**Luxembourg: Report on WHS individual commitments**

**2A: Respect and protect civilians and civilian objects in the conduct of hostilities**

* *Commitment: Complementing the core commitment relating to the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas, Luxembourg commits to continue to engage in raising international awareness about the challenge for the protection of civilians in armed conflict posed by this practice. Luxembourg commits to support the collection of data on the direct civilian harm and the reverberating effects on civilians resulting from the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas, and to contribute to the collection and exchange of good practices and lessons learned in minimizing impacts on civilians when using such weapons. Luxembourg commits to continue to look for effective measures to strengthen the respect for international humanitarian law, among them an international political declaration on the issue.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg made this commitment due to the high importance it attaches to international humanitarian law. During an armed conflict, there has to be a clear distinction between the combatants and the civilian population. We believe that the collection of data on the direct civilian harm and the reverberating effects on civilians resulting from the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas is a necessary step in order to find solutions to better protect civilians during a conflict.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg financed a study by Handicap International on the correlation between the bombing of civilians in Syria and migration flows. The report “*Qasef: Escaping the bombing*” is an important stepping-stone in raising awareness of the multiple consequences of bombing populated areas with explosive weapons. Furthermore, Luxembourg is pleased that the issue of bombing populated areas with explosive weapons has been raised by a number of countries in the relevant international fora.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Thanks to the tireless efforts of civil society and non-governmental organizations, the concept of the “*use of explosive weapons in populated areas*” has reached a vast audience. Through activities, petitions and letters, civil society has successfully raised awareness on this important issue and has put it on the agenda of the international community. Luxembourg remains committed to continue working in this direction and is satisfied with the excellent cooperation with non-governmental organizations on this issue.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

One of the main challenges is the collection of data. Since the subject is “*the use of explosive weapons in populated areas*”, it implies that first-hand information is difficult to acquire, as researchers have to investigate in regions of conflict and war. A subsequent challenge is the creation of good practices and lessons learned. More reports and research is necessary in order to draw the right conclusions on how to minimize the effects on the civilian population.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

More countries should be actively engaged in raising awareness on this issue and cooperate in the relevant international fora in order to uphold the values of international humanitarian law. We stand ready to continue our cooperation with civil society and non-governmental organizations and remain fully committed in assisting and funding relevant activities and research projects in this domain.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Luxembourg remains fully committed to raising international awareness against the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to continue supporting humanitarian mine action programs aimed at clearing mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including through the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Luxembourg commits to continue cooperating with the United Nations to reduce the risks posed by landmines and explosive hazards.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

For years Luxembourg has been committed to supporting humanitarian mine action programs aimed at clearing mines and explosive remnants of war. It is our strong belief that demining efforts are the basis for the development of societies in contaminated areas. Cooperating with the United Nations and civil society organizations in the areas of humanitarian mine action programs is a pillar of the cooperation and development policy of our government.

**Achievements at a glance**

Through its longstanding cooperation with numerous civil society actors, Luxembourg has funded projects in the field of demining that range from clearance, to risk reduction and mapping exercises, as well as victim assistance. In this context, we have achieved better living conditions for the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, Iraq and Laos. Finally, Luxembourg makes a yearly contribution of €500,000 to UNMAS. This contribution is un-earmarked in order to give the highest flexibility to UNMAS in determining how to best use the funds available.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

The subject of demining and the discussions on progress made in this field are held in the context of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention. Luxembourg is an active State party to thisConvention and has reiterated the importance of this Treaty on numerous occasions. In order to assess the different trends on mine pollution, demining efforts, number of casualties and victim assistance, Luxembourg highlights the value of the “Landmine Monitor”, published on a yearly basis by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg vows to continue its active engagement in the field of humanitarian mine action programs and is fully committed to continue working with the relevant authorities of the United Nations.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Continue to raise awareness on the crucial importance of humanitarian mine action programs in order to reverse decreasing funding trends.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to support impartial humanitarian actors' efforts to engage in dialogue with, and operate in areas controlled by, non-state armed groups by providing political and financial support. Luxembourg will continue to support efforts designed to convince States and armed non-State actors to comply with international humanitarian law, notably as concerns the protection of children in armed conflict.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Children are particularly vulnerable in situations of armed conflict and are often among the most affected. A large number of belligerents in current conflicts do not protect children sufficiently and still often lack compliance with international humanitarian law.

**Achievements at a glance**

In November, Luxembourg supported the organisation of a conference by the NGO “Geneva Call” to convince Non-State Armed Groups to sign deeds of commitment in order to protect children in armed conflict.

Luxembourg continues to support the efforts of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on CAAC, notably through participation in Groups of Friends on CAAC.

Luxembourg supports the joint UNICEF-UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the CAAC campaign “Children Not Soldiers” which aims to stop the use of children in conflict everywhere.

Luxembourg has endorsed the “Safe Schools Declaration”, in order to better protect schools and universities in armed conflict.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

The reports by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on CAAC and UNICEF’s state of the world’s children, as well as research done by NGOs and academic stakeholders measures progress (or otherwise).

