

Spain - Grand Bargain

Template for 2017 annual self-reporting

Each Grand Bargain signatory is invited to use this self-reporting template to report on the organization's progress in implementing the commitments of the Grand Bargain. The self-reporting is vital in terms of accountability towards the wider humanitarian community, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The information provided through these reports will also be used as starting point for the analysis done as part of the independent annual report on Grand Bargain progress (cf. ToR) which will look at the collective (not individual) progress for each work stream and the Grand Bargain as a whole. Each signatory's report will be published at the same time as the independent annual report in June 2017.

A first draft of the self-reporting should be submitted by February 6. An updated final version should be provided by March 27. The Grand Bargain Facilitation Group and the Secretariat will facilitate this process, but will not edit the inputs provided by the Grand Bargain signatories.

For year 1 (2016-17) the contributions should not exceed 500 words per work stream.

Please specify any synergies across work streams, i.e. if any of the actions are linked to several work streams at once.

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Work stream 1 – Transparency

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Spain is part of the IATI and defends this initiative in the different international fora and policy documents.

AECID and the Humanitarian Aid Office provide with regular and transparent information to the general public by means of press releases and publications on AECID's web (<http://www.aecid.es/ES/ah>) and social networks (https://twitter.com/AECID_es).

In accordance with the Spanish transparency Law, the grants and contributions made by AECID are publicly released in the “National Grants Database” (<http://www.infosubvenciones.es/bdnstrans/GE/es/index>) and in the national web for ODA information (<https://infoaod.maec.es/>).

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Spain has nowadays 144 data-sets at the IATI registry, only below the US, the EU, Australia and Finland. Some capacity constraints remain though in terms of the follow-up of this initiative.

AECID elaborates an annual report of activities, which includes humanitarian action. It also regularly updates the information on its work in AECID's webpage and social networks.

The Humanitarian Aid Office has an open and constant dialogue with civil society, the humanitarian NGOs network and international organizations.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

AECID will remain open for dialogue and exchange with civil society, academia and media.

The Humanitarian Aid Office has recently developed a new programming instrument, the Spanish biannual humanitarian strategies for its priority crises, that will soon be published in the web. AECID will also continue to publish its annual reports. It would be desirable to update as frequently as possible the information in AECID's webpage and social networks.

Work stream 2 – Localization

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

In 2016 AECID has allocated 1.540.000 € to local actors (4'5% of its total humanitarian funding). This includes AECID's humanitarian funding to local NGOs and the UN Country Based Pool Funds (CBPFs).

However, the actual amount of funding to local actors cannot be accurately estimated since there are other indirect ways of funding local actors by means of AECID's grants to international or Spanish NGOs or organizations.

Additionally, AECID also contributed in 2016 to the IFRC's DREF to respond to emergencies in South Sudan, Belize and Costa Rica and has supported the Philippines' Government in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction with a project which ended in 2016.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Spain has regularly funded the Algerian Red Crescent in the Sahrawi refugee camps, the IFRC's DREF and the CBPFs.

Complications in terms of reporting on the part of the local actors -who have difficulties in understanding the Spanish legislation and praxis- limit the possibilities of increasing localization on a large scale.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

AECID considers that the target of 20% funding to local actors in 2020 is very ambitious, but it's open to increase its percentage, if the context and legislation allow it. This discussion will be assumed with humanitarian partners in the drafting of the new Humanitarian Strategy for the Spanish Cooperation that will hopefully start at the end of 2017.

Its priority in the next years will be to support local actors, mainly governments from Latin America, on Disaster Risk Reduction. An agreement has been signed in this field with Argentina and others may follow.

AECID is also assessing the possibility of using a localization marker, to encourage Spanish NGOs to work more closely with local partners.

Work stream 3 – Cash

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

In 2016, a minimum of 10% of AECID's humanitarian funding was allocated to Cash Based Transfers projects mainly through its partners UNHCR, WFP and UNRWA in Libya, Palestine, Syria and Iraq.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

A position paper on Cash Based Transfers and the Spanish Humanitarian Aid has been internally drafted and discussed. Spain also contributed to this debate at the EU level in 2015 when the document “10 EU principles for cash based approach” was adopted.

