

Grand Bargain in 2018:
Annual Self Report – Narrative Summary

**Name of Institution: Development Cooperation Division (DCD),
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland**

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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?

In 2018 Ireland continued to make significant efforts to enhance the quality of our funding. In line with our Grand Bargain commitments, Ireland increased its multi-year planning and funding and remained firmly committed to unearmarked funding.

Ireland increased its multi-annual agreements with UN agencies, NGOs and other partners. Ireland signed a 3-year MoU with OCHA, for a total of €8.6 million, to bring funding in line with OCHA's Strategic Plan (2018-2021). Ireland completed its first two year partnership (2017-2018) with ICRC and signed a new three year partnership for the period 2019-2021. Ireland developed the next phase of the Humanitarian Programme Plan for NGO partners, and agreed on 3-year funding (an increase on the previous 2-year funding) from 2019-2021. This brings our HPP into line with our long term development funding with the same NGO partners. Ireland also committed to provide IRC with 3-year funding (2019-2021), an increase from previous 2 year funding. The move towards greater multi-annual funding helps our partners to take a longer term approach to planning and programming, which strengthens participation and localisation and promotes effective programming across the nexus.

Ireland considers the CERF and Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) to be key funding instruments for making humanitarian funding more flexible and responsive. In 2018 Ireland announced its commitment to provide multi-year funding to the CERF – a minimum of at least €10m per annum over 3 years. Ireland also increased its predictable, early funding to the CBPFs. In 2018 funding to the CBPFs increased by 14% to €38 million.

In 2018 Ireland also promoted innovative humanitarian financing within the humanitarian sector. In March 2018 Ireland hosted the ERC Mark Lowcock to delivery his flagship speech on innovative humanitarian financing. As Chair of the ODSG, Ireland facilitated a session on OCHA's newly established Humanitarian Financing & Resource Mobilisation Division. Ireland also organised a session on needs assessment, which identified practical ways in which donors and the UN system could improve the quality of needs assessments, and the effectiveness of resource allocation.

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

Our alignment of the programme cycles for our development and humanitarian NGO partners provides a solid basis for further strengthening the linkages between Ireland's humanitarian and development funding – we are looking at

ways to align these two funding streams even more closely, particular for NGO partners operating in protracted crises.

Multi-year funding results in a more strategic level partnership between Ireland and its partners. We are to a much greater extent focused on issues around vision, mandate, capacity, strategic frameworks, systems and processes. With OCHA for example, Ireland was very engaged in the development of its Strategic Plan and the development of Key Performance Indicators. We are also an active member of the results working group for the CBPFs.

Our commitment to the UN multilateral system and key partners in the humanitarian sector has and will continue to influence our decisions to take on key leadership positions. In 2018 we took on the Chair of the OCHA Donor Support Group and continued to be represented on the CERF Advisory Group. In June 2019 we will take on the Co-Chair of the ICRC.

Ireland's thinking around how we work effectively across the nexus has engendered a much more joint up approach between different units of the Development Cooperation Division, across DFAT and the broader Department. This informed the development of Ireland's new International Development Policy during 2018 (published early 2019).

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 2018, Ireland began development on our policy for international development which includes gender equality as a priority, focusing on the areas of: women's economic empowerment, women, peace and security, GBV, prioritising education for girls in emergencies and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

In 2018, a review was carried out of the Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security to aid development of the third National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security which responds to the Women Peace and Security Agenda based on UN Resolution 1325, and 7 further related resolutions, which recognise the different affects that conflict has on women and girls.

In 2017, Irish Aid entered into a two-year Strategic Partnership with IRC worth €1.1 million annually. The focus of the partnership is on the protection and empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian crises. A core pillar focuses on protracted crises in four countries in the East and Horn of Africa - Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and South Sudan. The partnership also supports emergency responses through a prepositioned fund to ensure protection is addressed in

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

sudden onset or escalations in emergencies. From 2019, Ireland will enter into a three year Gender and Protection 2019-2021 Strategic Partnership with the IRC. The partnership is expected to build on and consolidate the success of the programme to date and will allow for longer-term planning through 3-year programming.

The Gender Capacity Standby Project (GenCap) works to ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed and prioritised during the development of humanitarian responses. In 2018, Ireland contributed €200,000 to GenCap. GenCap advisers are deployed to provide strategic guidance to, and strengthen the capacity of humanitarian country teams to deliver programmes that effectively address gender inequality. In 2018, GenCap deployed 13 advisers to 12 countries and one global deployment to develop the Gender with Age Marker Tool.

In 2018, under our good practice portfolio, Ireland funded the International Summer School on Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE), developed by the University College Dublin (UCD) Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA) as a state-of-the-art global level programme for humanitarian actors and masters students. The school aimed to increase the capacity of humanitarian organisations to prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV in humanitarian contexts. The Summer School took place in June 2018 with 26 participants from 16 countries participating in initial program, acquiring key competencies to support their work on GBViE response.

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.

Ireland's institutional approach to the humanitarian-development nexus is greatly supported by a common policy framework across humanitarian and development spheres, driven by common values, and a single entity to respond. Our new policy document – A Better World – is a single, unified document. The themes emerging from Ireland's foreign policy and international development policy – such as respect for human rights and gender equality, span the nexus conceptually.

Ireland argues that any position on the nexus must be framed from the perspective of human needs – the nexus is an approach that helps us to effectively deliver meaningful and sustainable change for the poorest and most vulnerable communities. Our new development policy is driven by the needs of the individual – reaching the furthest behind first – rather than introducing arbitrary divides between development and humanitarian approaches.

Our approach is a practical one – such change means context specific, needs driven, effective and efficient programming. This entails, by necessity, a commitment and actions in relation to all of the workstreams. Some examples would include linking 10.1 with core and multi-annual funding, linking 10.2 with cash-based programming, linking 10.3 with strengthening local systems (localisation), 10.4 with risk and vulnerability analyses (needs assessments).