**Challenges faced in implementation**

The use and victimisation of thousands of children in armed conflict continues throughout the world, by state and non-state actors: in some conflicts, it is scaled up. Some children are victimised in multiple and deeply traumatising ways: the international system to protect them from harm is overwhelmed and unprepared for current needs.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

* Continued support to UN funds and programmes, as well as other humanitarian actors.
* Support to the setting up of a Group of Friends on CAAC in Brussels (to improve EU coordination on the subject matter).

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

State and non-state actors must protect children in situations of armed conflict. Using children in armed conflict is destroying societies for generations to come.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to support the protection of vulnerable groups in emergencies.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg recognizes that protection measures need to be tailored to take into account the situation of vulnerable groups in emergencies. Moreover the special needs of vulnerable groups have to be factored in.

**Achievements at a glance**

The national humanitarian charter, signed on 26 May 2016 by the five national humanitarian partners (Croix-Rouge, Caritas, Handicap International, MSF Luxembourg, and Care in Luxembourg) and the Ministry, highlights the need for protection of vulnerable groups in emergencies. Luxembourg also adhered to the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence on 19 May 2016.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Luxembourg submitted a first report in the Call for Action from GBV in December 2016.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg will continue to advocate for the needs of vulnerable groups and enhance its flexibility and reactivity in order to better respond to the challenges the humanitarian world currently faces.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg confirms its commitment to incorporate the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict into military manuals, doctrine, rules of engagement, operational orders, and other means of dissemination.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg is firmly committed to the respect of IHL. Furthermore, we condemn the use of schools and universities from military use, which seriously undermines the protection of children in armed conflict.

 **Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration in 2015 and will remain committed to incorporate the guidelines.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

Schools and universities keep being used in conflict for military purposes and expose children to great danger. The unaccountability of the different actors during and after a conflict remains unfortunately high.

**2B: Ensure full access to and the protection of the humanitarian and medical missions**

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to actively promote the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence by promoting them in its bilateral, regional and international relations.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg believes that safeguarding humanitarian principles is of paramount importance - even more so in the complex humanitarian emergencies that we are facing today.

**Achievements at a glance**

The humanitarian principles remain at the core of Luxembourg’s humanitarian strategy. They are firmly anchored in the National Humanitarian Charter.

In line with humanitarian principles, Luxembourg’s humanitarian resource allocation and programming is needs-based with a strong focus on vulnerable groups and underfunded/forgotten crisis.

Luxembourg further supports financial instruments like CERF and geographically un-earmarked multi-year contributions with UN and international agencies.

Luxembourg also supports the promotion of the Core Humanitarian Standard and the work undertaken in this regard by the GHS Alliance.

In order to preserve the unique nature of humanitarian work, Luxembourg further believes that the EU’s Consensus on Humanitarian assistance should remain distinct from the EU’s Consensus on Development Aid.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg has signed a multi-year research project with UNHCR to conduct a strategic reflection on how humanitarian principles can be preserved in the humanitarian-development nexus.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Avoid politicization and instrumentalisation of humanitarian assistance.

**2E: Uphold the rules: a global campaign to affirm the norms that safeguard humanity**

* *Commitment: Being a party to the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, Luxembourg commits to continue actively promoting universal adherence to them in its bilateral relations with States that are not party to them.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg is a strong proponent of IHL and is convinced that in order to enhance compliance with IHL, universal adherence to the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions is key.

**Achievements at a glance**

Too early to report

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg will bring up the issue where relevant in its dialogue with third States.

* *Commitment: Being a party to the Arms Trade Treaty, Luxembourg commits to continue actively promoting universal adherence to the Treaty in its bilateral relations with States that are not party to it.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Universalization is the cornerstone of every international treaty. In order for the Arms Trade Treaty to become increasingly relevant, it is therefore of utmost importance that a large number of states become parties to it. Luxembourg is convinced that, if a big majority of states implement the provisions of the treaty – by creating a functional national export control system and by assessing whether an arms export would be used in the commission of crimes against humanity or could facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian law – international peace and security will be strengthened.

**Achievements at a glance**

The Arms Trade Treaty currently has 90 States parties. The treaty entered into force on 24 December 2014. The universalization efforts allowed the treaty to grow steadily in numbers, at the end of 2015 to 78 states parties and a year later, we now count 90 states parties. Considering that 130 states signed the treaty and that 154 states voted in favor of the resolution containing the text of the treaty in 2013, more progress seems feasible.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

The easiest way to assess the progress of universalization is counting states parties. However, Luxembourg stresses the importance of the quality of accessions to the treaty. States have to implement the provisions of the ATT. States have to establish and maintain a national export control system, including a national control list. This will allow states to make proper risk assessments for the transfer of military goods. Luxembourg is aware that the quality of accession is difficult to measure. Luxembourg feels that a relevant indicator of this is the number of initial and annual reports submitted by states parties.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

