

Grand Bargain: Sustain momentum to realise longstanding localisation goals



The Grand Bargain is the only multi-stakeholder vehicle for humanitarian reform at institutional, constituency, and system levels. Uneven progress in 2021 demonstrates the need to sustain political will to realize long-sought after gains for local and national NGOs.

Positive Developments



Localisation is high on the political agenda

- The Grand Bargain 2.0 Framework prioritises support for the leadership, delivery, and capacity of local responders
- The IASC designated localisation as a priority and has launched a dedicated task force
- USAID Administrator Samantha Power committed 25% of US assistance to local actors



Tangible progress made towards strengthening local leadership and influence in decision-making fora:

- Global South signatories are now active members of the Facilitation Group
- Global South networks represented in all Grand Bargain's political caucuses
- Political will in place to launch new caucuses to address longstanding localisation funding issues
- 32% of cluster leads globally are local actors



National Reference Groups will bring Grand Bargain convening power to country-level

- Guidance launched and shared to enthusiastic local and national NGOs
- Efforts are underway to establish constituent based, consultative forums for humanitarian stakeholders in numerous countries, led by local and national NGOs

NEAR members utilise and appreciate the Grand Bargain

- 82% of respondents stated that they were familiar with the Grand Bargain
- 52% stated that they used the Grand Bargain in their engagements with international partners
- 64% felt that the Grand Bargain was helping to improve the way that international humanitarian aid is provided to populations in need.



Negative Developments



Substantial reduction in the percentage and the volume of funding directly provided to local actors in 2021

- FTS data shows a substantial drop in both volume and percentage terms of funding directly provided to local actors in 2021



Actions taken to address the political and practical barriers to localisation are taking time to show results

- Ongoing challenge to translate policy commitments into practice across all humanitarian organisations

Recommendations

- 1 Establish a political agreement between donors, UN agencies, and international NGOs on how to increase direct and “as direct as possible” investment in local and national actors.*
- 2 Increase multiyear and flexible funding to local and national actors directly and via the cascading of quality funding and its benefits by intermediary organisations.*
- 3 Establish a specific commitment for the provision of overheads to local and national actors, based on actuals or minimum percentage, as part of Grand Bargain commitments, to strengthen the institutional capacity of local and national actors.*
- 4 Join local leaders in setting up National Reference Groups by funding the coordination groups and ensuring donor, UN, Red Cross, and international NGO Signatories actively participate at the country level.*
- 5 Ensure the continuity of the Grand Bargain and its commitments beyond 2023, as it is the only global humanitarian policy space where local and national NGOs’ voices are represented alongside international humanitarian organisations and donors.*

