

Grand Bargain in 2018:

Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Humanitarian Aid (HA)

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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?

From a Grand Bargain perspective, the key outcomes achieved in 2018 relate to cash transfer programming, enhanced quality funding and localization.

Cash Transfer Programming (CTP)

Switzerland was strongly engaged in advancing the use and coordination of cash-based transfers. In particular, Switzerland worked to improve coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian cash assistance, to scale up qualitative programming, and to set out a shared vision and principles guiding donor's support for cash programming. This manifested through

- **Strategic secondments:** 18 CTP experts were seconded to partner organizations like WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, CaLP, ICRC, IFRC and the Global Wash Cluster. They supported efforts to advance cash-based programming and strengthen capacity at the field and global levels;
- **Common donor approach, policy dialogue and coordination:** Switzerland collaborated with several GHD members on the adoption of its 24th principle on the use of cash transfers. Along with other donors, it also worked towards the "Common Donor Approach to humanitarian cash programming", which was officially endorsed in 2019. Both initiatives contribute to much-needed donor coordination;
- **Standard-setting and global partnership:** Switzerland provided financial contributions and expertise to Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), who is dedicated to mainstreaming high quality standards and sharing lessons learned in cash and voucher assistance. SDC/HA is also part of the CaLP Board and Technical Advisory Group;
- **Tracking Cash & Vouchers:** Switzerland was involved in Technical Workshops on Tracking Cash & Vouchers, which agreed to minimum tracking requirements at the global interagency level, promoting harmonization. Being clearer about what to measure, and how, will provide reliable data of how much cash is currently being delivered. This will hold Grand Bargain signatories and the wider humanitarian system accountable to commitments towards the scale-up of cash.

Enhanced quality funding

Switzerland exceeded target for non-earmarking: Switzerland exceeded the target to achieve 30% of unearmarked or softly earmarked humanitarian funding. In 2018, 30% of SDC/HA's funding was unearmarked, and 7% was softly earmarked. These combined figures reflect an increase, up from 34% in 2016 to 37% in 2018. A further continuation of this positive trend until 2020 is anticipated.

Multi-year planning and funding keeps increasing: Similarly, there is a continuous increase in multi-year annual planning and funding. From 2016 to 2018, the percentage of multi-year humanitarian funding augmented from 19% to 21%. This trend is also likely to continue, as further high-level institutional efforts to advance multi-year planning and funding are undertaken.

Localization further advancing: Switzerland continued to build on its existing good practices by applying the “as-local-as-possible” principle at the normative, operational and awareness-raising levels. For instance, localization commitments were integrated into the new SDC Policy for Engagement with Swiss NGOs. Operationally, localization commitments are mainstreamed into newly adopted multi-year cooperation strategies. One such example is the Regional Cooperation Programme Middle East, 2019-2021. In terms of awareness, localization is increasingly part of the internal discourse, including at the Senior Management Levels. Finally, SDC/HA’s direct funding to local and national actors has seen a slight increase. Together with funding through country-based pooled funds, SDC/HA’s funding to local and national actors amounted to 8%. However, as data systems are yet unable to track funds provided through one single intermediary, the real amount provided to local and national actors “as directly as possible” is significantly higher.

As Co-Conveners of the Localization Workstream, Switzerland, together with IFRC, continued to advance the localization agenda both at HQ and in the field. For instance, 2018 has seen multi-stakeholder demonstrator country missions to Iraq and Bangladesh, allowing to examine localisation in different field contexts, to identify challenges and good practices and feed insights back into global debates.

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

Cash Transfer Programming: The above-mentioned results contribute to advancing the use and scale up of cash-based programming both in operational terms within partner organizations, and at the policy level. In terms of policy, outcomes contributed to enhanced coordination at all levels. They also promote efficiency and effectiveness, contributing to make the humanitarian ecosystem fit for further use of cash-based programming.

Enhanced quality funding: Progress in humanitarian multi-year planning and funding provides further predictability to Switzerland’s partner organisations, facilitates strategic dialogue and contributes to the reduction of management costs and duplication of efforts. Similarly, unearmarked funding is a key enabler for flexibility of partners, both to react to a new emergency and to address the needs in under-funded contexts.

Localization: Building on already localization-friendly practices, further mainstreaming of the localization agenda within the institution is taking place. With the normative and operational guidance increasingly starting to reflect localization commitments, positive progress is observed.

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

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

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.

Nexus: Strengthening Gender equality and the rights of women and girls is a strategic objective of Switzerland's Dispatch for International Cooperation 2017-2020. It applies a whole-of-government approach, defining the priorities for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors. Country strategies developed after 2017 systematically report on this dimension, thereby increasing accountability.

Quality funding: The fight against gender-based violence is a priority set out in the humanitarian section of the Dispatch's multi-year framework. Thus, most institutional efforts to fight against SGBV are undertaken on a multi-year basis. For instance, Switzerland assumes an active role in the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies, advocating for quality funding to connect the fight against GBV with efforts to promote gender equality in emergency interventions.

Localization: Switzerland attached great importance to reflecting gender considerations in the workstream's ongoing efforts. For instance, particular attention was paid to incorporating gender considerations in the Demonstrator Country Missions to Bangladesh and Iraq, and in the newly defined indicators to measure progress on localization. Switzerland also contributed funding and experts to the GBV Area of Responsibility and particularly the Regional Emergency GBV Advisors, which build local capacity for GBV prevention and response, including for local actors. Support is also provided to OCHA's ProCap/GenCap initiative.

As for tracking of gender-specific data, SD/HA's data system applies a Policy Marker on Gender and two specific gender sector codes aiming at supporting women's equality organizations and institutions and ending violence against women and girls. This allows for disaggregated data collection and gender-specific analysis.

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.

Efforts to mainstream nexus considerations within SDC are ongoing, even beyond the implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments. The Dispatch for International Cooperation 2017-2020 provides a common framework for key Swiss actors in the nexus area. 14 of the FDFA's 21 priority countries and regions for bilateral cooperation of the SDC are considered as protracted crisis. In these contexts, various instruments of international cooperation are used in a coordinated and complementary manner. SDC also commissioned an independent evaluation of the linkage of humanitarian aid and development cooperation ("nexus") from 2013-2017. It included field visits to Haiti, Horn of Africa, Mali, and Myanmar and remote data collection in Pakistan and South Sudan, and will inform the next Dispatch.