The Arms Trade Treaty (entry into force December 2014) is still a relatively “young” treaty. The challenges that remain are to explain to the states that are not yet parties what exactly it entails, explaining the advantages of having a functional export control system in place and how states can benefit from it.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

The newly created Working Group on Treaty universalization has discussed multiple options on the way ahead, i.e. whether the states parties want to go for quantity, by starting many outreach activities in multiple regions or to go for quality, by reaching out solely to the big arms exporting countries. Another idea would be to create a Troika of the outgoing, current and incoming Presidencies of the Conference of states parties in order to have stability and continuity in the outreach and universalization activities. Luxembourg welcomes that the current Finnish presidency has made universalization one of its priorities.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation.**

A higher number of states parties would further increase the relevance of the ATT.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to continue to be engaged actively and constructively in a process to find agreement on the functions and features of a forum of States on international humanitarian law (IHL) and ways to enhance the implementation of IHL, in conformity with resolution 2 of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2015 and expects that negotiations to this end be reconvened early.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg is deeply concerned about the ongoing violations of IHL. As a strong proponent of IHL, Luxembourg is committed to strengthen compliance with IHL and will continue to strengthen engagement in the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent of 2015 to be actively involved in the intergovernmental process, following resolution 2 of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in 2015.

**Achievements at a glance**

Too early to report

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

After having participated at the first formal meeting on compliance in November 2016, Luxembourg will continue to be actively involved in further meetings.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to continue to promote universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Luxembourg will continue to promote compliance and adherence, and to reinforce the norms being established by the Convention. Luxembourg will uphold its commitment to foster the humanitarian standards set by the Convention and to work for a world without cluster munitions. Luxembourg remains gravely concerned about the continued use of cluster munitions and will continue to condemn their use by any actor*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Universalization is the cornerstone of every international treaty. If a high number of states become parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, it will help putting a stigma on this kind of munition and will eventually lead to its extinction. Indeed, if a majority of states adhere to the provisions of the Convention, which include not to use, stockpile or retain cluster munitions, it will have an impact even on the states that are not parties to the Convention as there will be less opportunities to sell cluster munition and consequently less incentives to produce them.

**Achievements at a glance**

100 states are currently parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This high number is a clear statement from the international community against this kind of munition. The main achievement of the Convention is the creation of an international norm. Cluster munitions are stigmatized and even states that are not parties to the Convention are more reluctant to use them as there will be international reactions.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Luxembourg follows closely the number of states that ratify the Convention as well as the rate of new ratifications. During the five last years the ratification rate has been varied: 15 states in 2011, 10 in 2012, 5 in 2013, 2 in 2014, 7 in 2015 and 1 in 2016. We hope that the ratification rate will pick up in the upcoming years.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

The difficulty of implementation varies from one provision of the Convention to another. Indeed, article 1 of the Convention, which obliges states not to use, develop or produce cluster munitions, is quite easy to implement as most states parties have never developed such munitions. Only a handful of states, that are not parties to the Convention, are known producers. On the other hand, article 5 poses more difficulties. It entails the obligation of states affected by cluster munitions, to create a comprehensive victim assistance program.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Universalization efforts have to continue in 2017. In close cooperation with our partners and through the European Union, Luxembourg will stand by the commitments it made during the Istanbul Summit. 2017 could be an opportunity for the 19 signatory states that are not yet parties to the Convention to complete the ratification process and thereby enlarging the number of states that completely adhere to the spirit and letter of this important treaty.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Continue the current efforts as the universalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions is a noble and right cause.

**4B: Anticipate, do not wait, for crises**

* *Commitment: As announced at the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Luxembourg commits to set up a national platform for disaster risk reduction that will aim to integrate risk reduction approaches into national policies*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, supports international efforts in disaster risk reduction. In order to follow up the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai and in order to better integrate risk reduction approaches into national policies, Luxembourg decided to set up a national platform for disaster risk reduction, under the leadership of the Ministry of Interior.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg has set up a national inter-ministerial platform for disaster risk reduction that will aim to integrate risk reduction approaches into national policies and nominated a focal point to coordinate the implementation of the Sendai Framework and ensure linkage to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

As a member of the national platform for disaster risk reduction, the Ministry maintains a regular exchange with other major stakeholders.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Bringing together all the relevant stakeholders, as well as integrating risk reduction approaches in all our national policies is of utmost importance.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to achieve the Sendai Framework target to increase people’s access to multi-hazard early warning systems, including through its longstanding and ongoing Partnership with the Global Fund on Disaster Risk Reduction and a contribution to the Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS). Climate finance funds will be mobilized in addition to ODA in order to increase our impact in the field of DRR.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

It should be noted that Luxembourg allocates at least 5% of its humanitarian aid budget to the financing of actions in the field of prevention and reduction of disaster risks, and thus to measures to build resilience. These actions can extend to the prevention of health crises such as epidemics and pandemics and are carried out through humanitarian partners.

