

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

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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?

Sweden has committed itself to implementing the Grand Bargain and the key results or outcomes for 2018 are in the areas of humanitarian financing mechanisms as well as policy for partnership, reflected in guiding documents such as Sida's NGO Guidelines and the humanitarian project cycle. These areas resound concrete outcomes of how Sweden has strategically identified and reached results vis-à-vis its commitments to a more effective humanitarian response and system.

Sweden's humanitarian financing mechanisms are very much in line with the commitments undertaken within the workstreams 5 (needs assessments) and 7 and 8 (enhanced quality funding) as well as workstream 4 (reduce management costs) and 10 (enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors).

In 2018, Sweden entered into four-year strategic partnerships with the CERF, WFP, UNHCR and UNRWA and were thereby able to secure predictable core funding for the period of 2018-2021.

In total 55,8 percent of the Swedish humanitarian funding for 2018 was un-earmarked, MFA 100 percent and Sida 23 percent, which was a successive increase from the two previous years (approx. 38 percent in 2017). Through these agreements and other core support to organisations Sweden delivers on both WS 7 and 8 regarding multi-year funding as well as increase of un-earmarked support. Furthermore, whereas 23 percent of Sida's financing was unearmarked (according to guidelines provided for reporting), additional funding is delivered through other approaches that provide the partner with a great degree of flexibility. For example, Sweden funds three partners through the program-based approach (more than 300 MSEK in 2018) that is unearmarked on a country level and described in greater detail below. Although at a smaller amount, Sida also provides core funding to partners working to advance methodology aimed at improving the efficiency of the humanitarian system.

Sweden's humanitarian allocation model, as utilized in the disbursement of funds under the strategy for humanitarian assistance (2017-2020), relies primarily on the UN led needs-assessment process, the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). By allocating based on needs, with the principle of impartiality at the forefront, Sweden is primarily guided by the priorities set in each country/crises' Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Other points for evaluation also rely on data gathered through common needs assessments, such as that published by ACAPS (whom, incidentally, Sweden funds with core support).

These are funds distributed either as unallocated to multilateral partners' operations, as core funding, and for INGO partners to be used as a part of a rapid response (Sida's rapid response mechanism/RRM). The RRM funds are paid out to partners at the start of the year and are allocated by the partner themselves through a simple application that is approved by Sida in what a very quick process (generally within 24 hours). Sida funds three INGO partners with the program-based approach (PBA), where funds are allocated to the organization either by country or country and program. While a flexible funding approach that Sida takes great pride in, the PBA does in fact not count towards the total sum of un- or softly-earmarked funds, since it is allocated to a country or program. Allowing partners greater flexibility, to reallocate between countries for example, would not be possible since it would contest decisions made in accordance with the allocation model based on common needs assessments described above. That said, it has still provided an important tool for partners to access flexible Swedish funding.

In parallel, Sida approved 22 multi-year funding programs in 2018. It must be noted that for the time being the number of projects Sida has approved (with a start in 2019) has decreased. This is due to the fact that Sida has reviewed the selection criteria with an eye to being clearer as to the added value that multi-year financing can bring.

In 2018, Sida launched a revised version of its NGO Guidelines, the central document that guides strategic partnership and thereby also elements related to applying for annual and multi-year funding. Several of the important

updates that were made reflect commitments under workstreams 2 (localization), 4 (reducing management costs), 6 (needs assessments), and 7&8 (enhanced quality funding). In line with the updated guidelines, Sida will be able to better prioritize partners' applications that include ways in which to strengthen local and national responders. By clarifying Sida's minimum administrative requirements in the NGO Guidelines, one of the goals was to minimise partners' management costs related to Sida's already very flexible application and reporting formats. The program-based approach described above further contributes to this workstream. As per Sida's guidelines, projects that partners propose must be included in the country/ crises HRP, confirming its prioritization of a primary reliance on the jointly prepared needs assessment that lies behind the HRP as a basis for selecting projects.

