

Grand Bargain in 2020:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: ZOA

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Date of Submission: February 16, 2021

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?

- ZOA took the lead role in establishment of a dashboard for 15 Dutch NGOs, based on IATI in order to improve transparency. Also, ZOA invested in a new online Project Management System, based on Microsoft SharePoint, in which IATI data can easily be added on project level and retrieved on organisational level; this can then feed into the IATI registry.
- In 2020 ZOA has put even more emphasis on cash based programming; in 13 out of 15 countries ZOA implemented projects with CVA components, with an increase of 44% of CVA volume compared to 2019.
- The 8+3 reporting template has become the standard for our own Fundraising Department in communication to our constituency (major donors, foundations) for humanitarian funding. It was also decided to use the 8+3 template for reporting by our partners.

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 remains one of the pillars for ZOA's strategies, approaches and work in humanitarian settings (mainstreaming). Projects will focus on the roles of men and women in a community/ society with the aim of seeking to make positive changes in the role division and relations between the different genders. ZOA is active member of NAP1325 in The Netherlands.

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.

ZOA has been working in both relief and recovery for more than 45 years. When ZOA responds in a humanitarian crisis with relief assistance, ZOA will continue with recovery programmes (income generation, livelihoods, water and sanitation,

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

peacebuilding, education) and work with local structures on sustainability and resilience.

ZOA continues to build and expand its many years of experience in the sector of peacebuilding, as we seek durable solutions for returnees and displaced people. Peacebuilding is at the heart of the humanitarian – development nexus at country level: addressing the sources of conflict and work on peace and reconciliation on community level in fragile states.

In this sense, ZOA's work on land rights in returnee areas (also including women's rights and their empowerment), is an example of a program where conflicts, peace, sustainable solutions and innovation, including the strengthening of national and local systems, are coming together.

Another example is ZOA's Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA) vision, which directly integrates cash into its longer-term vision towards recovery and the humanitarian-development nexus; CVA is an important building block towards the recovery of target groups.

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.

The areas of most progress by ZOA, encouraged by the Grand Bargain initiative, were:

- the full endorsement of the IATI registration as a means for enhancing transparency for ZOA itself and for the humanitarian sector; and consequently the investments made in our own project management software design and internal procedures, and in the efforts to establish a dashboard for DRA;
- the number of partnerships ZOA has with local organisations has seen a major increase and localisation has become a very prominent theme within the organisation;
- CVA has become a major implementation approach; this might have happened without Grand Bargain commitments as well, but the Grand Bargain has certainly supported this change;
- The acceptance and use of the 8+3 reporting template; while the internal roll out still has to take place, ZOA is using the template for instance in reporting to the Country Based Pooled Funds.

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.

Most progress has been made collectively by:

- Agreement on the major role that local actors play; some donors have given local actors more access and priority (such as OCHA in the CBPFs)
- Understanding of the issues around quality funding (need for multi-annual funding; cascading to downstream partners; some donors, such as Dutch MoFA, have increased their unearmarked funding)
- Some UN agencies sharing the same partner portal
- Acceptance by wide range of donors of the harmonised reporting template; this has the chance to become the leading reporting format and donors not using it, must have compelling reasons.

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.

- Commitment 2.2: remove or reduce the barriers that prevent organisations and donors from partnering with local and national responders in order to lessen their administrative burden.
- Commitment 4.2: harmonise partnership agreements and share partner assessment information as well as data about affected people
- Commitment 4.3: provision of transparent and comparable cost structures
- Commitment 4.4: reduction of duplication of management and other costs through maximising efficiencies in procurement and logistics for commonly required goods and services.
- Commitment 6.5. Fund flexibly to facilitate programme adaptation in response to community feedback.

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?

Our organisation continues to heavily rely on short-term funding. As we have not witnessed significant changes in donor policies regarding the duration of relief projects, proactively managing the financial risks of the overall portfolio, including getting clear overview of financial forecasts, has been a challenge.

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

Country programmes were requested to change from quarterly to monthly financial reports. Financial forecasts for the fiscal year were included in the monthly reporting requirements.

