

**Grand Bargain in 2018:**  
**Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary**

**Name of Institution: MFA Netherlands**

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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?**

- **Leadership:** as per the High-Level Meeting in September 2018, the NL has taken up a stronger leadership role in moving the Grand Bargain implementation across the different commitments forward, aiming to unlock greater progress through improved risk-sharing, and by aiming to elevate the Grand Bargain to a higher political level.
- **Quality financing:** The NL were able to maintain the high level of flexible funding through its core-contributions to humanitarian partner organizations, to the CERF and to Country-Based Pooled Funds. Linked to this, the NL initiated a process together with partners to better highlight the added value of flexible financing for humanitarian response.
- **Transparency:** The NL began upgrading its own publication of data to the most recent version of IATI.
- **Nexus:** The NL invested time and capacity in developing/advancing the complementarity between humanitarian and development planning, programming and financing instruments. Furthermore, the Netherlands started a multi-year, 500 million Euro innovative programme with five strategic partners (UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, Worldbank and IFC) in 8 countries in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, on protection, education and employment for displaced people and host communities. This programme is meant to provide ways how to fill the void between humanitarian and development.

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

- Through taking on a greater leadership role, the Grand Bargain became once again a top priority in moving towards more effective and efficient humanitarian assistance.
- Publication of more detailed humanitarian data to IATI will help the NL in the long-term to better understand its own humanitarian programming.
- Our focus on the Ombuds-Mechanism makes protection from sexual exploitation and abuse a priority for the organisation and within the humanitarian system.

- Our focus on and investment in joint partnerships for more durable solutions for refugees leads to valuable lessons learned of how to incentivise cooperation between partners.
- Greater engagement of development financing in fragile contexts (e.g. in the Horn of Africa) is providing valuable lessons learned to potentially scale up this engagement in the future in other contexts.

**Question 3: How has your institution contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment<sup>1</sup> 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.

The NL, together with the World Bank, as co-convener of the Transparency Workstream has included advancing the publication of gender related data to IATI in the workplan for 2019/2020.

The NL emphasises the protection of the most vulnerable from sexual exploitation and abuse and has a 'zero tolerance' for non-action in case of allegations of SEA through one of our humanitarian partners. The NL proactively pursues the installation of an internal Ombuds mechanism.

**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 work streams.

The NL aims to publish more detailed data to IATI about its humanitarian and development programming. In addition: through the co-convener role of the Grand Bargain, NL aims to better show the added value of IATI, including through a visualisation of humanitarian and development data.

The NL is investing time and staff to engage in discussions around enabling quality humanitarian and development financing in fragile contexts. This includes time and capacity in developing the Famine Mechanism (FAM), developing other forecast-based financing tools and working internally to support greater engagement of development financing in more fragile contexts. As a result, the NL is increasingly supporting resilience programming in fragile contexts, including through delegated development financing where possible, e.g. in South Sudan in Hubs of Stability.

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

The NL strategically and financially supports a joint partnership of partner organisations in addressing protracted displacement with a more medium-term vision through a higher emphasis on sustainable solutions, complementing humanitarian assistance. The focus of these innovative partnerships is the Syria region and the Horn of Africa.

The NL multi-year financial contributions to NGO partners of the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) enable them to include resilience building activities in their joint programming.

The continued high-level of unearmarked contributions to humanitarian organisations enables these organisations to include resilience programming in their assistance to vulnerable people in need.