Regarding the multi-hazard early warning systems, it was the adoption of the Sendai Framework that highlighted the need for such a system.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg has been a strong and reliable partner of the World Bank’s Partnership with the Global Fund on Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) for many years. In addition, Luxembourg is following GFDRR’s monitoring and reporting system. Thus, Luxembourg is member of GFDRR’s Technical Advisory Group, which provides technical advice and guidance for monitoring and evaluation activities related to the GFDRR program.

In 2016, the Luxembourg Ministry of Sustainable Development supported the Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS) with EUR 1 million. It should be noted that Luxembourg climate finance funds are mobilized in addition to ODA.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg remains a strong partner of GFDRR and will further contribute to projects increasing people’s access to multi-hazard early warning systems. Moreover, Luxembourg will participate in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017 in Cancun, Mexico in order to ensure a coherent follow-up of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

We need a strong commitment of all stakeholders to achieve the Sendai Framework target and to increase people’s access to multi-hazard early warning systems.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to further support community managed disaster risk reduction programs to comprehensively reduce risk, vulnerability and fragility in the national and local development plans of Bangladesh*.

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, exposed to a variety of natural disasters including cyclones, floods and earthquakes. The country has a history of extreme climatic events claiming millions of lives and destroying past development gains. This threatens settlements and the number of people displaced every year due to riverbank erosion, permanent inundation and yearly rising of sea levels.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg co-funds a risk reduction program of Luxembourg NGO, Friendship International Luxembourg, in Bangladesh. Friendship is working on bringing it to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture by contributing in strengthening the capacity of the communities at risk, linking basic services like health, water-sanitation, education and sustainable economic development at doorstep level, and enhancing collective effort by engaging local government. Friendship's disaster management system is improving the response and recovery management at all levels through a skilled and committed workforce based on its experiences in disaster prone areas for more than 14 years.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Friendship International Luxembourg is in regular exchange with the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Luxembourg and steadily submits reports about the progress made. Moreover, the NGO is conducting Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA) and developing community action plans of these communities in order to ensure an effective follow-up.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

Although warning systems have been improved, cyclone, floods and earthquakes remain a challenge, with major problems caused by illiteracy, lack of awareness, poor communication and most importantly lack of adequate shelter and lack of mobilization possibility due to space constraints.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

The major program objective for the next three years remains to strengthen the capacity of the communities and local institutions and create facilities to reduce unacceptable and avoidable risks and improve response and recovery activities. This will be achieved through the implementation of specific component strategies that will target the transition of the disaster management programming emphasis from relief to risk reduction followed by holistic development.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Raising awareness and bringing it to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture by contributing to strengthening the capacity of the communities at risk, linking basic services like health, water-sanitation, education and sustainable economic development at doorstep level, and enhancing collective effort by engaging local government.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to increase efforts to support the Nansen initiative towards a protection agenda for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change. (also cross-tagged to 3A)*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg joined the Nansen initiative in 2011.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to increase its engagement with the private sector in the humanitarian field including the revitalization of the UN led Global Compact.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Experience with private sector and public-private partnership.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg is a signatory of the New York Declaration and has designated a focal point to UNHCR’s Comprehensive Refugee Framework. In the framework of its Strategic Partnership Agreement with UNHCR, Luxembourg is also prepared to support UNHCR’s “Connecting Refugees” initiative by offering satellite services and expertise through its emergency.lu platform.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Increased contacts with UNHCR (notably in the framework of its “Connecting Refugees” initiative) are planned to explore possibilities for collaboration through the emergency.lu satellite and IT services platform.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to invest over the next 3 years in developing capacity for early warning, recovery planning, risk analysis and risk governance in the national systems of at least two countries. In this regard, Luxembourg commits to contribute to the 5-10-50 multi-partner initiative by UNDP in support of risk-informed sustainable development.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Given the increased frequency and intensity of disasters caused by natural hazards, and considering that partners in many high-risk countries lack the capacity to plan and implement programs, Luxembourg decided to support the 5-10-50 initiative, a joint project between UNDP and World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), which supports countries to deliver risk-informed development in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg has supported UNDP for many years through the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Roll Out Project in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. This project brought together national and international stakeholders to align recovery efforts in a coordinated and effective way.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg plans to sign a MoU (€ 250,000 per year) on the "5-10-50" initiative with the UNDP/GFDRR in 2017. With this MoU, Luxembourg will help strengthening post-disaster recovery interventions and enhance capacities of governments and regional organizations to effectively implement and manage post-disaster recovery.

**4C: Deliver collective outcomes: transcend humanitarian-development divides**

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to ensure that organizational structures and internal processes foster coherence between humanitarian, development, peacebuilding, stabilization and climate finance by further promoting its long-standing inter-institutional dialogue*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg recognizes that it is indispensable to adopt an all-of-government approach in order to tackle the issues at hand, notably in the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

**Achievements at a glance**

An inter-ministerial committee on sustainable development ensures coordination throughout all government agencies concerned by 2030 Agenda. These ensure close alignment of all government policies and programming to the SDGs and work on specific work streams in smaller steering committees.