In Colombia, AECID has funded an innovative project on cash based transfers (CBTs) of Action Against Hunger with 130.000 € that promotes innovative modalities of cash transfer for IDP's in Colombia. The objective is the promotion of the KACHE system (a cash based transfer modality) in contexts where there are functioning markets but there is no possibility of purchasing through traditional electronic devices.

AECID has also held a workshop in collaboration with the IECAH on CBTs to Spanish actors, including NGOs, to promote this modality of assistance.

A more detailed reporting is also needed.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Spain supports the multipurpose cash transfer approach led by ECHO and encourages this modality of CBTs if circumstances allow. It also encourages the different UN agencies, especially WFP and UNHCR, to work together on common platforms of CBTs distribution.

AECID would also like to increase its percentage of CBTs funding in some humanitarian contexts such as the Sahrawi refugee camps.

Additionally, it is planning to strengthen its collaboration with CALP and foresees to hold a seminar for its staff with this institution.

Work stream 4 – Management costs

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Spain is part of the MOPAN initiative (Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network) that assess the performance and effectiveness of partner international organizations.

The Spanish Cooperation has also prioritised CBTs as they are cost-efficient and has different humanitarian deposits in the world as a way of also saving transport costs when facing emergencies.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

The Spanish Cooperation is assessing its humanitarian strategy published in 2007 and which has been its reference framework for the last ten years. After this evaluation, it will draft a new humanitarian strategy for the years to come.

Spain is also reviewing some of its partnership agreements with international organizations willing to simplify and harmonise some of the procedures and management costs, as is the case with the WFP and IFCR.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

AECID wants to promote innovation in humanitarian partners in order to increase efficiency.

In this regard it is also promoting public-private collaboration, taking into consideration that the private sector has an added value in these issues. One remarkable initiative in this field has been the partnership developed with some energy enterprises and the “politechnique University of Madrid” (UPM) to deliver energy solutions to refugee camps in Ethiopia. AECID is also exploring other opportunities with private companies.

Work stream 5 – Needs Assessment

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

The Humanitarian Office usually integrates its field staff in the joint needs assessments led by the HCT and its humanitarian interventions and strategies are based on the needs identified by the UN humanitarian coordinator and HRP.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Spain supports the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team with financial and human resources and encourages the use of this international emergency response system and their need assessments. Two members of the Humanitarian Office have recently received the UNDAC training and could thus be deployed in emergencies.

AECID has participated in the workshop of this work stream held in February 2017 in Brussels.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

The different options under this work stream are being analysed so that AECID can select the most significant initiatives in the field.

Work stream 6 – Participation Revolution

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Spain is fully aware of the importance of participation and believes that all intervention should take into account the voices of the people affected by a humanitarian crisis or emergency.

The Spanish Cooperation already integrates the beneficiaries' opinion in the single form of the identification process. The challenges remain at the level of the implementation and follow-up of interventions.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Spain has participated in the survey of the work stream.

AECID is discussing internally on the possibility of asking our partners to establish feedback mechanisms in the field so that it can include the beneficiary's opinions in the monitoring system. The Spanish emergency medical team initiative foresees this initiative.

It is also promoting unconditional cash transfers that support the freedom of choice of the beneficiaries.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

AECID will analyse the funding instruments of the humanitarian office and identify incentives to encourage our partners to include the beneficiaries' voice.

Work stream 7 - Multi-year planning and funding

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Due to the principle of “budgetary annuity”, Spain allocates nowadays annually most of its humanitarian funding. Some exceptions remain:

- NGO emergency or resilience agreements: AECID has emergency or resilience agreements with Spanish NGOs that last for 4 years.
- DREF: Spain also allocates multiyear funding through its agreement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

The Humanitarian Office is analysing the options and possibilities of humanitarian multi-year funding, specifically for chronic crises that have regularly received the Spanish support and for international organizations which have a framework agreement with Spain.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

The Humanitarian Office will study internal barriers and propose possible solutions. Discussions with other departments responsible for the budget will be necessary.

