

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

Name of Institution: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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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?

Following up the Grand Bargain is identified as a priority in *Norway's Humanitarian Strategy*, which was launched in August 2018. Norway already complies with the majority of the commitments made under the Grand Bargain, but continues to push for change to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action. Key results and outcomes in 2018 include:

Enhanced quality of funding (more predictable and flexible funding)

- Norway signed a four-year agreement with the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), totalling 1.68 billion Norwegian kroner (approximately USD 200 million) in September 2018. This is our first multi-year agreement with CERF.
- Norway announced multi-year core support for OCHA (for the period 2019-2021) in December 2018. This is our first multi-year agreement with OCHA.
- Norway continues to deliver on its substantial multi-year pledges for Syria and the neighbouring countries (2016-2019) and for the Lake Chad region (2017-2020).
- Norway increased its contributions to the Country-based Pooled Funds in 2018 (from USD 40.9 million in 2017 to USD 45.9 million in 2018).
- Norway exceeds the Grand Bargain target of having 30 % of its humanitarian contributions as non-earmarked or softly earmarked funding. In 2018, we provided approximately 38 % of our total humanitarian budget as unearmarked/softly earmarked funding.
- In 2018, the Storting (Norwegian parliament) approved indicative multi-year commitments for Norway's core support to UNHCR and WFP for the period 2019-2022.

Cash

- Norway has continued to play a key role in furthering the Grand Bargain objectives on cash, in particular when it comes to donor coordination.
- Norway requires partners to use cash in situations where this is the most effective and efficient way of providing assistance.
- Norway and Germany, in collaboration with WFP, UNHCR and the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), organised a joint donor mission on cash programming to Jordan and Lebanon in February 2018. Participants agreed on ten key findings and broadly outlined areas for further improvement.
- Norway and a number of key donors have developed a *Common Donor Approach to humanitarian cash programming*. The Common Donor Approach statement sets out a shared vision and principles that will guide donors' support for cash programming.
- A lack of cash coordination leadership, both globally and at country level, is a key obstacle for the increased use of cash. In March 2018, a group of donors (including Norway) sent a letter to the Chair of the IASC requesting a decision on 'clear, actionable guidance on cash coordination leadership'.
- The GHD workstream on cash, co-chaired by Norway and the UK, also proposed a new GHD principle on cash, which was approved at the High Level

meeting in June 2018. This was the first time a new principle has been added since the GHD principles were endorsed in 2003.

Humanitarian innovation

- The Ministry is giving priority to innovation and new working methods that can lead to better and more effective results for people affected by conflict and crisis. We have undertaken to support innovative measures, especially in the fields of protection and green humanitarian response.
- We have also facilitated the creation of new meeting places. In 2018, Norway initiated the establishment of a Geneva-based 'Group of friends of humanitarian innovation' among donor countries. In 2018, Norway established a dedicated humanitarian innovation programme (providing NOK 30 million annually over 3 years). This programme establishes innovation partnerships between humanitarian organisations and private sector.

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

The Grand Bargain objectives have been integrated as priorities into *Norway's Humanitarian Strategy*, which sets out the framework for Norway's humanitarian policies for the next five years (2019-2023). The strategy will guide our practice and operational approaches.

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).

- *Norway's Humanitarian Strategy* makes clear that special priority is to be given to women's rights and participation. The gender perspective is integrated into all of Norway's humanitarian efforts. Norway requires all its humanitarian partners to ensure that the needs of girls and women are taken into account in all humanitarian activities, on a par with the needs of boys and men.
- Throughout 2018, Norway has strengthened its efforts to promote better protection in humanitarian crisis, with a particular emphasis on combating sexual and gender-based violence and safeguarding women's rights. Norway is a consistent contributor to the Gender Standby Capacity Project (GenCap), which aims to strengthen the gender perspective in humanitarian operations.
- In the global dialogue on better cash coordination, Norway has been a strong voice advocating for the gender perspective to be fully integrated into cash programming.

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.

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

The commitment to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus has been integrated into a number of white papers to the Storting (Norwegian parliament), strategies and policy frameworks. It is one of the priority areas in *Norway's Humanitarian Strategy*, where there are specific commitments to:

- support humanitarian action aimed at reducing the vulnerability of individuals and local communities;
- increase flexibility and tolerance of risk in long-term development efforts in states and regions affected by conflict and fragility; and
- view efforts funded under the humanitarian budget and under other relevant budget items as a coherent whole.

The commitment to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus is being implemented in a number of ways. For example:

- Norway has contributed to providing better financing across the nexus by providing predictable, flexible and multi-year humanitarian financing.
- Norway has worked to increase cash programming, as cash transfers used in humanitarian crises can provide the basis for social protection systems in the future. The use of cash is beneficial for both individuals and the local economy, thereby paving the way for less aid dependency and more durable solutions.
- We have increased our contribution to the humanitarian Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs), which are important channels for strengthening local and national capacities.
- We have engaged in pilot projects in cooperation with NORCAP on strengthening local response capacity in ongoing humanitarian crises.
- We have invested in durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced people through a combination of humanitarian and development instruments (eg. core support to UNHCR, support for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), support for the rollout of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, contributions to the Global Concessional Financing Facility).
- Norway has supported education in crises and emergencies, including significant contributions to Education Cannot Wait.
- Norway has supported forecast-based financing mechanisms and engaged in discussions about anticipatory humanitarian financing, including through the Crisis Risk Financing Donor Working Group.
- Norway has supported the UN-World Bank Group partnership, by funding analyses and pilot projects on strengthening the nexus and ensuring collective outcomes. In 2018, Norway contributed NOK 18.4 million to the WBG State and Peacebuilding Fund to this end.

General comment on the indicators

Norway provides large amounts of non-earmarked funding and substantial core contributions to our humanitarian partners. As a result, we have found it challenging to report on many of the new indicators. A number of the indicators seem to require a system in which donors either implement programmes themselves or have a level of granular data that we do not currently have. However, we expect our partners to be able to report on, or develop a system for reporting on, the most relevant indicators.