

# THE GRAND BARGAIN AND LOCALISATION COMMITMENTS

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## What is the Grand Bargain?<sup>1</sup>

The 'Grand Bargain', launched during the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul in May 2016, is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organisations who have committed to get more means into the hands of people in need and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian action. The Grand Bargain now includes 63 signatories (25 donor States, 11 UN agencies, 5 international organisations (including IFRC and ICRC) and 22 NGOs).

The signatories are working across eight workstreams to implement the commitments:

1. Greater transparency
2. More support and funding tools to local and national responders
3. Increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming
4. Reduce duplication and management costs with periodic functional reviews
5. Improve joint and impartial needs assessments
6. A Participation Revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions that affect their lives
7. & 8. Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning and funding & reduce the earmarking of donor contributions (now organised into a single grouping)
8. Harmonise and simplify reporting requirements

The tenth workstream, *Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors*, has been closed as an independent workstream and it has been mainstreamed as a cross-cutting commitment.

More information is available on the [Grand Bargain webpage](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-the-grand-bargain)

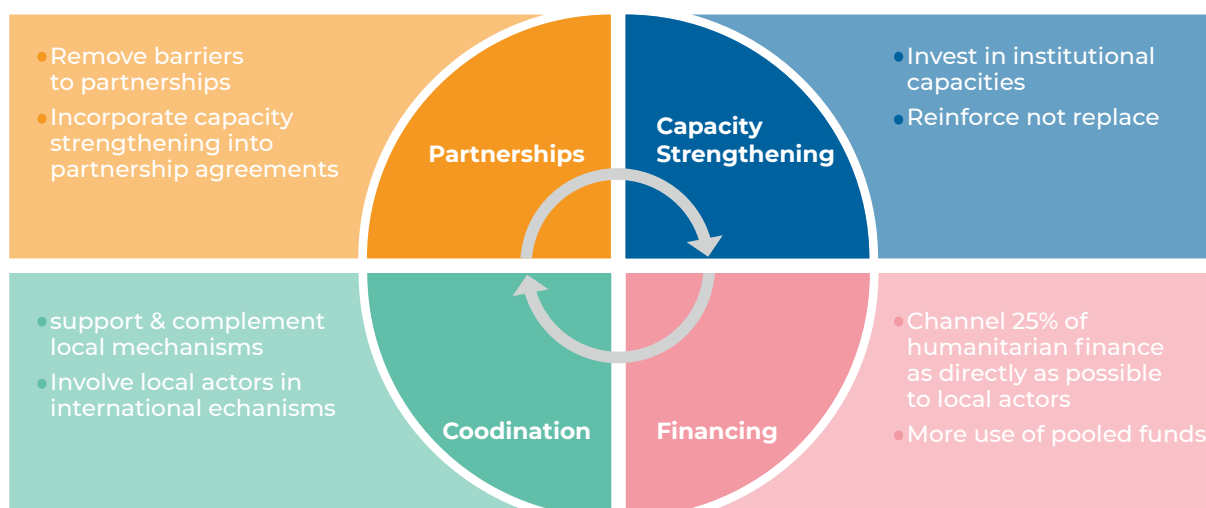
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1. Grand Bargain website <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-the-grand-bargain>

# The Grand Bargain's Commitments on Localisation

1. Increase and support multi-year investment in the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response and coordination capacities, especially in fragile contexts and where communities are vulnerable to armed conflicts, disasters, recurrent outbreaks and the effects of climate change. We should achieve this through collaboration with development partners and incorporate capacity strengthening in partnership agreements.
2. Understand better and work to remove or reduce barriers that prevent organisations and donors from partnering with local and national responders in order to lessen their administrative burden.
3. Support and complement national coordination mechanisms where they exist and include local and national responders in international coordination mechanisms as appropriate and in keeping with humanitarian principles.
4. Achieve by 2020 a global, aggregated target of at least 25% of humanitarian funding to local and national responders as directly as possible to improve outcomes for affected people and reduce transactional costs.
5. Develop, with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and apply a 'localisation' marker to measure direct and indirect funding to local and national responders.
6. Make greater use of funding tools which increase and improve assistance delivered by local and national responders, such as the UN-led country-based pooled funds (CBPF), IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) and NGO-led and other pooled funds.

The above commitments can be summarised into four inter-related areas/components: (1) partnership; (2) capacity strengthening; (3) financing and; (4) coordination (illustrated in Figure 1, below).



# The Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream

The Localisation Workstream includes signatories to the Grand Bargain as well as an invited group of local actors. It is intended to build momentum and support for all signatories to meet their commitments on the localisation of aid. A small group convenes regularly to develop joint projects and plans in order to share good practices, find ways to overcome barriers, develop tools and disseminate information. The group has developed a [workplan for Jan 2020-June 2021](#) to guide its efforts. Public webinars and events are also organised periodically to bring in more voices, share ideas and information.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Government of Switzerland currently serve as co-conveners of the Localisation Workstream.

Visit the [Localisation Workstream website](#) for more information and resources.