

Grand Bargain in 2021:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: AECID (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation).

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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?

Although 2020 has been a difficult year, Spain has made important progress in several Grand Bargain commitments.

Spain continues to put special emphasis on Gender Equality and Gender Based Violence. Gender mainstreaming, as fostered by the Grand Bargain, is a pivotal aspect of our Humanitarian action that has led us to the accession of the Call to action on Protection from GBV in emergencies and to our four commitments stated in question 2.

Spain has also managed to reach the unearmarking goals for 2020. It has been a long way to go, from 9% in 2016 to 32% in this year's evaluation, reflecting the dramatic effort that has been put on this commitment and Spain's belief on the relevance of unearmarked funding for humanitarian action.

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.

GBV and gender equality has become a transversal concern for all of our humanitarian action, embedded in our core strategy and especially in our new Spanish Humanitarian Action Strategy. It is with that in mind that we committed to the Call to Action on Protection from GBV in emergencies, its objectives and principals. The adaptation of our humanitarian action is based on 4 commitments:

- Providing ongoing specialized training on gender and GBV in humanitarian action to AECID staff (Both in HQ and in the field, as well as START staff-Spanish Technical Aid Response Team), and Spanish humanitarian workers,
- Spain will maintain its unearmarked funding in Pooled funds or Special appeals on GBV, and will tend to increase it when possible. In addition, we will continue funding gender and GBV standalone projects and projects with

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

gender/GBV mainstreamed considerations in our priority contexts. Funds will focus on a broad range of actors from Spanish, local and international NGOs, to United Nations agencies, especially those with a protection mandate, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the ICRC Quarterly Conferences.

- Advocacy: Spain is committed to promote and advocate on gender equality and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises, in national and international humanitarian fora. Spain has been and will continue carrying out advocacy initiatives at the highest level. On the field, our expatriate teams will also seek advocacy activities in meetings with UN agencies, ICRC or NGOs
- Finally, by 2025, we will ensure that 75% of all proposal submissions, regardless of sector, include GBV risks in the needs analysis; specific mitigation measures in the objectives and activities and sufficient budget for risk mitigation activities

In terms of COVID The Spanish Cooperation has developed a Strategy for joint response to the Coronavirus crisis, paying special attention to the particular impact of the pandemic on women and girls in terms of mobility limitations, increased workload due to sick family member's care, and a general important increase of GBV, among others. In that sense, we pushed the Human Rights Council resolution on rapid response to the impact of COVID19 on women and girls, and tried to channel part of last year's funding on COVID particularly to gender and GBV

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.

Following last year's report, we are currently undergoing specific adaptations in our procedures in order to mainstream nexus in our operations. We have gradually been implementing last year's measures and will continue doing so.

Spain's Strategy for Humanitarian Action 2019-2026 set a commitment on promoting common analyses between humanitarian and development actors in fragile settings and the drafting of common response plans for chronic crises. This is a clear point that strategically guides our work on this issue. The particular nature of AECID implementing both development and humanitarian aid, is a great asset in that sense

Although Spain is taking special care in including the nexus perspective in all its activities, we may highlight the development of the so called Shire project coordinated by the European Union in Ethiopian. Moreover, as stated in the spreadsheet, the characteristics of the Venezuelan migration and refugee crisis

makes it especially suitable for nexus approaches. Our activities in Haiti have also focused on nexus elements such as long term food security or resilience in natural disasters.

We have also kept on promoting awareness in all of our units, incorporating it in our different courses and staff trainings and fostering coordination between our development and humanitarian units in all contexts.

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.

Spain's overall progress during the 2016-2020 period shows an intense improvement in all Grand bargain's commitments but is particularly consistent with the already stated 2020 main achievements.

Gender mainstreaming throughout Spain humanitarian action is today a major aspect of our strategy, going from general advocacy to data analysis or operational assessment.

The particular focus on localisation and unearmarking goals has fostered an amazing evolution in both commitments, multiplying their respective ratios by more than 3 times their initial figures in 2016.

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 brought dramatic changes to the world humanitarian system. It has pushed us all towards more cohesive, coherent and collaborative strategies.

It is also a unique mechanism between humanitarian donors and partners to improve humanitarian action's efficacy and efficiency, revolutionizing the traditional cluster system.

In line with what has been said regarding our individual achievements, we find that the Grand Bargain has been most notably useful in terms of boosting localization, unearmarking as well as commitment number 3, on cash based programming. All three have seen great progress, with a considerable mainstreaming in all donor's programmes.

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.

Although the Grand Bargain has fostered dramatic transformations in humanitarian action, we can still identify some key aspects that are open to improvement:

- Firstly, we find there is still room for improvement in putting people at the centre. Improving the participation of beneficiaries is generally included in all donors plans but are rarely fully implemented.
- Secondly, the ambition of the Grand bargain commitments is in some cases not fully aligned with the real capacities of some donors, particularly the ones with fewer resources. In order to ensure progress in all áreas, future commitments should be designed to be reasonably achievable for all partners.
- Finally, we believe it is necessary to move forward on the simplification of the common reporting methods for donors as well as the tracking systems.

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?

Risk

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