under its Action with Women and Peace Initiative (AWP) launched in 2018, the ROK government held **the Second International Conference on Action with Women and Peace** in 2020 in a hybrid format combining online and offline elements. Participants from 29 countries took part in the critical assessment of the challenges of women and girls in conflict-affected settings exacerbated by COVID-19, as well as discussions on ways to better integrate a survivor-centred approach in responding to the needs and demands of survivors.

Moreover, in line with the AWP, the ROK supported various projects for gender equality and women’s empowerment in cooperation with aid organizations. For instance, it supported the projects of the UNFPA in Syria and South Sudan to deliver lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls. It also worked together with UNICEF to tackle gender-based violence against Rohingya refugees in emergencies in Bangladesh.

Question 3: How has the humanitarian-development nexus been strategically mainstreamed in your institutional implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments?

In recent years, the ROK has made various efforts to integrate the HDP nexus into its ODA policy. It **set the HDP nexus as a guiding principle for its Humanitarian Assistance Strategy and Assistance Strategy for Fragile States**. In addition, **the ROK government adopted the implementation strategy of the HDP nexus**.

The ROK is working to advance the HDP nexus through various financial tools. While continuously increasing its contributions to multilateral pooled funds designed to address humanitarian crises in a more flexible manner, the **ROK started to support the UN Resident Coordinator system from 2020**, which is expected to contribute to strengthening the HDP nexus with strong in-country leadership and coordinated action. The ROK government values the consolidated UN

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

appeals for humanitarian intervention opportunities, including Regional Response Plans such as JRP, RRP and 3RP for addressing both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term development goals. It has, in particular, continued to support projects for strengthening the capacity and resilience of Afghan refugees through community-based protection and livelihood assistance.

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.

As an emerging donor, the ROK has been working to expand its humanitarian assistance budget, and as a result, the budget has tripled since 2016. Also, it revised its humanitarian assistance strategy in 2019 to reflect the key commitments of the GB, which puts priority on improving the humanitarian assistance system and ensuring the HDP nexus.

Accordingly, with regard to GB commitments, the **ROK made progress in transparency, localization, and quality funding:** notable examples include entering the 'good' category of the ATI, introducing multi-year funding and increasing its scale, and expanding softly earmarked and unearmarked funding such as CBPFs and CERF.

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 ROK views the progress made in the workstreams of localization and enhanced quality funding as the main achievements of the GB, which is well demonstrated by the remarkable expansion in international contributions to CBPFs.

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 ROK believes GB signatories can make more progress in seeking a balance between flexible funding of donor countries and accountability (reporting or visibility) of aid organizations.

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?

Since the authorities in charge of overall government budget have a great influence on the annual budget for humanitarian assistance, it is necessary to prove the effectiveness and efficiency of our humanitarian assistance, particularly those of unearmarked/softly-earmarked and multi-year funding. Also, securing visibility is another challenge in the domestic context.

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

The ROK government seeks to maximize the efficiency of its humanitarian assistance as well as to improve the visibility of its contributions in cooperation with the partners. In 2020, despite the unprecedented constraints in resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ROK not only expanded its budget for humanitarian assistance but also increased its contributions to CBPFs and multi-year funding. The ROK government will continue to improve the effectiveness of its assistance based on the systematic and comprehensive reviews of its own and of aid organizations. /END/