

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Germany (German Federal Foreign Office)

**Point of Contact (name, title, email): Marten Menger, Desk
Officer, S08-2@diplo.de**

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(NB. Please limit your answer to no more than 3 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.)

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 2018?

As a co-convener of the “Harmonizing and Simplifying Reporting Requirements” workstream, together with ICVA, Germany is conducting a two-year pilot project introducing the so-called “8+3 template”: a Common Donor Narrative Reporting Framework, which is piloted in three countries (Myanmar, Iraq and Somalia). As a co-convener of workstream 9, Germany used the template in all three pilot countries in 2018 and continued its political and financial support to the pilot project, focusing specifically on advocacy efforts to encourage broader usage of the common reporting template. The first interim report on the pilot project was released in July 2018 and the lessons learned were used to further improve the 8+3 template.

Germany has once again increased its financial support to multi-year and flexible funding in order to improve the timely and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to people who need it most. Germany increased the amount of non-earmarked humanitarian funding (core contributions to UNHCR, UNRWA, UNOCHA, ICRC and CERF) from 105.5 million EUR in 2017 to 130 million EUR in 2018. Softly earmarked humanitarian funding (inter alia for the country-based pooled funds (CBPFs)) was increased from 195.6 million EUR in 2017 to 219 million EUR in 2018. Germany also further increased its multi-year humanitarian funding from 607.6 million EUR in 2017 to 804 million EUR in 2018.

As part of the Grand Bargain Cash workstream’s action point to enhance collective donor efforts, Germany and Norway, in collaboration with WFP and UNHCR, organized a joint donor mission on cash programming to Jordan and Lebanon in February 2018, where participants agreed on “Ten key findings” and broadly outlined areas for further improvement. The findings were utilized to develop a “Common Donor Approach for Humanitarian Cash programming”, which sets out a shared vision for the use of cash in humanitarian action and will be jointly used to guide funding decisions of the donors who drew up the common approach.

Question 2: Please explain how the outcomes/results will lead to long-term institutional changes in policy and/or practice.

The 2018 mid-term review for the pilot phase of the new harmonized reporting standard has already shown promising results, as feedback regarding the new template was broadly positive. A lasting and institutionalized change can be reached, if more donors fully implement the 8+3 template as their new reporting standard. The more donors and organisations use the proposed template and its questions, the greater the effect of harmonization by reducing the reporting burden for humanitarian actors. Users know immediately what is expected from them. There is less need for time- and cost-intensive trainings on how to write reports for different donors and the simplified language helps non-native English speakers. This enables, in particular, local partners to use resources more

effectively for their core tasks, thus increasing the efficiency of the humanitarian system.

In December 2018, the Principals of OCHA, UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF released a joint statement on the “UN common cash system” which, in many respects, aligns with the “Common Donor Approach for Humanitarian Cash programming”. This is a positive step towards reduced fragmentation and improved efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian cash assistance. Going forward, we wish to use this traction and put our shared vision and principles into practice, together with donors, agencies and other relevant actors (including the RC/RC Movement, NGOs and the private sector), so as to ensure that humanitarian programmes deliver the best outcomes for people affected by crisis.

Question 3: 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.

In its humanitarian assistance, Germany contributes to women’s empowerment in a threefold manner: Through dedicated projects, through systematically asking our project partners to mainstream gender considerations (inclusion/participation/needs assessment) in all phases of project design and implementation, as well as by fostering institutional change among our partners and at the international level. These efforts go hand in hand with, and are integrated into, German efforts to implement the different Grand Bargain commitments.

In DR Congo, Germany has been funding a project to promote the establishment of community-based protection committees with at least 50% female members, and Women's Forums to develop and implement a protection programme, e.g. to raise awareness about the rights and responsibilities of community members, and to develop self-protection strategies. On the ground, the project has been implemented by local organizations, linking localization and women’s empowerment efforts.

The elimination and prevention of sexualized and gender-based violence (SGBV) continues to be a priority of German humanitarian assistance. Germany continued to fund the ICRC Special Appeal "Strengthening the Response to Sexual Violence“ with an additional 2 Mio EUR in 2018, thus making flexible, softly-earmarked humanitarian funding benefit women’s empowerment efforts.

Germany has begun to systematically ask its partners to provide disaggregated data on gender, age and disability, and to provide information on their strategies to foster inclusion in the design and delivery of their projects. In the future, this data will be used for further analysis and can be used to increase transparency regarding German humanitarian assistance. In 2019, Germany will put stronger emphasis on questions of gender equality and women's empowerment as well as age and disability when discussing the monitoring and evaluation system used

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

by humanitarian partners. Germany is also striving to support these partners – where applicable – in their own evaluations.

Germany also supports processes that promote institutional changes that aim at mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment into the humanitarian system and, thus, into Grand Bargain implementation as a whole. As a partner of the Call-to-Action for Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, Germany uses its role in supervisory and advisory boards of humanitarian organizations to advocate for greater empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian assistance. As a donor, Germany also seeks to bring about institutional change and to ensure that all our partners abide by international standards. For example when planning its humanitarian assistance, Germany considers among others the CORE Humanitarian Standards, the IASC Minimum Operating Standards for the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and, in the context of mine action, the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programs, which promote the employment of women as deminers in mine action projects and programmes.

Question 4: 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.

The German efforts regarding the humanitarian-development-peace nexus have been mainstreamed in and linked with efforts to implement other Grand Bargain Commitments. Some contributions of German humanitarian assistance to further develop preparedness and Forecast-based Action link advancement of the implementation of the nexus commitments with efforts regarding the Grand Bargain commitments on localization and less-earmarked funding.

Germany has begun implementing a nexus pilot in Somalia. The goal: to better join up the German activities of humanitarian assistance and measures for development, stabilization and peacebuilding to enhance their collective impact. These efforts are closely linked to other areas of the Grand Bargain. For example, the increased implementation of cash transfer programmes by double-mandated partners enhances the discussions between humanitarian and development actors on cash standards, modalities of implementation and sustainable funding. Joint-up planning and complementary programme design support, through common learning, the development of social safety net pilots under the envisaged social protection policy of the Government of Somalia. Nexus efforts also inform humanitarian localisation efforts and vice-versa. Furthermore, increased humanitarian multi-year funding contributes in a protracted crisis context like Somalia to a project design which enables linkages to development cooperation projects wherever possible.

The link between the implementation of the commitments on Cash and on the nexus is also highlighted by the fact that the inter-agency technical working group, in which cash focal points from the German Government, UN and German NGOs share good practice and promote innovative cash programming, includes representatives from the development cooperation as well as the humanitarian assistance branches of the German government.