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

The commitments made under the Grand Bargain are an integral and explicit part of the Swedish strategy on humanitarian assistance, 2017-2020. The strategy guides the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, in its work.

Through internal guidelines Sida reconfirms that the work is guided by the strategy. Sida works to drive change not on an ad-hoc basis but rather with concrete measures that are reconfirmed in internal policies. Sida aims to institutionalize approaches, such as the program-based approach.

Besides already being recalled in Sweden's strategy on humanitarian assistance 2017-2020, several GB commitments were confirmed through other policy documents that Sweden relies on in funding the humanitarian responses in crises. The GB commitments are a constant reminder when looking at revising and updating policy and strategy on all levels in the field of humanitarian assistance.

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.

Sweden has consistently raised the need for gender mainstreaming in our dialogues with agencies and organisations for which we grant core contributions, and we note that some of them have recently scored very well in the UN System Wide Action Plan (UNSWAP) for gender mainstreaming. Sweden has also highlighted the need for gender mainstreaming in policy documents, in country strategies and at donor conferences. As a member of the UN Security Council in 2018, we repeatedly raised the need for gender-sensitive responses in crises and the fact that crises affect women and men differently.

As an example, Sweden has worked with others to ensure that the workstream on cash has integrated a gender perspective by raising it at various workshops and in discussions. As a result, partners are well informed about the gender perspective and how to incorporate it.

The needs assessment stream is also examining gender, but there needs to be a broader discussion on how to strengthen gender in LASC, the UN Country teams and in development of the Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Response Plans in general.

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

Sweden has participated in the steering group of GenCap; and has emphasized use of the gender/age marker and gender analysis in the revised NGO Guidelines, and have revised the format for our Humanitarian Country Analysis to better include gender analysis.

Sweden has contributed to the localisation of the Call to Action on Protection of Gender Based Violence. An example of this has been our support to Women's Refugee Commission's work on gender-based violence in Africa. Sweden also participated in such a meeting in Sudan. A more local approach is useful in this second phase of the Call for Action.

Sweden also contributes to the meetings with the Friends of Gender in the Grand Bargain.

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.

An informal working group within the MFA was established in 2018 with the aim to developing knowledge and policy on the nexus between humanitarian and development and peace. The working group collects lessons learned and is closely following and participating in discussions and processes within the UN, World Bank, OECD/DAC and the EU.

Sweden has participated in the discussions and drafting within OECD/DAC on recommendations on humanitarian, development and peace nexus, which were adopted in February 2019.

Programming in the nexus is detailed in the newly revised NGO Guidelines. Sida offers a funding opportunity to partners to finance efforts deemed to work in the nexus. The nexus is a dialogue question between Sida and several of its strategic partners. Sida's humanitarian unit works in close cooperation with development cooperation colleagues to identify synergies between needs assessments and programming. Through its multi-year financing, Sweden is providing humanitarian financing that allows partners to engage in long-term planning and programming, paving the way for development interventions and actors to take over. For instance, Sida supports AAH (Action Against Hunger) with both humanitarian and development funding for its nutrition prevention and response programme in Mali. The humanitarian component aims to integrate nutrition case management into the regular health system and structures in parallel to preventive measures, consequently decreasing humanitarian needs and thus needs for humanitarian funding. In Afghanistan, through support to NRC and Save the Children, development funded interventions have been adjusted to support and strengthen long term educational support to internally displaced persons and returnees. In Uganda, organisations working within the frame of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework benefit from both humanitarian and development funding and synergies between these.

The lack of indicators to measure nexus in the other workstreams has made it difficult to see what mainstreaming would concretely entail. Sweden does see an overlap with some workstreams, when it comes to the work on nexus, notably more effective financing, a reduction of management costs and localisation. Sweden has dedicated multi-year funding specifically to make possible opportunities for humanitarian partners to work more in the nexus. To date, however, as with the other workstreams, while Sweden sees that there is potential we do not have evidence to date that concerted work in the other workstreams will also drive the nexus dialogue.