Other inter-ministerial groups address coordination issues between different administrations and policy communities, notably the Inter-ministerial Committee on Development Cooperation which addresses policy coherence for development and another one on Human Rights.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

Identifying the right indicators has been challenging.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg will present its efforts at the 2017 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in the framework of the voluntary national reviews.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to further promote synergy between humanitarian and development actors in Mali, with a focus on northern Mali in the sectors of health, nutrition and education and good governance under the stewardship of the Ministry of solidarity, humanitarian action and reconstruction of the North.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Throughout the crisis in 2012, Luxembourg remained one of the very few bilateral donors in the North of Mali, where we continued to work at the decentralized level to address the needs of the most affected populations. In 2013, the Malian and Luxembourg Governments jointly agreed to an interim strategy (2013 – 2014) that allowed Luxembourg, amongst other things, to adapt its interventions in Kidal and Tombouctou to the crisis situation and to regional specificities and to strengthen the rule of law and peace-building measures. In fact, development, humanitarian aid and support to security and peace have always been an integral part of Luxembourg’s “*politique 3D*” (Diplomacy, Development, Defense). It is in that spirit that Luxembourg wanted to send a strong political message in favor of an enhanced cooperation between all different actors in Mali.

**Achievements at a glance**

* The third Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP 2015 – 2019) extended the area covered by the Luxembourg cooperation from **Kidal to Gao**. Executed through the consulting company **PROMAN**, Luxembourg focuses on the sectors of health, nutrition, education and vocational training and local governance;
* Signature and regular follow-up of a **Letter of Understanding** among all actors of the third Indicative Cooperation Programme (2015 – 2019) in order to facilitate communication, increase intra- and intersectoral synergies, reinforce national leadership and ownership, promote action at the local level as well as results-based management;
* Avoid duplication of work and ensure geographic division of labor through coordination of interventions with all main actors in the North of Mali;
* Regular meetings and exchanges with WFP in order to operationalize actions on the field;
* Participation in thematic and sub-sectoral groups (water, sanitation, education, vocational training);
* Participation in the WASH cluster and reporting of achievements in the hydraulic sector.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Reporting is tailored to different levels, namely:

* Technical and financial monitoring at the input and output level;
* Monitoring and evaluation of results at outcome level;
* Monitoring and evaluation of effects and impacts.

Annual partnership commissions at ministerial level take stock of progress and results achieved by the different programmes under the third Indicative Cooperation Programme between Luxembourg and Mali (2015 – 2019). Monitoring and evaluation will be based as far as feasible on national results frameworks and indicators and EU joint programming frameworks. Continuous review of implementation of programmes and projects will be done in exchange with all implementing partners.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

* Restrictions on movements of development and humanitarian actors due to deteriorating security in the north of Mali;
* Decentralised technical services are insufficiently present outside urban centres in Gao and completely absent in the region of Kidal;
* Absence of financial institutions outside urban centres;
* Necessity to move away from “emergency/resilience” approach of local actors and international NGOs, particularly in the sector of health and food security;
* Little if no operational capacity of communities/municipalities;
* Difficulties working with elected officials that are sometimes juxtaposed to the “sectoral commissions” put in place by the armed groups.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Stress the necessity to transition from “emergency/resilience” approach to a more sustainable development approach.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to further promote the establishment of common civil protection - humanitarian fora at both European and international levels aiming at bringing both communities more closely together, to raise mutual awareness and foster synergies and cooperation on an operational level.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg is a longstanding partner of the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP), which is a voluntary multinational network between seven governmental emergency management agencies in Europe, active in the field of humanitarian assistance. In addition, during the Luxembourg EU Presidency in 2015, a workshop on the “Coordination and cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian actors in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters outside the European Union” was organized.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg participated in the TRIPLEX exercise in Norway in September 2016; a large scale field simulation exercise which is focusing on strengthening preparedness and response with regard to coordination and effective emergency response. TRIPLEX provided a unique value as one of only few civilian-run multilateral humanitarian response field emergency simulations.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

It is a common understanding that civil protection and humanitarian actors are different in their respective response approaches to crises as well as their way of thinking and acting. However, despite these differences, there are points of intersection between the two communities, on which the cooperation can be based. It is important to raise awareness among civil protection and humanitarian aid actors on mutual strengths and mandates and to formulate recommendations that will ensure better cooperation and coordination between both sides in the future.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to support the development of innovative instruments in the field of Islamic social finance (also cross tagged to 5D).*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Inspired by its national experience in Micro-Finance for Development and Green Bonds, Luxembourg intended to bring together finance expertise to help bridge the gap in humanitarian financing and notably explore the feasibility of new innovative instruments in Islamic social finance.

**Achievements at a glance**

An exploratory meeting with IFRC and some national and international private stakeholders took place in October 2016. Luxembourg committed to providing IFRC with one dedicated staff for an initial period of one year.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg will provide IFRC with one dedicated staff for an initial duration of one year to explore the opportunities presented for humanitarian funding by Islamic finance and help identify concrete avenues.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg subscribes to the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI)*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg, being a very active actor in the field of "communication as aid", supports GAHI in connecting and mobilizing people. Luxembourg welcomes that GAHI mobilizes social, intellectual, and financial resources, and amplifies by sharing knowledge of what works. Moreover, Luxembourg is convinced that GAHI will help to maximize the value of humanitarian innovation, thereby benefitting overall humanitarian response and millions of crisis-affected people around the world.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg sent its letter of intent to the secretariat of GAHI on 19 May 2016 and has been a full member of the Global Alliance since then.