Work stream 8 - Earmarking/flexibility

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

Spain allocates unearmarked humanitarian funds through the following instruments:

- NGO emergency agreements: AECID has emergency agreements with four Spanish NGOs: OXFAM, Spanish Red Cross, MSF and Action Against Hunger. The agreements last for 4 years and include a fix amount for each NGO. NGOs have the total freedom to allocate the funds wherever and whenever they deem appropriate. They only have to submit a very simple proposal to AECID, which is approved in a very short time. This funding is completely flexible and unearmarked.
- OCHA: The Humanitarian Office regularly contributes to OCHA coordination and to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide immediate funding for life-saving humanitarian action anywhere in the world.
- ICRC and IFRC: in previous years AECID also contributed to these organizations with unearmarked funding to support their operations with flexibility.

In 2016 Spain allocated 3 million € to non-earmarked contributions (9% of its humanitarian funds).

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Spain would like to increase its non-earmarked contributions and its Humanitarian Office predicts that more possibilities may emerge when its budget shall increase, hopefully in the years to come.

In terms of transparency, Spain would like to have more information on the decision process of the non-earmarked fund's allocation. For example, on the decisions taken at the CERF's advisory board, since Spain is not currently member of this board. The information and minutes of these meetings could be shared in order to understand the decision process and build confidence and trust.

Also, visibility and reporting are important constraints in terms of non-earmarked allocations. If partners could improve these two items, there would be more possibility of increasing non-earmarked contributions.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Spain considers that the target of 30% un-earmarked funds by 2020 is very ambitious, but it's open to increase its percentage, if the context and legislation allow it. This discussion will be assumed with humanitarian partners in the drafting of the new Humanitarian Strategy for the Spanish Cooperation that will hopefully start at the end of 2017.

Work stream 9 – Reporting requirements

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

In AECID's governance structure the issue of reporting is a shared responsibility between the Humanitarian Office and AECID's Secretariat General which deals with administrative affairs.

Our agency is reviewing currently its administrative requirements and expects to define soon its internal regulations to simplify and clarify these requirements as much as possible.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Spain is following the discussions under this work stream.

Our country has reiterated the importance of reporting in the different boards or executive committees where it seats (UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, ODSG...). It has also incorporated this matter in the strategic frameworks that are under negotiation.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Once the Global Public Policy Institute conclusions on the reporting format will be distributed, the Humanitarian Office will assess how to integrate this initiative in its programming.

This issue will also be discussed with regional governments and the humanitarian NGOs network.

Work stream 10 – Humanitarian – Development engagement

1. Baseline (only in year 1)

Where did your organisation stand on the work stream and its commitments when the Grand Bargain was signed?

In some protracted crisis such as Palestine or Colombia, the Humanitarian Office has coordinated its action with development colleagues. Nevertheless, humanitarian issues were not included in the negotiations of the MAPs (AECID's country strategic frameworks) since they are negotiated with the host governments, a fact that may erode humanitarian principles.

Some areas of common work or interest are Disaster Risk Reduction (a priority in the Philippines for both humanitarian and development departments in AECID) and Resilience. In the case of the Sahel region, two concrete examples of collaboration in food security are the “national mechanism for crisis prevention and management in Niger” and the “Malnutrition control cell in Senegal” which have been funded by both departments. A centre for mental support for women in Gaza (Palestine) initially funded by the Humanitarian Office was later on assumed by the Development department.

Being the Humanitarian Office a direction in AECID has proved to be a good arrangement, since it is able to maintain its independence but at the same time humanitarian aid is integrated in the overall cooperation structure, making the coordination more natural and easy both at headquarters and in the field.

2. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

One positive step has been the inclusion of humanitarian desk officers in the technical cooperation offices in the field. By doing so the interaction with development colleagues has been enhanced with remarkable effects. Also, in some specific contexts, such as Palestine, the humanitarian officers have participated in the general cooperation planning. In the same line, humanitarian country strategies have been shared and discussed with the development department and their point of view has been integrated.

Another good initiative has been the development of the Resilience policy by the SGCID (policy department of the Spanish cooperation) which hopefully will be a priority in the next Master Plan of the Spanish cooperation, actually under discussion.

3. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

AECID expects to increase its support on DRR in Latin America, in coordination with the development agenda.

It is also studying the possibility of participating in the trust funds of the EU in the sector of resilience and in general will increase its collaboration with the EU.

Another idea that could be explored is the development of a resilience marker, to be included in future reporting exercises.