

Norwegian Statement Grand Bargain Annual meeting 1 July 2022

- Norway values the Grand Bargain as an important multistakeholder driver for change in humanitarian action. It pushes us all for a more efficient and effective humanitarian response.
- Still, we need to acknowledge that although there has been progress, it has not been to the extent we had hoped to for. Commitments on accountability, localisation, and nexus are not sufficiently translating into better outcomes for aid recipients.
- As the Independent Report points to, we urgently need to step up our investments and commitments to address the political and cultural barriers to system-wide change.

CASH Coordination

- Important achievements are reached in the area of Cash. Thanks Jan, for driving these this process through the Caucus. We support the changes to make cash coordination more predictable and accountable. We now need to ensure that the commitments are implemented at country level.
- As for Norway, we will continue our support to CashCap and CaLP. In this way we will contribute to policy development and the strengthening of cash responses globally and at country level. We will also continue support the NGO-led network "Cash Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Organizational Network" (CAMEALEON) – providing important learning for the whole sector.
- Further, cash can help achieve other Grand Bargain commitments – including progress on localisation.
- We look forward to receiving the CaLP-study on scaling cash and hope that will be helpful for further progress.

Quality Funding

- Norway will remain committed to providing flexible, un-earmarked humanitarian financing – as early as possible each year. We believe this is fundamental for the humanitarian organisations' ability to act fast according to changing acute needs and gaps.
- In 2021, approx. 46% of Norway's humanitarian funding was provided as unearmarked or softly earmarked funding. We are also increasingly providing multi-year financing, amounting to 40% in 2021.

- Since we entered into Strategic partnerships with Norwegian humanitarian organisations in 2020, we have gained valuable experience with a Programme Based Approach and increased predictability and flexibility for the partners. We are happy to share these experiences.

Localisation and AAP

- We are concerned that progress against localisation objectives at the institutional and system levels remains slow.
- Norway will remain committed to increasing its contribution for local humanitarian action. Main channels for such support are the Country Based Pooled Funds, the Red Cross/Crescent National Societies, and through the Norwegian strategic humanitarian partners.
- And we are also looking at other ways of contributing to the strengthening of local humanitarian action.
- We need to see quality funding cascading to frontline, particularly local, responders. Provision of overhead costs to local actors is one way to support their institutional development.
- Perception surveys (by Ground Truth Solutions) found that most recipients of aid still do not think that humanitarian aid meets their main needs.
- We need to move beyond perception surveys and hotlines. Feedback should be used to inform programming decisions. The views of affected populations should be included from the outset of a programme or project planning phase.
- People affected by crisis must be able to hold the humanitarian organisations to account for the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian efforts.
- Humanitarian action will have greater impact and legitimacy and there is a broader sense of ownership if we include the people who are affected in the response efforts.
- Norway has entered a multi-annual agreement with Ground Truth Solutions to strengthen accountability to affected people in the global humanitarian response.
- We expect that humanitarian organisations use independent perception data to inform their programming. Perceptions tracking should be predictably funded, and not controlled or tampered with. It also needs to be as robust as possible.

- Humanitarian diplomacy should not be underestimated. We will remain committed to system change and promote this in our dialogue with our humanitarian partners. Leadership by the ERC is central, and we commend his commitment. Norway will continue to push for and support these efforts.

On the future of Grand Bargain

- We firmly believe that it is necessary to have a multistakeholder driver for change in the humanitarian system. Grand Bargain is the only such forum and needs to be continued. Focus should be sharp and strategic on the most pressing needs for change. Localisation is the most critical outstanding issue that many of us strive to deliver on.