**5A: Invest in local capacities**

* *Commitment: As an effort to increase un-earmarked funding, Luxembourg commits to increase contributions to country-based pooled funds by 25%.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg supports the work done by OCHA through country-based pooled funds. Luxembourg welcomes that money is allocated through an inclusive and transparent process in support of priorities set out in coordinated Humanitarian Response Plans. This ensures that funding is available and prioritized at the local level by those closest to people in need and avoids multiplication of different multi-donor funds.

**Achievements at a glance**

In 2017, Luxembourg will support the Humanitarian Funds in Myanmar and Nigeria with a contribution of EUR 250,000 to each fund. This support comes in addition to the support already provided for the Syria, DRC, CAR and South Sudan Humanitarian Funds. Luxembourg’s annual contribution to country-based pooled funds (CBPF) hereby totals EUR 1,500,000.

With this latest contribution, Luxembourg is doubling its initial promise of a 25% annual financial increase to CBPF taken at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Being aware of the importance of timely transfer of money, Luxembourg will disburse its financial contributions in the first half of 2017.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to increase direct financing to local institutions to 5% in 2020.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg is committed to the improvement of the humanitarian system and recognizes the valuable contribution that local institutions can make in this regard.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg has no restrictions in place for financing local institutions. National and local NGOs can apply for funding in a similar way as international and Luxembourg based NGOs. The requirements for support and guidance on project proposals are freely accessible on the Ministry’s website.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg will further engage with its national humanitarian partners and other international partners (within the Grand Bargain and GHD framework) to assess the performance of Luxembourg’s humanitarian action against the criteria “direct” and “as direct as possible”.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Change of mindset needed.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to increase the percentage of flexible funding for humanitarian action channeled through UN pooled funds to reach at least 15% annually of the humanitarian budget line.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg has committed to improve the quality of its funding by increasing the predictability and timeliness, while emphasizing multi-year funding as well as a more flexible funding for humanitarian crises.

**Achievements at a glance**

In 2016, Luxembourg allocated EUR 5.5 million to UN pooled funds, which were comprised of a contribution to the Central Emergency Response Fund (EUR 4.5 million) as well as a contribution to country-based pooled funds in CAR, DRC, South Sudan and Syria (EUR 250,000 to each).

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

In 2017, Luxembourg will allocate more than EUR 6 million to UN pooled funds. Luxembourg already disbursed EUR 4.6 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund. In addition to its regular contributions to the country-based pooled funds in CAR, DRC, South Sudan and Syria, Luxembourg will also support the Myanmar humanitarian fund and as announced at the Oslo Conference the new humanitarian fund in Nigeria (EUR 250,000 to each country-based pooled funds. Total of EUR 1.5 million in 2017).

**5B: Invest according to risk**

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to continue providing climate finance in addition to its Official Development Assistance*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg has delivered considerable financial and technical assistance to support activities related to the fight against climate change in developing countries, with a particular focus on LDCs and SIDS. Under the "fast start financing" (Copenhagen Accord, 2009), Luxembourg engaged with about EUR 9 million in bilateral projects (Cape Verde, Burkina Faso and Viet Nam) and multilateral programmes (GFDRR, Adaptation Fund, UN-REDD, IUCN SIDS). Prior to COP21, Luxembourg pledged EUR 120 million euros international climate finance funding between 2014 and 2020 including EUR 5 million annually to the Green Climate Fund. These funds are new and are not counted in Luxembourg’s ODA.

**Achievements at a glance**

A "Climate Finance Task Force" was convened in early 2015, in an informal multilateral setting, bringing together representatives of the public and private finance sector with the aim to create new financing vehicles:

1. Luxembourg and the European Investment Bank (EIB) put in place a platform dedicated to climate finance (LU-EIB Climate Finance Platform). A key to increasing the impact of climate financing is blending public with private capital, allowing the mobilization of investments from the private sector. As part of the platform, Luxembourg will make available EUR 30 million of subordinated funding over the next three years for investment vehicles based in Luxembourg, financing high impact climate projects.
2. Establishment of a new Luxflag Climate Finance label which will be granted to eligible investment funds financing climate change mitigation and/or adaptation measures.
3. Launch by the Luxembourg Stock Exchange of the first platform in the world entirely dedicated to green finance instruments.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Luxembourg’s funds are new and additional, i.e. mobilized from new sources. Significant progress has been made on developing Luxembourg’s international climate finance strategy together with the development of selection and eligibility criteria for programs and projects. An inter-ministerial committee evaluates these programs and projects. Strong partnerships were concluded with the EIB, the Gold Standard Foundation and the Luxembourg Microfinance and Development Fund, leading to successful cooperation and possibly to scaling up of climate action with funding from the Government and others.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

A broad range of approaches to measuring climate finance is currently being used by countries and institutions. They reflect the relative newness and evolving nature of this agenda, and the diversity of national climate finance and green growth objectives.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

As announced prior to the UNFCCC COP21, Luxembourg will continue to support climate action in developing countries (keeping a major focus on LDCs and SIDS) by announcing EUR 120 million in international climate finance funding between 2014 and 2020.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to further support community managed disaster risk reduction programs to comprehensively reduce risk, vulnerability and fragility in the national and local development plans of Bangladesh (also cross tagged to 4B)*.

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, exposed to a variety of natural disasters including cyclones, floods and earthquakes. The country has a history of extreme climatic events claiming millions of lives and destroying past development gains. This threatens settlements and the number of people displaced every year due to riverbank erosion, permanent inundation and yearly rising of sea levels.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg co-funds a risk reduction program of the Luxembourg NGO, Friendship International Luxembourg, in Bangladesh. Friendship is working on bringing Bangladesh to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture by contributing to strengthening the capacity of the communities at risk, linking basic services like health, water-sanitation, education and sustainable economic development at doorstep level, and enhancing collective effort by engaging local government. Friendship's disaster management system is improving the response and recovery management at all levels through a skilled and committed workforce based on its experiences in disaster prone areas for more than 14 years.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Friendship International Luxembourg is in regular exchange with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg and regularly submits reports about progress made. Moreover, the NGO is conducting Participatory Disaster Risk Assessments (PDRA) and developing community action plans of these communities in order to ensure effective follow-up.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

Although warning systems have been improved, cyclone, floods and earthquakes remain a challenge, with major problems caused by illiteracy, lack of awareness, poor communication and most importantly lack of adequate shelter and lack of mobilization possibility due to space constraints.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

The major program objective for the next three years remains to strengthen the capacity of communities and local institutions and create facilities to reduce unacceptable and avoidable risks and improve response and recovery activities. This will be achieved through the implementation of specific component strategies that will target the transition of the disaster management programming emphasis from relief to risk reduction followed by holistic development.

**If you had one message for the annual synthesis report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Raising awareness and bringing about a more comprehensive risk reduction culture are needed by contributing to strengthening the capacity of the communities at risk, linking basic services like health, water-sanitation, education and sustainable economic development at doorstep level, and enhancing collective effort by engaging local government.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to invest over the next 3 years in developing capacity for early warning, recovery planning, risk analysis and risk governance in the national systems of at least two countries. In this regard, Luxembourg commits to contribute to the 5-10-50 multi-partner initiative by UNDP in support of risk-informed sustainable development (also cross tagged to 4B).*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Given the increased frequency and intensity of disasters caused by natural hazards, and considering that partners in many high-risk countries lack the capacity to plan and implement programs, Luxembourg decided to support the 5-10-50 initiative, a joint project between UNDP and World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), which supports countries to deliver risk-informed development in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg has supported UNDP for many years through the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Roll Out Project in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso. This project brought together national and international stakeholders to align recovery efforts in a coordinated and effective way.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg plans to sign a MoU (€ 250,000 per year) on the "5-10-50" initiative with UNDP/GFDRR in 2017. With this MoU, Luxembourg will help strengthening post-disaster recovery interventions and enhance capacities of governments and regional organizations to effectively implement and manage post-disaster recovery.

**5C: Invest in stability**

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to increase the percentage of ODA targeted at the most fragile and conflict-affected countries by supporting the No Lost Generation initiative for the children affected by the Syrian crisis through an annual contribution of 2.5 million euros until 2020 (also cross tagged to 3F).*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg is a long-standing partner of UNICEF and supports the goal of ensuring quality education for all (in line with SDG 4).

**Achievements at a glance**

The payment of EUR 2.5 million for the No Lot Generation initiative in 2016 has been disbursed. Those for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 are programmed and budgeted.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commitments to allocating additional, predictable resources to the Peacebuilding Fund to allow the Fund to continue operations at the current level of USD 100 million per year.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg has been a long-standing annual contributor to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and believes that the PBF's fast-acting and catalytic nature represents an excellent financing instrument for peacebuilding activities for the UN.

**Achievements at a glance**

The Luxembourg MFA – in a whole of government approach which leverages funds from the Political Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Defense Divisions– supports the Peacebuilding Fund with a minimum yearly amount of EUR 300,000.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Colleagues from the Political Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Defense Divisions of the MFA regularly coordinate on matters relating to the PBF.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Continuation of regular coordination between the different concerned MFA departments on peacebuilding and other issues of the wider UN agenda for sustaining peace.

**5E: Diversify the resource base and increase cost-efficiency**

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to a general increase of its humanitarian budget line by 5% by 2018.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg, as one of the most important humanitarian donors per capita, understands its role and responsibility to face the increasing humanitarian funding needs worldwide.

**Achievements at a glance**

The humanitarian budget allocation for 2017 is EUR 42 million, which represents a EUR 2 million increase compared to 2016, which is an increase of nearly 5 % compared to 2016. Luxembourg consistently allocates around 15% of its ODA to humanitarian assistance.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Luxembourg monitors the extent to which budget estimates match actual results.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

In 2017, Luxembourg will allocate EUR 42 million in humanitarian aid. In addition, pending Parliamentary approval, it intends to increase its humanitarian budget to EUR 44 million in 2018, which is an increase of 10% in absolute terms compared to 2016.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to continue investing in strong data systems to track all national and international financial flows towards common outcomes in crisis contexts with a view to improving transparency and to better reflecting the generosity of all financiers.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg recognises the need for continuously improving transparency.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg supports the IATI initiative. Published national data in the OECD/DAC - CRS (credit reporting system) and in OCHA-FTS (financial tracking system) includes annual reports with funding data. This data and statistics are also published and freely accessible on the Ministry’s website: <http://www.gouvernement.lu/4958699/CAD>

Strategic Partnership agreements with humanitarian entities (ICRC, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA, CERF) allow for multi-year commitments. Luxembourg is also a member of MOPAN. The executive summaries of all external evaluations of national projects are published on the Ministry’s website.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg is working on the development of a machine-readable database that will provide programmable aid data with quarterly updates. Luxembourg will also engage with Development Initiatives in order to improve the publishing of humanitarian aid data according to the IATI Standard.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg commits to increase contributions to the CERF by 5% in 2017 and 2018.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

This commitment underlines the great importance Luxembourg attaches to the CERF and to the commitments Luxembourg took at the WHS regarding the fund. This agreement is a strong commitment and helps to ensure that CERF can implement the goals set out in the Grand Bargain. In addition to the financial support, Luxembourg wants to remain a strong and reliable partner of CERF and will contribute significantly to achieve the goals CERF has identified.

**Achievements at a glance**

Taking Luxembourg’s 2016 contribution to the CERF as a reference (EUR 4.5 million), this involves an increase of EUR 225,000 up to EUR 4.75 million until 2018. A first multi-year funding agreement between Luxembourg and CERF covering the period 2017-2018 is now in place.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Being well aware of the importance of an early transfer of funds, Luxembourg disbursed the annual contribution to the CERF in the first quarter of 2017. The multi-year funding agreement between CERF and Luxembourg further provides predictability of funding for 2018.

* *Commitment: Luxembourg endorses the commitments under the Grand Bargain with a special focus on multi-year and un-earmarked funding.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Given the needs and demands of the international community, Luxembourg committed under the Grand Bargain with a special focus on multi-year and un-earmarked funding.

**Achievements at a glance**

Luxembourg became a signatory to the Grand Bargain in the margins of the WHS and Minister Romain Schneider participated at the high-level event on the launch of the Grand Bargain. Since then, Luxembourg has participated on a regular base in Grand Bargain meetings.

Luxembourg – as a member the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) – has for the past 10 years been implementing multi-year planning and funding, inter alia through multi-year Strategic Partnership Agreements with UN agencies and the ICRC. These agreements offer a reliable framework for flexible and un-earmarked funding in line with GHD and Grand Bargain principles.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

It is very important to have harmonized and simplified reporting as well as joint and impartial needs assessment. Luxembourg will use the self-reporting template to report on the progress in implementing the commitments of the Grand Bargain. Self-reporting is vital in terms of accountability towards the wider humanitarian community, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg will participate at the next Grand Bargain Meetings and report regularly on progress made regarding the commitments. In addition, when responding to Special Humanitarian Appeals and Response Plans, Luxembourg aims to keep its voluntary financial contributions as flexible as possible in order to allow funding allocations according to most urgent needs.

* *Commitment: Together with its five national humanitarian partners, Luxembourg commits to subscribe to a national humanitarian charter aiming to maintain and promote existing best practices and to further improve the efficiency of Luxembourg’s humanitarian aid in response to international crises.*

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

Luxembourg has signed the national humanitarian charter in order to obtain greater coordination between the Ministry and its five national humanitarian partners as well as to bring together all the stakeholders under a single heading.

**Achievements at a glance**

On 26 May 2016 the Ministry signed a national humanitarian charter with its five national humanitarian partners (Luxembourg Red Cross, Caritas, Handicap International, MSF Luxembourg, and Care in Luxembourg). The Charter presents a joint platform for taking forward the commitments made by Luxembourg at the WHS.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

Progress will be assessed by taking into account the various humanitarian projects submitted by NGOs and other international humanitarian partners.

**Next step to advance implementation in 2017**

Luxembourg will continue to advocate for the needs of vulnerable groups and enhance its flexibility and reactivity in order to respond better to the challenges the humanitarian world currently faces. Luxembourg will also maintain a strong focus on underfunded/forgotten crisis.

The Charter offers a platform for the realization of Luxembourg’s WHS commitments. Luxembourg will thus also engage in an informal dialogue with NGOs/co-signatories of the national humanitarian charter on how to follow-up to WHS commitments on localization.